



In a world with respect,
there is no GBVF

Rewriting the story to end GBVF

**RESPECT**

IN A WORLD WITH RESPECT, THERE IS NO GBVF.

Brought to you by

 **GBVF**
RESPONSE FUND



TABLE OF CONTENTS

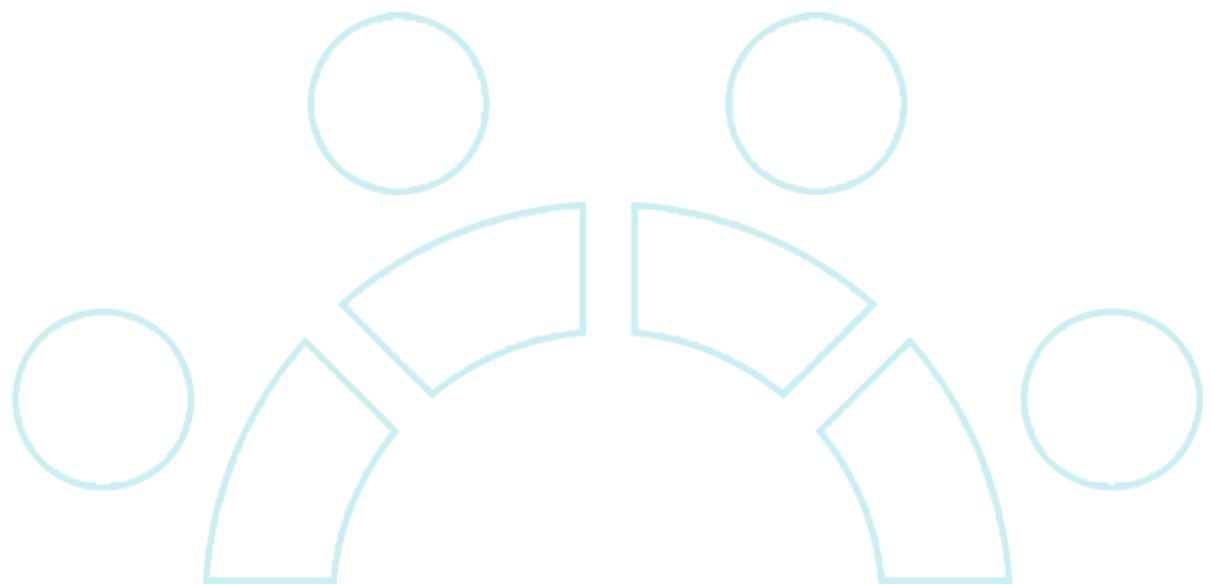
INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW	4
FOREWORD BY CHAIRPERSON	7
CEO'S MESSAGE	11
PARTNERSHIPS	14
HOW WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE	19
IMPACT ACHIEVED	20
CBO PARTNER STORIES	25
GOVERNANCE	37
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	45
WAY FORWARD	48
ACRONYMS	51
GLOSSARY	52
ANNEXURES	53

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This annual report details the progress and impact of the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund (the Fund) over the last year—2024-2025. It provides insights into our programmes, advocacy initiatives, partnerships, governance and financial standings.

Despite the growing momentum through the various initiatives and programmes being implemented by the government and its partners, including the Fund, it is essential that all South Africans continue to come together to work towards dismantling the pervasive culture of disrespect, violence and exclusion faced by so many of our women, children and other marginalised communities.

We invite stakeholders to engage with the report and join us in our mission to help bring an end to gender-based violence and femicide in our country. Standing together, we can cultivate a nation of respect where all of us can live without fear and prejudice.



INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

REWRITING THE STORY TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

South Africa's Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) crisis continues to devastate the lives of women, girls and other marginalised groups, who remain disproportionately affected by the scourge. The COVID-19 pandemic, deepening socio-economic inequalities and poverty, and shifting geopolitical dynamics, have intensified existing vulnerabilities and placed additional strain on public systems and community resilience.

In the last quarter of 2024 alone (October –December 2024) over **16 000 women and 2 100 children** reported suffering grievous bodily harm, and over **11 800 people** were victims of rape, that's **128 rapes a day**¹. The first national survey on GBV 2022 shows that one third of all women 18 years or older have experienced physical violence in their lifetime. Beyond physical harm, the emotional and psychological trauma endures for years, often across generations.

Deep-rooted intersectional social and structural drivers, including poverty, economic inequality, patriarchy, misogyny and harmful norms exacerbate the crisis and often undermine and reverse the progress made through response and prevention interventions. Addressing GBVF therefore demands a comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral approach that actively confronts systemic inequalities and challenges the cultural norms that perpetuate violence against women and other vulnerable and marginalised groups, including the LGBTQIA+ community.

IMPACT OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

33% (7.3m) women 18 years and older have experienced physical violence in their lifetime*

9.9% (2.1m) women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime*

+ R28b-R42b lost from the economy due to GBVF**

NATIONAL RESPONSE

As the calls from ordinary South Africans for sustained action grows ever louder, more visible and coordinated efforts to address the scourge of GBVF are beginning to take shape. Encouragingly, political will and commitment for dedicated and sustained action continues to grow across all sectors of society – government, civil society, private sector, and communities – laying the groundwork for a more unified and effective national response.

During the 2025 State of the Nation address the President shared how since launching the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on gender-based violence and femicide in 2020, the government has begun implementing several interventions. These include, coordinating the implementation of the NSP on GBVF and the economic empowerment of women; enacting numerous legal reforms to bolster the prosecution of perpetrators; increasing support for survivors through the provision of evidence kits at police stations; and supporting additional psychological and social services at Thuthuzela Care Centres that provide vital services for survivors¹.

¹ SONA 2025

*Zunga, N.P., Petersen, Z., Parker, W., Duhki, N., Sewpaul, R., Abdelatif, N., Naidoo, I., Moolman, B., Isaacs, D., Makusha, T., Mabaso, M., Reddy, T., Zuma, K. & SANSHEF Research Council. (2024). The first South African National Gender-Based Violence Study, 2022: a baseline survey on victimisation and perpetration. Cape Town: Human Sciences Research Council.

**Khumalo, B., Msimang, S., & Bollbach, K. (2014) Too costly to ignore – the economic impact of gender-based violence in South Africa. Johannesburg: KPMG Human and Social Services

Two notable milestones were achieved in the last year. Firstly, **the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Bill was signed into law in May 2024.**

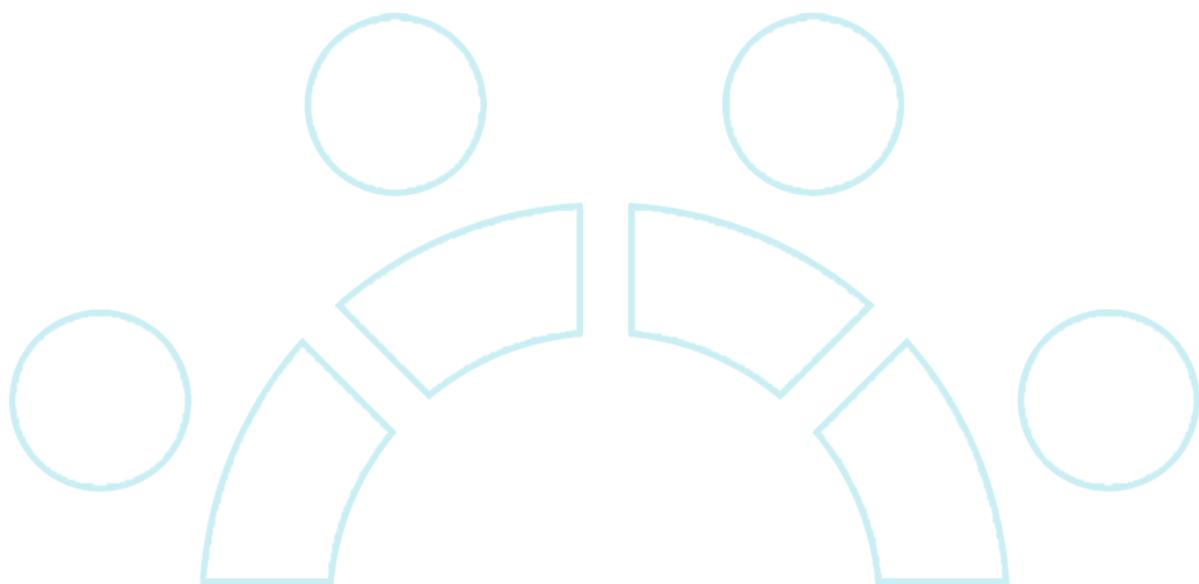
Though imperfect, the bill establishes a multi-sectoral council that will provide strategic leadership in the fight against GBVF in South Africa through a more inclusive, focused and better resourced approach. The GBVF sector and government continue to engage to ensure that the Act appropriately supports the objectives of the NSP and the needs of those at the forefront of the GBVF response.

Secondly, the first broad **national study on GBV** was completed and released in November 2024. Conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in 2022, it offers insight into the reality of gender-based violence in the country, providing current data on the prevalence of physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence and psychological abuse. The study also provided insights into the underlying role of gender norms in driving GBV.

THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (GBVF) RESPONSE FUND

The GBVF Response Fund, initially established in 2021 as an interim measure to address the pressing crisis of GBVF, continues to play a critical role in enabling and catalysing robust community-based and employer-led interventions that directly support victims and survivors of GBVF. Now in our fourth year, we have achieved significant impact, with nearly **950 000 beneficiaries reached** through **235 community-based organisations**. Some of these grassroots organisations represent high-impact models with potential for national scale, deserving continued investment to amplify their reach and effectiveness.

We are pleased to announce that our tenure has been extended beyond December 2026. This will enable us to continue with our mandate to build partnerships and mobilise an integrated multi-sectoral national response, while at the same time, reinforcing and growing a robust community response. We will also continue to focus on supporting proven prevention and advocacy initiatives to raise awareness, galvanise action, expand education, increase skills and capacity, and secure services for survivors to ensure their protection and support.



FOREWORD BY CHAIR

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO IMPACT

The year under review was marked by both complexity and hope. While global and local challenges, including economic headwinds and geopolitical tensions intensified, South Africa entered a new political chapter with the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU).

This development signalled a new era in the political landscape of South Africa; the move from a purely ANC-led government to a coalition government was most notable for being one of the most peaceful transitions in a traditionally one party led state. The GNU raised expectations for decisive action on urgent national issues such as stagnant economic growth and the alarmingly high unemployment rate, particularly among youth.

As we know, poverty and joblessness are key drivers of gender-based violence and femicide. A society marked by inequality and economic exclusion becomes more vulnerable to violence. For this reason, we reiterate our call to government and business leaders: addressing poverty and unemployment must be recognised as a core and critical part of the fight against GBVF.

In this context, the GBVF Response Fund continued to deliver significant impact. We remained steadfast in our purpose, providing meaningful support to community-based organisations, investing in prevention, and



FAITH KHANYILE
Independent Non-Executive Chairperson

ensuring care and protection for survivors. These demands placed significant pressure on our team and Board, and yet, I am proud to report that the Fund performed strongly against its targets.

PROGRESS IN 2024/2025: EXPANDING OUR REACH

In the past financial year, we achieved several key milestones aligned to five of the six NSP pillars: 1- Accountability, Coordination and Leadership; 2- Prevention and Rebuilding Social Cohesion; 3- Justice, Safety, and

“Together, we can build a future where gender-based violence and femicide are no longer part of our national narrative.”

Faith Khanyile

Protection; 4- Response, Care, Support and Healing; and lastly, 6- Research and Information Management.

I am proud to report that we launched our second Request for Proposals (RFP2) at the end of 2023. The overwhelming response from 1,000 applications underscored the scale of need and the critical importance of building grassroots capacity.

RFP2 has significantly broadened our national footprint. By deepening support at grassroots levels, reinvesting in high-performing partners from RFP1, and welcoming new organisations into our network, we continue to foster strong partnerships that are essential to driving meaningful, sustained change. This ongoing investment ensures that CBOs on the frontline of the GBVF crisis have the resources, capabilities, and institutional backing they need to scale their impact. Our strategic focus on under-resourced GBVF hotspots continues to prove a powerful mechanism for enabling community-led, context-specific responses to violence.



Woman at The Rainbow Circle's Women's Economic Empowerment Programme Sewing School

In tandem with grant making, our national advocacy efforts have grown in reach and resonance. Through a landmark partnership with the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), the RESPECT campaign was amplified via public service announcements in all 11 official languages, broadcast across 18 radio stations. These messages, designed to challenge harmful norms and promote behavioural change, were further bolstered by targeted outreach initiatives and strategic partnerships that have reached thousands of individuals across the country.

Together, these efforts reflect our integrated approach, investing in community-driven interventions and national advocacy platforms to shift social norms, influence policy, and catalyse systemic transformation in the fight against GBVF.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT IN A SHIFTING DONOR LANDSCAPE

The withdrawal of USAID/PEPFAR funding created a critical funding gap for many frontline organisations. In response, our Board approved a R6.2 million short-term emergency fund for GBVF Response Fund funded CBOs affected by the cuts while they work towards sustainability. This swift action reflects our agility and unwavering commitment to protecting the delivery of essential services.

None of this would be possible without the support of our donor community, particularly corporate South Africa and development partners. Your ongoing support, whether through financial contributions or pro-bono services, remains the backbone of our work and impact.

GALVANISING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In 2024, we launched the Private Sector Coalition (PSC), an ambitious initiative co-created with leading private sector organisations. The PSC aims to promote gender-responsive workplace policies, drive the adoption of ILO Convention 190, and develop joint strategies to combat gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace.

Following a successful symposium, the Fund led a bold 16 Days of Activism campaign, where executives from our convening partners reaffirmed their commitment to zero-tolerance workplace environments. We also constituted a PSC Secretariat, hosted by the Fund, to provide dedicated support to private sector partners as they implement and scale their commitments.

PARTNERING WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOR POLICY IMPACT

We continued our constructive engagement with the Presidency and the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, advocating for the urgent allocation of public funding to GBVF.

The signing and gazetting of the National Council on GBVF Act 9 of 2024 is a welcome milestone. Yet, without clear resourcing and provincial accountability, meaningful impact remains at risk.

Amid aforementioned shifts in donor priorities, including the withdrawal of key international funding, it is more urgent than ever for the South African government, through a variety of ministries, to play a leading role in resourcing the national response to GBVF.

STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP, OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNANCE

We strengthened our oversight, governance and Board capacity, welcoming new members who bring fresh energy, strategic insight, and renewed focus. Their contributions are already enhancing the quality of our decisions and the reach of our work.

Another significant development was the finalisation and implementation of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning, and Accountability (MERLA) Framework, providing a systematic approach to measuring impact. In parallel, we refined our grants management policy, reinforcing the robust funding mechanisms that govern our pre- and post-award processes.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In the year ahead, our priorities are clear:

- Consolidate and deepen our support to CBOs, including ongoing capacity building and embedding the MERLA framework.
- Fundraising and sustainability, particularly in light of global donor withdrawals and extension of the Fund's operations beyond its original term.
- Strategic programme innovation, including:
 - ▷ **Addressing GBVF and harassment in our schools.**
 - ▷ **Reimagining shelters for survivors as centres of empowerment and economic opportunity.**
 - ▷ **Advancing youth engagement to shift mindsets and break intergenerational cycles of violence.**



LOOKING FORWARD WITH RESOLVE

We remain committed to addressing the economic empowerment of survivors, not only as a means of protection but as a pathway to lasting change.

As we enter our fifth year, we look forward to deepening collaboration with donors, private sector, civil society, and government. Together, we must reimagine bold, scalable solutions that centre the dignity and power of women and survivors. In line with the Fund's mission to continue contributing to the fight against GBVF, the Board has resolved to extend its tenure for at least the next five years, with no defined end date. While the coordination of the national response remains the mandate of government, the scale and persistence of GBVF make it imperative for the Fund to continue playing a complementary role in strengthening collective efforts.

South Africa continues to face unacceptable levels of violence and gender inequality. We cannot change this reality without courageous, cross-sector conversations and action. Social norms must shift. Silence must be broken. And everyone must take up the challenge of creating a safer, more just society.

WITH GRATITUDE

- To our dedicated staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment to ending GBVF.
- To our former CEO, Sazini Mojapelo, your leadership established the foundation for the Fund's impact.
- To our newly appointed CEO, Tandi Nzimande, your leadership will be vital in safeguarding our progress and reimagining our future.
- To our Board, your passion and determination inspire this work each day.
- To our donors and partners, thank you for accompanying us on this journey.

A PERSONAL REFLECTION

It has been a privilege to serve as Chairperson during a year marked by challenges and hope.

Despite the complexities of the GBVF landscape, I am continually inspired by the resilience, passion, and determination of our team. Eradicating GBVF is not a task for the few; it demands collective action from every layer of society.

Together, we can build a future where gender-based violence and femicide are no longer part of our national narrative.

Let us make this our lifetime mission.

Faith Khanyile

Board Chairperson,
GBVF Response Fund

INTERIM CEO MESSAGE

BUILDING A NATION ROOTED IN DIGNITY, SAFETY, EQUITY AND RESPECT.

It is with gratitude and a profound sense of responsibility that I reflect on the past year as Interim CEO of the GBVF Response Fund. Since stepping into this role in December 2024, I have had the privilege of stewarding a Fund that remains steadfast in its mission, working tirelessly to address one of South Africa's most pressing social crises: gender-based violence and femicide.

Before I share this year's highlights, I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of my predecessor, Ms. Sazini Mojapelo. Through her visionary leadership, she steered the Fund through critical milestones, including the successful delivery of RFP2, the establishment of the PSC, and the launch of key initiatives such as the RESPECT Campaign. Her dedication and strategic foresight laid a strong foundation for the Fund's continued credibility, reach, and influence.

This year, the Fund reached several critical milestones that reinforce our strategic focus on community-led solutions, institutional capacity-building, and meaningful advocacy. Since inception, we have disbursed over **R180 million**, supporting **235 community-based organisations** and reaching almost **950 000 individuals**, a reflection of the Fund's reach and growing grassroots footprint and impact. This investment includes R8.5 million allocated to special grants focusing on targeted, high impact interventions.

As the Fund was initially established as an interim measure, with its mandate set to conclude in 2026, our focus this year was on grant disbursement rather than active fundraising. Consequently, the financial statements reflect a deficit of R19.7 million for this reporting period.



ZANELE NGWEPE

Interim Chief Executive Officer

The Fund's primary focus this financial year (Feb 2024 to Feb 2025) therefore, was the implementation of our **second call for proposals (RFP2)**. Following a rigorous review and selection process, we allocated almost **R92 million** in funding to 134 CBOs who were onboarded in three structured phases. Our grants management partner, Soul City Institute, remains a valuable partner, supporting the management of 40% of our CBOs, with the remaining managed internally. Together, these grants are expected to impact over 400,000 lives.

Building the capacity of our CBO partners remained central to our approach. To this end, R2.4 million was specifically earmarked for CBO skills strengthening. In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), we conducted capacity-building workshops across five provinces, targeting CBOs. These workshops

covered Safeguarding as a process, including measures to protect the health, well-being, and human rights of individuals, particularly children and vulnerable adults in the context of serving their needs, as well as the Fund's new Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning and Accountability framework. Independent assessments showed meaningful improvement in organisational performance, equipping CBOs to deliver more effective, measurable, and survivor-centred interventions aligned with the National Strategic Plan on GBVF.

Our advocacy and communications efforts also gained significant momentum. The **RESPECT Campaign**, our flagship prevention initiative, scaled new heights, with billboards and radio Public Service Announcements (PSA's) run during key national campaigns and international commemorative periods in March, August and November 2024. The billboards reached more than **61 million monthly views**, and the radio PSAs were aired in all 11 official languages on stations with around **25 million listeners** a week. The message is clear: in a world with RESPECT, there is no GBVF. We are working to shift not just behaviour, but mindsets.

We also expanded our engagement platforms through our **Intersectionality Webinar series**. In partnership with Mail & Guardian media, we convened meaningful dialogues on the layered experiences of GBV within LGBTQIA+ communities, persons with disabilities, and those living with or affected by HIV. These forums affirmed the need for integrated, survivor-centred public health responses. In addition, our visible presence at the **Human Rights Festival** reinforced the critical role of cross-sector solidarity and the urgent need for sustainable funding models in the face of evolving global donor dynamics.

Another major milestone was the launch of the Private Sector Coalition Against Gender-based Violence and

Harassment (GBVF) mobilising corporate South Africa in the fight against GBVF. The **CEO Champion Campaign**, launched during 16 Days of Activism, is now entering its second cohort and aims to help embed accountability and transformation within workplaces. Structured onboarding and capacity-building for PSC members is now underway, laying the groundwork for long-term systemic change in the world of work.

Looking ahead, our commitment to long-term, sustainable change is reflected in two new flagship initiatives, one addressing GBV in schools, and another strengthening the shelter ecosystem. These initiatives align with our broader investment strategy of enabling structural prevention and survivor support systems.

This year also brought challenges. The withdrawal of funding by the US Government



GBVF Fund team at the GBVF and HIV Intersectionality multi-stakeholder engagement event

posed a serious threat to the continuity of key survivor services, impacting many CBOs, shelters and Thuthuzela Care Centres. The Fund approved and disbursed **R6.2 million in emergency relief to six organisations in our network:** Childline Free State and Mpumalanga branches, Mosaic, GRIP, Rape Crisis, and Lifeline Durban. This ensured that trauma counselling, case management, and court support could continue uninterrupted. We also supported these CBOs to develop sustainability plans, reinforcing our focus on long-term organisational resilience.

Internally, the Fund has undergone a period of transition and renewal. The Board has resolved to extend the Fund's tenure for at least the next five years, with no defined end date. Furthermore we welcomed five new board members, bringing critical expertise and fresh perspectives. We are also pleased to **welcome our new CEO, Ms. Tandi Nzimande**, whose track record as CFO of WDB Investment Holdings, a women's empowerment company, and as CEO of the Solidarity Fund, among other roles, uniquely positions her to steer the Fund as we reimagine our future. Her distinguished career as a chartered accountant, combined with extensive experience in development and women's economic empowerment, will be invaluable as we face a decline in donor and development funding.

I wish to recognise and express my ongoing gratitude and appreciation of the Fund's dedicated team, our implementing partners, and our generous supporters. To our pro-bono and corporate partners and our funders: your partnership and unwavering belief in the work that we do, have been instrumental in everything we have achieved in the past year.

As we enter the next financial year, the work before us remains critical. The GBVF crisis continues, amplified by growing socio-economic pressures and shifting donor priorities. Now more than ever, we must build innovative funding models, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and place survivors at the centre of all we do.

With committed partners, a renewed leadership team, and a bold vision for impact, the Fund is well-positioned to continue playing a catalytic role in building a South Africa rooted in **dignity, safety, and equity**, and above all, **RESPECT**.

Zanele Ngwepe
Interim Chief Executive Officer
GBVF Response Fund

“Now more than ever, we must build innovative funding models, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and place survivors at the centre of all we do.”

Zanele Ngwepe

PARTNERSHIPS

WORKING TOGETHER FOR GREATER IMPACT IN ADDRESSING GBVF

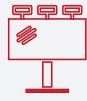
A core mandate of the GBVF Response Fund is to bring together and catalyse key partnerships to ensure all sectors of society play their part in helping to eradicate gender-based violence and femicide. Many stakeholders from various sectors have stepped up to join the Fund on this mission.

The Fund has multiple donors who have donated over R240 million since its inception to enable the Fund to implement its vital initiatives that are having an impact on strengthening the country's GBVF response.

Numerous partners have also stepped up to provide a wide range of pro-bono services and support to the Fund. Since inception, the Fund's various pro-bono partners have provided at least **R15.8 million** in in-kind support and services, including office support, financial and auditing services, transport, media, advertising, and other operational needs.

By partnering with the Fund, these partners are strengthening and amplifying the impact of the Fund, helping to create a better resourced and more coordinated response designed and targeted to have the biggest impact.

PRO-BONO PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

 <p>R240 million in donations from various philanthropic entities since inception</p>	 <p>Use of 2 SUVs to support rural outreach; and local and provincial activities</p> <p>Value: ± R700 000</p> <p>Partner: Avis</p>	 <p>70% discount of office space rental</p> <p>Value: >R1 million</p> <p>Partner: Growthpoint</p>
 <p>R760 000 in digital and static billboard messaging space</p> <p>Partner: Tractor Outdoor Media</p>	 <p>R9.3 million in media and advertising value</p> <p>Partners: DSTV, SABC</p>	 <p>Free and discounted banking and audit services</p> <p>Value: ±R12.5 million</p> <p>Partners: ABSA Bank (free banking services) Alexander Forbes (Funds admin)</p> <p>PWC (Accounting & tax, payroll, risk management, governance)</p>

DONOR MESSAGE

THE CONTRIBUTION MADE TO THE FUND BY FIRSTRAND

The FirstRand Empowerment Foundation's (FREF's) decision to become one of the proud donors to the GBVF Response Fund was driven by a deep recognition of GBVF as a national crisis that demands urgent, coordinated, and sustained action. As a values-based organisation, we are committed to contributing meaningfully to social justice and systemic change. The Fund presented a unique and intentional opportunity to collaborate across sectors in supporting community-based organisations that are at the forefront of prevention, response, and survivor support.

Much like the rest of the world, GBVF is a growing pervasive issue in South Africa. Addressing it requires comprehensive pre-emptive and reactive strategies and interventions that rely not only on policing and prosecution institutions, but also on strong community-based buy-in and support.

FREF has embedded GBVF as a strategic priority within our social investment strategy because it aligns with our commitment to building safe, resilient, and equitable communities. We are actively engaged in a range of strategic initiatives that complement our partnership with the GBVF Response Fund. Over the past three years, we have invested over R200 million to support nine organisations addressing GBVF in South Africa, aligned with the goals of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF.

These include:

- Prevention and Rebuilding Social Cohesion: Support to the National Prosecuting Authority to refurbish and establish additional Thuthuzela Care Centres, critical one-stop facilities offering medical, psychosocial, and legal support to GBV survivors.
- Prevention and Rebuilding Social Cohesion: Support and capacity building for CBOs through the GBVF Response Fund and the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. In collaboration with Heartlines, FREF supports the Fathers Matter Campaign aimed at shifting harmful gender norms by promoting positive fatherhood and male engagement in caregiving.
- Economic Power: Support to the Godishanang Project, implemented by Nyamukara Empowerment NPC to empower women survivors of GBV through accredited sewing and digital literacy training.
- Prevention and Women Empowerment: Support to Memeza that deploys early alert technology linked to the police services and community response networks, achieving a 26% reduction in sexual offences and 9% reduction in murder rates in hotspot communities.



KONE GUGUSHE

Head of Social Investing, FirstRand Group

- Research and Learning: FREF funds research to address knowledge gaps and inform evidence-based interventions. This includes studies on trauma, GBV in schools, and the effectiveness of prevention models.



Phuthaditjaba TCC supported by FREF

FREF envisions a more proactive and collaborative role for the private sector in addressing GBVF. This includes not only funding but also leveraging influence, networks, and operational capabilities to support systemic change. We are committed to deepening our partnerships across the public and private sectors, scaling impactful models, and contributing to a shared accountability framework that ensures long-term sustainability and responsiveness to community needs. Research (including leveraging advancement in technology) and advocacy efforts are also key areas where we intend to become more engaged as we seek to uproot the fundamental ills of GBVF in communities.

GBVF is not a peripheral issue, it is central to the health, safety, and productivity of our society as it has the effect of negatively reverberating across generations. The private sector has both a moral obligation and a strategic interest in addressing the scourge of GBVF. By investing in prevention, survivor support, and systemic reform, businesses can play a transformative role in shaping a safer and more equitable South Africa. Collaboration, transparency, and long-term commitment are key to making a meaningful difference.



FATHERS MATTER:
Men and boys showing solidarity at the Fathers Matter film screening at Numetro

PRO-BONO PARTNER MESSAGE

THE CONTRIBUTION MADE TO THE FUND BY AVIS,
A KEY PRO-BONO PARTNER

At Avis, our commitment to fostering equality, dignity, and safety in the communities we serve is deeply rooted in our core values. Our decision to support the GBVF Response Fund stems from this commitment and reflects our belief that every individual has the right to live free from violence, fear and discrimination.

Through our sponsorship of the Fund, we are taking an active role in combating gender-based violence and femicide by enabling strategic partnerships and practical solutions. As the mobility provider, we facilitate access to GBV hotspots across South Africa, allowing the Fund's representatives to reach vulnerable communities, deliver critical education, and offer life-saving support.

This initiative not only underscores Avis' dedication to social responsibility but also exemplifies our belief in the power of connected humanity to drive meaningful change.

One of the most significant contributions we've observed in the fight against GBVF is the strengthening of multi-sectoral collaboration between private sector partners, civil society organisations, and government institutions. This collective approach has led to more coordinated responses, greater awareness, and improved access to services for survivors. Additionally, we've seen the power of mobility solutions in extending the reach of support services to rural communities. By improving access to education, counselling, and emergency interventions, these efforts are helping to dismantle the barriers that survivors face and empowering communities to stand against GBVF.



Zanele Ngwepe and Sazini Mojapelo with AVIS representatives collecting the Fund's official vehicles.

Within our own operations, Avis upholds a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based violence. We provide safe accommodation and counselling support to our brand ambassadors and employees who may be affected.

Avis aims to ensure that all employees are treated and treat others with care and respect and as such, we are committed to zero tolerance for acts involving harassment, bullying and victimisation. Recently we launched the anti-bullying and harassment campaign internally to educate employees on the different types of harassment as well as reporting channels to use to raise the alarm should they witness or be a victim of bullying or harassment.



Sazini accepting the keys of the Fund's official vehicle from an AVIS executive.

To address GBVF in a sustainable and impactful way, we must embrace a multi-faceted approach that centres on education, mobility, and community engagement.

Firstly, ensuring that all communities, especially GBV hotspots have consistent access to resources, support services, and awareness campaigns. Mobility plays a crucial role in bridging gaps and extending the reach of these services to those most at risk.

Secondly, we must invest in early education, particularly targeting young boys, to instil values of respect, empathy, and gender equality. Changing mindsets from an early age can help prevent the perpetuation of harmful behaviours and attitudes.

Finally, integrating GBVF education into schools, workplaces, and community structures will help shift societal norms. Encouraging open dialogue, breaking the stigma, and fostering accountability are key to building a future free from violence.

By combining these strategies, we can drive lasting, systemic change in the fight against GBVF.

We believe the community-based organisations leading the fight against gender-based violence are the heartbeat of transformative, life-saving change. They are the first responders, the educators, and the beacons of hope for countless individuals across South Africa.

At Avis, we recognise that the journey to a GBVF-free society begins in our homes, schools, and communities. We stand in solidarity with community organisations as they empower survivors, educate youth on respect and healthy relationships, and challenge deeply rooted societal norms.

Their courage is unwavering, and their impact undeniable. Through collaboration, shared resources, and amplified voices, we are committed to supporting their mission and strengthening their reach.

To all those that are working tirelessly to prevent GBVF and support those affected by it know you are not alone in this fight. Your dedication inspires us, and we are honoured to walk alongside you in building a safer, more just society for all.



GBVF Response Fund and AVIS branded vehicles adorned with balloons to mark the handover celebration.

HOW WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The core foundational value of the GBVF Response Fund is to promote a culture of respect in all corners and sectors of the nation. We believe that in a world with respect, gender-based violence and femicide wouldn't exist. To reach this goal, we align all our activities, initiatives and partnerships with our roadmap to respect.



RECOGNISING THE PROBLEM

Through our RESPECT advocacy campaign initiatives and media partnerships we are shining a spotlight on the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide, encouraging more and more people to speak out against it.



ENGAGING EVERYONE

Through our private-sector coalition, our strategic partnerships, our strong relationship with government, and our community-based activities, we are actively engaging and uniting stakeholders from all sectors in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide.



SHIFTING SOCIAL NORMS

Through our community and media partners and awareness raising and education initiatives we are empowering people to challenge the harmful norms, beliefs and systems that perpetuate gender-based violence and femicide.



PROMOTING PREVENTION

Through our multi-sectoral partnerships with CBOs, the private sector and media entities, we support numerous prevention, response and support programmes to raise awareness, to prevent the occurrence and re-occurrence of GBV, and provide communities with the necessary skills to break the cycle of violence.



EMPOWERING VOICES

Through our webinar series, community and national dialogues, and participation on international platforms, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Human Rights Festival, African pride, and through our CBO and private sector partners who work on the ground in communities and in the workplace, we enable those affected to speak out and have their needs and concerns heard.



CREATING SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Through our 235 CBO partners and our collaboration with the National Prosecuting Authority-led Thuthuzela Care Centre initiative we work to ensure that adequate resources and capacity building efforts are in place to provide accessible, survivor-centred support for individuals at risk of or affected by gender-based violence.



TAKING ACTION

Our partnerships, campaigns and programmes focus on encouraging and supporting all of us to take action to rewrite the narrative and build a society free from gender-based violence and femicide.



IMPACT ACHIEVED

DELIVERING IMPACT THROUGH ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

CBO PROGRAMME IMPACT

At the Fund, we know that to have a meaningful impact in changing behaviours and attitudes around GBVF and to ensure those affected get the actual support they need, we need to engage and work closely with communities, especially those in hotspot areas that have high incidence of GBVF.

A core approach of the Fund has therefore been to identify and support community-based organisations (CBOs) that are deeply entrenched and respected in their communities. These organisations have a track record of understanding the complexities and challenges of GBVF and are able to navigate these to make a real impact in their communities.

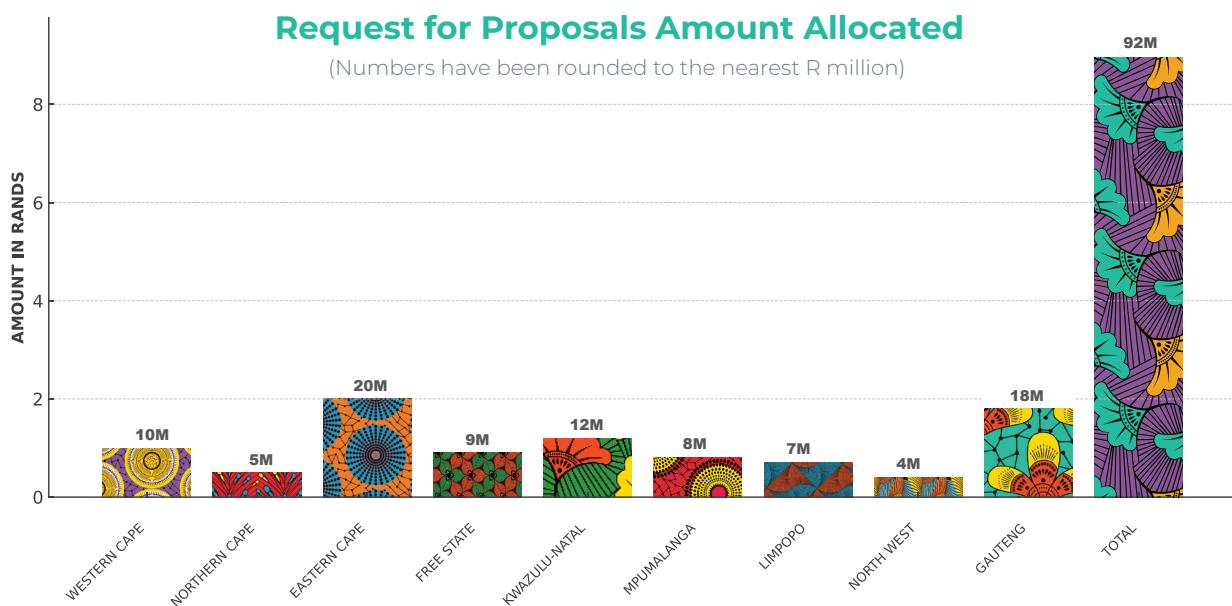
SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In the last year we successfully ran our second request for proposals to provide another round of support to CBOs. Through this process we selected 134 CBOs working across all nine provinces and awarded almost R92m in funding. The work of the CBOs covers four of the

GBVF NSP pillars (2,3,4 & 5). This award included top-up funding for 20 CBOs from the previous round who have demonstrated high impact with their previous allocations.

The Board also approved an additional R6.2m for six high performing CBOs directly impacted by the US Government funding cuts. This support enabled the affected organisations to sustain their activities for an additional six months while they worked to fill their funding gaps.

A key consideration for the RFP is reaching the GBVF hotspots, areas with a higher incidence of GBVF. During the first RFP, the Board commissioned a review of the list of the 30 GBV hotspots as defined by the South African Police Services (SAPS), identifying 15 additional hotspots. Similarly, under RFP2, the list of hotspots was reviewed and expanded to address the intersectionality between GBV and HIV/AIDS. In total, 51 hotspots have been covered through the RFP2 support. Overall, the GBVF Response Fund is present in 35 of the 44 district municipalities across the country.



GRANTS MANAGEMENT

The CBO grants programme is managed by our internal programmes team and our Grants Management Partner (GMP), Soul City Institute, who manages 40% (52) of the CBOs.

To optimally support the grants portfolio, the programmes team developed a Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning and Accountability (MERLA) framework, expanded its staff complement to effectively manage the increased workload, and updated its due diligence requirements for CBOs receiving the

second year tranche of funding. An internal audit was also conducted where we received a satisfactory rating.

MERLA FRAMEWORK

The Fund's new MERLA framework is helping to enhance the effectiveness and accountability of programme implementation and create a shared understanding of how partner organisations monitor progress, evaluate outcomes, and learn from performance. The MERLA cycle is currently in the monitoring stage with some aspects

GBVF RESPONSE FUND MERLA FRAMEWORK



of learning and adaptation based on CBO feedback and lessons generated through the process. The framework has been operationalised through the use of AI tools to promote efficiency in data management and use. An online reporting platform and shared drive have also been created where CBOs can capture quarterly programmatic and financial reports, and submit supporting documentation.

To strengthen data quality and integrity and enhance effectiveness of programme deliverables, the Fund and GMP conduct routine data verification through onsite visits

and desktop reviews of source documents, as well as maintaining continuous engagements with CBOs. Data not accompanied by authentic means of verification (i.e., registers, agenda, photographs that are not time and date stamped) are discounted. This rigorous verification process showed that the Fund had exceeded our target beneficiary reach by 157% (373 408 of 159 509) of reported data during this reporting period.

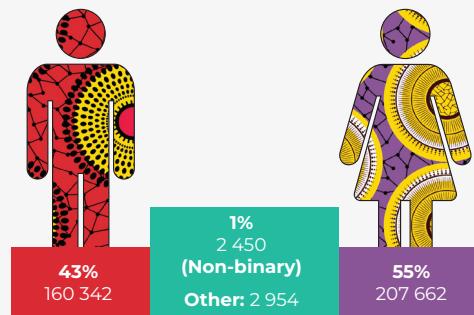
While data verification is an accountability tool, it has also proven effective in strengthening CBO's skills in comprehensive reporting and data management.

CBO Programme Reach March 2024 - February 2025

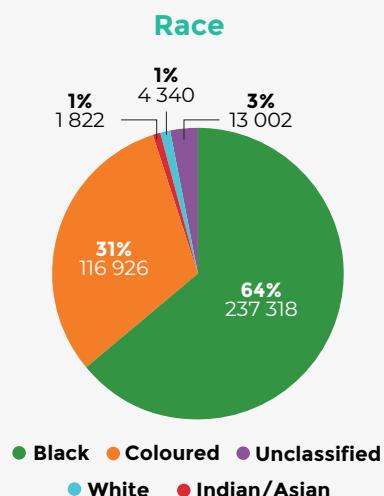
134 CBOs

awarded a share of **R100m** in grants. **R89.4m** disbursed (March 2024 to February 2025).

The majority of beneficiaries are female (55%) with 43% men reached. 1% are non-binary or not classified.



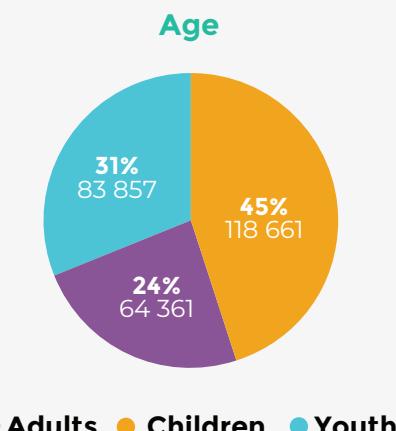
The majority of beneficiaries reached are Black African (64%), followed by Coloureds (31%), and White and Indian / Asian 1% each. 3% have not been classified.



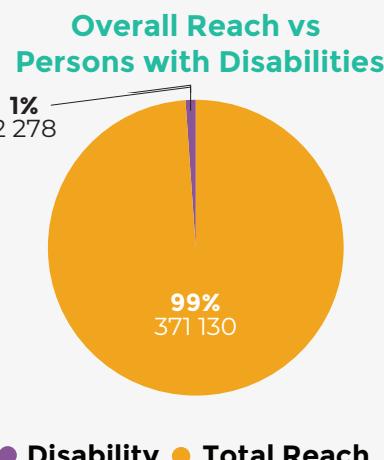
373 408

beneficiaries reached (157% of 236 720 target) (March 2024 to February 2025).

More children were reached (45%) than youth (31%). 24% of adults reached. 1% of beneficiaries reached were persons living with disabilities.



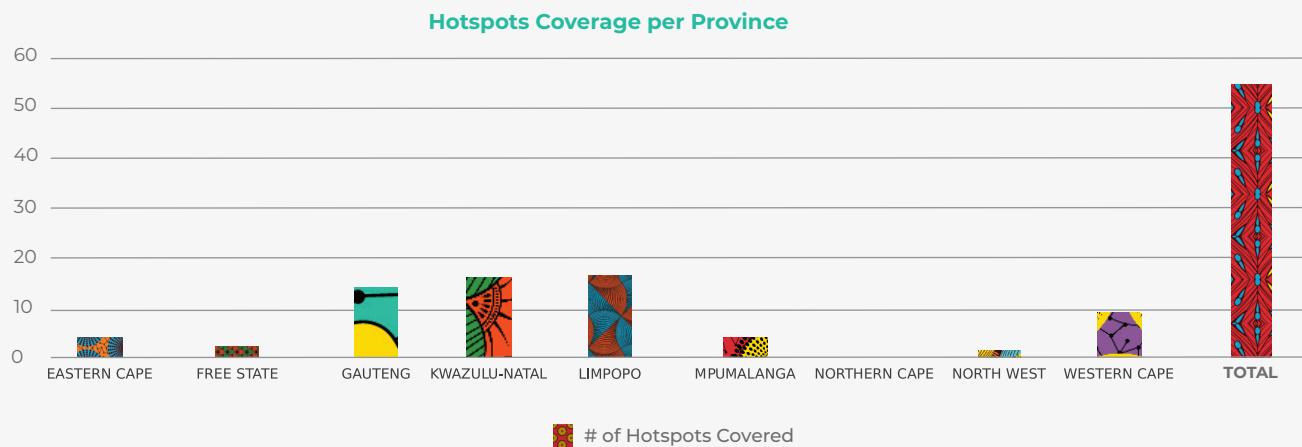
● Adults ● Children ● Youth



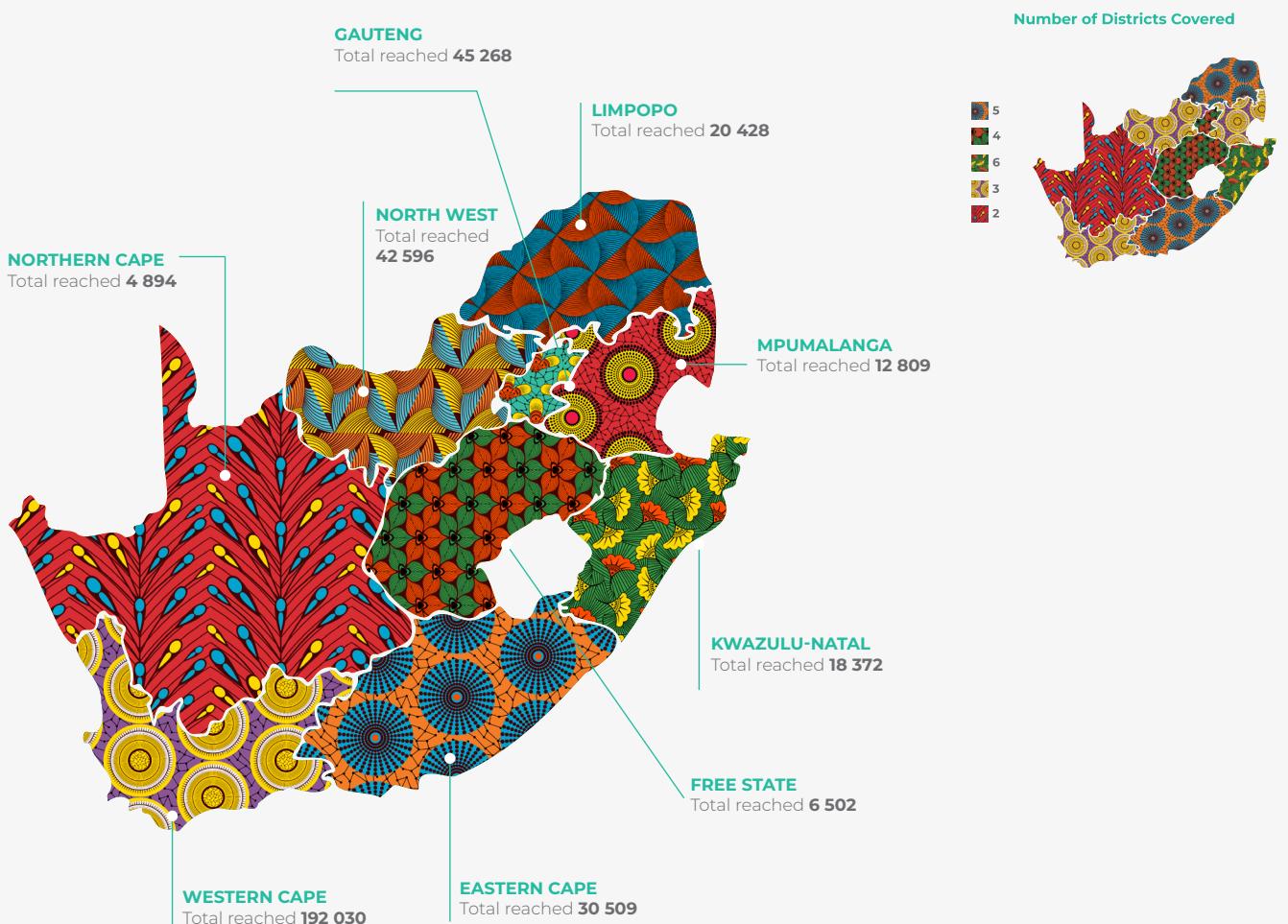
● Disability ● Total Reach

CBO Programme Geographic Coverage

51% of beneficiaries reached are located in the Western Cape, followed by Gauteng, North West, Eastern Cape and Limpopo. Under RFP 2 the Fund reached an additional 5 hotspots to address the intersectionality of GBVF with HIV. This takes the Fund's total reach to 51 hotspots. The geographic spread of CBOs managed by the GMP include Eastern Cape, Gauteng, and North West provinces.

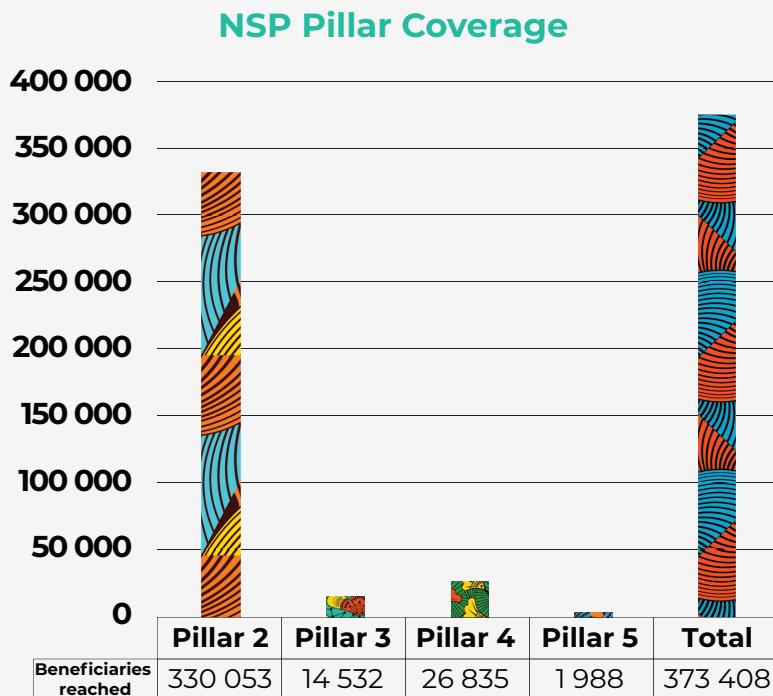


National Beneficiary Reach



GBVF NSP Pillar coverage

4 (of 6) GBVF NSP pillars are covered by the CBO programmes. Reach by pillar includes P2: Prevention - 88%, P3: Access to justice - 4%, P4: Care, healing and support - 7% , P5: Economic empowerment - <1%.



Prevention activities include evidence-based social behaviour change interventions or programmes that target children, adults and the youth. Interventions addressing sexual violence and the intersection between GBV and sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV were implemented in schools and after school programmes, aimed at adolescent girls and young women. Children were also sensitised through initiatives at early childhood development centres, and school programmes included anti-bullying programmes.

Several CBO programmes specifically targeted adolescent boys in and out of school and men, including the Men Championing Change and Boys Championing Change campaigns, and Men Care, among others.

Parenting programmes, such as Families Matter, were implemented to address the intersection between violence against women and violence against children. These seek to disrupt the intergenerational cycle of violence as exposure to violence in childhood has long-term impacts.

Through Pillars 3 and 4, CBOs provide post violence support by supporting survivors to navigate the criminal justice system and access care. This includes opening criminal cases with the police, applying for protection orders and supporting over 26 835 beneficiaries to access survivor-friendly multi-sectoral essential services, including psychosocial support and shelters. Specific programmes that targeted the LGBTQIA+, persons with disabilities and other underserved groups were also implemented.

CBO PARTNER STORIES

TESTIMONIES FROM SOME OF THE FUND'S CBO PARTNERS.

The Rainbow Circle

EQUIPPING SURVIVORS OF GBV WITH SKILLS TO GENERATE INCOME TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF ABUSE AND POVERTY.

The Rainbow Circle supports communities in uThungulu District in KwaZulu-Natal, with a focus on three of the six NSP pillars—prevention, care and support, and economic empowerment. Our interventions actively involve all members of the community, across all age groups through in-school and community programmes, and working closely with traditional leaders, government institutions and other civil society organisation. We offer psycho-social support for survivors, counselling, legal and advocacy support. We support a social worker and a social auxiliary worker in two police stations in their victim friendly centres, and run an emergency shelter, white door of hope, providing temporary emergency assistance for victims of gender-based violence.

Our Women's Economic Empowerment Programme focuses on equipping survivors of GBV with skills to generate income to break the cycle of abuse and poverty, allowing the women to leave abusive partners or environments and make independent choices. At our skills development centre we offer basic sewing and dressmaking skills for women; groups of 30 women attend for a period of six months, whereafter they receive a certificate and a sewing machine to begin their sewing journey. We also equip our women with business skills so they can make better financial decisions, and partner with other stakeholders, such as the National Development Agency, to assist the women in starting cooperatives and other businesses.

The partnership with the GBVF Response Fund has helped us tremendously to focus on our core programmes and expand our reach. We purchased sewing materials for our students and covered their tuition fees, something we had struggled with for the first and second group of students. This has had such an impact

on the beneficiaries, ensuring they do not need to rely on their perpetrators for financial assistance to buy materials.

Of the 30 women enrolled in our skills development programme 25 completed the programme and received their certificates and sewing machines. We were also able to hire the social worker who worked as a volunteer in the skills development centre, which has had a significant impact for them and us. The social worker supports the women with their healing journey through individual and group counselling sessions. In this way the women not only received a skill but are supported to begin the healing process and the journey of rewriting their current narrative.



The Rainbow Circle at a School Awareness Programme

Childline Gauteng

CHANGING HARMFUL MALE ATTITUDES TO GENDER, VIOLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Adolescent boys in a Reflective Focus Group session on gender roles and healthy masculinity

Childline Gauteng works to strengthen community-based GBVF prevention strategies by supporting survivor-led initiatives and advancing multi-sectoral coordination to respond to GBVF. We are committed to inclusive, intersectional programming that addresses structural inequality and reaches marginalised and underserved groups.

The Fund's partnership enabled us to successfully conceptualise, design and pilot the Ringa Mjita Boys Programme aimed at shifting attitudes among young men related to gender, violence, and personal accountability. The successful pilot directly contributed to us securing a significant international donor, allowing us to scale the programme across Gauteng and establish a multi-stakeholder steering committee to guide programme quality, relevance, and accountability.

Through attending the Inner City Ringa Mjita Boys Programme, an 18-year-old participant from Hillbrow chose to stop drinking and smoking and began to rethink his views on masculinity. He now embraces healthier behaviours, shares household responsibilities, and openly expresses emotion. Furthermore, he uses his online platform tutoring over 400 students in Geography and Life Science to model the values and gender-equitable norms he has learned and promote positive behaviour change among his peers and students.

The grant has further supported skills development for both ourselves and our programme participants, many of whom were previously unemployed. Participants have gained renewed motivation and practical skills, with some advancing their training and receiving stipends to support further learning. Our organisational M&E capacity has also significantly improved during the funding period, enabling more rigorous tracking and analysis of programme outcomes.

Looking ahead, our goal is to expand the Ringa Mjita Boys Programme as a national flagship model for gender-based violence prevention. We aim to scale and deepen impact, while exploring a complementary intervention for adolescent girls that builds on the strengths of the current approach. Interest from schools, local partners, and government stakeholders highlights strong potential for broader adoption.

We are also advancing a proposed pilot (currently under review by an international consortium and potential funder) focused on addressing the violence, exclusion, and trauma experienced by LGBTQIA+ youth in Gauteng through inclusive, community-led interventions



An initiative by Childline Gauteng's inner-city outreach programme.
the Ringa Mjita Boys Programme

People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)

RAISING AWARENESS, PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO COMBAT GBVF.



Survivors learning baking skills at Tembisa Child Welfare

POWA is deeply committed to supporting survivors of gender-based violence and Femicide through a comprehensive range of services, including, psychosocial support, emergency and long-term sheltering, legal advice and court support, and advocacy and community education.

We also focus on raising awareness around GBVF, promoting human rights, particularly women's rights, and strengthening partnerships with other stakeholders to combat GBV in all its forms. We operate in three key regions in Gauteng Province—Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg, and Sedibeng. Our offices are strategically located in GBV and crime hotspot areas, ensuring proximity to most affected communities.

Prior to partnering with the GBVF Response Fund we were struggling with constrained and restricted funding, limiting our ability to execute all planned activities. The Fund's support has significantly enhanced our capacity, enabling us to deepen and expand our services. In particular, we have been able to:

- Deliver GBV awareness programmes to learners, and host targeted workshops on GBV prevention and support for educators,

school governing bodies, community-based organisations, and GBV brigades. Our learner GBVF workshops created space for critical discussions on patriarchy, gender norms, sexuality and stereotypes aimed at fostering long-term behavioural and attitudinal change. Attendees openly acknowledged how societal norms, cultural values, and religious beliefs can perpetuate GBV, an important breakthrough in changing community attitudes.

- Provide legal advice and court support to survivors, enabling us to achieve our goal of providing legal support to 30 survivors, including court preparation services.
- Facilitate two support groups for LGBTQI+ individuals providing safe spaces for members to share their experiences, offer mutual support, and engage in healing.
- Provide accredited skills development opportunities to GBV survivors, with ten women completing accredited training in beauty therapy, nail and eyelash application, and baking, equipping them with vital income-generating skills. One of the women is now operating a small beauty business, while two others run a baking venture, fulfilling cake orders in their communities.

Moving forward we aim to scale our model to more organisations across the region and revive and formalise our training department to lead future capacity building, skills development and generate income. We would also like to reimagine and restructure our Second Stage House Programme for sustainability and income generation in a way that ensures it not only continues to provide transitional support to GBV survivors but also becomes a self-sustaining model that contributes to the organisation's longterm financial sustainability.

Zwoitwa Community Project

RAISING AWARENESS ON GBVF IN RURAL LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Zwoitwa Community Project works to address GBVF and bullying in Vhembe District in Limpopo Province. Our focus areas include school outreach programmes, prevention and behaviour change communication and campaigns, community dialogues, engaging men and traditional leaders as champions, family and women's empowerment programmes, and providing psychosocial support.

Through the partnership with the GBVF Fund, we have evolved from a basic care initiative into a dynamic, multi-focused community support centre now able to provide high quality inclusive services to vulnerable children and groups, youth, the elderly, people living with disabilities and GBV survivors, while promoting social change and empowerment, and restoring human dignity.

The GBVF Fund grant has enabled us to expand our services across the whole of Vhembe District and into more rural areas, and partner with other stakeholders to extend available services in communities where these have been limited. For example, when we conducted a GBVF awareness campaign in rural area of Sigonde village we partnered with the Department of Home Affairs who assisted community members to apply for their identity cards.

A key focus has been to engage youth, men and traditional leaders to conscientise them on social challenges and behaviours that drive GBVF, such as



Zwoitwa Community Project hosting a Family Matters Programme session focusing on family empowerment through economic strengthening and GBVF prevention

substance abuse, and encourage them to take a stand against gender-based violence. Understanding that unemployment is another key contributor to GBVF, we supported 66 youth with work opportunities and workplace experience in government entities. We also conducted two women's empowerment sessions to empower women with entrepreneurial skills and work opportunities, and various awareness raising activities aimed at women.

Mudzunga (not her real name), 40, lives in a rural village in Limpopo Province. A mother of four children and HIV positive, she regularly experiences emotional abuse from her husband because of her HIV status, leaving her broken and living in fear. She attended one of our Family Matters Programme sessions where she learned about the psychosocial support available to her and was encouraged to join an HIV support group. She took the leap, joined the group, and even encouraged her husband to join as well. Through this support, her emotional wellbeing has considerably improved.

Through the partnership with the Fund, we are seeing improved community understanding of GBVF, HIV stigma and disability rights, and an increase in men speaking up about GBV. We are also noting reduced cases of GBVF in the communities and bullying at school.

From an organisational perspective, the Fund's training and mentoring support has greatly strengthened our organisations capacity in operations, programmes, governance and M&E. We have since developed a proper case management system and tools to track referrals, follow up and outcomes, and strengthened our internal policies such as the Child safeguarding and confidentiality policies. We have also established formal relationships with key stakeholders such as the Thuthuzela Care Centre, FAMSA Vhembe, SANCA and government departments such as Home Affairs, Social Development, the police services and the health department.

Looking ahead, we aim to continue to strengthen our internal systems and secure additional longterm support. Programmatically we would like to build on our achievements reached through the Fund's support and expand into offering greater support services and 24-hour emergency support to GBVF survivors, continue our awareness raising initiatives in rural communities to transform harmful social norms and reduce stigma, and support survivors to reduce their financial dependency and vulnerability.



Zwoitwa Community Project at a school

COPESSA (Community-based Prevention and Empowerment Strategies in South Africa) is a multi-award-winning non-profit organisation based in Soweto, Gauteng Province, with a 21-year track record of preventing gender-based violence and violence against children through psycho-social support, economic empowerment, and community mobilisation.

COPESSA continues to make significant strides in tackling GBV through an holistic approach that combines gender-transformative dialogues and economic empowerment initiatives. Our gender-transformative dialogues are a critical pillar of our work aimed at challenging harmful gender norms and engaging men as allies in preventing GBV.

By supporting women in their emotional well-being and with economic empowerment initiatives, we strengthen their resilience and ability to pre-empt any potential backlash from perpetrators as women gain economic independence—a common but under-acknowledged dynamic in GBV prevention. This support has helped to lay the foundation for successful women-led initiatives — including our award-winning social innovation, the Biyela multi-purpose jacket.

Biyela is manufactured by women in our empowerment sewing programme, the Women of Worth programme (WOW). The jacket serves multiple social and commercial functions:

- A portable shelter for homeless individuals
- A source of dignity, warmth, and protection for those living on the streets
- A tool for camping, disaster response, and outdoor occupations
- A potential safety solution for initiation rituals of young men, where hypothermia and exposure are common contributors to tragic outcomes

The women involved in creating the Biyela gain not only income but also confidence and purpose, with many becoming vocal advocates of innovation-led solutions in GBV prevention.



WOWs handing donated Biyelas to Homeless individuals



The Biyela - a portable shelter

ADVOCACY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IMPACT

NEW INITIATIVE

Private Sector Coalition Against GBV and Harassment

Creating a zero tolerance for GBVH in the workplace

As part of our mission to strengthen the role of the private sector in adopting a more sustained and transformative approach to eradicating gender-based violence and femicide in society the Fund recognised the need to establish a social compact to drive collective corporate action against GBV and harassment in workplace.

The Private Sector Coalition against Gender-based Violence and Harassment (PSC) aims to ensure a holistic, proactive and systemic approach that leverages joint resources, influence and leadership to create lasting change and address the economic and social impacts of GBV on both society and business.

Furthermore, there is a need to provide the private sector with capacity building and technical support to effectively adopt and implement the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 190 (C-190), the international treaty that recognises the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, that South Africa ratified in 2021.

The Fund has therefore partnered with the Presidency, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), the ILO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and UN Women to create and launch the coalition.

The coalition focuses on several key approaches, namely:

- Engaging CEOs as champions to pledge concrete action through various advocacy initiatives.
- Providing a structured framework to guide companies through key areas of progress-prevention, protection and enforcement-supported by ILO C-190 toolkits and guidance to strengthen institutional responses to GBV and harassment.
- Supporting companies to conduct self-assessments across the workplace, supply chain and community environments, culminating in the development of improvement plans.
- Conducting evaluations that will inform the creation of the first set of standards and key performance indicators to assist companies in their reporting across environmental, social and governance (ESG), annual, and integrated reports.

The coalition is overseen by a steering committee composed of the founding partners and a representative from the ILO C-190 working group (a national working group convened by the presidency and other stakeholders to report broadly on the adoption and implementation of the ILO C-190 in the country.)



UN Resident Coordinator and UN agency delegates attending the PSC launch

PSC LAUNCH

The Coalition was officially launched in August 2024 at a high-level symposium in Johannesburg. The event brought together influential private sector executives and CEO Champions who shared their commitment to the coalition and reaffirmed the strategic importance of private sector leadership in addressing gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace. Participants shared key insights and case studies from their own successful initiatives aimed at fostering zero-tolerance environments, advancing gender-equity, and institutionalising comprehensive responses to workplace violence and harassment.

Speakers included:

- **Nolitha Fakude:** Chairman of Anglo-American South Africa Management Board, who spoke about the Living with Dignity programme and Anglo American's commitment to ensuring communities are included in GBV prevention efforts.
- **Sitho Mdlalose:** CEO of Vodacom South Africa, highlighted Vodacom's pioneering initiative, Brightsky app that provides support and information to individuals experiencing domestic abuse or concerned about someone they know.
- **Shirley Machaba:** CEO of PWC South Africa, who spoke of the economic impact of gender-based violence and the company's response initiatives.
- **Kevin O'Brien:** Sustainability Executive at SPAR Group, discussed the company's various prevention and support initiatives, including enhancements to their human resources processes aimed at strengthening protection and enforcement in the workplace. He also spoke of SPAR's plastic bag advocacy initiative and encouraged the retail industry to collaborate for collective impact.
- **Adv. Shamila Batohi:** National Director of Public Prosecutions, addressed concerns regarding the DNA backlog and low

conviction rates and the steps they are taking to address these. She also called on the private sector to adopt Thuthuzela Care Centres to help maintain their functionality and effectiveness.

- **Jahni De Villiers:** Business Unity South Africa, provided insights from organised business on their approach to implementing ILO C-190.
- **Zingiswa Losi:** President of COSATU, spoke of the role of organised labour in supporting the realisation of the coalition and ensuring employees voices are represented and heard.
- **Dr. Judy Dlamini:** Chancellor of Wits University, spoke on the role of academia in supporting national efforts in addressing gender-based violence and femicide.
- **Nada Wotshela:** Group Executive, SABC Radio, shared details of their prevention-focused initiatives and affirmed the broadcaster's commitment to promote a culture of respect through its extensive reach.
- **Representatives from various international partners** including the United Nations, the ILO, the Republic of Ireland, and the United Kingdom, who pledged their support to the coalition and their commitment to collaborative action.

The launch also included a panel discussion where speakers discussed the coalition model and how to address challenges in effective implementation of C-190.



Introductory panel discussion at the PSC launch

“

A problem this big requires a coalition. A problem this big cannot be solved purely by the private sector or only by government, but through a true partnership between the two.”

Mr Sitho Mdlalose
CEO, Vodacom South Africa,
speaking at the PSC launch

PSC INITIATIVES

During the annual 16 days of activism campaign, the coalition curated a CEO / Executive Champions campaign where industry leaders pledged their commitment to zero tolerance for gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace. The Chairman of Anglo American, along with the CEOs of MTN, KPMG, and BP, and senior executives from Mercedes Benz, Standard Bank, and SuperSport participated in the initiative. The campaign was broadcast pro-bono through platforms of the SABC and Multichoice, significantly amplifying its reach.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

The RESPECT Campaign



Over the past year, the RESPECT Campaign, our flagship social and behaviour change initiative, continued to gain momentum, significantly enhancing both its reach and visibility. In collaboration with strategic partners, we leveraged several high-impact public platforms to amplify the campaign's presence. These engagements focused on raising awareness, educating the public, building capacity, and advocating for a South Africa free from gender-based violence and femicide. A summary of these achievements is outlined below.

HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL

Our partnership with Constitution Hill and the Human Rights Festival continued this year, allowing us an opportunity to amplify the RESPECT Campaign's message within a human rights-centred space. We also increased the visibility of our partnerships and support for community partners in the social justice sector. Our initiatives at the festival included:



Creative stalls at the Human Rights Festival at Constitution Hill

- An exhibition stall where team members interacted with festival goers, sharing prevention and advocacy materials and encouraging participants to share their views on what respect means to them. This engagement provided valuable community insights to inform social behaviour change strategies with respect to gender-based violence.
- Prominently display the RESPECT campaign across festival screen displays, digital branding, event collateral, and dedicated spaces within the activism exhibition row, ensuring maximum possible reach.
- Coordinating and hosting a panel discussion, in partnership with Avon South Africa and ABSA, on strengthening national

funding mechanisms amid shifting local and international priorities. ABSA shared insights into supporting small businesses and organisations by exploring alternative funding approaches, including in-kind support such as time, expertise or services (e.g., banking services). A CBO affected by the recent withdrawal of international funding also reflected on their experiences, highlighting the importance of diversified funding to ensure sustainability. The discussion prompted robust engagement on the need for resilient national funding systems for social development.

- Participation in the "We the People" march, reaffirming the Fund's commitment to advocacy and social transformation.



Celebrating national human rights month at the Human Rights Festival

JOHANNESBURG PRIDE PARADE

For the second consecutive year the Fund partnered with Pride of Africa and the Johannesburg Pride Parade, the biggest Pride event on the continent. Throughout Pride month (October 2024) we demonstrated solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community, particularly in the fight against hate crimes, through a dedicated advocacy campaign across all our digital platforms.

In the lead up to the parade the Fund hosted an exhibition stall where information on GBV support services was disseminated, while also providing a platform for meaningful engagement with the public. We also joined over 20 000 participants in marching during the Pride Parade, visibly reinforcing our commitment to inclusion and equality.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSA)

The SABC continues to be a critical media partner, supporting the Fund's advocacy initiatives through the broadcast of PSAs across 18 radio stations in all 11 official languages. These broadcasts reach an estimated 25 million listeners per week and play a vital role in fostering awareness and encouraging community engagement in addressing gender-based violence and femicide.

During International Women's Month and National Women's Month, the SABC's pro-bono PSA support was valued at approximately R2 million. This partnership has significantly enhanced the Fund's ability to reach diverse

audiences, including communities in remote and underserved areas.

DSTV DELICIOUS FOOD AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Fund once again partnered with the DSTV Delicious Food and Music Festival, leveraging the festival's on-site presence and media platforms to disseminate advocacy messages and promote a culture of respect. The Fund hosted an interactive exhibition and information stall which facilitated meaningful engagement with festival goers and enhanced the visibility of the Fund's work. The DSTV Festival reaffirmed its commitment to supporting efforts to end gender-based violence and femicide.

BILLBOARD MESSAGING

Another key partnership that continued to flourish this year is with Tractor Outdoor Media who remained a key pro-bono partner by providing their digital billboards to support the Fund's advocacy and behaviour change messaging. These billboards are located across 20 high-traffic sites in the Western and Eastern Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces, including areas near shopping malls, airports and taxi ranks. Collectively they provide significant visibility, reaching over 30m people.

In addition to their ongoing support, we amplified our visibility during International Women's Month by coordinating additional paid digital and static billboards, further expanding the campaign's reach and impact.



International Women's Month billboard at the Johannesburg CBD taxi rank

INTERSECTIONALITY WEBINAR SERIES

Gender-based violence doesn't happen in isolation. It is intricately linked with other social challenges that may either exacerbate, or result from violence. Furthermore, vulnerable groups are often disproportionately affected, facing heightened levels of prejudice, exclusion and violence.

In recognition of this, the Fund launched a dedicated intersectionality webinar series to foster dialogue, challenge assumptions and co-create solutions at the intersection of gender-based violence and broader social issues. The webinars sought to deepen public and stakeholder understanding of intersectionality, raise awareness, and identify systemic gaps, particularly within healthcare, justice and community support systems. Each session promoted survivor-centred, stigma-free, and culturally sensitive approaches to prevention and response.

The series was hosted in partnership with the Mail & Guardian who also promoted the campaign through their social media channels and digital platforms, magnifying its reach.

During the reporting year, three webinars were held, exploring the intersections between gender-based violence with people living with disability, with people living with HIV, and with the LGBTQIA+ community. Another webinar focusing on the intersection of gender-based violence with child abuse and adolescent pregnancy is scheduled for later in 2025.

The LGBTQIA+ webinar coincided with the Johannesburg Pride celebrations and unpacked critical issues such as hate crimes, corrective rape, and systemic exclusion, contributing to greater public awareness and advocating for broader acceptance and protection of LGBTQIA+ individuals.

The HIV-focused webinar, hosted in collaboration with the South African National AIDS Council during Sexual and Reproductive Health Month, was delivered in a hybrid format with approximately 40 in-person attendees and featured contributions from key stakeholders across government, academia, and civil society.

These engagements have served as critical platforms for building inclusive, multisectoral responses to GBVF, while continuing to amplify the Fund's leadership in driving intersectional, evidence-based dialogue.

ADVOCACY IMPACT

Private Sector Coalition to unite in the fight to eradicate GBVF established.

> 8 000 reached

throughout the Human Rights Festival weekend

>R6m in media value

received for flighting of messages during International Women's Month and the Human Rights Festival alone

±20% growth

in social media engagement during the Human Rights Festival alone

±25m people

reached through radio in all 11 official languages in just one month

> 30m reached

in 2024 through billboard advertising

20 sites

in four provinces flighted messages on their digital and static billboards

920 views

of the intersectionality webinars, with 40 in-person participants of the HIV one

Marched in solidarity with over **30,000**

in the Human Rights March and Pride Parade





GOVERNANCE

ENSURING ROBUST MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT OF THE FUND

The GBVF Response Fund is fully committed to good governance principles of transparency, integrity and accountability, partnering with key stakeholders to better ensure a more coordinated and impactful response. To ensure we safeguard and use the resources we have been entrusted with, the Fund has established a range of internal control systems, policies, and procedures that are rigorously adhered to. Governed by an independent and highly respected Board of Directors, with a skilled management team, the Fund is well equipped to accomplish its mandate. This is further bolstered by critical operational, legal, and other skills necessary to ensure the Fund operates efficiently and effectively.

BOARD AND EXECUTIVE

The Fund is overseen by a highly experienced, dedicated and diverse Board that represents a broad spectrum of South Africa. It brings skills from financial services executives, established business professionals, legal practitioners, and highly experienced GBV activists, representing both the private sector and civil society. This depth of experience ensures the Board brings an effective mix of knowledge on GBVF challenges and financial management services for the Fund's professional management.

EXECUTIVE CHANGES

The last year saw significant changes to the Fund's executive and Board. With regret, the Fund bade farewell to its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sazini Mojapelo. Her leadership, dedication and experience helped to ensure the Fund was managed with the utmost integrity and professionalism, and she ably guided the Fund in making significant strides towards its goals of uniting South Africa in eradicating GBVF. Zanele Ngwepe, the Fund's Head of Finance and Operations, was appointed

as interim CEO from December 2024 to the end of May 2025. Her willingness and commitment to lead the Fund through a period marred by international funding cuts and other socio-political challenges has been vital in ensuring sustained support for the organisations and beneficiaries that the Fund supports.

The Fund welcomes its new permanent CEO, Tandi Nzimande from June 2025. Tandi brings vast experience having led South Africa's Solidarity Fund that united the country's response to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BOARD CHANGES

The Board also said farewell to Uviwe Ntsaluba, who had brought an international development and civil society perspective that helped to strengthen the Fund's programmes and operations. Five new members have been appointed to the Board, Ambassador Nozipho Bardill, human rights, race, corporate governance, and gender specialist and founder of Bardill and Associates; Dr Nomonde Mabuya, the Chief Executive Officer of Qalodigihealth; Adrian Burke, a Board Member of Old Mutual Botswana Life and a fellow member of the Actuarial Society of South Africa; Sindi Dlamini, the Chief Executive Officer of Pamodzi Unique Engineering; and Shillyboy Mothiba, founder of TaxEduZA. The Fund welcomes the skills and perspectives they bring.

The Board continued to execute its oversight responsibilities and guide and support the operational management of the Fund through its various sub-committees, maintaining due diligence and care. It remains ultimately responsible for implementing our strategy, and ensuring the successful achievement of our strategic objectives in line with the selected pillars of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF.

The Board remains committed to good corporate governance and runs the Fund with the utmost care and compliance, in line with company policies and procedures. Working with the Audit and Risk Committee, the Board has concluded the Fund's external audit with a clean audit result. A special thank-you to our pro-bono partners, PwC, Alexander Forbes, ENSafrica, and Absa, who have committed to another year of supporting the Fund. This ensures the Fund's work continues to follow the required compliance standards.

ABOUT OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Faith Khanyile has 24 years of leadership and governance experience in the financial services sector. She is a passionate supporter of women's advancement, mentoring young professionals and emerging entrepreneurs. She sits on various boards and is an active member of the International Women's Forum South Africa.

Amb. Nozipho Bardill is a human rights, race, gender, and corporate governance specialist and founder of Bardill and Associates. She currently serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Assistance at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, serves on the Board of Afrobarometer (Ghana), and is a member of the MTN Foundation.

Mr. Adrian Burke is an actuary with over 35 years of experience. He has held several senior leadership roles related to the development, management and valuation of life insurance in retail and corporate settings. He is currently a Board Member of Old Mutual Botswana Life. Ms. Sindi Dlamini is a chartered accountant, IODSA Certified Director and Certified Ethics Officer with expertise in mergers and acquisitions. She currently serves as the CEO of Pamodzi Unique Engineering and is a board member of the African Women Chartered Accountants.

Ms. Dot Field is the founder of Dot Field Consulting, providing sought after expertise in strategic communications, governance, ESG, investor and media relations, crisis communications, and external and corporate affairs. She is the former secretary and board member of the International Women's Forum of South Africa and currently serves on the board of the Central Baptist Church Welfare Organisation.

Dr. Lesley Ann Foster is a human rights and gender expert renowned for her work to end violence against women and advance women's rights across South Africa and the world. She is the founder and Director of Masimanyane Women's Rights International.

Ms. Rose Keanly has extensive experience in financial services across banking and insurance in South Africa, Africa and Europe. She currently serves as a Non-Executive Director on the Absa Group Board and is Chair of the Absa Insurance Board. She also has experience in non-profits to which she contributes in various ways.

Mr. Bafana Khumalo is a Co-Executive Director and one of the co-founders of Sonke Gender Justice. He has a long and accomplished track record in the NGO sector with a focus on gender equality and HIV/AIDS prevention. He currently serves on the MenEngage Global Board and various other corporate and non-profit boards.

Dr. Nomonde Mabuya is an accomplished senior medical doctor and business executive with over 30 years of experience in occupational medicine, corporate governance, and board leadership across diverse industries. She currently serves as the CEO of 3sixtyhealth.

Ms. Gabi Mailula is an experienced commercial attorney with 15 years of experience and expertise in mergers and acquisitions and related regulatory and legal frameworks across a range of industries. She is currently a Partner at ENS.

Ms. Ella Mangisa has more than 15 years of experience in human rights, community development and empowerment, with a strong focus on supporting township, peri-urban and rural communities. She is currently the Director of Ilitha Labantu.

Mr. Shillyboy Mothiba is a chartered accountant with over 13 years of experience, focusing on taxation. He is the founder and Executive Director of TaxEduZA. He currently serves as the Treasurer General and Board Member of the South African Institute of Black Property Practitioners, and is an Executive Director at Intergen Private Wealth.

Dr. Shaheda Omar is a social justice activist, widely credited for championing children's rights in South Africa. She is an author and mentor, and sits on multi-sectoral Boards, national committees and task teams. She is currently the Clinical Director at the Teddy Bear Foundation.

Ms. Tryphosa Ramano is a chartered accountant having held various leadership and management roles in the public sector, banking and financial services, and mining, manufacturing and aviation industries. She currently works as a consultant and serves as a board member for the South African chapter of the International Women's Forum.

Mr. Luthando Vuba is a financial services professional and entrepreneur, and is passionate about leadership. He heads up International Trade for the Standard Bank Group, is the co-founder of Perpetu8, serves as a board member on various Boards, and has an MBA from the ALU School of Business.



FAITH KHANYILE

Independent Non-Executive Chairperson



**SHILLYBOY
MOTHIBA**

Independent Non-Executive Director



**DR. SHAHEDA
OMAR**

Independent Non-Executive Director



GABI MAILULA

Independent Non-Executive Director



**TRYPHOSA
RAMANO**

Independent Non-Executive Director



BAFANA KHUMALO

Independent Non-Executive Director



NOZIPHO BARDILL

Independent Non-Executive Director



**DR LESLEY ANN
FOSTER**

Independent Non-Executive Director



**DR NOMONDE
MABUYA**

Independent Non-Executive Director



ROSE KEANLY

Independent Non-Executive Director



ELLA MANGISA

Independent Non-Executive Director



DOT FIELD

Independent Non-Executive Director



LUTHANDO VUBA

Independent Non-Executive Director



SINDI DLAMINI

Independent Non-Executive Director



ADRIAN BURKE

Independent Non-Executive Director

BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

All Board committees held their meetings in accordance with good corporate governance, ensuring that the execution of the Fund's operations received the right level of oversight.

In executing its responsibilities, the Fund has set up the following committees: Advocacy, Behavioural Change and Communication Committee; Disbursements, Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee; Fundraising and Investment Committee; the Audit and Risk Committee; and the Human Resources and Nominations Committee.

ADVOCACY, BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

The Advocacy and Behavioural Change (ABC) Committee advises the Board in their efforts to advocate against GBVF, raise awareness, call for action, and encourage social behavioural change to reduce and arrest the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide.

During the period under review, newly appointed Board members Amb. Noziphoo Bardill and Dr. Nomonde Mabuya joined the committee. The Committee remains committed to its role of guiding and overseeing the Fund's advocacy and communications work, with a strategic focus on advancing systemic social change.

Over the past year, we have seen a significant strengthening of our advocacy efforts through the continued rollout of the RESPECT Campaign—our flagship prevention initiative. Since its inception, RESPECT has gained considerable momentum, positioning the Fund as a leading voice in shifting public consciousness around GBVF. Through robust partnerships and integrated communications strategies, we expanded our reach across multiple media platforms, amplifying messaging that centres dignity, human rights, and collective accountability.

A key highlight of the year was the deepening of strategic partnerships to maximise advocacy and mass communication efforts. This included engagement across community and national radio platforms, billboard visibility, and alignment with platforms that reflect our values and objectives. These touchpoints have been critical in driving awareness, reinforcing the Fund's brand presence, and promoting positive social norms. Additionally, the Fund strengthened its advocacy platforms through stakeholder convenings, such as the Intersectionality Webinar Series, which underscored the interconnectedness of GBV with broader social determinants, including sexual orientation, gender identity, and public health.

The Committee is particularly encouraged by the successful establishment of the Private Sector Coalition against GBVF, which has laid the groundwork for sector-wide transformation through structured onboarding, capacity-building, and leadership advocacy via the CEO Champion Campaign. These efforts mark an important evolution in how the private sector engages with the national GBVF response, aligning with our broader goals of mainstreaming prevention, fostering collaboration, and driving accountability across all sectors of society.

As the Fund moves into its extended tenure, the ABC Committee remains committed to ensuring that advocacy initiatives are not only far-reaching but also impactful and sustainable. We will continue to support the executive team in identifying strategic opportunities, leveraging partnerships, and embedding a behaviour change lens into all programming.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- ▷ **Mr. Luthando Vuba - Chairperson**
- ▷ **Ms. Dot Field**
- ▷ **Dr. Lesley Ann Foster**
- ▷ **Amb. Noziphoo Bardill**
- ▷ **Dr. Nomonde Mabuya**

DISBURSEMENTS, PERFORMANCE, MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The DPME Committee is responsible for the grant management programme that supports community-based organisations in the front line of fighting GBVF. They decide on the distribution of resources across all provinces, including GBVF hotspot areas, and oversee new proposals and funding applications to the Fund ensuring strategic alignment with the relevant pillars of the NSP on GBVF.

The Committee oversaw the second round RFP (RFP2) that commenced in March 2024, committing almost R92 million to 134 CBOs with disbursements in progress. The cumulative investment in CBOs to date is over R180 million allocated to 235 CBOs.

The RFP2 funding builds on the gains made through round one funding (RFP1), with a third of RFP1 one organisations getting continuing funding in round 2. Addressing GBVF requires adequate resourcing and, where possible, long-term funding, including core funding to ensure CBOs remain open. Added to this, 20 CBOs under the RFP2 serve a broader catchment area and by extension have bigger impact, therefore the Board approved top-up for them. As a result, some CBOs have received up to three times what they received under RFP1.

Since inception, the Board has been intentional in ensuring coverage of hotspots areas - areas of high GBVF incidence. Based on research and modelling, 15 additional hotspots were identified over and above the 30 used by the South African Police Service. A further 11 were added when the intersection between GBVF and HIV/AIDS was taken into account. Consequently, the committee approved a list of 56 hotspots used as part of the CBO selection criteria. To ensure geographical coverage, the 135 CBOs currently funded cover 35 of the 44 districts across the country.

This year the Fund introduced a blended approach to grants management, contracting Soul City Institute to provide grants management services to 52 CBOs.

The remaining 82 CBOs are managed by the Fund's internal programmes team. This has resulted in an expansion of the programmes team to ensure that the portfolio is adequately supported.

Between March 2024 and February 2025, the supported CBOs mainly focused on NSP Pillars 2, 3, 4, and 5, reaching 373,408 participants. This brings the cumulative reach to almost 950 000 individuals. The committee approved the first monitoring, evaluation, research, learning and accountability (MERLA) framework for the Fund. The framework has introduced a systematic approach to monitoring CBO impact and ensuring the credibility of data they submit. The Committee oversees this robust data verification process.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- ▷ **Ms. Rose Keanly - Chairperson**
- ▷ **Ms. Faith Khanyile**
- ▷ **Dr. Shaheda Omar**
- ▷ **Ms. Ella Mangisa**
- ▷ **Mr. Bafana Khumalo**
- ▷ **Dr. Lesley Ann Foster**
- ▷ **Ms. Dot Field**
- ▷ **Mr. Shillyboy Mothiba**

FUNDRAISING AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Fundraising and Investment Committee plays a crucial role in overseeing the executive team's fundraising activities and the subsequent investment of the funds raised prior to their disbursement. Management attends these meetings together with Alexander Forbes executives who manage the Fund's investments.

In the past year, the Committee continued monitoring the Fund's investment portfolio, with less focus on fundraising as the Fund had high cash reserves in relation to the initial plan to close the Fund by the end of 2025. The Committee has fulfilled all its statutory duties assigned by the Board and continues to ensure adequate resources and due diligence regarding the source of investments as the Fund forges ahead with its operations.



The Committee is grateful to our existing donors for their generous contributions and acknowledge our new partners who have joined the Fund in the fight against GBVF. The need for a sustained and focused approach to end the scourge of GBVF remains pressing, therefore, going forward, the Committee will focus on fundraising, especially with the extension of the Fund's tenure.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- ▷ **Dr. Shaheda Omar - Chairperson**
- ▷ **Dr. Lesley Ann Foster**
- ▷ **Ms. Rose Keanly**
- ▷ **Dr. Nomonde Mabuya**
- ▷ **Amb. Nozipho Bardill**

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The mandate and responsibilities of the Fund's Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) encompasses, amongst others, oversight of financial reporting, including the preparation of the financial statements; oversight of the internal audit function; oversight of the risk management process; oversight of the external audit function; ensuring a combined assurance model is applied to provide a coordinated approach to all assurance activities; and addressing complaints from stakeholders.

The ARC comprises seven non-executive directors and seven co-opted members who assist in executing their responsibilities. The committee has met at least quarterly during this reporting period. The Fund's management, representatives from the external and internal auditors, and other assurance providers attended these meetings.

During this period, the ARC, with support from the Fund's management and internal and external auditors, conducted a review of the audit and risk function to assess any areas where it could

potentially strengthen its role as the Fund's oversight committee.

The external audit was performed by Deloitte & Touche who conduct an independent and objective audit of the Fund in terms of the provisions of section 90 of the Companies Act. The Committee is satisfied that Deloitte is independent of the Fund, as contemplated in section 94(8) of the Companies Act. The external audit plan was presented and approved by the ARC in line with all statutory requirements.

The internal audit function operates under terms of reference recommended by the ARC and approved by the Board. The Fund's internal audit function is performed by SNG Grant Thornton and is staffed by qualified and experienced individuals. The internal audit function reports independently on whether risk management, controls, and governance processes are adequate and functioning within the Fund. The internal audit team also performed periodic independent evaluations of the adequacy and effectiveness of controls, financial reporting structures, and the integrity of information systems and records. The ARC approves the annual risk-based internal audit work plan.

During the period under review, the ARC discharged its statutory and Board responsibilities, considering, *inter alia*, the results of the Fund, risk management and controls, as well as the regulatory and IFRS compliance by the Fund. The ARC also annually reviews and assesses the internal audit team's performance, objectivity, and independence.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- ▷ **Ms. Tryphosa Ramano - Chairperson**
- ▷ **Ms. Rose Keanly**
- ▷ **Dr. Shaheda Omar**
- ▷ **Ms. Gabi Mailula**
- ▷ **Mr. Shillyboy Mothiba**
- ▷ **Ms. Sindi Dlamini**
- ▷ **Mr. Adrian Burke**

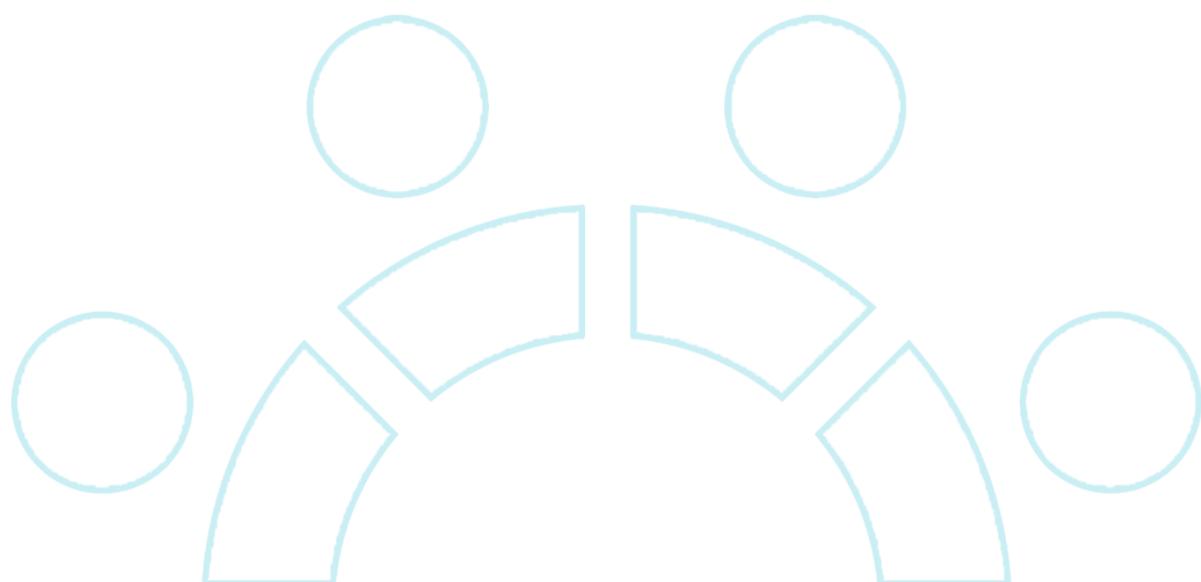
HUMAN RESOURCES AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The primary objective of the Human Resources and Nominations Committee is to assist the Board in the appointment of new board members and the CEO. The Committee is also responsible for setting, monitoring, reviewing, recommending, and approving human resources policies and practices. This Committee meets as and when required.

During the period under review the Committee appointed the interim CEO following the resignation of the Fund's CEO Ms. Sazini Mojapelo in December 2024. They then appointed the new permanent CEO, Ms. Tandi Nzimande, effective 1 June 2025. Additionally, the Committee appointed five independent non-executive directors. They further approved HR related policies and procedures.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- ▷ **Ms. Faith Khanyile - Chairperson**
- ▷ **Mr. Luthando Vuba**
- ▷ **Ms. Tryphosa Ramano**
- ▷ **Dr. Shaheda Omar**
- ▷ **Ms. Rose Keanly**



MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Fund's management comprises a lean team of professionals who bring years of diverse experience, knowledge and expertise from a range of backgrounds, including civil society and the private sector. This effort has optimised the Fund's internal capacity and effectiveness in executing its mission. The Fund is committed to maximising the reach and impact of its received funds for its programming initiatives. Consequently, we operate with a compact, yet highly skilled and experienced management team that has devoted extensive hours and dedication to its operations. Working in collaboration with our various partners and stakeholders, our joint efforts enable the Fund to fulfil our mandate and generate tangible impact in fostering a safer South Africa for women, children, and vulnerable and marginalised populations, and the community at large.



SAZINI MOJAPEЛО

Immediate previous CEO
(Jan 2023 - Nov 2024)



TANDI NZIMANDE

New permanent CEO
(June 2025)



ZANELE NGWEPE

Interim CEO (Dec 2024 – May 2025) and Head of Finance and Operations



TIRHANI MANGANYI

Programmes Manager



KOKETSO RATHUMBU

Advocacy and Communications Manager

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 MARCH 2024 TO
28 FEBRUARY 2025

These summarized financial statements are extracted from the audited annual financial statements but are not audited themselves. The annual financial statements were audited by Deloitte, who expressed an unmodified audit opinion thereon.

The audited annual financial statements and the auditor's report thereon are available for inspection on request to the Fund at info@gbvfresponsefund1.org. The directors take full responsibility for the preparation of the summary annual financial statements.

With the Fund's initial tenure planned to end in December 2026, the Fund has focused its efforts over the past financial year on grants disbursements and not on fundraising. The financial statements therefore reflect a deficit of R19.7 million. In February 2025 the Board resolved to extend the Fund's tenure, and fundraising efforts have now resumed as a top priority.

GBVF RESPONSE FUND1 NPC

Registration Number: 2021/359277/08

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 MARCH 2024 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Notes	2025 R'000	2024 R'000
Figures presented in Rands			
ASSETS			
Non- Current Assets			
Intangible Assets	3	26	53
Property, Plant and Equipment	4.1	201	162
Right of use Asset	4.2	319	521
Current Assets			
Other Receivables	5	1,676	2,193
Cash and Cash equivalents	6	78,997	96,869
TOTAL ASSETS		81,219	99,797
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Funds			
Accumulated Funds		78,859	98,546
Non-current Liabilities			
Lease Liability- Long term portion	4.3	105	275
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	7	2,085	817
Lease Liability- Short term portion	4.3	170	159
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		81,219	99,797

GBVF RESPONSE FUND1 NPC
Registration Number: 2021/359277/08

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 MARCH 2024
TO 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Figures presented in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
		R'000	R'000
REVENUE			
Donations	8	30,538	38,436
Grant Disbursement to Grant Partners	9	(39,304)	(31,611)
Grant Management Fees	10	(675)	(2,518)
Advocacy and Behavioural Change	10	(5,737)	(1,985)
Other Programme Cost	10	(4,499)	(86)
Operating and Administration costs	10	(8,992)	(8,889)
OPERATING SURPLUS		(28,669)	(6,652)
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Interest Income	11	8,982	8,819
PROFIT AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(19,687)	2,167

GBVF RESPONSE FUND1 NPC
Registration Number: 2021/359277/08

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 MARCH 2024
TO 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY Figures presented in Rands	2025	2024	
		R'000	R'000
FUNDS			
Accumulated Funds			
Balance at beginning - Opening balance	98,546	96,379	
TOTAL PROFIT AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	(19,687)	2,167	
BALANCE AT 28 FEBRUARY - CLOSING BALANCE	78,859	98,546	

GBVF RESPONSE FUND1 NPC
Registration Number: 2021/359277/08

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 MARCH 2024
TO 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	Notes	2025 R'000	2024 R'000
Figures presented in Rands			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash receipts from donors	8	30,538	38,436
Cash paid to grant partners	12.1	(39,154)	(33,036)
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	12.2	(17,952)	(15,118)
CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Bank interest received		(26,568)	(9,717)
Decrease/(Increase) Prepayments		9,048 3	8,788 (52)
		(17,517)	(981)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Acquisition of Property, Plant and Equipment	4	(173)	(188)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Lease Liability Payment		(173)	(188)
Interest Paid on Lease Liability		(183)	(184)
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash, Trade and Other Payables		(159) (24)	(171) (13)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD	6	(17,872)	(1,353)
		96,869	98,221
		78,997	96,869



WAY FORWARD

OUR FOCUS FOR THE YEAR



As I reflect on the way forward in my new role as CEO of the Fund, I do so with deep appreciation for the remarkable women who led before me. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Lindi Dlamini, Ms. Sazini Mojapelo and Ms. Zanele Ngwepe for their resolute commitment, bold leadership, and the care with which they steered the Fund. Their work has not only shaped the journey to this point but has also inspired the path ahead. I am honoured to build on the foundation they've laid.

Our nation is experiencing multifaceted and complex change. From the shifting dynamics of our economy to the increasingly intricate geopolitical landscape, the factors influencing our country are significant and widespread. These changes pose both challenges and opportunities, requiring a thoughtful and proactive response from all of us.

RESPONDING TO A SHIFTING FUNDING LANDSCAPE

In February 2025, the Board resolved to extend our mandate beyond December 2026, reaffirming our commitment to the communities we serve. However, as we begin a new five-year funding cycle, we face a significant and growing funding gap in a challenging environment.

The shape of the international funding landscape has shifted dramatically with donor priorities changing in response to geopolitics and other domestic concerns; the most significant impact being the reprioritisation of US Government spending. Resources have been increasingly redirected away from sustainable development initiatives, creating immense pressure on community-based organisations, the crucial frontline in supporting vulnerable groups.

The Fund is in the process of intensifying its fundraising efforts, having previously slowed down this aspect of its activities in anticipation of the Fund's closure. As we look ahead, our focus is to reignite and renew meaningful, long-term partnerships with influential stakeholders, including local corporates, the South African Government, international development agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

We also look forward to establishing equally meaningful new relationships. By strategically aligning our funding priorities with various global platforms like the G20 and BRICS, and actively participating in the seminal National Dialogue announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa that seeks to address South

Africa's most pressing collective challenges, we also aim to attract and unlock new sources of funding. Forging these impactful partnerships will assist us in, among other things, preventing GBVF, as well as enabling an ecosystem to support survivors, from the point of abuse to the point of sentencing.

These collaborations will furthermore allow us to expand our geographic reach and deepen our impact by strengthening the financial and governance capacity of the CBOs at the core of our mission.

TURNING THE TIDE: FROM INTERVENTION TO PREVENTION

As we look to the year ahead, our focus turns to deepening prevention, strengthening care, and breaking the cycle of violence, beginning where it matters most: in our schools, our homes, our communities, and our places of safety.

A key priority in this next phase is our collaboration with the Department of Basic Education to embed GBV prevention within the school environment. By leveraging existing structures, we aim to make prevention a foundational part of the learning journey, helping to disrupt the intergenerational transmission of violence before it takes root.

At the same time, we recognise the vital role that shelters play in the healing journey of survivors. These safe havens are more than just places of protection; they are spaces of dignity, support, and restoration. That's why we are committed

to strengthening shelters across the country, both in terms of infrastructure and the quality of psycho-social care they provide. These efforts will be driven through strategic partnerships that build and strengthen community-based systems, ensuring survivors receive the care, protection, and empowerment they deserve every step of their recovery journey.

The 2023 launch of our RESPECT initiative marked a seminal shift in our work, bringing prevention and social behaviour change to the forefront using a globally aligned framework. In the coming year, we will focus on equipping the CBOs in our ecosystem with the tools, messaging, and advocacy support needed to embed RESPECT at the heart of their programmes. Together, we will continue to foster the values of dignity, accountability, and equality, one community at a time.

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

As much as the Government is key in putting measures in place to curb the ongoing violence against women and prosecute perpetrators, the private sector also has a crucial role to play. In November last year, leaders in the private sector recognised the urgent need to establish a zero-tolerance approach for Gender-Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH) in the workplace.

This led to the launch of the Private Sector Coalition, a collaborative platform where companies unite to condemn all forms of violence and inequality at work. The Fund has recently appointed a service provider to support our coalition partners in the coming year in developing standards,

“

We cannot, and will not, lose ground on the progress we have made.”

Jandi Nzimande



adopting best-practice protocols, and embedding preventative measures into their day-to-day business operations.

At this juncture, I call on our private sector leaders, who have not yet committed to taking action against GBVH in their respective workplaces, and those who wish to make sustainable inroads against this scourge, to be courageous in their thinking, bold in their actions, and join this employer-led social compact.

OUR UNWAVERING BELIEF IN ADVOCACY TO SHIFT MINDSETS

Over the past two decades, the world has come to recognise the devastating impact of violence on the lives of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. For far too long, our efforts have centred on teaching girls how to survive within harmful power dynamics, often leaving them financially dependent and vulnerable. But incidents of gender-based violence and femicide are no longer seen as private matters or relegated to cultural norms. They are now, rightfully, understood as grave violations of human rights and collective injustices that demand a society-wide response.

In South Africa, combating GBVF is about realising the society we aspire to be: one rooted in dignity, equality, justice, and freedom for all. This makes the fight against GBVF not a peripheral concern but rather a central pillar of sustainable social change, empowerment, and nation-building.

Advocacy is therefore key to shifting the societal attitudes that allow GBVF to persist. By confronting dependency, blame, and stigma, and promoting RESPECT, empathy, and accountability, advocacy replaces silence with dialogue and judgment with solidarity.

We also recognise that true transformation is impossible without engaging boys and men in shaping a culture of positive masculinity. By embracing a form of masculinity free from toxic stereotypes, we are paving a future where gender is no longer a barrier but a strength.

The path forward requires all of us, women and men alike, to choose change, and to be the change.

We cannot, and will not, lose ground on the progress we have made.

Tandi Nzimande
Chief Executive Officer
GBVF Response Fund



ACRONYMS

ABC – Advocacy, Behaviour change and Communications Committee

ARC – Audit and Risk Committee

CBO – Community-based Organisation

CEO – Chief Executive Officer

CSOs – Civil Society Organisation

DPME - Disbursement, Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

DSD - Department of Social Development

FREF - FirstRand Empowerment Foundation

GBV – Gender-Based Violence

GBVF – Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

GMP – Grants Management Partner

GNU - Government of National Unity

JSE – Johannesburg Stock Exchange

LGBTQIA+ – Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other extensions

ILO - International Labour Organisation

M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation

MERLA - Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning and Accountability

NGO – Non-governmental Organisation

NSP – National Strategic Plan

PSC - Private Sector Coalition

PSA – Public Service Announcements

PWD – Persons with disabilities

RFP – Request for proposals

SABC – South African Broadcasting Corporation

SAPS - South African Police Service

SCI - Soul City Institute

UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund



GLOSSARY

Domestic Violence: According to South African law, this includes physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional, verbal and psychological abuse; economic abuse; intimidation; harassment; stalking; entry into the complainants' residence without his/her consent or any other controlling or abusive behaviour taking place in domestic relationships.

Femicide: Also known as female homicide, is generally understood to involve intentional murder of women because they are women, but broader definitions include any killing of women or girls. In South Africa, it is defined as the killing of a female person, or perceived as a female person on the basis of gender identity, whether committed within the domestic relationship, interpersonal relationship or by any other person, or whether perpetrated or tolerated by the State or its agents. Intimate femicide is defined as the murder of women by intimate partners, i.e. "a current or former husband or boyfriend, samesex partner, or a rejected would-be lover.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): The general term used to capture violence that occurs as a result of the normative role expectations associated with each gender, along with the unequal power relations between the genders, within the context of a specific society. GBV includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse or threats of such acts or abuse, coercion, and economic or educational deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life, in peacetime and during armed or other forms of conflict, and may cause physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or economic harm.

Multisectoral Response: Refers to deliberate collaboration among various stakeholder groups (e.g. government, civil society, and private sector) and sectors (e.g. health, environment, and economy) to jointly achieve a policy outcome. By engaging multiple sectors, partners can leverage knowledge, expertise, reach, and resources, benefiting from their combined and varied strengths as they work toward the shared goal of producing better health outcomes.

Persons with Disabilities: Includes those who have perceived and/or actual physical, psychosocial, intellectual, neurological and/ or sensory impairments which, as a result of various attitudinal, communication, physical and information barriers are hindered in participating fully and effectively in society on an equal basis with others.

Annexure 1: List of GBV Hotspot Areas

The list below shows the GBVF hotspot areas (areas with high incidence of GBVF) supported by the Fund. The data is determined using the official South African Police Service (SAPS) data as a basis with additional hotspot areas added based on a modelling exercise commissioned by the Fund that takes into account intersectionality with HIV/AIDS.

The SAPS data is used as it is widely acknowledged as the official source of crime data and is used by the government to determine provincial allocation of resources. The SAPS data also incorporates case data and data from victim support centres and health facilities; and it makes use of a more holistic definition of GBVF (i.e. does not only single out sexual offences statistics).

LOCATION OF HOTSPOTS	PROVINCE
Mbizana	Eastern Cape
Kwazakhele	Eastern Cape
Ngqeleni	Eastern Cape
Lusikisiki	Eastern Cape
Libode	Eastern Cape
Butterworth	Eastern Cape
Mthatha	Eastern Cape
Kopanong	Free State
Bloemspruit	Free State
Tembisa	Gauteng
Mamelodi East	Gauteng
Ivory Park	Gauteng
Honeydew	Gauteng
Jeppe	Gauteng
Moroka	Gauteng
Dobsonville	Gauteng
Temba	Gauteng
Loate	Gauteng
Alexandra	Gauteng
Orange Farm	Gauteng

LOCATION OF HOTSPOTS	PROVINCE
Diepsloot	Gauteng
Kagiso	Gauteng
Katehlong	Gauteng
Spruitview	Gauteng
Dawn Park/Rondebolt	Gauteng
Umlazi	KwaZulu Natal
Empangeni	KwaZulu Natal
Ntuzuma	KwaZulu Natal
Inanda	KwaZulu Natal
KwaMashu	KwaZulu Natal
Osizweni	KwaZulu Natal
Diepsloot	Gauteng
Kagiso	Gauteng
Katehlong	Gauteng
Spruitview	Gauteng
Dawn Park/Rondebolt	Gauteng
Umlazi	KwaZulu Natal
Empangeni	KwaZulu Natal
Ntuzuma	KwaZulu Natal
Inanda	KwaZulu Natal

LOCATION OF HOTSPOTS	PROVINCE
KwaMashu	KwaZulu Natal
Osizweni	KwaZulu Natal
Plessislaer	KwaZulu Natal
Chatsworth	KwaZulu Natal
Phoenix	Natal
Marianridge	KwaZulu Natal
Wentworth	KwaZulu Natal
Giyani	Limpopo
Thohoyandou	Limpopo
Seshego	Limpopo
Mahwelereng	Limpopo
Mankweng	Limpopo
Sekhukhune	Limpopo
Pienaar	Mpumalanga

LOCATION OF HOTSPOTS	PROVINCE
Bushbuckridge	Mpumalanga
Gert-Sibande	Mpumalanga
Nkomazi	Mpumalanga
Ikageng	North West
Mitchells Plain	Western Cape
Delft	Western Cape
Kraaifontein	Western Cape
Mfuleni	Western Cape
Harare	Western Cape
Khayelitsha	Western Cape
Nyanga	Western Cape
Belville	Western Cape
Gugulethu	Western Cape



Annexure 2: List of CBOs supported under RFP 2

ALWANDE ULWAZI COMMUNITY ADVICE CENTER (AUCAC)	Lifeline Mafikeng (RFP1 Continuation)
Ambassadors for Change (RFP1 Continuation)	LifeLine Rustenburg (RFP1 Continuation)
Angels of Tomorrow	Lorraine Khoza Foundation (LKF)
Batho Ba Lerato Advice Center (BBLAC)	MANKWENG COMMUNITY LAW ADVICE OFFICE (MCLAQ) (RFP1 Continuation)
Bloodriver Advice Office	Molo Mhlaba (RFP1 Continuation)
Broadway Legacy Foundation	MOSAIC Training Service and Healing Centre (RFP1 Continuation)
Callas Foundation (RFP1 Continuation)	Mqanduli community advice centre
Cederberg Matzikama Aids Network (RFP1 Continuation)	On Eagle's Wings Multi-Purpose Centre (RFP1 Continuation)
Child Welfare Bloemfontein/Childline Free State (RFP1 Continuation)	Phela Safe House
Childline Gauteng (RFP1 Continuation)	PHOLA NPO (RFP1 Continuation)
CHRISTELIK-MAATSKAPLIKE RAAD (CMR)	Port St Johns Survivor Support Group (RFP1 Continuation)
UITENHAGE (RFP1 Continuation)	Potter's House
Connect Christian Network (RFP1 Continuation)	Qholaqhwe Advice Centre (RFP1 Continuation)
COPESSA NPC (RFP1 Continuation)	Rape Crises Cape Town Trust (RFP1 Continuation)
Curios Future Movement	Remmogo Itireleng Victim Empowerment Project
Ebenezer Multipurpose Integrated Social Services Centre (RFP1 Continuation)	Restoration of Hope – Trulife (RFP1 Continuation)
Estcourt Support and Resource Centre	Rise Up Against Gender Based Violence (RFP1 Continuation)
Ethembeni community Center	Second Chance Group (RFP1 Continuation)
Father a Nation (RFP1 continuation)	Selina-Jo Family Service Organisation
Goldfields Family Advice Organization	Shaine Griqua Advice and Development Centre
Good Samaritan Organisation	SILA Foundation
Grassroot Soccer (GRS) South Africa (RFP1 Continuation)	Siyabonga - Huis van Danksegging (RFP1 Continuation)
Grinders Arisen	Siyazana Youth Development Fund (RFP1 Continuation)
Greater Rape Intervention Programme (GRIP) (RFP1 Continuation)	Social Health & Empowerment (SHE) (RFP1 Continuation)
Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (RFP1 Continuation)	Teddy Bear Clinic for Abused Children
Ilitha Labantu (RFP1 Continuation)	The Great People of South Africa (RFP1 Continuation)
Iris House Children's Hospice (IHCH) (RFP1 Continuation)	The Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children (RFP1 Continuation)
Isibani Law and Therapy Centre	TVEP - Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme (RFP1 Continuation)
Jelly Beanz Foundation (RFP1 Continuation)	Umtata Women's Support Centre (RFP1 Continuation)
KAYBEZ SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION NPO	Zaselangeni HIV And Aids Prevention And Victim Project
Kids Haven (RFP1 Continuation)	
KwaMashu Child Welfare	
Kwazulu Natal Deaf Association (KZNDA) (RFP1 Continuation)	
Lawyers Against Abuse (LVA) (RFP1 Continuation)	
Lefika La Phodiso (RFP1 Continuation)	
Life Line Durban	



RESPECT

IN A WORLD WITH RESPECT, THERE IS NO GIVE

Brought to you by



GBVF Response Fund Annual Report 2024-25



In a world with **RESPECT**, **there is no GBVF.**

Help us accelerate action and strive for a South Africa free from gender-based violence directed at women, children, and LGBT+ persons. Your support results in real change. Change that saves lives. Change that restores hope. Change that contributes to ending gender-based violence and femicide.



Find us on:

www.gbvresponsefund1.org/

-  [GBVF Response Fund 1](#)
-  [@GBVF_Fund](#)
-  [GBVF Response Fund1 | Facebook](#)
-  [@gbvresponsefund1](#)
-  [@gbvresponsefund1](#)