

Towards a National Strategic Plan for Gender-Based Violence

16 September 2014

Introduction

Why an NSP?

- As we've learned from South Africa's experience with HIV, a National Strategic Plan can be an important tool to garner the political commitment and funding required to tackle large social challenges that require a coordinated response among diverse stakeholders.

- An NSP creates a national roadmap, aligns the country around strategic priorities, and creates an accountability mechanism for government's performance

Why Now?

- The scale of GBV in South Africa is enormous and unacceptable

- We already know what is required to prevent and respond to GBV—what’s been lacking are the resources and political will to do so

- There has been at least some momentum created through the NCGBV process

What change do we want the NSP to produce?

GOALS for 2015-2020

- **Prevention:** Reduce GBV incidence

- **Response:** Improve the breadth and quality of services for survivors

- **Resources:** Increase funding for the national response

- **Accountability:** Improve reporting and performance management systems

Priorities

□ **(1) Fill the Gaps in the Implementation of Existing Law + Policy:**

Expand training, resources and accountability to ensure that SAPS, the Department of Health and the DJCD/NPA fill the unacceptable gaps between the law and its implementation

□ **(2) Improve and Expand Comprehensive Services for Survivors:**

Expand investment in and institutionalization of survivor services, including psycho-social care

□ **(3) Prevent GBV Before It Happens—**Significantly increase

investment in evidence-based prevention interventions, on both a community and structural level

□ **(4): Resources & Accountability:** Commit the funding and develop

the accountability mechanisms required to realize success in the first 3 priority areas

PRIORITY 1: Fill the Gaps in Implementation of Existing Law/Policy

□ Key actors with legal mandates: South African Police Services;

Department of Health; National Prosecuting Authority

□ Where are the gaps?

□ **Policy and Guidelines:** Review and address gaps in Department-level policy guidelines

- **Training:** Expand training for street-level bureaucrats on comprehensive rape response and on Department-specific policies and guidelines. Training must be rigorously monitored and evaluated to ensure that it actually improves performance.
 - **Resources:** Departments must be allocated the financial and human resources to meet their legal obligations
 - **Accountability + Coordination:** FCS units within SAPS and Sexual Offence Courts within NPA must be institutionalized and improve coordination with each other
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PRIORITY 2: Expand Survivor Services

- Largely due to DSD funding cuts since 2011, the current trend is that fewer services of poorer quality are available to victims of GBV. The NSP must improve and expand comprehensive psycho-social services provided through DSD and civil society implementing partners.
- The DVA and SOA laws have insufficient stipulations regarding the provision of psycho-social care to victims of gender based violence, thus the NSP must formalize the statutes and institutional arrangements required to ensure psychosocial care for victims

- These mandates must then be fully funded and well monitored

PRIORITY 3: Prevention

- The NSP should establish a GBV Prevention Fund that will

manage a comprehensive portfolio of investments in interventions and in research. Interventions should:

- Be evidence-based and rigorously evaluated
- Include both individual/community level, as well as structural/societal interventions

- The National Council for Gender Based Violence should

be the primary recipient and manager of these funds, which could then grant to specific Departments and NGOs.

PRIORITY 4: Resources and Accountability

- *(A) Resources and Budgeting*

- Most Departments simply do not have the funds or staff they need to faithfully execute their legal responsibilities. There's no multi-sectoral budget request process for GBV, nor are departments required to report on what they're spending specifically on GBV programs.

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An NSP must allocate ring-fenced funding for improved response, prevention and oversight and require Departments to report specifically on their expenditure and work to support the NSP priorities.

□

(B) Accountability

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Required Departmental reporting to Parliament is often late and inconsistent. Portfolio Committees do not carefully review what is reported. PC capacity must be expanded and civil society must do more to hold Departments accountable for their legally mandated reporting

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Complaints systems for victims are weak or non-existent. A centralized complaint system should be established.

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Inter-sectoral oversight structures are insufficient to produce needed results. The National Council should be reformed and given a clear mandate to hold Departments accountable for their performance

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(C) Information and coordination

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Currently the lack of systematic data collection inhibits proper assessment of service delivery + interventions. Lack of information integration across Departments makes it difficult for victims and service providers to track a case through the system.

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The NSP must develop a single integrated information management system between police, health facilities and courts to be used for tracking cases, updating victims and officials with information on individual cases, investigating complaints about cases and measuring the effectiveness of services in place to address high levels of sexual offences.

KEY MESSAGES

□ **We don't need more laws, we need better implementation and oversight of those we already have:** South Africa has largely progressive laws and policies—we now

need to focus on implementing the many commitments already made and building better accountability, rather than drafting a new set of legislation

□ **No more unfunded mandates:** Budgets often reflect government's true priorities

more than policy documents do. South Africa has simply not prioritized GBV. It's

time to fully fund already mandated services, as well as to expand funding for

psycho-social services and prevention

□ **It's time for a real commitment to prevention:** We can't afford not to. KPMG

estimates that the economic impact of gender-based violence is

between R28.3 billion and R42.3 billion for the year 2012/2013, representing roughly

1% of GDP

□ **Rebuild the Council:** We need a robust remade National Council on GBV to lead

this process (??)

Discussion Questions

□ (1) Are there key gaps in the national GBV response that aren't

reflected here or could be better represented?

□ (2) Are these the appropriate priorities?

□ (3) Is the National Council on GBV the right mechanism to carry this

process forward? If so, with what reforms? If not, what kind of oversight/leadership body would be most effective in managing the development and implementation of the NSP?

□ (4) What kind of advocacy campaign is required to realize such an

NSP? What role would you or your organization be able to play in

such a campaign?

- (5) How can the issue of an NSP for GBV be best messaged for the widest audience?
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Potential Components of a Campaign for the GBV NSP

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What's the goal?

- **A fully costed NSP for GBV by the end of 2015**
 - More specifically, we want the government to develop and launch an NSP for GBV that:
 - Creates improved implementation of GBV response services
 - Focuses heavily and invests strategically in prevention
 - Creates real accountability through clear institutional arrangements with clear measurable commitments
 - Is fully costed and commits significant new resources
 - Is developed through an open and consultative process
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Potential strategies in pursuit of the NSP

- (1) **High Level Political Lobbying/Advocacy:** Lobby senior government officials

and political organizations to increase pressure on government to resume the NSP

process

□ **(2) Community-Based Engagement and Mobilization:** Organize mobilizations to demand NSP process resume; integrate NSP advocacy into ongoing-community based work; clearly document the need for the NSP on a local level in a few targeted communities

□ **(3) Media + Communications:** Place op-eds and arrange interviews on urgency of NSP development and unacceptability of abandoning the process

□ **(4) Civil Society Coordination:** Host regular meetings + send regular emails to keep civil society updated on status of GBV advocacy

□ **(5) Policy/Technical Advising:** Produce technical briefs and analysis outlining what we want in the NSP, as well as specific documentation/argumentation about the nature of the problem (e.g. budget monitoring for SOA + DVA)

Campaign timeline

□ **Foundation** (*Sept 2014*): Civil society strategy meetings; framework document drafted

□ **Kick-Off Goal** (*Early Oct 2014*): Public event + series of media pieces on NSP

□ **Peak Goal** (*Nov/Dec 2014*): Large scale public activism during 16 Days of Activism

□ **Peak Goal** (*Early 2015*): NSP process is resumed

□ **Mountaintop Goal** (*Dec 2015*): NSP is drafted + fully costed with full required budget allocated March 2016

Appendix: Existing Law + Policy

- Constitution/Bill of Rights
- South African Police Services Act (1995)
- Domestic Violence Act (1998)
- Service Charter for Victims of Crime (2004)
- Minimum Service Standards for Victims of Crime
- Sexual Offences Act (2007)
- National Policy Framework for the Management of Sexual Offences (2013)
- Department of Health National Directives and Instructions on Conducting Forensic Examinations on Survivors of Sexual Offence Cases
- SAPS National Policy Guidelines for Victims of Sexual Offences
- Child Justice Act (2008)
- Medium Term Strategic Framework (2009-14)
- Protection from Harassment Act (2011)
- Judicial Matters Second Amendment Act (2014)