



# Backyarding:

Making urban  
safety matter in  
neighbourhood  
development

Practice Brief 3: 2023



## Acknowledgements

**Backyard Matters is a partnership project initiative between Development Action Group (DAG) and Isandla Institute.**

The project is aimed at strengthening the backyard rental market and contributing towards well-managed, quality rental stock that provides affordable, dignified and safe housing solutions. Backyard Matters is funded by Comic Relief.

Cover image: Isandla Institute/Anotherlove Productions, Eerste River

## Executive Summary

Violence and crime are pervasive realities in South Africa, with hardly any part of society unaffected. Not only is there concern that current security responses are not making the necessary inroads to stem this tide, but the converging crises of load shedding, water shortages and critical service infrastructure collapse, all perpetuate the underlying conditions which allow for crime and violence to flourish. This is particularly true for those who live in under-resourced contexts, such as informal settlements and townships. In examining issues of urban safety in neighbourhood development a group of human settlement practitioners came together at a Community of Practice<sup>1</sup> event to discuss some of the key drivers that facilitate crime and violence. In our discussion it became clear that increased crime in under-served areas not only impacts the personal safety and general living environment of immediate community members, but it also creates a climate of risk for government employees and civil society organisations who work in these areas. Crime and violence are thus intrusive with far-reaching consequences that have both immediate and long-term implications for communities that continue to battle inequality and patterns of disadvantage. In seeking to understand how to make effectual incremental change at the neighbourhood level, this practice brief examines the constitutional framework for safety and security (including jurisprudence highlighting the link between service delivery failure and crime), the pillars of area-based violence prevention interventions (ABVPI) and the simultaneous inputs required for implementation, as well as examples of what successful community-based interventions look like in practice.

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Community of Practice (COP) was held on 22 February 2023 and brought together practitioners from civil society and government to discuss the theme of 'Making urban safety matter in neighbourhood development.'*

## Introduction

**In 2023, South Africa is ranked as the country with the third highest crime rate in the world<sup>2</sup>. This includes a very high rate of gender-based violence, including sexual abuse, domestic abuse and femicide.**

**Space is not neutral and marginalised neighbourhoods and vulnerable social groups, particularly those who live in backyard dwellings and informal settlements, are disproportionately impacted by violence and crime.**

There is arguably no person in South Africa who has the luxury of being unconcerned by the threat that it presents. While crime and violence have always been considered among the key challenges that the post-apartheid state must address, the nature of the beast and required effort to combat it continues to evolve. We have, for example, seen a variation in the type of criminal activities that are perpetrated.

There has been a surge in organised crime and violence, manifested in increased incidents of kidnapping and extortion impacting individuals across the social spectrum (Goodwin, 2022). Fear related to personal safety directly shapes how communities and individuals experience private and public space. However, as is explored in this practice brief, it is also true that space is not neutral and marginalised neighbourhoods and vulnerable social groups, particularly those who live in backyard dwellings and informal settlements, are disproportionately impacted by violence and crime. It is thus important that in designing an appropriate response to neighbourhood development these variances are taken into account and that the needs of those most vulnerable to (the impacts of) crime and violence are at the forefront of that response.

The constitutional framing of the right to safety provides insight into the different components that must inform how we position and integrate issues of safety in neighbourhood development.

---

<sup>2</sup> World Population Review. *Crime Rate by Country 2023*. Available at: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country>.

## The constitutional and legislative framework for safety

**As part of the entrenched rights in the Bill of Rights, section 12(1) provides that ‘(e)veryone has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right... (c) to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources.’ Section 12(2) further provides that ‘(e)veryone has the right to bodily and psychological integrity.’**

The right to safety thus embraces both physical safety and mental well-being. It is therefore unsurprising that this right to safety is found in a cluster of interrelated fundamental rights including the right to life (11), human dignity (10), equality (9), privacy (14) and freedom of movement and residence (21). These civil and political rights entrench the safety and physical integrity of individuals within society. Section 24 of the Constitution which provides that ‘(e)veryone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to health or well-being’ moves beyond the individualised framing of the right to safety to secure communal living environments that facilitate health and well-being.

Equally significant are the socio-economic rights contained in the Constitution, including the rights of access to adequate housing, healthcare, food, water and social security (sections 26 and 27). Court judgments have acknowledged that these socio-economic rights all contribute to the quality of individual and communal life and are particularly important in view of the fact that we ‘live in a society in which there are great disparities in wealth...[where] [m]illions of people are living in deplorable conditions and in great poverty...and [t]here is a high level of unemployment.’<sup>3</sup> The Courts thus emphasise the importance and urgency of making provision for marginalised communities who do not have the resources to realise these key rights for themselves.

**The right to safety thus embraces both physical safety and mental well-being.**

---

<sup>3</sup> *Soobramoney v Minister of Health, KwaZulu-Natal* 1997 (12) BCLR1696 (CC) 1700, para 8.

In the absence of key basic services, the courts have found that the dignity and safety of individuals are compromised. For example, in the case of *Beja and Others v Premier of the Western Cape and Others*<sup>4</sup> the Court found that the provision of unenclosed toilets for use in an informal settlement infringed on all of the constitutional rights discussed above (sections 10, 12, 14, 24, 26 and 27). The Court lamented the fact that because the toilets were unenclosed, an elderly woman who was forced to make use of the toilet in the open was attacked. There was thus a direct nexus between the failure to provide basic services and the crime committed against the elderly community member. Similarly, more recently, the Constitutional Court acknowledged that the failure to provide electricity to residents has the impact of violating many, if not all of these fundamental rights<sup>5</sup>, contributing to living environments that do not support dignified living and that facilitate conditions for crime and violence.

The socio-economic rights discussed above directly inform and shape the basic service delivery mandate of local government. The duty to deliver basic services has been described by the Constitutional Court as ‘a cardinal function, if not the most important function, of every municipal government.’<sup>6</sup> This flows from the objects of local government entrenched in section 152 of the Constitution which includes among other things the duty ‘to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner’ and ‘to promote a safe and healthy environment.’ A municipality is obliged to try to achieve these objectives. Section 1 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 defines basic services as ‘services that are necessary to ensure an acceptable and reasonable quality of life, and, if not provided, would endanger public health or safety or the environment.’ Section 73(1)(c) of the Municipal Systems Act echoes the constitutional precepts and obliges a municipality to provide all members of communities with ‘the minimum level of basic municipal services’.

**Municipalities have a particular ‘place-shaping’ role in terms of the built-environment, which substantially shapes the physical space within which people live, grow, play and work.**

Of all the spheres of government, local government arguably has the most immediate and defined developmental mandate. This is seen by the allocation of competences contained in Schedules 4B and 5B of the Constitution, which represent high-impact areas of basic service delivery pertaining to the built environment. The key competences such as the delivery of water, sanitation, electricity, fire-fighting services, refuse removal, street lighting and other essential services means that municipalities have a particular ‘place-shaping’ role in terms of the built-environment, which substantially shapes the physical space within which people live, grow, play and work. Equally significant are services like municipal health, early child care facilities, municipal public parks and recreation, markets and street trading, which all contribute to the social and economic development of communities (Isandla Institute, 2022a).

As further elaborated on below, municipal competencies align with an area-based violence and crime prevention approach (Isandla Institute, 2022a). In fulfilling these duties, as emphasised in case law, local government has a greater responsibility to those communities who are least able to exert their agency. Significantly, local government developmental duties do not only demand a focus on the substantive fulfilment of rights but extends to how these functions are fulfilled. Local government must provide democratic and accountable governance which encourages the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government (Section 152 Constitution).

**Equally significant are services like municipal health, early child care facilities, municipal public parks and recreation, markets and street trading.**



Isandla Institute/Masixole Feni, Dunoon

<sup>4</sup> *Beja and Others v Premier of the Western Cape and Others* [2011] ZAWCHC 97, paras 140, 150.

<sup>5</sup> *Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd v Vaal River Development Association (Pty) Ltd and Others* [(CCT 44/22) [2022] ZACC 44 (23 December 2022), para 189.

<sup>6</sup> *Joseph and Others v City of Johannesburg and Others* (CCT 43/09) [2009] ZACC 30, para 39.

## The dichotomy between rights and reality: violence and crime are spatialised

**In contradiction to the vision of ‘safe and flourishing’ communities, consistently high levels of crime are found in lower-income areas (Bretzke, 2020).**

**The nature, frequency and intensity of fear around safety differs depending on the quality of the built environment in which you live.**

Research conducted through enumeration studies of and focus groups with backyard landlords and tenants in eight neighbourhoods in the City of Cape Town reveal just how significant safety and security concerns are. Whereas it would be reasonable to assume that housing opportunities would be the top priority in these communities, interviews established that addressing crime and violence was noted as the most important priority by far. The second priority was better housing opportunities, followed by improved access to health care (Isandla Institute, 2021b). Insecurity, violence and crime is often raised as concerns for backyard residents and residents of informal settlements alike. In informal settlements accessing services such as water and sanitation in communal areas is often a safety threat. As explored below, for backyard residents and landlords in under-served communities the poor quality of the built environment creates the conditions for crime ‘hotspots’ to emerge, which shape how communities experience and navigate space in communal areas.

### Quality of the built environment

While we accept that violence and crime can manifest anywhere, we know that the quality of the built environment directly shapes public space and our *experience* of public space. So, for example, the nature, frequency and intensity of fear around safety differs depending on the quality of the built environment in which you live. As loadshedding (and associated infrastructure failures) are happening more frequently, and its impacts felt more widely across the social spectrum it garners significant media attention. The reality, however, is that this has been the lived experience of people living in under-served areas for years.

So, for example, on the macro scale, criminal acts of sabotage directed at electricity and water infrastructure impacts everyone (Mboti, 2023; Nyathi, 2023). The impact, however, is disaggregated across the social spectrum. Those from affluent areas are able to secure alternate means to realise their own basic service needs, like alternate sources of water from boreholes and rain harvesting tanks (Culwick Fatti & Khanyile, 2023). In the case of load shedding, businesses and households who can afford to install solar panels and/or make use of inverters and batteries are better able to mitigate power outages.

On the micro scale, at the neighbourhood level the reality is that people living in underserved areas experience safety concerns while doing what is considered to be daily, domestic activities, like accessing water and using sanitation facilities or navigating communal areas with no lighting or known to be crime ‘hotspots.’ A lack of accessible water and sanitation services translates into longer distances to access these services, increasing the physical safety risks for women and children who live in these communities. Unlit pathways to a bus stop or taxi rank, derelict buildings, or unmaintained parks all create conditions of vulnerability. Residents who have to use public transport to travel to work or school are forced to navigate these ‘hot spots’ and are vulnerable to assault and robbery as they walk to, and make use of, public transport facilities as opposed to people who are able to use private transport. People living in more affluent areas, where the quality of the built environment is more conducive to facilitating the safety and freedom of movement of residents, do not necessarily share the same fear and safety concerns.

### **Space is not neutral: fear is spatialised**

In the context of basic service delivery shortfalls the risk of increased crime and violence is more significant for women and children. For example, a lack of lighting around toilet facilities and even around homes increases safety concerns at certain times of the day and night. Overgrown brush or abandoned structures makes walking to school a risky activity for unaccompanied children. Fears about safely walking in certain parts of the community outside of peak times limits the movement of community members (particularly women) and their potential to earn livelihoods (Isandla Institute, 2022b). Adapting the environment to reduce or stop crime through environmental design (Kruger, 2001) is part of area-based violence prevention interventions. This can be seen, for example, in implementing incremental improvements in the neighbourhood through planning and urban design interventions that activate unused spaces in the community which are (or can become) hotspots of crime and violence, thus creating sustainable safe spaces and transforming the experience of those who use the space. Beyond urban design, facilitating and investing in neighbourhood community safety forums and mechanisms such as the ‘Walking Bus Project’ which aims to ensure safety as children walk to school, all bolster the sense of community and create protective barriers to reduce crime and violence (Walking Bus Project, 2020).

**People living in underserved areas experience safety concerns while doing what is considered to be daily, domestic activities, like accessing water and using sanitation facilities or navigating communal areas with no lighting or known to be crime ‘hotspots.’**

**The more risk factors that an individual is exposed to, the higher the chances of that individual becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime and/or violence.**

### **Violence and crime as a complex web: the socio-ecological model**

Crime and violence stem from a complex web of socio-economic and political factors. For instance, violence and crime rates are influenced by issues such as high levels of unemployment, poverty, inequality and social values. Not only do these factors increase crime, they contribute to an environment of risk that make people more vulnerable to engaging in, or becoming targets of, criminal activities. The more risk factors that an individual is exposed to, the higher the chances of that individual becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime and/or violence (Isandla Institute, 2021b).

The causal nexus between deprivation and crime can be long or short. So, for example, if you have an increase in load shedding you may see an immediate rise in opportunistic crime. At the communal level, if there are inadequate educare centres and/or youth development programmes, you may see an exposure to gangsterism that in the medium to long-term will see an increase in youth involvement in crime and violence.

At the communal level the quality of service provision is also important, as communities may have some access to services (e.g. police services), but the services may be unreliable or insufficient due to resource limitations. A significant concern is that the majority of social services at municipal and neighbourhood level have been planned for 'formal residents' (CSIR, 2019), not taking into account the densities of backyard residents (Lategan, 2020). Instead, the allocation of resources must be based on the geographical need of a service. For example, there are communities that will require government to support their Community Policing Forums (CPF) and communities who need more visible police presence (LRC, 2022). Quality of public infrastructure and services is also determined by factors such as location, purpose/programmes offered and management and maintenance of relevant facilities. For example, a community sports facility on the outskirts of the neighbourhood which primarily offers soccer programmes to local youth will not provide accessible and quality services to other segments of the community.

Historically, state programming has focused on security responses or policing to address crime and violence. However, this only addresses one facet of the problem and is largely reactive, rather than preventative, in that it ignores equally important interventions which could yield more constructive and self-sustaining gains. The socio-ecological model is a useful tool to help identify key risk and protective factors related to violence and crime at different levels of a person's life. The model highlights the multiple causes of violence and the interaction of these factors at the individual, relationship, community and societal level.

The model further suggests that successful violence prevention requires action across these multiple levels to ensure systemic and lasting outcomes.

Minimising high risk factors such as unemployment and low access to social amenities while increasing positive protective factors such as development interventions that address the underlying factors of risk and vulnerability to crime and violence (such as a poor schooling environment, a lack of employment opportunities or sexist attitudes) and/or bolstering protective factors (such as youth development programmes, positive peer relations or food security) are critical in bringing about safer, more resilient and more vibrant communities (Isandla Institute, 2021a).

It is therefore arguable that the only effective approach towards incremental changes that would lead to more sustainable crime and violence prevention and community building can be found in area-based violence prevention interventions.

**Successful violence prevention requires action across these multiple levels to ensure systemic and lasting outcomes.**



## Area-based violence prevention interventions

**Area-based violence prevention interventions (ABVPI) are targeted approaches to bring about improved safety within a specific geographic area.**

**ABVPI are designed to not only reduce crime and violence, but also address the root causes by using a combination of spatial, social and institutional interventions within these spaces and across neighbourhoods.**

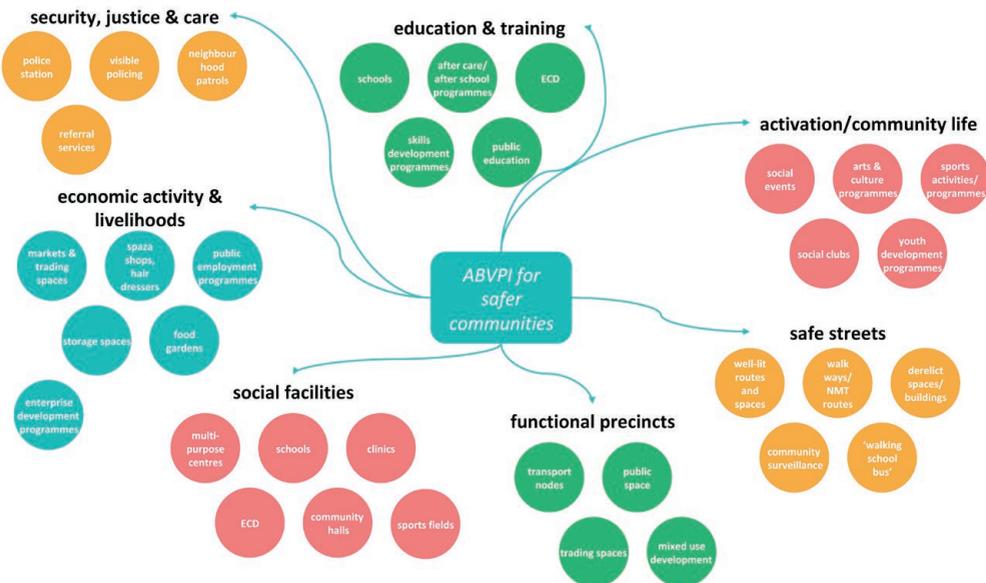
In this sense, ABVPI operates at the very microcosm level of the municipality - from the home on the erf, to street level, to communal spaces and amenities that comprise a particular neighbourhood as part of the bigger municipal community. Building on the theory of the socio-ecological model, ABVPI are designed to not only reduce crime and violence, but also address the root causes by using a combination of spatial, social and institutional interventions within these spaces and across neighbourhoods. Whereas the predominant response to crime and violence is to pursue security initiatives, at a policy level, at least, there is an acknowledgment of the need to include more preventative safety measures which focus on underlying risk and protective factors.

Interventions can range in scale and shape and include everything from mindset shifts to increased lighting to large, specific infrastructural interventions. This can include both removing risk factors and putting in place or bolstering existing protective factors – ultimately resulting in reduced violence and crime and increased quality of life. Significantly, AVBPI recognises that there is no silver bullet that will bring about immediate gains. What is required is simultaneous, multi-stakeholder actions that seek to bring about incremental, sustainable change.

Most importantly, to ensure these efforts are context specific and to foster ownership and maintenance, these interventions must be evidence-led and co-produced with communities and other stakeholders (Isandla Institute, 2022c).



Isandla Institute/Masixole Feni, Dunoon



## Safety of development practitioners

**While adopting an ABVPI approach may appear to be yet another facet/component of the community-facing work undertaken by civil society organisations and other stakeholders who operate at the neighbourhood level, it also addresses increasing concerns around how crime and violence is shaping the ability of government officials and employees of civil society organisations to work in under-serviced areas with particularly high crime levels.**

**Organisations must adopt both internal and external safety mechanisms to not only protect employees, but also contribute to improved safety at the neighbourhood level.**

In the discussions at the Community of Practice event, it was clear that security concerns for employees have increased substantially. Increased incidents of muggings, robbery and even attempted hijackings of staff members were reported. Those who stand out as non-residents of the area are at higher risk of opportunistic crime, compared to those who 'blend in' and/or reside in the area.

However, this does not necessarily apply to women employees who live in these communities, who feel unsafe from the moment they leave their home until they arrive at work. Knowing the area and having good relations with community members is critical to have some measure of protection, but it is no longer an adequate assurance of being able to move freely.

It is therefore important to ensure that a number of preventative measures are put in place to mitigate the risks faced in working in communities. An ABVPI approach can assist in this in that it encourages relationship-building with communities, networking and even collaborative initiatives across stakeholders to combat the threat of crime and violence.

Organisations must therefore adopt both internal and external safety mechanisms to not only protect employees, but also cumulatively contribute to improved safety at the neighbourhood level.



Isandla Institute/Masixole Feni, Mfuleni

## Safeguarding: An organisational concern and responsibility

### Key take aways:

---

- There is evidence of an increased risk and/or vulnerability to crime and violence for staff members of organisations working in communities where crime and violence levels are high.
- There is an immediate need for these organisations to have standard, institutionalised safeguarding policies and procedures that are both preventative in order to mitigate risk and sufficiently reactive to create clear protocols for response in the event of incidents of crime and violence perpetrated against staff members.
- Within the sector, there is need to discuss strategies on how collective action can be taken to mitigate risk, which includes strengthening ties through collaborative work and sharing information.
- Significantly, organisations need to use their relationships and standing within the community to inform how work is undertaken.
- Relationship-building, networking and partnerships across stakeholders, including community members, government service providers, civil society organisations, the private sector and community-based organisations, serve to combat the risk of crime and violence at the neighbourhood level.

## ABVPI in practice: The Regional Socio-Economic Projects Programme: (RSEP)

**The very nature of ABVPI and a requirement for successful implementation, is that interventions are tailor-made to meet the asymmetrical needs of different under-serviced communities.**

An example of a Programme that has embraced ABVPI with an indication of some positive results can be found in the Regional Socio-Economic Programme (RSEP)<sup>7</sup>.

**Successful and sustainable ABVPIs are designed to meet the contextual needs of each community.**

Initiated by the Western Cape Government in 2014, RSEP has a footprint in 22 towns across 14 municipalities. These towns are all located outside the arguably better-resourced metropolitan space. Many of these towns have inherited inequitable spatial configurations. The historically disadvantaged communities within the municipalities are often situated further away from economic opportunities, are underserved in terms of basic service delivery and social amenities and experience high levels of crime and violence.

RSEP employs a model which it describes as 'citizen-centric' focusing on neighbourhood upgrading and the development of socio-economic infrastructure to improve the quality of life and broaden opportunities for participating communities. The projects range from the development of safe pedestrian bridges, and pathways to recreational areas for children and youth, to the development of mixed-use facilities accommodating business rental units, housing and community safety in the same structure.

### Typical problems encountered include:

- vast 'neglected' open spaces
- sealed off public facilities
- facilities that face away from the public and each other
- unvalued public spaces (includes street spaces)
- reliance on unsafe and undignified informal pathways
- poor quality infrastructure
- under-provision of facilities and socio-economic infrastructure

<sup>7</sup> See: Western Cape Government 'Regional Socio-Economic Projects (RSEP) Programme.' Available at: <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/rsep/>

While working principally with municipalities and communities, RSEP looks to collaborate with multiple stakeholders, including government departments and agencies, law enforcement, civil society organisations, and experts to achieve more integrated and holistic upgrading solutions.

### Positive interventions include:

- Developing pedestrian routes to restore dignity, and create safe, shorter connective routes.
- Providing pedestrian bridges in the towns of Touwsrivier, Porteville, and Bredasdorp for example, to increase visibility, safety and better accommodate foot-traffic into the town.
- Promoting the development of strategic vacant land to encourage spatial integration.
- Providing clustered facilities and strengthening nodes (e.g. residential, business and recreational). For example, a business unit on the ground floor with security and rental accommodation above has 'mixed-use' and safety benefits.
- Providing affordable neighbourhood facilities like outdoor gym and recreational parks (including 5-a side soccer, skateboard parks etc. for the youth) provides positive activity for the entire community.
- Advocating for compaction and densification facilitates community cohesion and starts to undo inherited spatial fragmentation.

These positive interventions while incremental, have improved aspects of the built environment, increased accessibility of the community to economic opportunities, fostered a sense of ownership by the community and contributed, through design, to reducing some of the conditions that facilitate hotspots which are amenable to crime and violence. The success and sustainability of these initiatives are, however, dependent on ensuring that they are designed to meet the contextual needs of each community. Other key learnings for replicability of such interventions in other communities are summarised below.

### Key lessons:

- Projects can only be implemented successfully with the buy-in of all stakeholders. It must be community and municipality-driven.
- Good **urban design** is important for creating safer neighbourhoods.
- **But:** the structural causes of crime and violence (poverty, hopelessness, lack of opportunity) need to be addressed by **improving the material conditions** of the neighbourhood, facilitating life-giving **access to opportunities** and the provision of **socio-economic facilities** for urban living, amongst many other interventions that contribute to building thriving neighbourhoods.

## Conclusion: Taking incremental steps that matter

**A solely security-driven response only yields limited gains in the fight against crime and violence.**

Given the existing and growing challenges faced by communities and how this impacts the work of development practitioners from different organisational backgrounds, it is important to adopt a way of thinking and working that begins to make inroads into what seems to be the amorphous and overwhelming challenge of crime and violence.

The building blocks of ABVPI lie in the recognition that safety concerns are not peripheral to what we do. While perhaps not expressly articulating activities as part of the ABVPI focus, many organisations are already working according to and implementing ABVPI principles. There is, however, a need to be more intentional about violence and crime prevention in development work. A solely security-driven response only yields limited gains in the fight against crime and violence. Multi-faceted interventions that are spatially targeted, embrace social and institutional interventions and address the root causes of crime and violence are essential. As demonstrated by some of the positive outcomes of the RSEPI programme in the Western Cape, only through building partnerships and working transversally in our efforts to implement these interventions will we see the medium to long term gains at the community level. This can, however, only be cultivated by shifting from a focus on rapid emergency responses to crime and violence, to deep engagement and solidarity building within communities and with stakeholders present and active at the neighbourhood level. Strategic partnerships around an ABVPI approach between government, communities, civil society and the private sector are essential to achieving this.

# References

Breetzke GD. 2020. Crime and spatiality in South African cities, in Massey R & Gunter A. (ed.) Urban Geography in South Africa (pp. 155-172).

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Department of Human Settlements). 2019. Red Book: The Neighbourhood Planning and Design Guide. <https://www.dhs.gov.za/content/dhs-red-book>

Culwick Fatti C & Khanyile S. 2023. South Africa's power crisis: going off the grid works for the wealthy – but could deepen injustice for the poor. The Conversation. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/south-africas-power-crisis-going-off-the-grid-works-for-the-wealthy-but-could-deepen-injustice-for-the-poor-200288>

Goodwin A. 2022. Strategic Organized Crime Risk Assessment: South Africa. The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. Available at: <https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/GI-TOC-Strategic-Organized-Crime-Risk-Assessment-South-Africa.pdf>

Isandla Institute. 2021a. Area-Based Violence Prevention in a time of COVID-19. SPRINT. Learning Brief 1. Available at: [https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/item/download/262\\_b9d1e5c78ae25d28e818bd4a6a0c6ff0](https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/item/download/262_b9d1e5c78ae25d28e818bd4a6a0c6ff0)

Isandla Institute. 2021b. Integrated area-based violence prevention interventions. SPRINT. Learning Brief 2. Available at: [https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/item/download/332\\_b686c20c9c55a6a50951aed6dd4193b1](https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/item/download/332_b686c20c9c55a6a50951aed6dd4193b1)

Isandla Institute. 2022a. Building Safer Neighbourhoods Together. SPRINT. Practice Brief 2. Available at: [https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/itemdownload/263\\_71a9bac29e55607e320f6f7e68a63c32](https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/itemdownload/263_71a9bac29e55607e320f6f7e68a63c32)

Isandla Institute. 2022b. Gender-Based Vulnerability and the Built Environment. SPRINT. Learning Brief 10. Available at: [https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/item/download/340\\_fe13160eb70d6f6365ecd4a4341527c2](https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/item/download/340_fe13160eb70d6f6365ecd4a4341527c2)

Isandla Institute. 2022c. Local evidence: The foundation of good practice. SPRINT. Practice Brief 3. Available at: [https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/item/download/307\\_2f28fd5cf675660cae87afb675813999](https://isandla.org.za/en/resources/item/download/307_2f28fd5cf675660cae87afb675813999)

Lategan LG, Erasmus S, Zietsman M, Cilliers, EJ, Wolf M & Springer, C.A. 2020. Risking health for rental housing: Reviewing service access in the informal backyard rental sector' Jambá: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies 12(1) (pp 1-11) Available at: <http://www.scielo.org.za/pdf/jamba/v12n1/12.pdf>

Legal Resources Centre. 2022. Will the Constitutional Court rule in favour of the provision of adequate and equitable policing resources in townships and informal settlements? Available at: <https://lrc.org.za/2-february-2022-will-the-constitutional-court-rule-in-favour-of-the-provision-of-adequate-and-equitable-policing-resources-in-townships-and-informal-settlements/>

Mbotso S. 2023. Suspicion of sabotage behind water shortages in Pietermaritzburg. The Mercury. Available at: <https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/news/suspicion-of-sabotage-behind-water-shortages-in-pietermaritzburg-39f54965-d670-4603-a798-2267e4f5834b>

Nyathi M. 2023. Eskom infrastructure siege in Gauteng a concern. Mail & Guardian. Available at: <https://mg.co.za/environment/2023-02-17-eskom-infrastructure-siege-in-gauteng-a-concern/>

Walking Bus Project. 2020. Safer Spaces. Available at: <https://www.saferpaces.org.za/be-inspired/entry/walking-bus-initiative>

Western Cape Government 'Regional Socio-Economic Projects (RSEP) Programme' Available at: <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/rsep/>

World Population Review. Crime Rate by Country 2023. Available at: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country>

**Isandla Institute**  
**70 Rosmead Avenue**  
**Kenilworth, 7708**  
**Tel: +27 21 683 7903**  
**Fax: +27 21 683 7956**  
**Email: [admin@isandla.org.za](mailto:admin@isandla.org.za)**  
**[www.isandla.org.za](http://www.isandla.org.za)**