



SAFER PLACES:
RESILIENT INSTITUTIONS AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS TOGETHER

SPRINT

PRACTICE BRIEF 4

Responding to vulnerability and marginalisation in ABVPI

2023





The SPRINT Project is a joint initiative of the South African-German Development Cooperation with the support of the Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP) Programme, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) as the commissioning party and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) as co-financing partner. The SPRINT Project is implemented by Isandla Institute and Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU).

The primary objective of the SPRINT Project is to institutionalise area-based violence prevention intervention (ABVPI) approaches in public policy, programmes and practices in order to upscale them and have a sustainable impact. The SPRINT Project aims to connect practitioners in the interest of advancing urban safety outcomes. This is done through virtual learning events as well as face-to face champions events.

An initiative of the South African - German Development Cooperation



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The background of the page is an abstract map. It features a network of thick, dark green lines that represent roads or boundaries. These lines intersect to form various shapes, including rectangles and irregular polygons. Within these shapes, there are patterns of small, light green squares. Some squares are arranged in a regular grid, while others are more scattered or follow a specific path. The overall effect is a stylized, geometric representation of a neighborhood or urban layout.

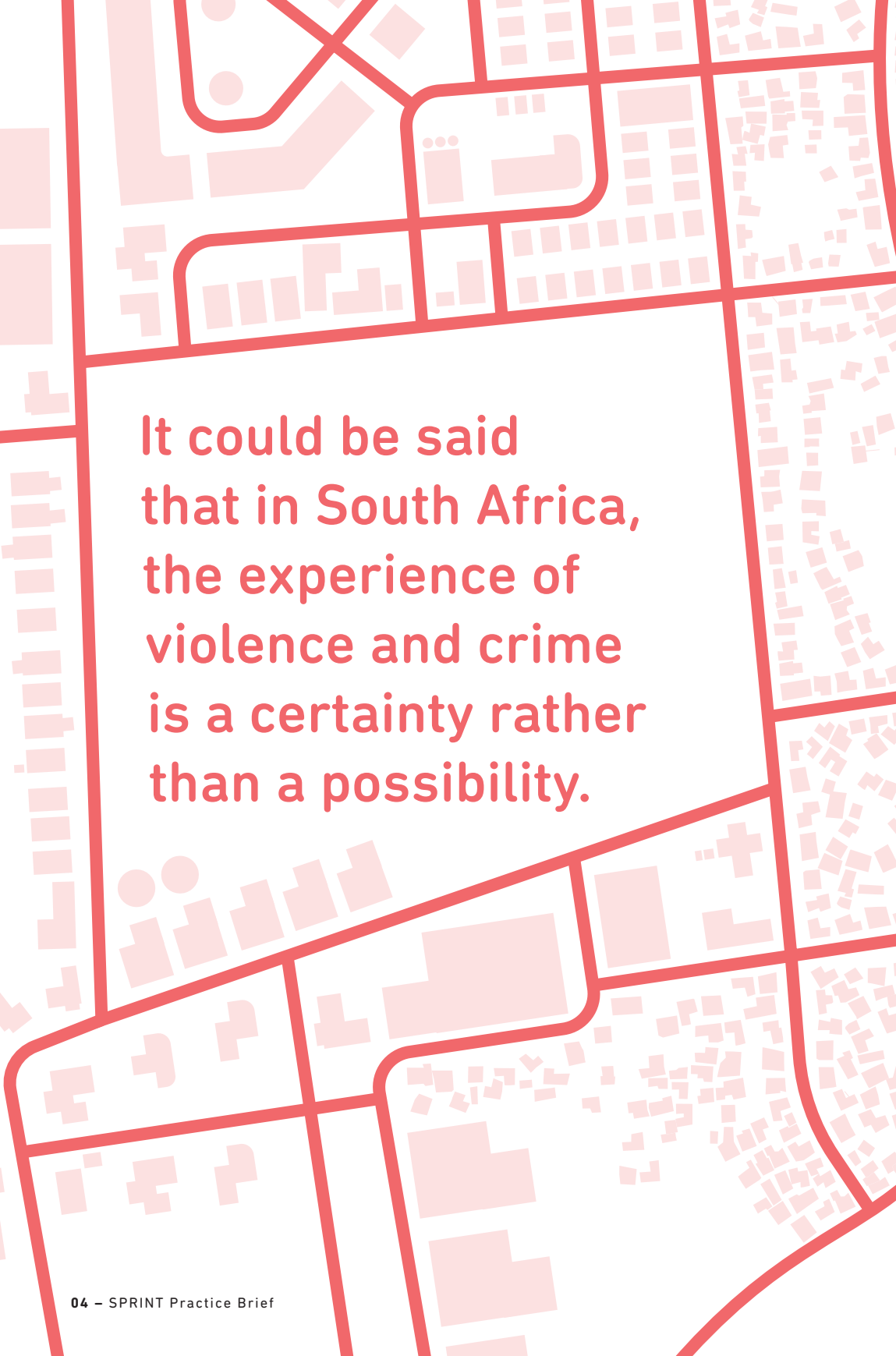
Creating safer
neighbourhoods
requires understanding
the vulnerabilities that
create violence and
crime as well as how
our interventions impact
those neighbourhoods.

About this brief

This practice brief draws on the presentations¹ and discussion at the second SPRINT Champions Event, held in May 2023. The event brought together practitioners (Champions) from municipalities, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. It focused on intersectionality and outcomes-based approaches to ensure that Area-Based Violence Prevention Interventions (ABVPI) are intentional, effective and inclusive. Vulnerability plays a pivotal role in the daily lives of South Africans, whether it's on the basis of gender, socio-economic status, age or any other factor. Many of these vulnerabilities are compounding, which increases one's susceptibility and risk to violence and crime exponentially.

Like previous practice briefs, this practice brief is targeted at urban practitioners who want to contribute to making neighbourhoods and cities more inclusive, vibrant and safe. Drawing on the key insights shared by practitioners who participated in the Champions Event, this practice brief summarises how intersectionality and outcomes-based approaches improve the design, implementation and results of initiatives aimed at making neighbourhoods and cities more inclusive, vibrant and safe. Key insights are:

1. Vulnerabilities are multi-faceted and compounding, based on factors such as gender, age, disability, location and socio-economic status, amongst others. One's likelihood of experiencing violence and crime increases as multiple factors combine to create an environment of vulnerability and risk.
2. Intersectionality serves as a valuable lens through which to view and understand vulnerability and the power relations it emanates from. It brings to light factors of exclusion, marginalisation and privilege/power, which is essential for effective ABVPI.
3. Adopting an outcomes-based approach is important when implementing ABVPI, as it provides insights into what works and what does not. Most importantly, it provides clarity on what the intended outcome is (feels, looks like), so that we can be more intentional in our work.
4. A safer neighbourhood is characterised by adequate basic and public services, well-designed and utilised public spaces, educational and recreational facilities that serve children and youth of all ages, a positive and responsive police presence and an active presence of a variety of development actors and stakeholders, amongst others.

The background of the page is a complex, abstract pattern of red lines and shapes. The lines are of varying thickness and form a network of irregular polygons and rectangles. Some areas are filled with a light red color, while others are white. The overall effect is a dense, geometric, and somewhat chaotic pattern that frames the central text.

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The certainty of crime and violence in South Africa

Violence and crime have a significant impact on the safety of individuals within South Africa through hurt, loss, harm and death. Violence and crime evoke fear and anxiety in people due to the frequency and inevitability of something occurring, especially within lower socio-economic neighbourhoods. People in these neighbourhoods are at greater risk of exposure to crime and violence due to structural, identity or status factors, and lack of or limited access to information, resources, services or remedies.² This lack of support and resources also increases the impact of violence and crime.

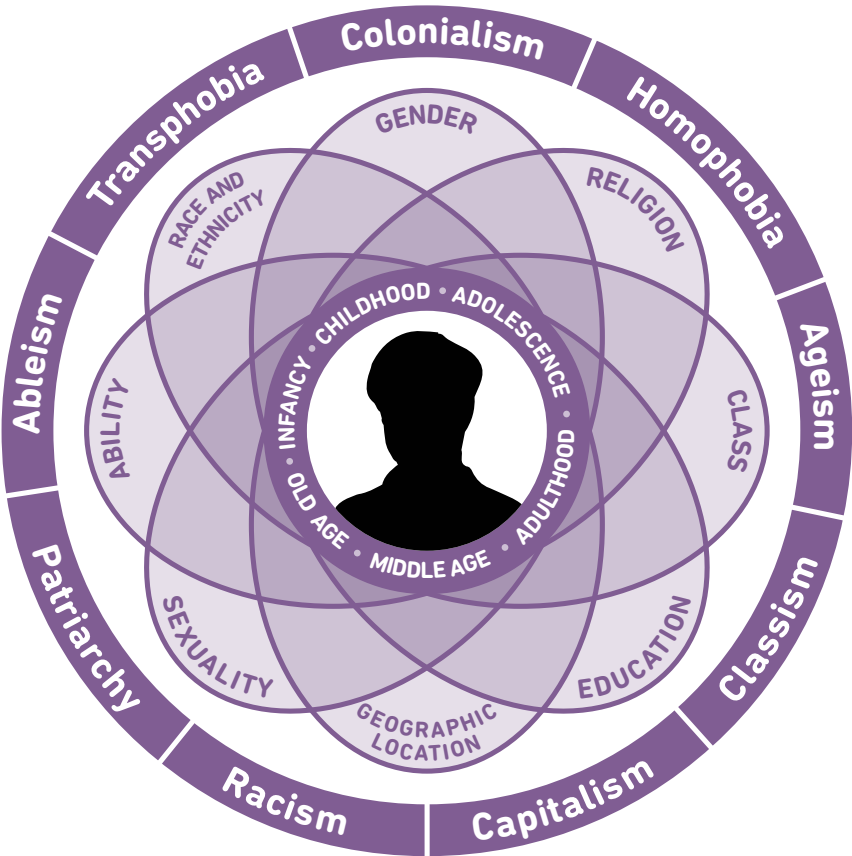
There has been a significant increase in violence and crime. Recent crime statistics show that the incidence of violence and crime has increased in South Africa compared to last year.³ There has been a steady increase in the number of murders within the country, with a reported 6 289 murders within the first quarter of 2023. This shows a 3.4% increase in murder since the same period last year. 13 205 sexual offences cases were reported in the first quarter of 2023. This encompasses rape, sexual assault and attempted sexual offences.⁴ While there has been a decrease in the number of reported sexual offences since last quarter, this is still an increase from the same period last year.

Townships and informal settlements are disproportionately affected by crime and violence, including serious crimes like murder and gender-based violence. The majority of crime hotspots are in townships in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape.⁵ This shows that location and neighbourhood factors play a crucial role in the certainty and incidences of violence experienced by an individual.

The statistical evidence of both the rate and location of serious crimes, like murder and sexual offences, clearly shows how identity factors and neighbourhood realities contribute to heightened vulnerability and why ABVPI is so important in South Africa.⁶ An example shared by Justice Desk Africa concerns the story of a young woman who lives in Nyanga informal settlement and has to make use of a pit latrine outside of her home. The woman shared that she is unable to

make use of the toilet at night as it isn't a case of IF she would be raped, but WHEN. This shows that unmanaged and under-served spaces increase the risk of violence, as these spaces can become hotspots for criminal activity and can provide cover for perpetrators to carry out acts of violence.⁷

It could be said that in South Africa, the experience of violence and crime is a certainty rather than a possibility. This is especially the case for specific socio-economic groups, such as women and youth, who also tend to experience repeat incidences.⁸ There are particular identity markers which correlate with increased experiences of violence and crime, including socio-economic status, culture, sexuality and gender identity, among other factors.⁹ To address violence and crime, we need to unpack the different factors that increase or reduce vulnerability and risk, and understand these different factors are not standalone, but rather compound one another. An intersectional lens helps us to look beyond simplistic categories of people (e.g. child/adult, woman/man) to see how overlapping identities and systems of oppression intermingle to create specific experiences of marginalisation, opportunity and vulnerability.



Intersectionality

Violence and crime are an expression of often complex and unequal power relations. Many of the measures put in place to address violence and crime occur in silos. As a result, these attempts are often one-dimensional and unsustainable, unable to break through cycles of crime and violence.

Intersectionality can be described as a lens through which to identify where power comes from and collides, and where it interlocks and intersects.¹⁰ This concept provides an understanding of the ways in which systems of inequality, often represented by power relations and underpinned by structural factors, based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class and other factors, intersect to create unique dynamics and effects.¹¹ This, coupled with the compounded challenges faced by vulnerable and marginalised groups, gives insight into the unique experiences of discrimination vulnerable groups face. Intersectionality looks at the relationships between these different forms of oppression and allows for analysis of social problems more fully, shapes more effective interventions, and promotes more inclusive responses. Understanding intersectionality is therefore crucial to understanding South African society and how we prevent and address violence and crime on a personal and societal level.¹²

An example of how an intersectional lens adds layering and depth to violence and crime prevention is by looking at the concept of “youth”. Clearly, youth are not a homogenous group. For example, those aged between 15–19 years of age have very different experiences and aspirations compared to those aged 25+. Similarly, young black women living in South African townships face completely different realities to young white men (and women) living in wealthy suburbs. And while they may share certain living conditions and experiences with young black boys from similar neighbourhoods, gender norms and sexism are likely to create unique experiences of vulnerability, marginalisation and risk to violence and crime.

Looking at violence and crime prevention through an intersectional lens enables a better, more nuanced understanding of the problem and the identification of more appropriate, targeted responses. On the one hand, it allows one to see how different socio-economic groups are affected

Left: Figure 1. Source: <https://justassociates.org/big-ideas/intersectionality/> (Used in Tanya Jacobs' presentation "Intersectionality: Why is it central to area-based violence prevention interventions?" at the Champions Event.)

differently by violence and crime, and what responses or support measures should be put in place. For example, in certain areas where gangs are present, boys and young men face a particular risk of being inducted into gang life. It has been found that within young gang members, acts of violence and toxic masculinity has often been rooted in portrayal of being a “real” man amongst their peers and as a way in which to prove their loyalty to the gang.¹³ Another example of a targeted support intervention is the need for well-trained and capacitated victim support centres at police stations to deal with cases of gender-based violence.

On the other hand, an intersectional lens provides an understanding of different lived realities, based on overlapping and compounding identity factors, and the importance of addressing exclusion and power imbalances as a root cause underpinning violence and crime. This makes an intersectional lens particularly helpful when seeking to prevent, rather than respond to, violence

The different faces of power



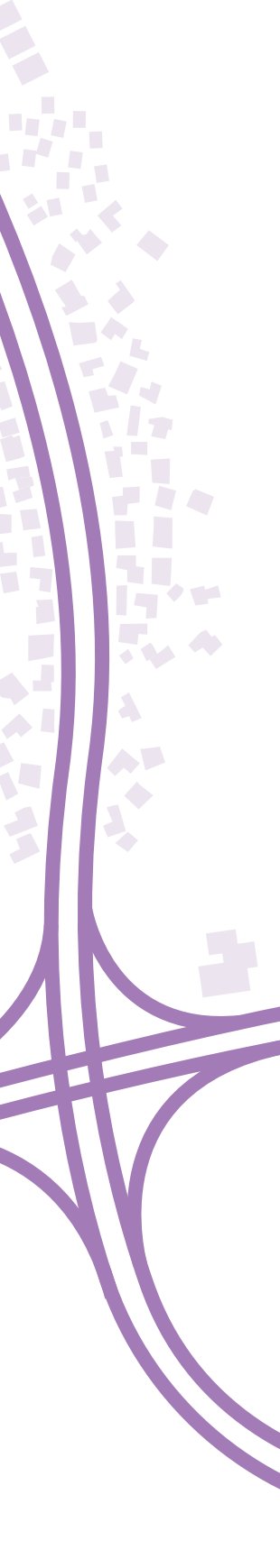
Power can be understood as having three different faces or dimensions.

The first is *visible power*, which encompasses formal rules, structures, authorities, institutions and procedures of political decision-making. These type of power is embedded in, amongst others, educational institutions, community leaders and government entities, which could increase people's vulnerability if they do not consider the needs, diversity and socio-economic status of people.¹⁴

The second form of power is *hidden power*, whereby powerful actors maintain influence by controlling who gets to the decision-making table and what gets on the agenda. These 'actors with (access to) power' may be private capital, well-connected civil society organisations or a particular political faction. When the interests and experiences of particular

stakeholders, especially marginalised social groups, are not represented, it is unlikely that their concerns are addressed and factors contributing to their vulnerability or exclusion are responded to.

The last form is *invisible power*, which shapes meaning and what is considered acceptable – for example, the notion that women are the primary caregivers in the home and in the community, or that the way someone dresses suggests that it's ok to sexually abuse them. Invisible power shapes people's beliefs, their sense of self and acceptance of the status quo. Processes of socialisation, culture and ideology perpetuate exclusion and inequality by defining what is normal, acceptable and safe.



and crime. By way of example, if it is understood that poverty and unemployment are possible drivers of vulnerability and risk to crime and violence, responding to these drivers will be a critical part of a preventative approach. Knowing that job security and income supports women to be independent of potentially abusive partners and contributes to the health and wellbeing of children would add to this (i.e. the need to respond to poverty and unemployment) the impetus to invest in skills development and economic empowerment of women from marginalised socio-economic backgrounds.

Other practical examples of applying an intersectional lens to violence and crime prevention can be found in design interventions around public facilities/services or public toilets. In many underserved communities, people have to wait for long periods to be helped when using a public service, like Home Affairs, or accessing a South African Social Security Agency pay point. Often this includes waiting outside which can be both uncomfortable and unsafe. Understanding who is waiting and what their particular vulnerabilities are can inform the design of that waiting space to include safety measures such as lights, clear line of sight, exits, panic buttons or security personal. In terms of the provision of public or shared bathrooms, the different safety concerns of different users should be considered. For example, is there a simple, but effective locking measure? Can a small child reach the locking mechanism? Is there sufficient light and coverage? Is the bathroom located somewhere users will feel safe? Is the bathroom physically accessible to all users? Are male and female bathrooms separated? How far away is the bathroom from the users and is the path to get there well-lit, unobstructed and safe?

When intersectionality is understood and responded to, one of the implications is that communication and participation strategies accommodate different social groups to ensure those various lived realities are recognised and responded to.

As such, an intersectional approach enables a better understanding of how different groups of people may be vulnerable and marginalised to and/or affected by violence and crime and what the specific contributing factors are. Designing and implementing interventions using the gained knowledge is important in determining that interventions have the desired impact. This is where an outcome-based approach to development, and particularly area-based violence and crime prevention, is so important.



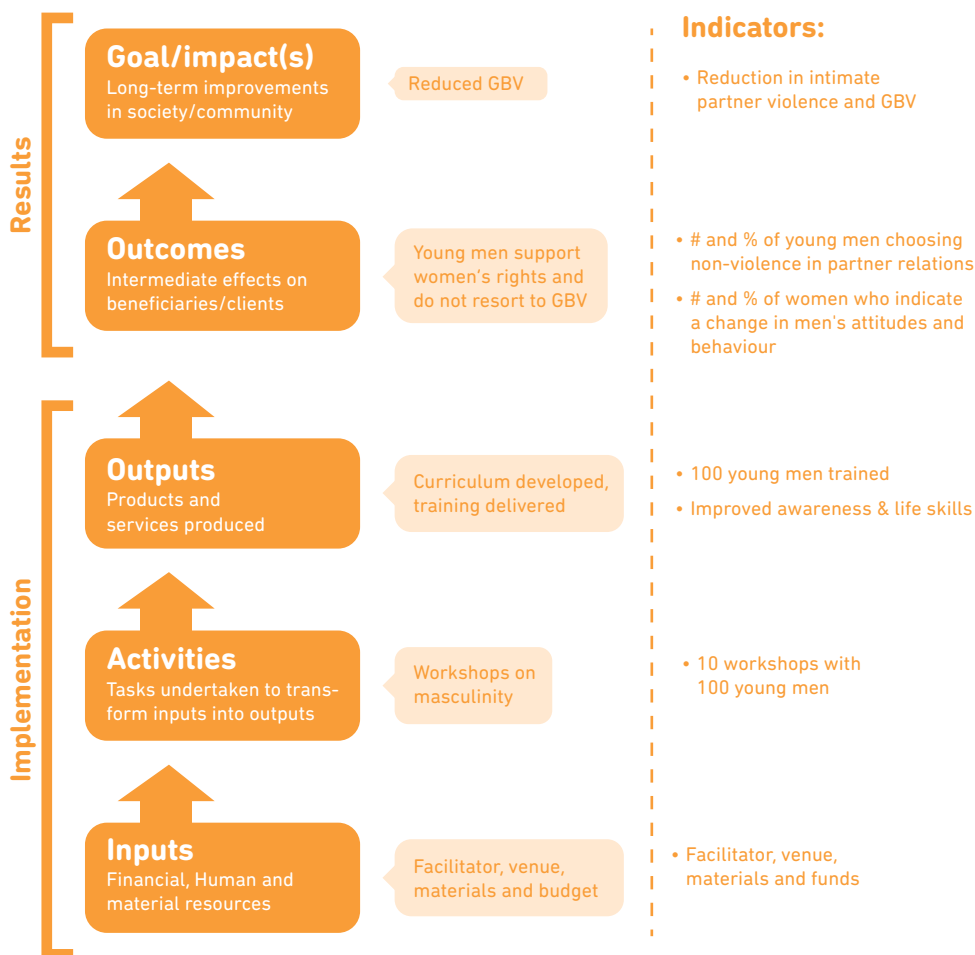
There is general consensus that a safe neighbourhood or city is a good thing, but safety can mean different things to different people. An outcomes-based approach helps us to better understand different experiences of safety.

How an outcomes-based approach strengthens ABVPI

There is a tendency in development work to assess performance in inputs, activities and outputs. For example, the complex task of improving the lives of informal settlement residents is sometimes measured in the number of standpipes or toilets provided. While these outputs undoubtedly make a difference to people's lives, these indicators tell us little about the quality, safety or reliability of the service, let alone whether it makes the informal settlement more liveable.

Another example is summarised in Figure 2, which outlines a typical monitoring and evaluation framework. In this example, a (hypothetical) organisation seeks to reduce gender-based violence by changing attitudes and behaviour of young men. The organisation undertakes workshops on masculinity (i.e. the *activities*) which requires *inputs* such as facilitators, meeting venues, training materials and financial resources. The measurable *outputs* are the curriculum and the delivery of the training programme. Inputs, activities and outputs are all in the realm of implementation. It is relatively straightforward to set indicators for these components of the monitoring and evaluation system, as shown in Figure 2. It is more challenging to determine what 'success' or progress looks like over time and whether the project activities and results are contributing to the intermediate effects on project beneficiaries, let alone the long-term improvement in the community or society (*goal/impact*). Sometimes development actors make assumptions about the outcomes and impact their work is contributing to, without having an intentional approach directed at achieving the desired results.

To illustrate this with an example: children may report feeling scared of being attacked when using shared public bathrooms and so floodlights are installed. Without checking with the children whether this has reduced their fear, we may assume based on the successful output (the installation of the lights) that it has had the desired impact (that the children feel safer). However, the lights may make children feel even more visible and therefore vulnerable to attack. It is therefore



important to involve the users/beneficiaries in the co-design as well as to monitoring and evaluation of interventions.

It is therefore important to explicitly focus on outcomes and find ways of making those outcomes tangible. Outcomes-based approaches give better insights into what works and what does not work, because it allows one to assess whether actions are having the desired impact or contribute to the envisaged change. Being explicit about outcomes also moves the conversation beyond undefined qualifiers, such as 'safe', 'inclusive' or 'resilient', that often have a 'feel good' factor associated with them, but can mean different things to different people.

An outcomes-based approach comes with its own challenges. For one, it can be difficult to convert qualitative outcomes into something that is quantifiable and tangible, which is necessary to determine whether progress is made.

Above: Figure 2.


Source: Mirjam van Donk's presentation "Making impact and outcomes more explicit and tangible for ABVPI" at the Champions Event.

Furthermore, assessing progress and impact requires reliable data, yet accessing or interpreting relevant data may be an issue. Data may not exist, or it may be partial or biased, or it may be difficult to analyse. Collecting the necessary data may be costly or time-consuming, or it may be beyond the timeframe of the intervention to collect, use or analyse data to determine whether the desired impact has been achieved. Last but not least, determining a causal relationship from project activities to results to outcomes is often difficult, if not impossible, especially in relation to community-level outcomes.

Nonetheless, an outcomes-based approach is important, particularly in the context of integrated development endeavours, such as area-based violence and crime prevention. There is general consensus that a safe neighbourhood or city is a good thing, but safety can mean different things to different people. For some, a safe neighbourhood means minimising the risk of traffic accidents – i.e. transport safety. For others, it means reducing environmental health risks – in other words, public health and safety, or it means ensuring there is adequate services present to all – i.e. service delivery and sanitation. Being clear what characterises a safe neighbourhood – which could be identified as a desirable developmental outcome – helps to develop interventions that can be tracked and, if necessary, revised. Examples of possible neighbourhood level outcomes (or results) in this respect are:

- Reduction in the overall crime rate and/or in local hotspots.
- More women use or traverse certain spaces and movement routes at any time of the day and night.
- More children are playing in the street and are moving independently to school, local shops, friends, etc.
- Different socio-economic groups use and appropriate public spaces for activities such as recreation, trading, fitness, religious and cultural practices.
- A reduction in xenophobic violence and/or evidence of active protection by community members of foreign owned shops and homes.
- Regular and well-attended community events, like markets, festivals and street events.
- There is effective community-led policing and positive relationships (trust) between residents and the police.

These examples also suggest the importance of using an intersectional framework when determining what a safer neighbourhood looks and feels like, as it needs to respond to differential levels of vulnerability, risk and opportunity.

An abstract graphic featuring a network of teal lines and squares. The lines form a grid-like structure with some irregular, rounded shapes. The squares are of various sizes and are scattered throughout the image, some appearing as solid teal shapes and others as outlines. The overall composition is clean and modern, with a focus on geometric patterns.

There are many
different factors and
characteristics which
contribute to the creation
of safer spaces.



What does a safer neighbourhood look like?

The previous section argued that to build safer neighbourhoods, we have to know what safer communities look, feel, taste and smell like – i.e. what are the things that make a neighbourhood safe. We have to be explicit and specific about the intended outcome (i.e. a safer neighbourhood) and how we would know that this has been achieved, so that our actions can be more intentional and result-focused. Participants at the Champion's Event identified the following elements as indicators of a 'safe neighbourhood'.

Adequate public and socio-economic facilities and vibrant public space

Public and socio-economic facilities are key in safer neighbourhoods as they offer important services or opportunities. They also allow for the building of a sense of community and unity within neighbourhoods as well as preventing vulnerable groups such as youth from participating in antisocial, criminal or violent behaviour. Facilities encompass many different facets of public space such as streets, parks, fields, community halls, libraries, sports facilities and religious sites. Sporting facilities cater to avenues for sport and recreation, which allow for individuals from different economic backgrounds to interact in a communal space, breaking down socio-economic barriers.¹⁵ These spaces and facilities can host different community events such as markets, festivals or street events.

Similarly, public and green spaces are important characteristics of a liveable and safe neighbourhood as they allow for an array of activities and purposes. These spaces should be open, inclusive and accessible to all at no charge, regardless of socio-economic background, age, gender and physical abilities.¹⁶ Safe public and green spaces are especially important in lower-income communities, where such spaces often form an extension of the home and act as a communal space for community members to interact.¹⁷

Adequate and reliable basic services

Access to sufficient, reliable and consistent essential services, such as water, sanitation, waste removal and electricity, is another key factor of safer neighbourhoods. Poor service delivery has a drastic effect on lower income neighbourhoods and their residents. In the absence of adequate water and sanitation services, women and children are more at risk of harassment and attacks en route to communal facilities. Without electricity and street lights, all residents may feel unsafe and may be at risk of being subjected to criminality or a violent attack. Litter will deter people from casual walking and means people have to watch where they are stepping, rather than looking at their surroundings. Not only does this possibly make them more vulnerable to muggings or other crimes, it also reduces the surveillance which “eyes on the street” provide. Also, unsightly and possibly foul-smelling litter can cause disease and added stress, making the neighbourhood unpleasant. Adequate and reliable service provision is thus a key characteristic of a safer neighbourhood.

Sufficient economic security and equal access to resources

A safer neighbourhood is one where there is equal access to resources and residents are economically secure. Inequality, poverty and unemployment are drivers of violence and crime. This includes economic inequality where people living in vulnerable communities have limited access to economic opportunities. Without such opportunities, the options to secure and improve their lives and wellbeing are limited. This includes having to depend on intimate partners financially or being in a constant state of financial precarity and therefore unable to break the poverty cycle. A safer neighbourhood has thriving formal and informal markets, spaza/local shops and home-based work to enable livelihoods and support economic inclusion.

Safe, visible transport and movement routes

Another feature of a safer neighbourhood is safe transport and movement routes (i.e. visible, safe and well-maintained paths) where transport routes are actively being used throughout the day and night. This includes public transport, but also walkways between motorised transport and/or people's homes. When movement routes are open, visible and well maintained, the possibility of violence and crime is reduced, which in turn enhances people's sense and experience of safety. A neighbourhood is safe when women, children, the elderly, members from the LGBTQIA+ community and non-residents are able to move freely – whether on public transport or using non-motorised modes of transport – to places of work, learning, trade and leisure.

Community-led and responsive policing that builds on trust of the whole community

A safe neighbourhood still needs policing that is responsive and visible, as this can assist in preventing crime and violence. In areas where police stations are understaffed and under-resourced, the police's ability to be responsive and offer protective services is undermined. In a safe neighbourhood, instead of viewing the police as an intimidating force, the police service has a positive relationship with community members and is connected into a network of neighbourhood watches and/or community policing forums.

Facilities for children and youth to play and learn

A safe neighbourhood has ample facilities for children and youth to play, grow and learn. Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) provide young pre-school children with a space to learn, be taken care of and access nutritious food. ECDs also prevents these younger children from being left unattended or insufficiently cared for and/or exposed to violence and crime within the neighbourhood. Schools offer a safe haven for primary and high school children and provide good quality education, life skills programmes, support/referral systems and educational programmes that address bullying and other forms violence. Schools aren't just places of learning for children and youth; schools are also community assets that fulfil multiple functions that benefit the community at large.¹⁸ In addition, there are ample play parks and recreational facilities.

Active involvement of multiple stakeholders and partnerships

A safe neighbourhood reflects a sense of vibrancy and the involvement of different stakeholders. These stakeholders (local community actors, different spheres of government, civil society, the private sector) collaborate, because they know that their combined efforts will lead to better, longer lasting results and will respond to the diversity of needs in the area. While some may specialise in women's economic empowerment, others bring cultural programmes, physical upgrades or psycho-social support programmes into the neighbourhood. Their collective interest is to work with local residents in uplifting the neighbourhood.

Promoting urban safety: Good practice examples

SPRINT Community of Practice (CoP) members were invited to share examples of work done to create safer, better neighbourhoods and spaces. Sharing lessons and inspiring practice is one of the cornerstones of a community of practice. As these examples show, some of the projects and initiatives shared by participants are designed with the explicit intention to advance urban safety while others provide useful lessons about skills or ways of working, such as how to develop evidence-informed programmes or how to work with multiple stakeholders, including local communities.

The various initiatives profiled here show that there are different entry points and interventions for addressing and reducing different manifestations of vulnerability. Gender is a key focus of Sonke Gender Justice's project on Everyday Sexism, while Justice Desk Africa focuses some of its work specifically on young black women living in violence-ridden townships. The Galeshewe Youth Initiative focuses on economic empowerment and skills development of youth in the Kimberley township of Galeshewe. The Family Strengthening Project and the Hands Off Our Children Project, both initiatives of the Western Cape provincial government, focus on children and their vulnerabilities. The City of uMhlathuze is utilising crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) to create spaces that cater to the variety of needs in the community, especially women traders and the elderly.

Addressing and Preventing Everyday Sexism - Sonke Gender Justice in partnership with LUX



Based on presentation by Dumisani Rebombo, Sonke Gender Justice's Gauteng & Mpumalanga Community Education & Mobilisation CEM Manager.

Sonke Gender Justice is a South African-based non-profit organisation (NPO) working throughout Africa, which focuses on initiatives and projects that allow men, women, boys and girls to resist patriarchy, advocate for gender justice and achieve gender transformation. Together with the Unilever brand LUX, Sonke are implementing a programme to address and prevent Everyday Sexism which aims to incorporate the many different avenues to approach rapid and sustained change with regard to gender inequality and human rights violations. It aims to inform about everyday sexism, which is the experience of prejudice and discrimination on the basis of gender in the form of comments, behaviours and treatment that has been normalised over time. Everyday sexism can affect any gender, but is most typically used to oppress women.

In an effort to better understand the experience of everyday sexism and sexual public harassment in South Africa, Sonke and LUX started by conducting a baseline survey. The survey garnered the result that 91% of women respondents have experienced one or more forms of public sexual harassment, mostly on commutes to work or within their neighbourhoods. Other results showed men reporting a higher percentage of witnessing acts of public sexual harassment versus what women reported experiencing, most notably within the work and education space.

In April 2023, Sonke Gender Justice and LUX announced their partnership through the "Change the Angle" campaign. The purpose of the campaign was to highlight sexism in sport and challenge media to change the focus of female sports coverage from one that objectifies female athletes to one that celebrates their sporting prowess and achievements.

These initiatives raise awareness of everyday sexism and the objectification of women among a widespread audience. Sonke Gender Justice and LUX strive to eliminate inequality among genders and promote a sense of unity. These initiatives aim to uplift women through the reduction of sexism and objectification and work with men and boys to become allies to prevent it.



Youth Empowerment - Galeshewe Youth Network

Based on the presentation by Kenneth Niewenhuys and Joel Setlhabi, Galeshewe Youth Network's Chairperson and Secretary.

Galeshewe Youth Network (GYN) was established in June 2019 with the vision of creating a society of future leaders who aim to reawaken a sense of vibrancy, energy and motivation within young people who champion for economic transformation within the township of Galeshewe and city of Kimberley. Their mission statement is to provide a safe, clean, and uplifting environment for the development of youth. Their key objectives are to improve and enhance the skills of youth, women, and the elderly in different business sectors. They also aim to improve social cohesion by creating a conducive and productive environment for youth to develop and contribute. Lastly, they aim to create employment for youth and encourage independent and self-sufficient communities. GYN has identified that Galeshewe is facing a crisis with regards to the opportunities of youth. Most youth are unable to find employment opportunities and oftentimes turn to a state of hopelessness, sometimes leading to the abuse of drugs and alcohol and creating environments of crime, gender-based violence and irreparable damage to the social fabric of Galeshewe. The Youth Service Centre was established to combat these issues and is focussed on fast-tracking the development of young people, providing them with information, skills development and job opportunities.

GYN's key focus areas include:

- The jobs corner, which is an employment acceleration programme that focuses on equipping youth with the necessary tools for employment opportunities, such as CV writing, mock interviews and online applications.
- Education through skills development, available through the form of short courses, internships, bursaries and scholarships, assisting in the opportunity for higher rates of tertiary education among youth.
- Business support for youth and women to run businesses that create employment opportunities, promote self-sufficiency and equip youth with the knowledge for entrepreneurship.

- ICT programmes that equip youth with the necessary skills and allows for access to free Wi-Fi services, desktop access for CV writing, copying, scanning, email, and social media platforms. There is also the opportunity for basic computer training and digital literacy, which is aimed at empowering youth.

As such, the Youth Service Centre makes a vital contribution to young people's ability to improve their lives and sustain their livelihoods.

The Family Strengthening Project - Western Cape Department of The Premier



**Based on the presentation by Gwen Dereymaeker,
Deputy Director: Policy and Strategy, Department of the
Premier**

The World Health Organization has developed different approaches for the reduction of violence which the Western Cape Government (WCG) is utilising across different departments. One example of this is focusing on strengthening relationships between children and caregivers. The focus is on evidence-informed or evidence-based parenting programmes as these yield the best results. To do this, the project maps parenting and family strengthening programmes, including their approach to evidence gathering and utilisation and their existing referral pathways between parenting programmes and other family support services. The methods used in this exercise range from qualitative research and surveys to focus group discussions with academics and government officials.

The WCG has put emphasis on the importance of flexibility within these programmes to build more trust with communities and ensure that the programmes are effective. This is in response to the various needs of different parents and of different neighbourhoods. This flexibility is enabled through public participation and ground-level research.

Following the mapping exercise, workshops and guidelines are developed to up-scale quality evidence-informed parenting programmes. Key examples of these guidelines would be programme content and delivery, staff training and support, management and guidance, conditions for referral

pathways and monitoring, evaluation and learning. Once this is complete, it is developed and implemented within different communities as well as presented within community of practice groups, allowing consistent and flexible parenting programme blueprints to be developed throughout the Western Cape.

Ensuring parenting programmes are evidence-informed and evidence-based is key in providing the necessary resources needed for these communities. WCG has ensured that flexibility and catering to the needs of specific neighbourhoods are a priority, and this mapping and guideline process will allow good practice to be implemented within other communities.

The Hands Off Our Children Project (HOOC) – Western Cape

Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety



**Based on the presentation by Theresha Hanekom,
Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety:
Deputy Director of safety planning, policy and research.**

The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (DPOCS) has developed a programme called the Hands Off our Children (HOOC) Project. It was established to ensure a multi-disciplinary approach toward preventing child abuse as well as ensuring the creation of a channel to report child abuse, to empower children to report abuse and to increase the rate of reports. It further ensures that all public and private sector partners make their contribution toward eradicating child abuse. Finally, it raises awareness and prevention education via public channels and mediums that grab children's attention.

DPOCS has implemented a whole of government and whole of society approach in addressing child abuse prevention. It includes the different spheres of society and government within a socio-ecological model¹⁹ whereby key strategies are implemented within each sphere, toward a common goal. This allows for effective use of platforms and processes to ensure the reduction in child abuse as well as prevention. The HOOC project is a vital project that could be piloted in other provinces. Despite it ending a few

years ago, there are a number of valuable lessons which can be replicated or repurposed. It addressed both the risk and protective factors associated with child abuse and is able to facilitate a safe and nurturing environment for children that have suffered from abuse as well as instilling the appropriate preventative measures.

The Mbokodo and iNtsika ye Themba Projects - Justice Desk Africa



Based on presentation by Edward Jacobs. Advocacy & Empowerment Junior Manager

The Justice Desk Africa is a non-profit organisation based in Cape Town, South Africa, with projects running across Africa. The organisation's main goal is promoting the power of everyday activists by empowering ordinary people to understand and defend their human rights so that they are able to transform and create a more just and equal world.

Justice Desk Africa has two flagship projects focused on ending the issue of gender-based violence by working with young girls and boys in communities around Cape Town. The first project is the Mbokodo Project, which focuses on empowering young girls who are survivors of rape and gender-based violence. This project seeks to be a safe space in which to help young rape survivors through empowerment workshops, mental health care support and self-defence programmes to ensure their safety. A key example of success is the story of a young learner, who was walking to school in the community of Khayelitsha, in Cape Town, when four human traffickers kidnapped her. Despite her overwhelming danger and fear, she remained calm enough to devise a plan and used the training she received from self-defence classes to execute a plan to escape from her captors.

The second project is called the iNtsika ye Themba project, which focuses on mentoring younger boys to become women's rights defenders and challenge toxic masculinity. It aims to create a space for dialogue and learning between young men and examines how positive, transformative masculinities can contribute toward a more just and equal society.



Application of CPTED in Empangeni CBD Revitalization Project - City Of uMhlathuze

Based on presentation by Zolile Poswa. Head: Public Safety and Security of City of uMhlathuze

The City of uMhlathuze is the third largest municipality in KwaZulu-Natal and is one of the busiest industrial hubs, boasting one of the deepest ports on the continent. The municipality is focussing its ABVPI in the town of Empangeni's CBD. It has identified several key challenges for violence and crime prevention including service delivery issues; and high unemployment rates.

Following capacity building support in collaboration with the GIZ Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP) Programme on the value and use of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) to a variety of practitioners from different units/departments in the municipality, including but not limited to Public Safety and Security, Spatial and Environmental Planning, Waste Management and Local Economic Development, practitioners took it upon themselves to establish a task team to better institutionalise ABVPI across the municipality through tools like CPTED.

The ongoing revitalisation of the Empangeni CBD is being used as a pilot to test application of CPTED principles in a practical and tangible way, to guide mainstreaming across the municipality. The revitalisation project includes the building of traders stalls for informal traders (who are predominantly women), widening of pedestrian sidewalks, improvement of street lighting and waste management and provision of communal facilities such as public ablutions and rest spaces for informal traders. The latter recognises that women informal traders often play the main child-raising role and do not always have the resources for childcare and thus have to bring their children to work with them.

CPTED is a useful tool for embedding safety approaches in the design, development and management of public spaces.

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Its principles are:

1. **Appropriate visibility in areas and facilities** where users feel vulnerable, e.g. public toilets.
2. **Accessible travel/mobility routes** including multiple entries/exits and controlled access.
3. **Ownership of space** by residents and users as evidence through active citizenship such as keeping areas clean and informing municipal officials of maintenance issues.
4. **Aesthetically-pleasing environments** that create a positive feeling, which ultimately increases the amount of people frequenting the space.
5. **Target hardening through physical security measures** only when absolutely necessary.

CPTED and the principles associated with it are important factors to implement in the reduction of violence and crime. Using ABVPI to bolster these principles will allow for a holistic approach of tackling violence and crime within the municipality.



Key Lessons

Vulnerabilities are multi-faceted and compounding, based on factors such as gender, age, disability, location and socio-economic status, amongst others.

Effective and inclusive violence and crime prevention needs to be informed by an understanding of where different factors of power and vulnerability emanate from and how these factors interact.

It is equally important to be both explicit and intentional about the outcomes we are working towards to build a common understanding of and harmonized practice towards safer neighbourhoods.

Four key lessons about vulnerability, intersectionality and an outcomes-based approach to ABVPI have emerged from the Champions Event:

1 Vulnerabilities are multifaceted and compounding. Factors such as gender, age, disability and socio-economic status, amongst others, overlap to create specific, and often heightened, levels of vulnerability and risk to violence and crime. The quality of the physical environment in which people live can further add (or lessen) one's vulnerability. It is necessary to understand these different layers of vulnerability so that appropriate measures are developed and implemented to reduce vulnerability.

2 Intersectionality serves as an important lens through which to view and understand vulnerability. An intersectional lens is a crucial tool when implementing ABVPI as it provides insights into power relations and power dynamics. This also emphasises that vulnerability is not homogenous. An example of this is through youth and their susceptibility to violence and crime through influence. In many lower socio-economic neighbourhoods and informal settlements, youth are often indoctrinated into gangs due to power dynamics and gang influence within their communities. Through understanding these dynamics, proper implementation of

vulnerability interventions could be set in place to reduce the vulnerability of youth in these specific contexts.

3 **Outcomes-based approaches enable us to understand the impact of our interventions and be more intentional in our work.**

Outcomes-based approaches provide insights into what may work and what does not work. This is because it is not sufficient to note what was implemented (activities and outputs) but also whether it has the desired impact (outcomes). Outcomes-based approaches also require us to clearly define what the intended impact or result is (e.g. a safer neighbourhood), so that we can be more intentional in our work to progress towards achieving the desired outcome.

4 **Having a shared vision of what a safe neighbourhood looks, feels and smells like is vital for driving progressive change.**

Safety is a term that can mean different things to different people, which is why it is important to clarify what characterises a safe neighbourhood. Adequate basic and public services, well-designed and utilised public spaces, educational and recreational facilities that serve children and youth of all ages, a positive and responsive police presence and an active presence of a variety of development actors and stakeholders, amongst others, are all qualities of a safe neighbourhood. In clarifying the vision and qualities of a safe neighbourhood, it is vital to ensure that different needs and interests, based on overlapping identity markers, are engaged with, so that effective and inclusive area-based violence prevention interventions are designed and implemented.

Notes

- 1 This includes presentations from Edward Jacobs (Justice Desk Africa) about the lived realities in South Africa and the work of Justice Desk Africa; a presentation by Tanya Jacobs (GIZ VCP gender and intersectionality consultant) titled "Intersectionality: Why is it central to area-based violence prevention interventions?" and Mirjam van Donk's (Isandla Institute) presentation "Making impact and outcomes more explicit and tangible for ABVPI".
- 2 Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service. 2021. Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy. No: 44173. 51-136. https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202102/44173gen50.pdf

- 3 Fraser, L. 2023. Violent crime in South Africa is getting worse – here are all the latest stats. Business Tech. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/lifestyle/665791/violent-crime-in-south-africa-is-getting-worse-here-are-all-the-latest-stats/>
- 4 Police Recorded Crime Statistics Republic of South Africa. 2023. South African Police Services. <https://www.saps.gov.za/services/downloads/4th-Quarter-January%202023-March%202023.pdf>
- 5 <https://www.citizen.co.za/news/crime-stats-murder-hotspots-2023/>
- 6 Police Recorded Crime Statistics Republic of South Africa. 2023. South African Police Services. <https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php>
- 7 Presentation by Edward Jacobs on Justice Desk Africa at Champions Event. 2023.
- 8 Justice Desk Africa. 2023. The Mbokodo Project. <https://www.justicedesk.org/the-mbokodo-project>
- 9 Justice Desk Africa. 2023. The iNtsika ye Themba Project <https://www.justicedesk.org/intsika-yethemba-project>
- 10 Presentation by Tanya Jacobs on Intersectionality at Champions Event. 2023
- 11 Centre for intersectional justice. What is intersectionality. <https://www.intersectionaljustice.org/what-is-intersectionality>
- 12 Womankind Worldwide. 2019. Intersectionality 101: what is it and why is it important? <https://www.womankind.org.uk/intersectionality-101-what-is-it-and-why-is-it-important/#:~:text=Intersectionality%20is%20the%20acknowledgement%20that,orientation%2C%20physical%20ability%2C%20etc.>
- 13 Ndhlovu, G.N. & Tanga, P. 2021. Study paints a grim picture of what young gangsters think about violence and manhood. The Conversation <https://theconversation.com/study-paints-a-grim-picture-of-what-young-gangsters-think-about-violence-and-manhood-168861#:~:text=Gang%20violence%20is%20a%20deeply,of%20crime%20and%20gun%20battles.>
- 14 Baskin-Sommers, A., Baskin, D.R., Sommers, I.B. & Newman, J.P. 2013. The Intersectionality of Sex, Race, and Psychopathology in Predicting Violent Crimes. (40):10. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0093854813485412?journalCode=cjbb>
- 15 Isandla Institute. 2022. Fostering Safety in Public (Green) Spaces. Learning Brief 11.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Isandla Institute. 2022. Schools as Strategic Entry Points for Area-Based Violence Prevention Interventions. Learning Brief 12.
- 19 Isandla Institute. 2022. The socio-ecological model: A framework for violence prevention. SPRINT Resource Note 3.

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