



Gender Based Violence

Sexual and intimate partner violence is a major driver of South Africa's HIV epidemic. Addressing gender based violence and preventing violence against women and children is therefore an urgent priority. NACOSA's Gender Based Violence Programme, funded by the Global Fund, tackles both prevention and response, providing a basket of services to survivors of gender based violence, linked to a national advocacy campaign and intensive community engagement.

NACOSA works with nine implementing organisations in four districts in Gauteng, the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Western Cape and Free State and focuses on the strategic and geographic intersections between the drivers and consequences of gender based violence.

"The system has holes. We have to strengthen the services that protect."

– Dinah, First Responder, Gauteng

SUPPORTING & EMPOWERING

The programme's basket of services includes:

- Norm-shifting prevention interventions with young people between 18 and 24 through **Stepping Stones** and **Creating Futures workshops**.
- Access to **domestic violence shelters** providing psychological support, HIV education and testing services as well as life-skills, education and economic empowerment.

- Sensitizing **South African Police Service** officials to work effectively and compassionately with victims of gender based violence.
- Psychological support, HIV testing services, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) adherence and other practical support for victims of intimate partner and sexual violence at **Thuthuzela Care Centres and other designated facilities**.
- Support for the **Stop Gender Violence Campaign** to raise awareness and lobby for a strategic, integrated and funded response to gender based violence in South Africa.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

60,993	sexual violence survivors supported
180,749	intimate partner violence victims reached
R99.7m	investment by the Global Fund

Gender sensitization training for **572** South African Police Service members.

ROADMAP TO AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

The national **Stop Gender Violence** advocacy campaign provides a roadmap to effectively respond to GBV and its interaction with the HIV pandemic. The campaign is an opportunity for civil society to lobby government to incorporate GBV actions in their annual performance plans and to adequately budget for interventions that prevent or address gender based violence.

From district-level upwards, the GBV Programme aims to improve young people’s understanding of the social and structural drivers of HIV and GBV, contributing to positive behaviour change.

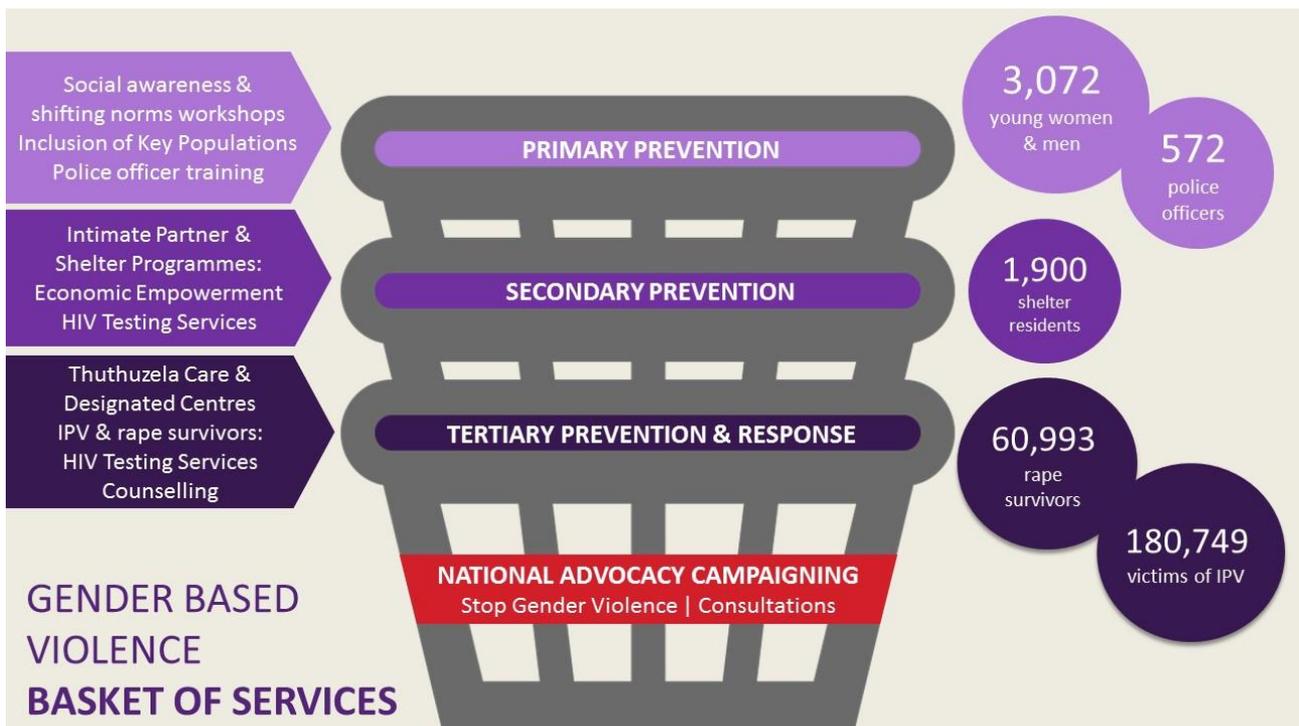
The intimate partner violence component provides a comprehensive package of care to victims including psycho-social support, referrals and linkage to care, including antiretroviral therapy (ART). Domestic violence victims at shelters also have access to this basket of services as well as economic empowerment initiatives.

Working in 22 Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs) and other Designated Centres, the programme provides sexual violence survivors with first-response counselling, HIV testing services, linkage to care and support, including post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), antiretroviral therapy (ART) and ART adherence support.

“I encourage civil society organisations to make use of the processes and tools available to address the huge challenges of gender based violence.”

– **Dr Dubravka Šimonović, UNCHR Special Rapporteur**

Screening tools used within the programme allow practitioners to also screen for sex workers, people from the LGBTI community and people who inject drugs. This ensures that key populations are identified and their distinct needs supported through the sexual assault response pathway.



NACOSA recently started work as a project partner of the Gender, Health and Justice Research Unit on the **Improving Case Outcomes for Gender-Based Violence Pilot Project (ICOP)**, to develop and pilot practical and achievable strategies and best practices to improve case outcomes and services to survivors of sexual violence through South Africa’s reinstated sexual offences courts.

NACOSA – NETWORKING HIV AND AIDS COMMUNITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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