



Commission for Gender Equality Briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities on Progress Regarding the Implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

7 September 2021

Introduction

In the letter dated 30 August 2021, the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities invited the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) to brief the Portfolio Committee on progress in relation to the CGE's implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender Based Violence. The briefing is required to respond to the following:

- Performance report: Assessing Implementation of the Presidential Emergency Response Plan.
- Performance report: Re-establishing the Council on Gender Based Violence.
- NSP Implementation Collaboration, bi-weekly meetings with the GBVF NSP Strategic Alignment Team where we review previous work and meetings and plan for upcoming broader NSP Collaborative.
- Progress report on developing one monitoring report on government's implementation of GBV Programmes (e.g., NSP, Multi-sectoral structure on GBV, concept note on GBV Index, develop GBV Index).
- GBVF NSP Observatory Working Group, several meetings hosted on the Joint Concept Note with CGE with Hlanganisa Institute.

Performance report: Assessing Implementation of the Presidential Emergency Response Plan

The CGE evaluated implementation of Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP), which sought to provide a rapid assessment of government's initiatives, in the interim as the development of the NSP was still underway, on addressing the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide.

The ERAP initiative came about in mid-2019, as a response by government to widespread public calls for urgent action against what was deemed a national crisis – the brutal killings of women and girls, heightening the violations of the rights of women and girls in South Africa. The intention was to establish whether the plan was implemented effectively for impactful results. The ERAP covered five key areas of intervention:

- Access to justice for victims and survivors.
- Changing norms and behaviours through high-level prevention efforts.
- Urgent response to victims and survivors of gender-based violence.
- Strengthening accountability and architecture for adequate response to GBV and femicide.
- Interventions for women's economic empowerment.

The findings demonstrated that out of 81 targets across five thematic areas, only 17 targets (21.25%) were achieved within the ERAP's six-month time frame, and 12 targets (15%) were only partially achieved. The majority, 51 targets (63.75%) were not achieved within the six months lifespan of the plan:

- The CGE made follow ups with the respective twenty-two (22) departments and entities that were allocated responsibilities, on the initiatives they put in place to ensure effective implementation of the ERAP. Of the 22 implementing government departments, only seven (7) had responded, but the total later increased to eight (8) responses from departments.
- Departments that responded are the following: the SAPS, NPA, COGTA, National Treasury, SALGA, the department of Basic Education, DCS and DPSA.
- The review of progress based on the responses from the seven (7) departments was categorised as follows:
 - Category A: Significant progress made in response to CGE.
 - Category B: Some progress made but not significant.
 - Category C: No significant progress made.
- Our review of response letters from two departments/entities (the National Treasury and NPA) showed that some progress was made in relation to outstanding targets. However, the progress reported appeared insignificant. These two entities fall under Category B as indicated above.
- The last three departments/entities out of the seven that responded, were categorised under Category C. These were the DBE, DCS and CoGTA. The information provided through the response letters from these three entities showed that very little progress had been made in relation to the outstanding targets as reported in the CGE ERAP study.
- DPSA responded post the submitted analysis and their progress demonstrates to be under Category A, even though their responsibilities are long term and can possibly be assessed under a different evaluation process to establish whether the mechanisms they put in place have been effectively implemented by the implementing departments.
- An interim report on the review of the implementation of ERAP, as indicated above, was completed in July 2021 and submitted to Plenary, together with a memo proposing follow up options to hold stakeholders accountable - attached below and included in the pack accompanying this report:


CGE Review of
Progress_ERAP Respc


Memo_ Followup
Options to Hold Stake

- The continuous monitoring of the implementation of ERAP targets by department is one of the planned outputs in the CGE 2021/2022 APP. Work in this regard is being conducted as planned in and reported on quarterly. The final output will be a report that will be produced as part of research reports produced annually and printed in March at the end of each financial year. The 1st ERAP implementation monitoring report was launched in April 2021 – attached below and included as part of the pack:



ERAP Report.pdf

Performance report: Re-establishing the Council on Gender Based Violence

The establishment of a national coordinating structure on gender-based violence fell under the responsibility of the Women's Ministry from the 30th of April 2020 when President Cyril Ramaphosa formally announced the disbandment of the Interim Steering Committee (ISC). From the 2019/20 financial year the CGE has fulfilled its role of monitoring the process and a report was produced in March 2021. As such, the monitoring of this process also continues to be one of the CGE's 2021/2022 APP targets, on monitoring the implementation of GBVF programmes by implementing departments. Currently the CGE is in the data collection phase of this project and the following can be reported:

- To date, the multisectoral body on GBVF has not been established. Before its disbandment the ISC had not established the NCGBVF Council within the six (6) months from the date on which the summit declaration was signed. The ISC had also not established the Council through the Emergency Response Action Plan, which was scheduled to be implemented between October 2019 to March 2020.
- As indicated earlier, the Women's Ministry took over the responsibility of establishing the Council. In this regard, the Women's Ministry recently reported that the process of establishing the Council was halted until the Bill that regulates the mandate and operations of the Council is put in place. The draft legislation is currently undergoing cluster processes.
- In the CGE monitoring process of 2020/2021, the CGE's data collection process revealed that there were plans of initiating a board of trustees that would establish the Council. Although some of the participants in this year's study shared that these plans fell through, some revealed that a 15-member board was in place. The CGE is yet to see a list of this said 15-member board. Nevertheless, this lack of clarity speaks to the disjuncture that currently exists within the sector.
- At the end of the financial year, the CGE will release its another comprehensive report of findings on the establishment of the NCGBVF Council. As indicated above, this work is currently at data collection stage for the 2021/2022 financial year, thus, no conclusions have been drawn, until the study is completed, and a full report is published in March

2022. The last report published on the monitoring of the establishment of the GBVF coordinating structure is attached below and included in the pack:



Assessing Progress
on the Establishment

NSP Implementation Collaboration, bi-weekly meetings with the GBVF NSP Strategic Alignment Team where we review previous work and meetings and plan for upcoming broader NSP Collaborative

- The NSP implementation collaborative was established in June 2020. The collaboration came as a result of the absence of the NCGBVF, whereby the DWYPD, as the custodians of the NSP on GBVF, with the support of United Nations (UN) Women, established the multi-sectoral collaborative Platform to implement the NSP.
- The NSP on GBVF Multi-sectoral Collaborative (NSP Collaborative) brings together various stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector, trade unions, research institutions, academic institutions, and individuals in a single platform to plan, implement and learn together. It focuses specifically on implementing specific interventions identified in the NSP.
- Participants find expression of their interests and skills by joining one or more of the six pillar working groups, which are co-convened by government, civil society and private sector partners.
- Technical support to the process is provided by development partners, viz, UNWomen, GIZ, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNHCR and ILO, with the DWYPD leading the process.
- By all indications the NSP implementation collaboration has held its bi-weekly meetings regularly with the GBVF NSP Strategic Alignment Team and as confirmed by the report of the NSP GBV rollout year 1 2020-2021, where a number of achievements by the collaborative are outlined in this regard.
- The CGE is represented in the GBVF NSP Strategic Alignment Team by the CGE Western Cape Provincial Manager, who was part of the processes and development of the report below, which is also included in the pack accompanying this report:



NSP on GBV Year 1
Rollout Report 2020-21

Progress report on developing one monitoring report on government's implementation of GBV Programmes (e.g., NSP, Multi-sectoral structure on GBV, concept note on GBV Index, develop GBV Index).

- The research study to monitor and assess the establishment of the multi-sectoral structure on GBV and the implementation of the NSP are currently underway. This work is in the 3rd year/leg and form part of CGE's ongoing programmes of tracking and monitoring state implementing agents, towards addressing GBV in the country.
- The current endeavour has entered into the final month of the data collection phase whereby interviews with relevant stakeholders within the sector are held, including the collection of relevant documents to use as secondary sources.
- About 7 participants have been interviewed thus far from 2 government departments, as well as 2 subject experts.
- It is hoped that the remaining list of key informants, particularly officials from the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities will take part in the interviews given the lead role that they play in coordinating the work.
- Activities undertaken thus far in the project include the finalization of the project concept note, sending of invitation letters to those sampled to participate in the study, analysis of key documents, and interviews held with the 7 participants as indicated above.
- The responsibility to draft the GBV Index rests with the National Gender Machinery, particularly under the tutelage of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities as the lead institution of the NGM. The role of the CGE is to monitor and assess the process and its effectiveness at the end of the financial year. However, since it was proposed within the CGE to develop the GBV index, a concept note was developed for discussion, attached below and in the report pack.



GBV Index Concept
Note_April 2021.pdf

GBVF NSP Observatory Working Group, several meetings hosted on the Joint Concept Note with CGE with Hlanganisa Institute

The Hlanganani Institute of Development in Southern Africa is an organisation that works through Home-Based Carers, to ensure that the basic needs of the poor are met, particularly orphans, where support is provided for access to food and clothes, basic education and health services. The organisation is committed to empowering children for their future. Hlanganani is a registered Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) that is reliant on funding for its operations.

However, the Institute is a like-minded organisation with the CGE, in that its mission is to achieve cultural, social and structural changes, for the full realisation of rights and freedoms by all in Southern Africa. Thus, the Institute provides grand-making, capacity enhancement, networking and partner opportunities for socially marginalised and excluded people, in order to amplify their voices, claim their rights and hold leaders accountable.

Therefore, although the CGE has not previously done any work with the Hlanganani Institute, it may be necessary to explore how partnerships may be formed. Furthermore, the CGE has; through its Deputy Chairperson, made presentations to the Hlanganani Institute during August 2021, as part of the CGE's Women's Month activities.