

Project Definition		Implementation of a non-residential, community-based support program for domestic violence (DV) survivors			
Project Purpose		To address pervasive intimate partner violence and deep structural poverty by offering accessible, community-anchored psychosocial, legal, and economic interventions			
Impact Goal	Target Outcomes	Intermediate Goals	Outputs	Activities	
Survivors of domestic violence live free from abuse, exercise full agency over their lives, and reside in communities that actively prevent and address gender-based violence.	- Restoration of survivors' dignity, social well-being, and psychological health. - Successful empowerment of survivors to become equal, valuable, and contributing members of society.	- Increased Safety: Survivors build personalized safety plans and navigate legal protections effectively. - Healing & Self-Efficacy: Restored self-worth, reduced trauma symptoms, and empowered decision-making. - Financial Autonomy: Reduced economic dependence on abusive partners. - Institutional Accountability: Local SAPS officers and court staff deliver more empathetic, survivor-centered responses.	- Provision of individualized care plans and personal safety development plans for every survivor. - Survivors assisted with court preparation and Protection Order applications. - Individuals completing psychosocial counseling and peer support group cycles. - Survivors trained in financial management and connected to income-generating opportunities. - Community dialogues and primary prevention workshops conducted in localized hubs.	- Psychosocial Care: Individual lay counseling, trauma-informed peer support groups, and referrals for specialized mental healthcare. - Justice & Legal Navigation: Assistance with filing Protection Orders, court accompaniment at Magistrate Courts, and monitoring service delivery at SAPS Victim-Friendly Rooms. - Economic Empowerment: Livelihood skills training, financial literacy workshops, social grant application assistance, and emergency relief distribution. - Community Prevention: Community dialogues challenging harmful gender norms, human rights education, and primary prevention workshops engaging men and boys. - Systems Advocacy: Collaboration with local GBV task teams, health clinics, and social workers to prevent secondary victimization.	
Long Term Outcomes	- Survivors develop knowledge, attitudes, values, and skills to deal effectively with life challenges and abuse triggers. - Sustained safety, non-shelter stabilization, and reduced reliance on abusive partners.				
- Sustained safety, independence, and well-being for survivors and their dependents without requiring relocation to shelters. - Transformation of local social norms toward zero tolerance for domestic abuse.					
Risk			Assumptions		
Local SAPS stations and Magistrate Courts do not enforce Protection Orders reliably. Mitigation: Active court-monitoring by CBO paralegals and formal engagements with Community Police Forums (CPFs).	- Non-shelter survivors can safely remain in their communities. Mitigation: Continuous risk assessments and	Resilience-Based Approach: A resilience-based approach providing protective factors and growth opportunities fosters success far better than trying to eliminate failure factors.			
Turnover of social workers negatively impacts therapeutic service stability and individual support plan reviews. Mitigation: Enforce mandatory supervision frameworks, staff wellness programs, and competitive peer support; utilize a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to limit turnover impact.	- High rates of complex trauma, depression, and active risk within unsafe home environments. Mitigation: Deliver evidence-based clinical and psychosocial support, early intervention, MDT case tracking, non-verbal therapeutic outlets, and continuous risk assessments.	Peer Dynamics: Group-focused practices allow survivors to form strong support networks, learn collective coping strategies, and build a shared identity free from abuse.			

Challenges	Who (Type and Scale):
Gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence (DV) in South Africa represent a severe national crisis, driven by deep-rooted gender inequality, harmful socialization, and pervasive structural poverty. While South Africa has enacted progressive legislation, formal rights have failed to protect the majority of women and girls, leaving survivors exposed to continuous physical threat, autonomous psychological trauma, secondary victimisation, and severe socio-economic exclusion. Existing interventions remain largely fragmented and problem-focused, failing to deliver community-anchored, non-residential solutions that address the intersecting realities of trauma, mental health and justice system barriers. Endemic GBV and Severe National Crime Rates - Disproportionate Violence: Up to 50% of South African women and girls over age 15 have experienced gender-based violence (nearly double the 27% global average). - Extreme Safety Risks: South Africa ranks 3rd highest globally in overall crime and murder rates, and 6th highest in femicide, making violence a daily reality for community-dwelling survivors. - Persistent Vulnerability: High community crime rates create an environment where survivors face extreme physical risk even outside abusive domestic settings. Deepening Gender Inequality and Harmful Socialization - Root Structural Drivers: Gender violence stems directly from gender inequality, reinforced by early childhood stereotyping and unequal power distributions. - Failure of Legislative Translation: Legislative progress has not translated into daily protection; recent studies show a deepening of harmful gender attitudes and social norms that excuse or normalize abuse. - Systemic Exclusion: Structural discrimination limits educational, mental health, and economic opportunities for women and girls, reinforcing financial dependency on abusive partners Institutional Barriers, Stigma, and Secondary Victimization - Cost of Reporting: Seeking justice or reporting abuse frequently triggers renewed threats of violence, social ostracisation, and community victim-blaming. - Barriers to Basic Survival: Fear of exposure or social stigma deters survivors from accessing essential lifesaving services, including healthcare, food relief, and child support. - Systemic Failure of the Justice Pipeline: Survivors and their families lack the preparation, protection, and legal support required to navigate court proceedings safely and act as effective witnesses Unprocessed Psychological Trauma and Destruction of Agency - Loss of World Predictability: Trauma destroys a survivor's fundamental sense of safety, trust, and predictability, leaving traumatic experiences unprocessed and autonomous in the mind and body. - Psychosocial Paralysis: Intense, unaddressed feelings of fear, shame, and guilt hinder a survivor's ability to make informed choices, regain control over their life, or maintain self-respect. - Impact on Dependent Children: Children raised in violent households face intergenerational trauma, mental health disorders, and developmental delays, perpetuating cycles of vulnerability	500 Community-dwelling adult and young adult survivors of domestic violence and intimate partner abuse
	Who (Demographics): - Geographic Location: Impoverished townships, informal settlements, and peri-urban communities. - Household Structure: High percentage of female-headed households and single-parent families living in poverty. - Economic Profile: Low-income, unemployed, or informally employed individuals reliant on SASSA social relief grants.
	Who (underserved) Severe Shortage of Mental Healthcare & Psychosocial Support: There is a profound lack of community-based mental health care, counselling services, and trauma-informed support systems. DV survivors dealing with complex trauma, chronic stress, anxiety, and depression resulting from ongoing abuse are left entirely without accessible psychological interventions. Lack of Specialized Legal and Early Intervention Resources: The community suffers from a shortage of specialized early intervention and support programs. In the context of domestic violence. Survivors have no accessible resources to help them navigate complex processes like applying for Protection Orders. Generational Trauma and Fractured Community Nets: Deep structural poverty intensifies the negative effects of family breakdown - the lack of community support exacerbates their isolation and leaves them without a protective social safety net to escape the cycle of abuse. SAPS: Prior to CBO intervention, domestic violence survivors face widespread institutional neglect and procedural barriers when seeking or implementing protection SAPS