

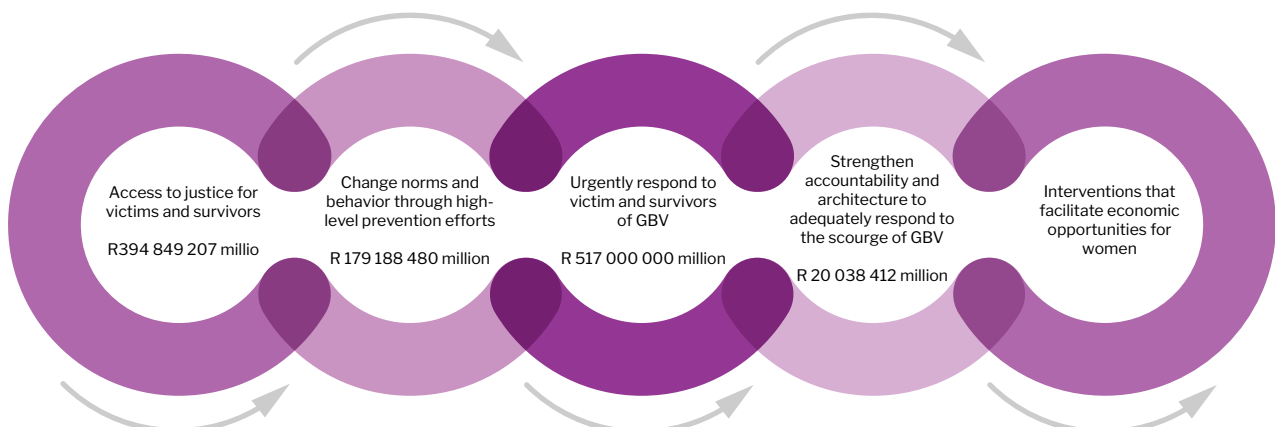
# INTRODUCTION

WISE4AFRIKA's Gender- Based Violence and Femicide Report Card assesses what the President's R1.6bn commitment achieved or failed to advance gender justice and the implementation of the Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) between October 2019 and March 2020. In particular, it explores national government's performance in five broad issue areas: (1) access to justice for victims and survivors; (2) change of norms and behavior through high- level prevention efforts; (3) urgent response to victims and survivors of GBV; (4) strengthening accountability and architecture to respond to the scourge of GBV adequately; and (5) prioritizations of interventions that facilitate economic opportunities to address women's economic vulnerabilities. This report card seeks to hold the national government accountable for delivering on the objectives of the ERAP and the financial resources set aside to respond to the gender- based violence and femicide crisis facing the nation.

Our approach with this report, which is our first, marks the beginning step in carrying out our mandate and understanding and responding to the structural drivers of gender based violence. We are also creating this Report Card to dispel the false narrative around the R1.6bn that was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa - that the money remained in the government departments with oversight from the then Interim Steering Committee on Gender- Based Violence and Femicide (ISC GBVF).

In compiling the Report Card, we sought guidance from the Emergency Response Action Plan report submitted to the President on 30 April 2020.

## Emergency Response Action Plan – R 1.6billion AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR URGENT BUDGET INFUSION



# GRADING SCALE

The Report Card focuses on the emergency response action plan between October 2019 and March 2020. We used the following scale to assign grades to the national government's progress in each area.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| A | SIGNIFICANT ACTION TAKEN. ON THE RIGHT TRACK                 |
| B | CONSIDERABLE ACTION TAKEN, NEEDS SOME IMPROVEMENT            |
| C | SOME ACTION TAKEN. NEEDS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT             |
| D | VERY LIMITED ACTION. NEEDS SERIOUS IMPROVEMENT               |
| E | MEDIOCRE ACTION, NEEDS RECOMMITMENT                          |
| F | TOTAL INACTION OR HARMFUL ACTION, URGENT INTERVENTION NEEDED |
| I | INCOMPLETE   |
| L | LIPSERVICE   |

## A NOTE ABOUT COVID- 19

A few days before the end of the implementation period of this ERAP, a state of disaster and lockdown were declared to mitigate the severe impact and spread of the Covid-19 epidemic virus. The lockdown was pronounced on 23 March 2020 and commenced on 27 March 2020 thus affecting the remaining four (4) days of the implementation period for the ERAP.

# PERFORMANCE REVIEW

## (1) ACCESS TO JUSTICE - F

The sum of R394 849 207 million redirected to address the below intervention by the SAPS and Department of Justice and Correctional Services. The emergency measures introduced in this area we meant to address with urgency the discrimination in the justice system, procedural barriers and the systemic failure of the criminal justice to respond adequately to victims and survivors of gender based violence and femicide.

Further, the measures were supposed to strengthen the criminal justice system to hold perpetrators accountable and prevent secondary victimisation of survivors.

Key government departments identified to implement the measures were the South African Police Services and Department of Justice and Correctional Services.

Intervention 1      clear all backlog of all DNA samples at forensic laboratories related to GBV and Femicide, especially sexual offences cases - reduce the backlog from 16 000 to 5000

**RESULT - total inaction- SAPS**

Intervention 2      setting up of DNA testing lab in the Eastern Cape by 31 March 2020- no action

**RESULT - total inaction- SAPS**

Intervention 3      quick injection of human resources and capital to Family violence, Child abuse and Sexual Offences (FSC) units

**RESULT - some action taken- significant improvement needed SAPS**

Intervention 4      setting up of database of all outstanding GBV related cases by 31 December 2019

**RESULT - limited action taken- SAPS**

Intervention 5 develop an inventory of logged cases at prosecutorial levels not heard in court by 30 October 2019

**RESULT - total inaction DOJ**

Intervention 6 80% of domestic violence related cases finalized within 3 working day

**RESULT - total inaction- SAPS inspectorate**

Intervention 7 comprehensive audits of all police stations and courts to facilitate a victim centric approach - only 50 audits done

**RESULT - severely limited action - only 50 audits done- SAPS**

Intervention 8 development of legislation to govern the establishment and management of GBVF Council Bill to be considered by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - total inaction DOJ&CD**

Intervention 9 tightening legislation on GBVF - 3 bills developed by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - not concluded by March 2020 – considerable action taken- DOJ&CD**

Intervention 10 establish database of all outstanding GBVF related cases by 31 December 2010- some action taken- needs significant improvement- SAPS Detective Services

intervention 11 backlog cases of domestic violence prioritised by 31 March 2020- limited action taken DOJ&CD NPA SAPS and Judiciary.

Intervention 12 review national instruction and standard operating procedure on service complaints by 31 March 2020 - limited action taken- SAPS

Intervention 13 closure of illegal liquor outlets through visible policing- some action taken needs improvement- SAPS

Intervention 14 vetting of government personnel working directly with children and mentally disabled persons by the 31 March 2020- limited action taken

Intervention 15 submission of the victim support service Bill to Cabinet by the 31 March 2020- significant action taken

## (2) CHANGE OF NORMS AND BEHAVIOUR THROUGH HIGH LEVEL PREVENTION EFFORTS - E

This sum of R179 188 480 million was redirected to address the below intervention by the respective national government departments. The sole intention of the urgent measures was to take immediate steps to influence and change the norms and behaviour towards ending GBVF from occurring whilst at the same time sending out a firm message to all South African that violence against women and children cannot and will not be tolerated. A mass media campaign, targeting men's groups and formations, offenders in prison, youth and the entire populace was earmarked together with GBVF sensitivity training targeting prosecutors, magistrates, policy makers, law enforcement officials and media houses.

Intervention 1

launching of a visible and sustained multimedia campaign to prevent and condemn GBVF by November 2019

**RESULT - very limited action, requires significant improvement**

Intervention 2

media campaigns reach at least 65% of the population on follow-up surveys by the 31 March 2020- very

**RESULT - limited action - significant improvement needed**

Intervention 3

use public buildings to do prevention messaging in partnership with private sector

**RESULT - Total Inaction - 9 buildings identified but only 1 announced for utilization.**

Intervention 4

implementation of visible campaigns in 12 schools in either KZN, Mpumalanga or Western Cape including special schools by the 31 March 2020

**RESULT - very limited action taken - significant improvement needed.**

### **(3) STRENGTHEN ACCOUNTABILITY AND ARCHITECTURE TO ADEQUATELY RESPOND TO THE SCOURGE OF GBV - F**

**The sum of R 20 038 412 million** was redirected to address the below intervention by the respective national government departments, **These below measures sought to address the uncoordinated and fragmentation by all key role players in the implementation of gender based programmes and interventions, lack of political will, poor planning, lack of financial and human resources.**

Intervention 1      establishment of a multi sectoral coordination and accountability structure by the 31 March 2020

**RESULT - Total Inaction Department of Women**

Intervention 2      setting up of a functional team to respond to systemic challenges and enforce accountability

**RESULT - Total Inaction- Department of Women**

Intervention 3      establishment of provincial emergency response teams by the 31 March 2020

**RESULT - Total Inaction**

Intervention 4      100% of legislatures trained in drafting of legislation aimed at combating GBVF and promoting gender diversity and equality by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - Total Inaction**

## (4) PRIORITISE INTERVENTIONS THAT FACILITATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ADDRESSING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY - F

This area was not allocated a specific sum of money but a re-prioritisation of the budget within the government department was envisaged. The below measures sought to address the extremely high levels of social and economic inequality that directly contribute to high levels of gender based violence and femicide.

Intervention 1      100% GBV survivors linked to economic opportunities

**RESULT - Total Inaction**

Intervention 2      sexual harassment policies verified through quarterly inspections conducted by the Department of Labour

**RESULT - Total Inaction**

Intervention 3      2000 young women beneficiaries by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - Total Inaction**

Intervention 4      100 job opportunities created through EPWP focusing on women to train cadre of community care workers to support community psychological support services

**RESULT - some action taken - significant improvement needed.**

Intervention 5      all government department must ensure 40% procurement target for awarding women state related tenders by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - very limited action taken - significant improvement needed.**



## (5) URGENTLY RESPOND TO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF GBV - I

The sum of R 517 000 000 million was redirected to address the below intervention by the respective national government departments, primarily to effectively respond to GBV by ensuring the rights and needs of survivors are acknowledged and adequate support services are available and are dignified and guarantees confidentiality.

Intervention 1      Prevention activists deployed in 278 municipalities across the country

**RESULT - Total Inaction**

Intervention 2      R200 million transferred to NGOs by the 31 March 2020

**RESULT - some action taken - needs significant improvement**

Intervention 3      setting up of an Emergency Fund for rapid response by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - Total Inaction**

Intervention 4      establish at least 3 LGBTQI and persons with disabilities friendly shelters in 3 provinces with high prevalence of GBV

**RESULT - Total Inaction**

Intervention 5      approval of the allocation of 43 professional nurses and 43 medical officers by 31 October 2020

**RESULT - very limited action taken - significant improvement needed.**

Intervention 6      conduct resource audits of the existing TCCs-

**RESULT - very limited action taken - significant improvement needed.**

Intervention 7

allocation of at least 1 forensic professional nurse by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - Total Inaction**

Intervention 8

verification of the number of trained forensic nurses available in the public sector and deployed to designated health facilities by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - very limited action taken - significant improvement needed.**

Intervention 9

monitor 12 existing white doors safe spaces by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - Total Inaction- DSD**

Intervention 10

waiting period of less than 20 seconds by 31 March 2020

**RESULT - Total Inaction- DSD**

Intervention 11

50% of callers connected to service provider (rape crisis centre, therapist or police)

**RESULT - Total Inaction-DSD**

Intervention 12

11 public buildings made available for shelter and interim housing arrangements for survivors

**RESULT - very limited action taken - significant improvement needed**

# IMPLEMENTING AGENCY & FINAL GRADE ON THEIR PERFORMANCE ON THE ERAP

| AGENCY  | Intervention Areas          | PERFORMANCE  | Final Grade |
|---|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| Department of Justice & Correctional Services         | Access to Justice           | Late amendments of GBV bills, no report on backlog of GBV cases and no report on improved services in the 5 sexual offenses courts.        | <b>F</b>    |
| National Prosecuting Authority                        | Response & Care             | Failed to prioritize upgrade and capacity enhancement of Thuthuzela Care Centers by the deadline of 31 March 2020                          | <b>F</b>    |
| Department of Police                                  | Access to Justice           | No progress on DNA backlog & lab in EC, several incomplete interventions   | <b>F</b>    |
| Department of Public Works                            | Prevention                  | No comprehensive list of available property stock for use. Only 1 out of targeted 9 public buildings used for messaging to build awareness | <b>E, L</b> |
| Department of Social Development                      | Response & Care             | Hired social workers<br><br>Final report not submitted & funding of NGOs not concluded.  | <b>D, I</b> |
| Government Communication & Information System         | Prevention                  | No comprehensive communications plan for GBV   | <b>F</b>    |
| Office of The Presidency                              | Accountability & Leadership | Implementation gap between promised interventions and actual delivery  | <b>F, L</b> |
| Department of Women, Youth & People with Disabilities | Accountability & Leadership | Failure to lead on establishment of Council as articulated in the NSP  | <b>F</b>    |
| Department of Basic Education & Training              | Prevention                  | Report lacks progress on target and misses the list of the targeted 12 schools for intervention  | <b>F</b>    |
| Department of Higher Education                        | Prevention                  | Lacks nationwide scope   | <b>C</b>    |

|                                   |                |   |            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|------------|
| Department of Health              | Care & Support | Failure to report on target to train one nurse per hospital. Some provinces reported complete inaction. | <b>F</b>   |
| Department of Employment & Labour | Prevention     | No report submitted   | <b>F</b>   |
| SALGA                             | Prevention     | No report submitted   | <b>F,I</b> |



# CONCLUSION

## OVERALL GRADE: F

Overall, the implementation of the ERAP failed dismally; the mediocre implementation exposes the lack of strategic approach towards the interventions including in relation to the agreed upon timeframes. The outcome failed to invoke a sense of urgency as should have been inspired by the proposed undertaking.

was mediocre at best, a great idea but lacked the kind of leadership and coordination that could yield impactful results on the state of gender based violence and femicide in the country.

From prevention to access to justice, the State's efforts to prevent and address GBVF failed to reach the impact anticipated with the announcement of the program, all its celebrated gravitas and the R1.6 billion allocation.

The lack of strong leadership and accountability can be blamed for the many government departments that failed to perform or even submit a single report. Furthermore the lack of any form of consequence management for those ceased with implementation in government contributes to the apathy seen with several departments failing to take any action and/or not submitting any report regarding the initiative.

This apathy in implementation stands in great contrast to the ambitious announcements made by the President thus leading to unmet promises and undertakings. Unfortunately, this apathy reduces the President's promises to mere **Lip Service** as the scourge ranges on as a parallel pandemic however shadowed by the Covid-19 due to inaction.