

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a person's face, focusing on the right side. The person has dark skin and their eyes are closed. A single tear is visible on their cheek, running down towards the bottom right. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights on the skin.

PsySSA Annual Congress TVD Roundtable, 14 October 2026

DOES ACTIVISM WORK?

**The Case of GBV Activism in South Africa:
Moving Toward Sustainable Activism**

INTRODUCTION



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THE PANEL



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THE LINE-UP

INTRODUCTION



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT

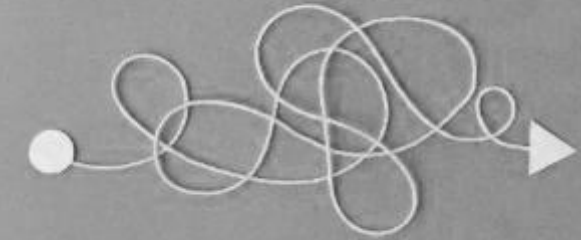


THE SURVIVOR PERSPECTIVE



COST AND SUSTAINABILITY

GBVF ACTIVISM IN SA



Q&A



THE SURVIVOR PERSPECTIVE

Community activism, lived experiences and the pursuit of justice



Itumeleng Magoai





Masibambisane: let's work together

Whole of Community Approach

Survivors + Families + CBOs

Locally Driven Activism

30

**Focus Group
Discussions**

197

**Survivors +
Family Members**

**Safe
Conversations**

22

CBO Leaders

Trust - Safety - Community Knowledge

The Research Journey

When survivors seek justice...



“They know your boyfriend... They laugh at you. I watch them laugh at me when I'm sitting in pain and broken... they ignore you like you don't even exist in that office. And you walk out again because you don't know where to. Where must I get help from?” (Female Survivor, Urban)

“I had two restraining orders, none of them were enforced... I was bleeding profusely... I said, please, I'm begging you, just take me to hospital. They refused and said, you must come in later tomorrow, when you don't smell like alcohol... And I was still bleeding.” (Female, Urban)

Barriers and Challenges

Patriarchy & Gender Norms



Religious and Customary Beliefs



Family Pressure & Silence



Economic Dependence



Social and Cultural Factors

Patriarchy & Gender Norms



“South Africa is a men’s country... men have it easy and they don’t pay for justice. Us [women] are made invisible.” (Female Survivor, Peri-Urban)

“If my girlfriend is abusing me... I might be reluctant to go to the police station because at the police station I will be laughed at... I will be labelled as a weakling.” (Male Survivor, Urban)

Family Pressure & Silence



“My grandfather just said the perpetrator should just buy a goat so that I can be cleansed from the bad act that has been done on me... they told me: ‘we cleansed you’.” (Female Survivor, Rural)



“If I get this person arrested, what would I ever eat again? ... maybe he is the breadwinner.” (Female survivor, Urban)



Economic Dependence

Social and Cultural Factors

Criminal



Socio-Economic Justice



Holistic Justice



Psychosocial



**Community-based /
social justice**



Understanding Justice from Survivors' Perspectives

GBVF ACTIVISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Examples
Tactics
Models





1913: Orange Free State Women's Anti-Pass Campaign

1954: Federation of South African Women (FSAW) formed as a national multiracial women's organisation

1955: Women's Defence of the Constitution League (later called Black Sash)

1956: Women's March to the Union Buildings against pass laws

1992: Women's National Coalition (WNC) identified violence against women as a national concern

1994: Women's Charter for Effective Equality used to influence Constitutional protections



Gallo Images / Johncom

Women's Rights Movements 1898 to 1994



16 Days of Activism



"Count me in: together moving a non-violent South Africa forward."

- Background
- Objectives of the campaign
- What is violence against women and children?
- What can you do

1998: 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children global campaign adopted
2015: 365 Days for No Violence Against Women and Children (#CountMeIn)

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is an international awareness-raising campaign (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).



Men stand up against abuse

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Pretoria – Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, Susan Shabangu, says she is encouraged by the growing number of men who are getting involved in the fight against the abuse of women and children.

The Minister was addressing the International Men's Day (IMD) event held in Soshanguve, north of Pretoria, on Saturday.

IMD is an annual international event observed on 19 November. It is a day designed to focus on men's health, improving gender relations, promoting gender equality and highlighting positive male role models.

It is also an occasion for men to celebrate their contributions to the community, family, marriage and child care.

Minister Shabangu said while men are primarily looked up to as the nurturers of boys, women should also be involved. She said both parents have the responsibility of raising children.

First Lady Tobeka Zuma said men must be part of the solution to end women and child abuse.

"Not reporting abuse means you are part of the problem," she said.

(The following text is partially obscured and appears to be a continuation of the speech.)

1998: 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children global campaign adopted
2015: 365 Days for No Violence Against Women and Children (#CountMeIn)

(The following text is partially obscured and appears to be a continuation of the speech.)

"It is disturbing to read in newspapers about young men raping elderly women," she said.

Dedicated Anti-violence Campaigns 1998 to 2015

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO DIGITAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

#PsySSATVD #GBVF

#NoExcuse for Online Abuse

Language Perpetuates Violence

Cyberbullying

2016: #EndRapeCulture in South African university campuses

2016/7: #MenAreTrash national mobilisation following the murder of Karabo Mokoena and others

2017/8: #MeToo global movement

2018: #TotalShutdown and 1st Presidential Summit on GBVF

2019: #AmINext triggered by the rape and murder of Uyinenene Mrwetyana and others

2019: #SAShutdown

2019: National GBVF Emergency Activism

2020: COVID-19 GBV Activism

2021: NSP-GBVF Accountability Campaigns

2022: 2nd Presidential Summit on GBVF

2025: G20 Women's Shutdown

2025: GBVF National Disaster Campaign

2026:

Theme for 2026: Ensure justice, protect survivors, end impunity

Modern GBVF-specific mobilisations 2016 to 2025

South African Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians

invites you to a critical online conversation

FAITH
JUSTICE
EQUAL DIGNITY
SAFER COMMUNITIES

WOMEN THRIVE
SOCIETIES FLOURISH

After the Outrage, What Changes?

Rethinking GBVF Prevention in South Africa

Join us for a critical conversation on gender-based violence and femicide prevention. Moving beyond responding after violence has occurred, this discussion asks: What are we missing? Who is absent from the conversation? What must change in our homes, schools, universities, faith communities, institutions and wider society before violence happens?



Nobuntu Penxa-Matholeli

Seth Naicker

Daniela Gennrich

BOLD THEOLOGY
FOR A JUST TOMORROW

FAITH IN ACTION
FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

VOICES FOR CHANGE
IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY



Friday, 25 September 2026

17h00, SA time

Online | Microsoft Teams

Scan the QR code to join

Meeting ID: 386 474 369 971 023

Passcode: rQ2B3nm9



*Together
for a South Africa
free from gender-
based violence
and femicide.*

THEOLOGY | SOLIDARITY | TRANSFORMATION | THRIVING COMMUNITIES

"A just society is possible. We all have a role to play."

MOURNING NATION

MOURNING WOMEN

"Call the women to come and mourn..."
Jeremiah 9:17 (NIV)

A CHRISTIAN MARCH, PRAYER AND ACTION
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (GBVF)

MARCH AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (GBVF)

PRAY | MOURN | STAND | TAKE ACTION

FRIDAY
22 OCTOBER 2026

GATHER AT
08:00 AM

TO DEMAND ACTION AGAINST GBVF

PRAYER POINTS ALONG THE ROUTE

ALL ARE WELCOME
WOMEN, CHURCH AND SOCIETY

UNITED AGAINST
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WEAR BLACK
IN SOLIDARITY
AS WE MOURN
AND STAND
AGAINST GBVF

ORGANIZERS:

CONTACT NUMBER: +27 71 356 9353

Dr Nhlanihla

ENOUGH SILENCE. ENOUGH TIME FOR ACTION.
A SAFER MPUMALANGA FOR WOMEN, MAN, CHILD AND FAMILY.

SOUTH AFRICAN HINDU MAHA SABHA
IN COLLABORATION WITH
KZN INTERFAITH COLLECTIVE

UNITED ACTION TO END GBVF

BREAK THE SILENCE. END THE VIOLENCE.

Marches, tribute runs, community dialogues, nationwide protests, and renewed public calls for urgent implementation of GBVF interventions and accountability after the 2025 national disaster declaration

JOIN THE 5KM WALK

WHEN
SAT 31 OCT 2026
Walk 08:30 • Speakers 10:00

WHERE
SUNCOAST PROMENADE
5km to Rachel Finlayson Pool & back

ENTRY
R20 PER PERSON
Includes Durban Diwali Festival

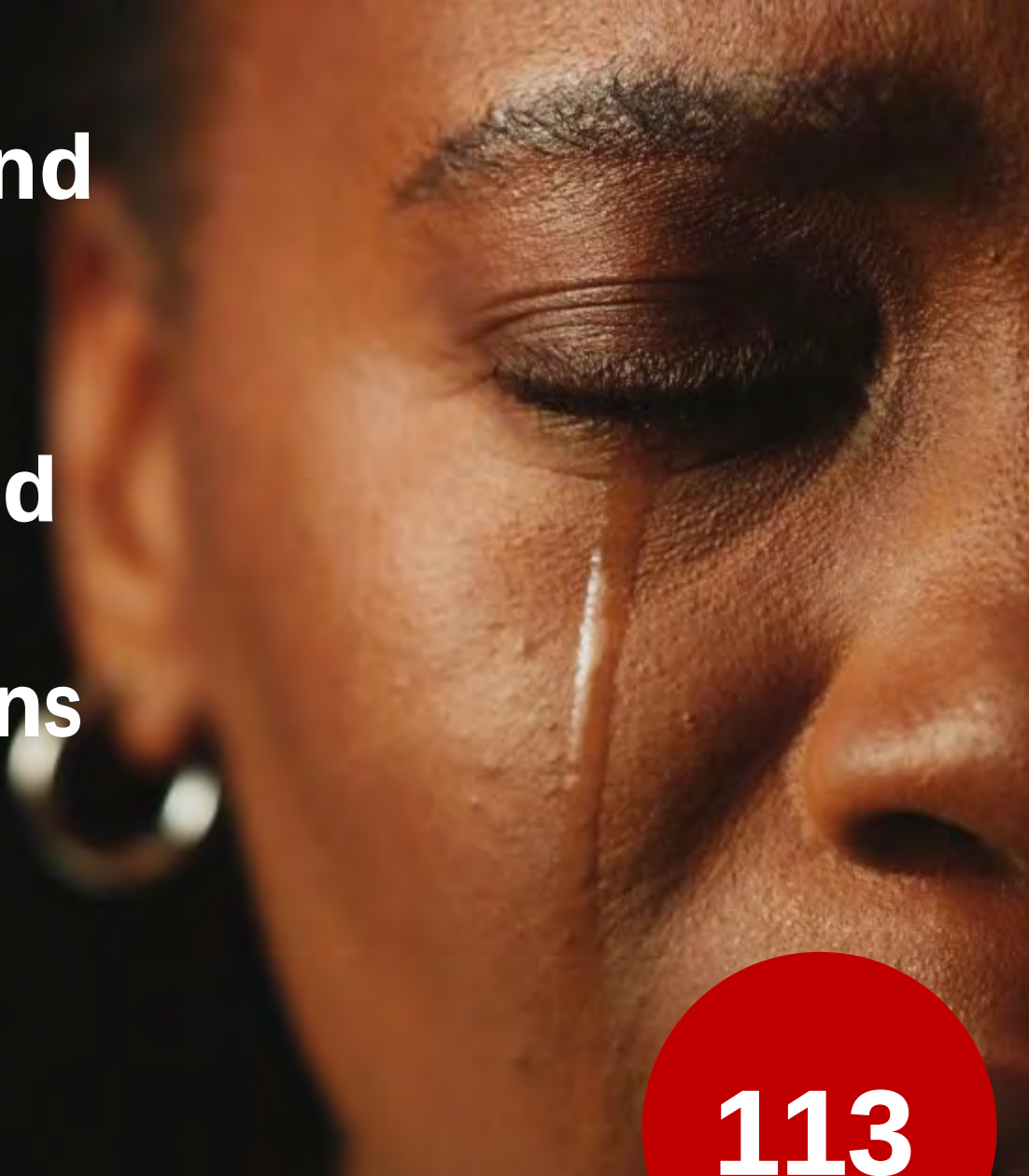
DRESS CODE: ORANGE • ENTRIES: www.sahms.org.za • 083 461 5125

WE WILL SPEAK OUT

COMMUNITY UNITED AGAINST
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Faith ACTION

2026 Activism Against GBVF

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eye and cheek. A single tear is visible on the cheek. The person has dark skin and is wearing a small hoop earring. The background is dark and out of focus.

**Boycotts Craftivism Digital and
Social media activism
Fundraising Letter-writing
Petitions Marches Mutual aid
organising Protest art
Rallies/speeches Sit-ins/die-ins
Street art Strikes
Vigils/memorials Voting
activism Walkouts Writing**

Activism Tactics

113



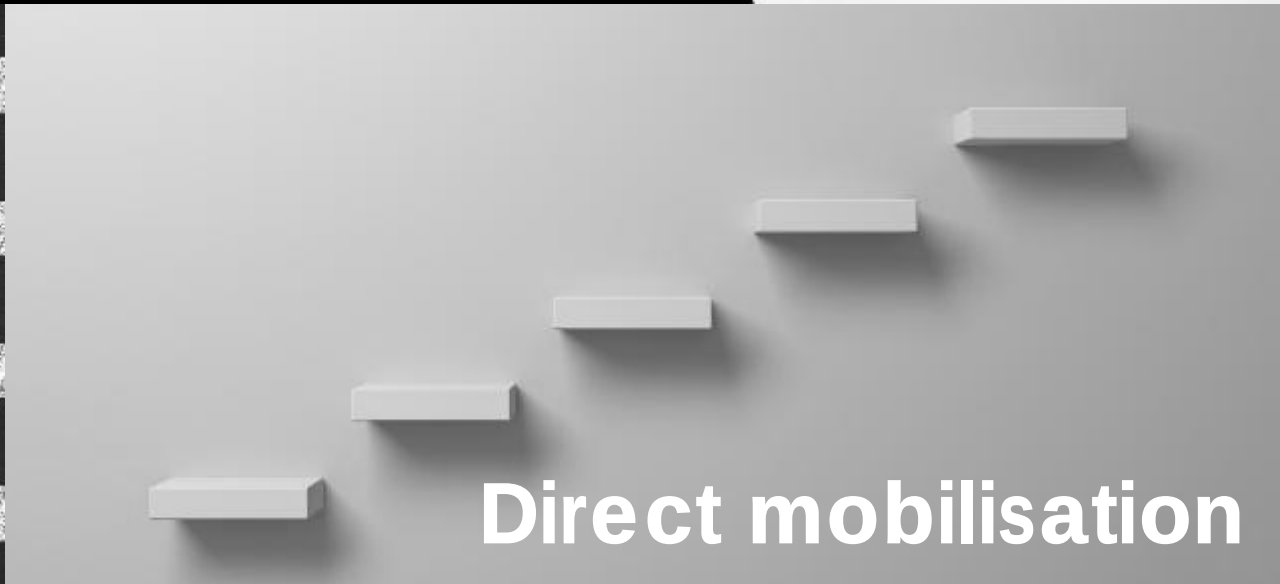
Popular Social Action



Conscientisation

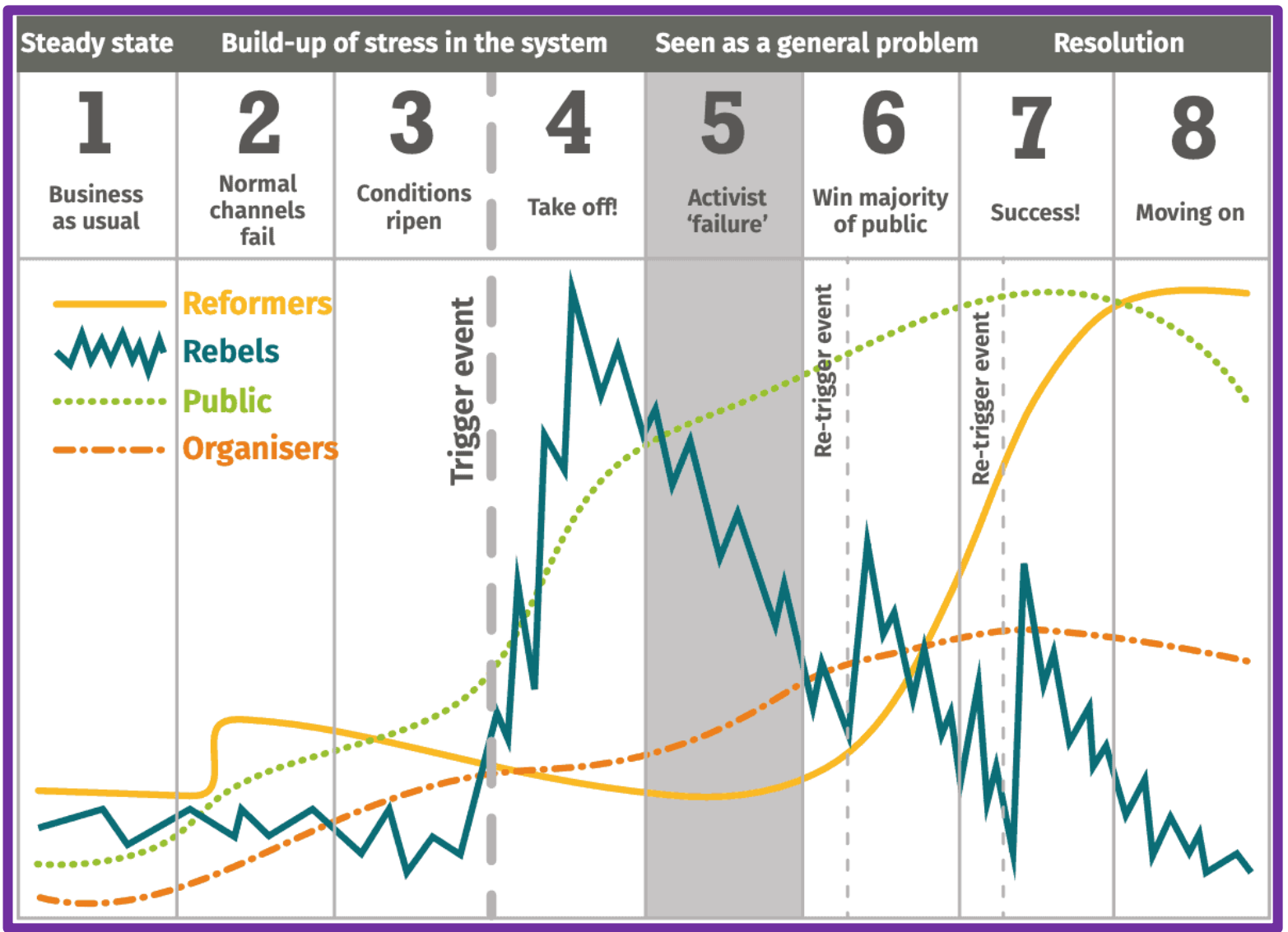
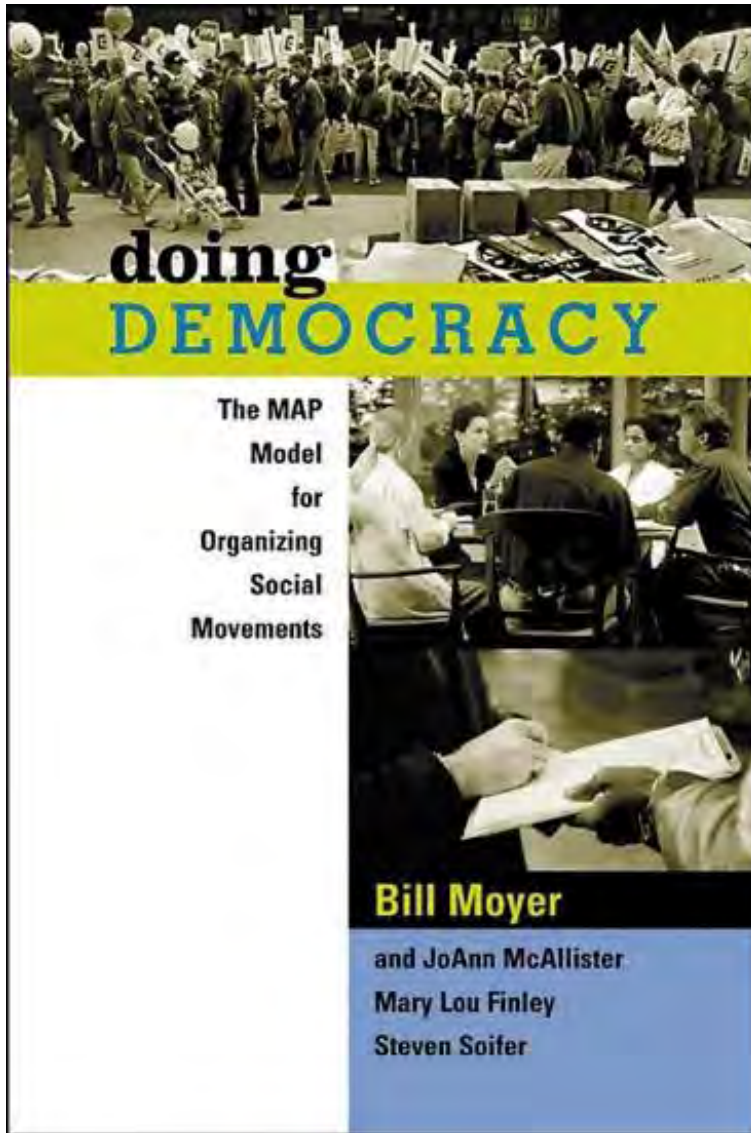


Dialectical mobilisation



Direct mobilisation

Activism Models



Moyer's Movement Action Plan and Activism Roles



National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF

1. Accountability, Coordination, & Leadership

2. Prevention & Social Cohesion

3. Justice, Safety & Protection

4. Response, Care, Support & Healing

5. Economic Power

6. Research & Information Management

The End GBVF Collective/Movement



100-Day Challenges

FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT

A National Dashboard



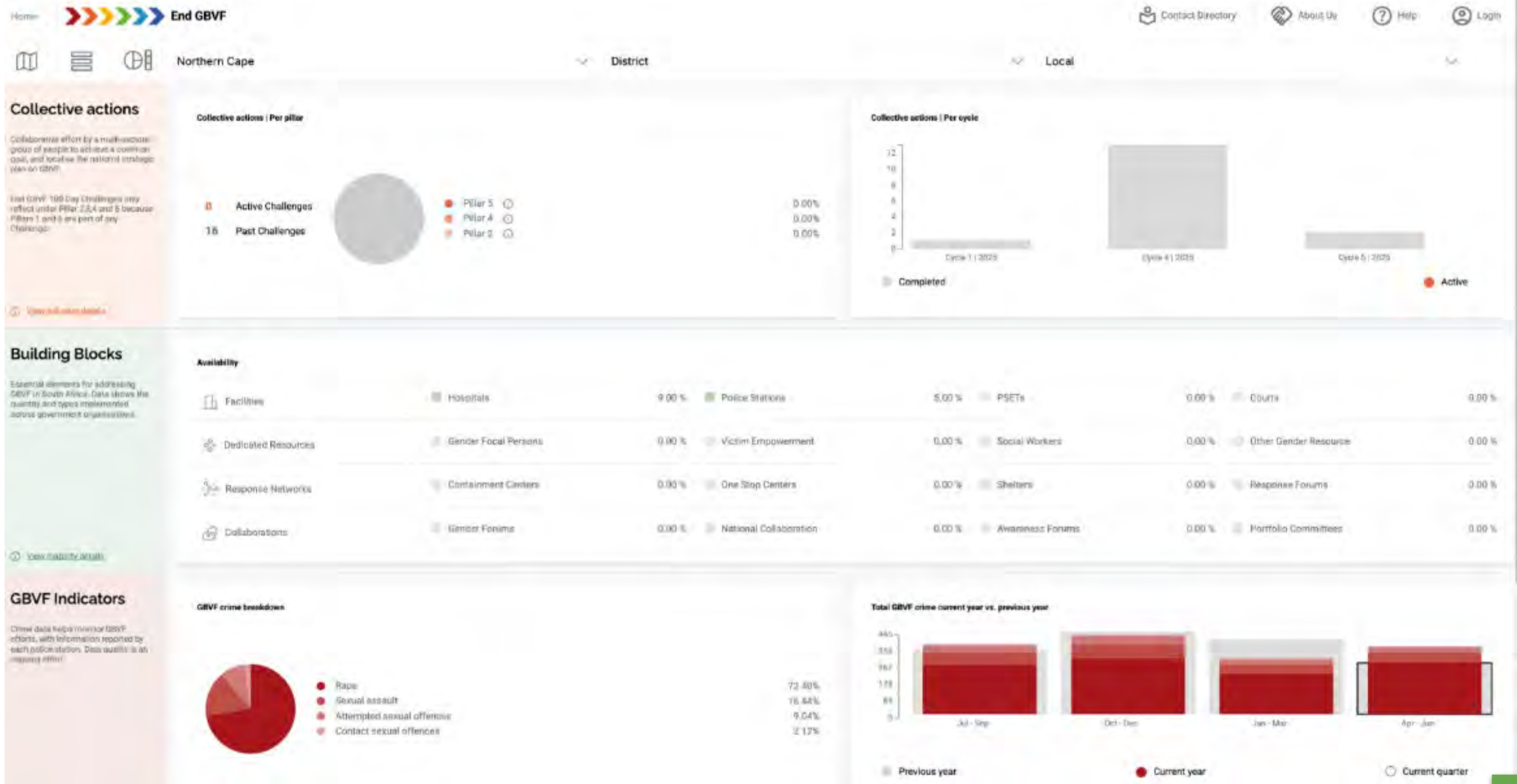
Nomgqibelo Mdlalose



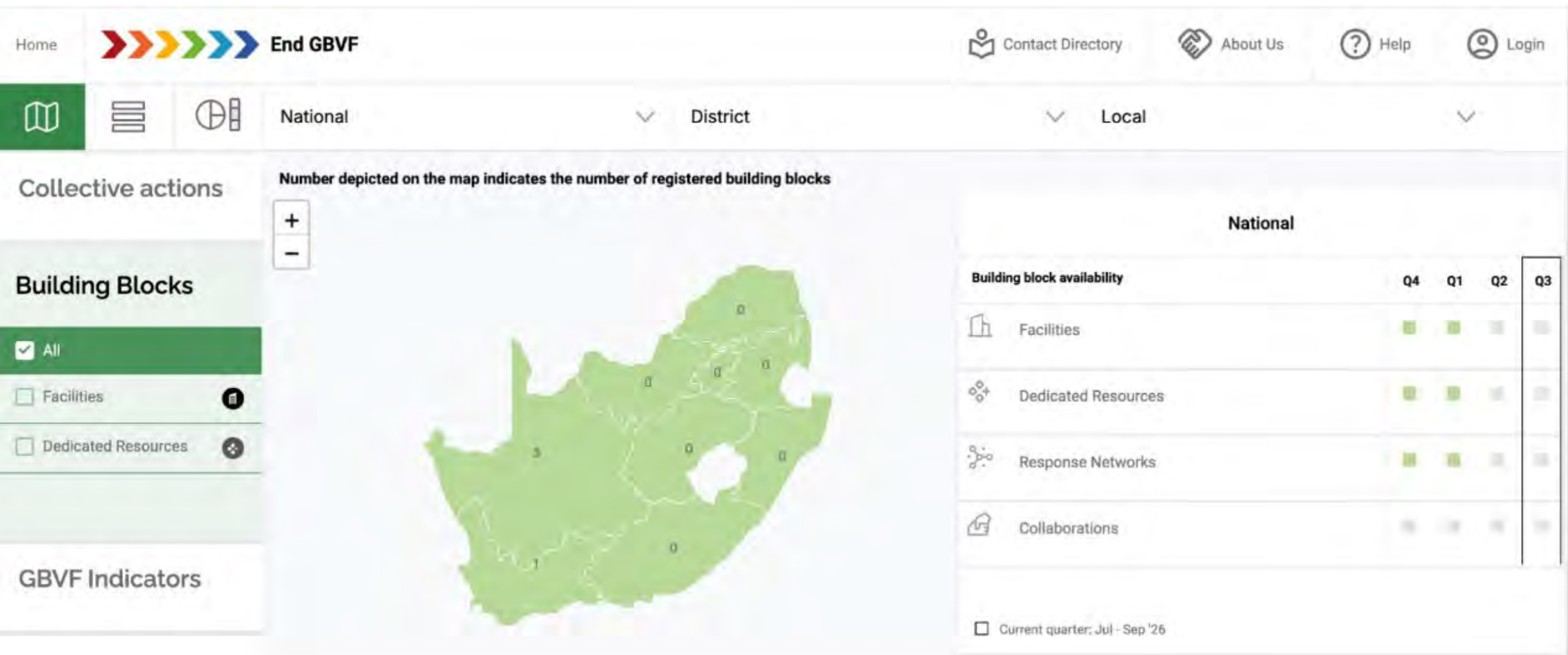
Bringing existing
information
together in one
place and making
it accessible and
useful



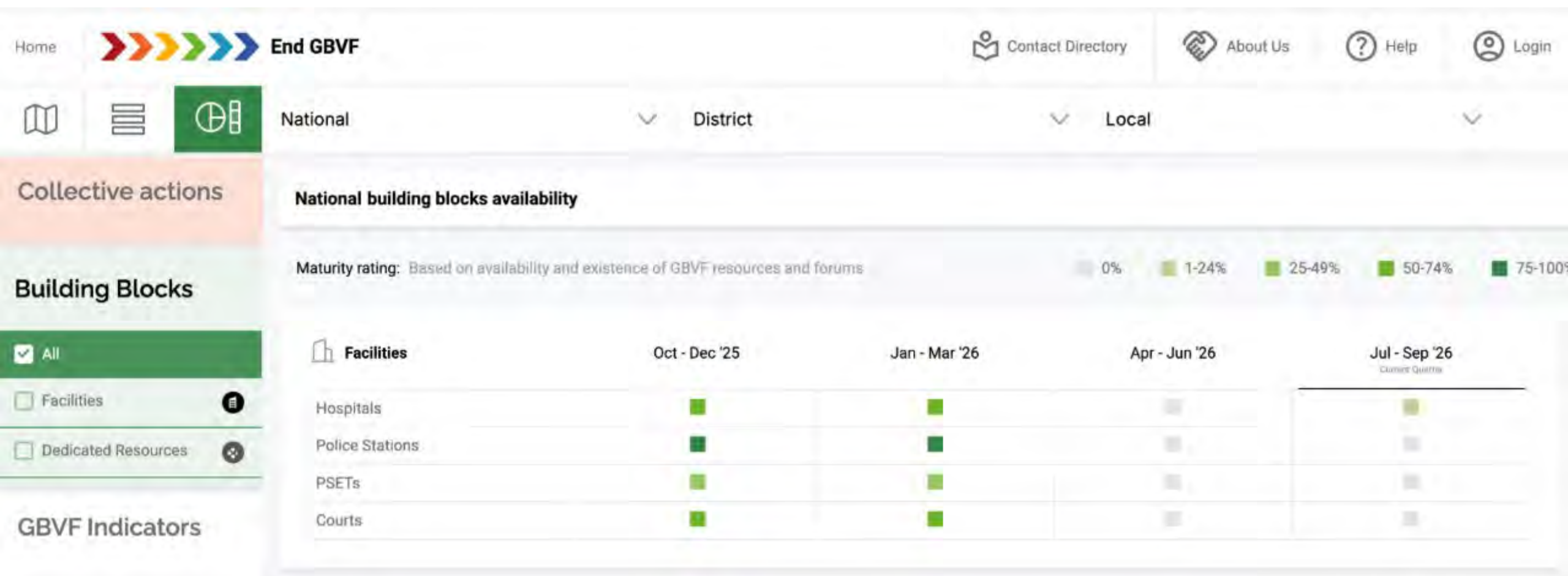
Dashboard



Access to Services



Map View



Grid View



TOGETHER FOR A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA
End Gender-Based Violence
Build Safer Communities

[Home](#)
[Surveys](#)
[Resources](#)
[Help](#)



People. Safety. Dignity.
Stronger Communities.

Activity Survey

Municipality: Mossel Bay Local Municipality Reporting period: July–September 2026

Step 2 of 4



Activity category

Referral and coordinated response

Connecting survivors to the right support, at the right time.

This activity contributes to:



Outcome 1:
Survivors coming forward and reporting



Outcome 3:
Increased access to counselling and support



Outcome 4:
Increased access to emergency shelter

Guidance: Referral and coordinated response

What this means	Why it matters	Examples	Outcomes influenced
Helping survivors move quickly between services and improving coordination across organisations.	Effective referral pathways help survivors access support, stay engaged, and receive safer, faster responses.	Warm referrals; rapid response case coordination; updating referral lists; accompanying survivors; interdepartmental coordination meetings.	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 4



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Data Source Survey

DSD-specific survey – Department of Social Development data submission

Municipality: Mossel Bay Local Municipality Reporting period: July–September 2026

Step 3 of 4



Outcome 3:

Increased access to counselling and support

Ensuring GBVF survivors can access the care, support and services they need.

Guidance: About this DSD data source

What this data captures	Why it matters	Examples of DSD data sources	How it will be used
DSD data on GBVF survivors accessing counselling, psychosocial support and related social welfare services during the reporting period.	It helps the municipality track access to DSD support services, identify gaps and improve coordination with other GBVF response services.	- Case registers (social work services) - Counselling and psychosocial support service records - Referral registers - Support group attendance records - DSD programme reports	This data feeds the municipal GBVF dashboard and is viewed alongside data from health, SAPS, shelters and other partners to monitor progress on Outcome 3 and guide planning and resourcing.

1. Organisation / office name

Department of Social Development – Mossel Bay Local Office

2. Service office or programme

Select DSD service office or programme

3. Geographic coverage

Select geographic coverage

4. Reporting period covered

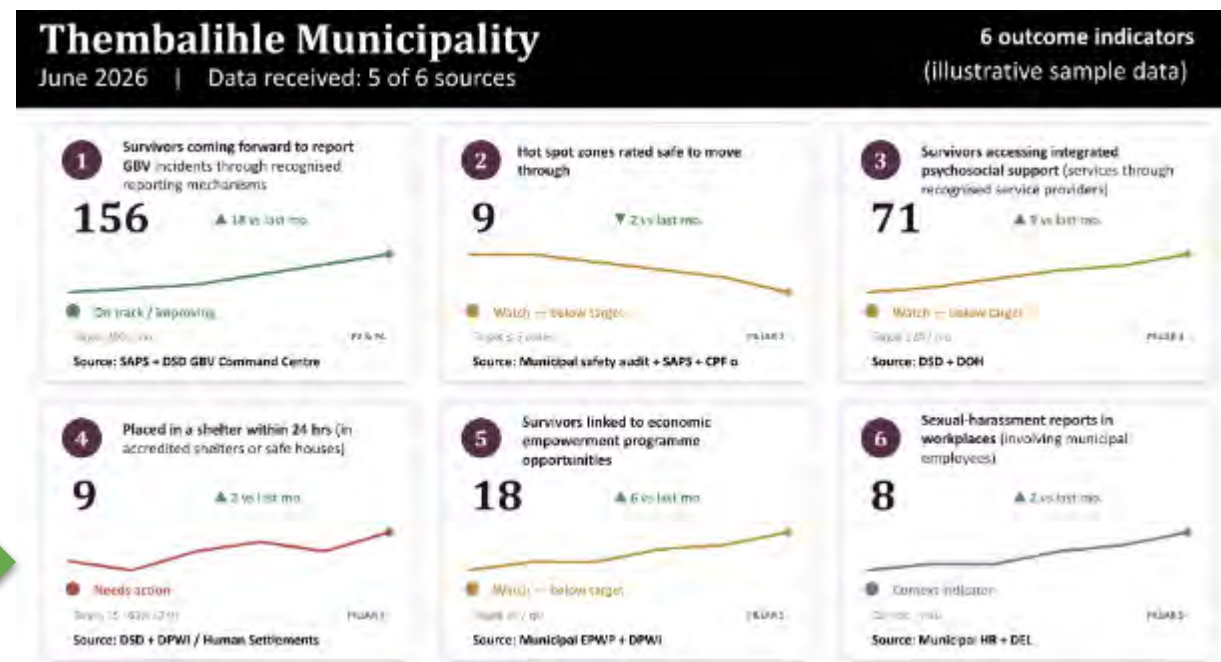
From: To:

5. Is this data available for the reporting period?

Yes No

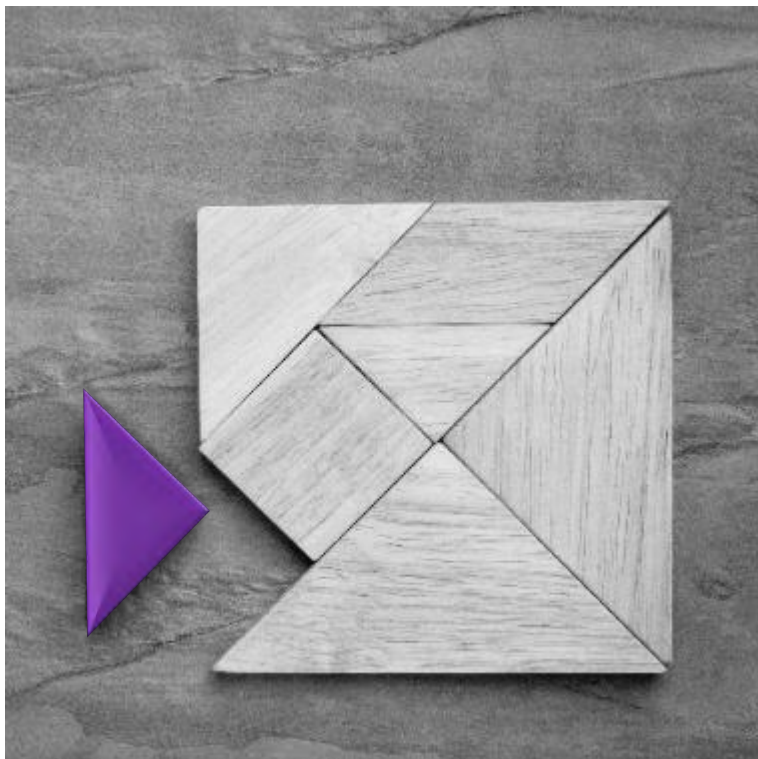
6. Indicator being reported

From: To:



Survivor-focused Local Outcomes Reporting

Identify System Gaps



Connect data to pinpoint shortfalls and critical needs

Drive Targeted Action



Act on findings with focused, data-informed interventions

Measure Survivor Impact



Evaluate outcomes for safer, more dignified experiences

Connecting Data, Action and Outcomes



Connecting data, action, and outcomes to
make the system work better **for survivors**

Our Ultimate Goal

COST AND SUSTAINABILITY



Lynne Richards

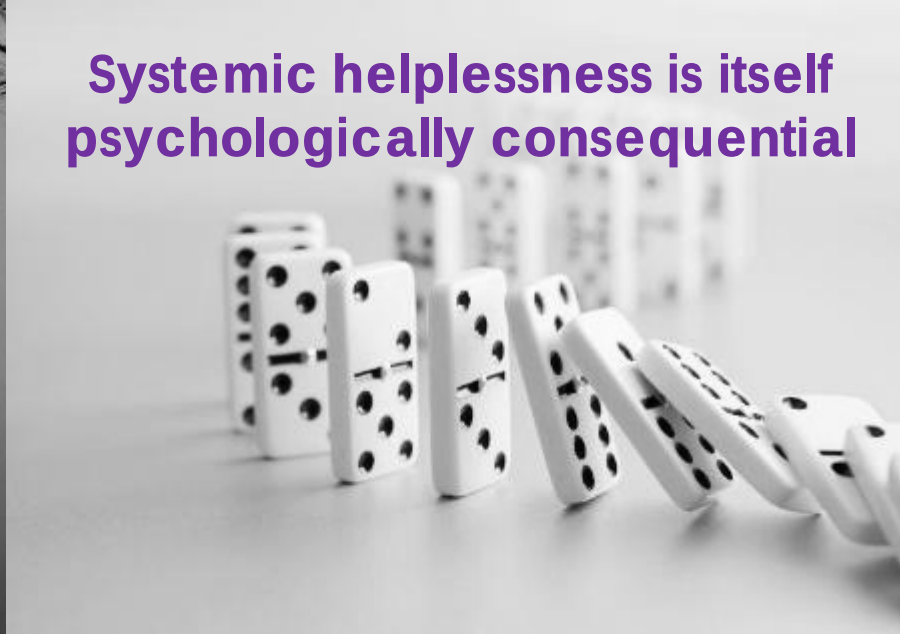
**The emotional cost
of repeated exposure**



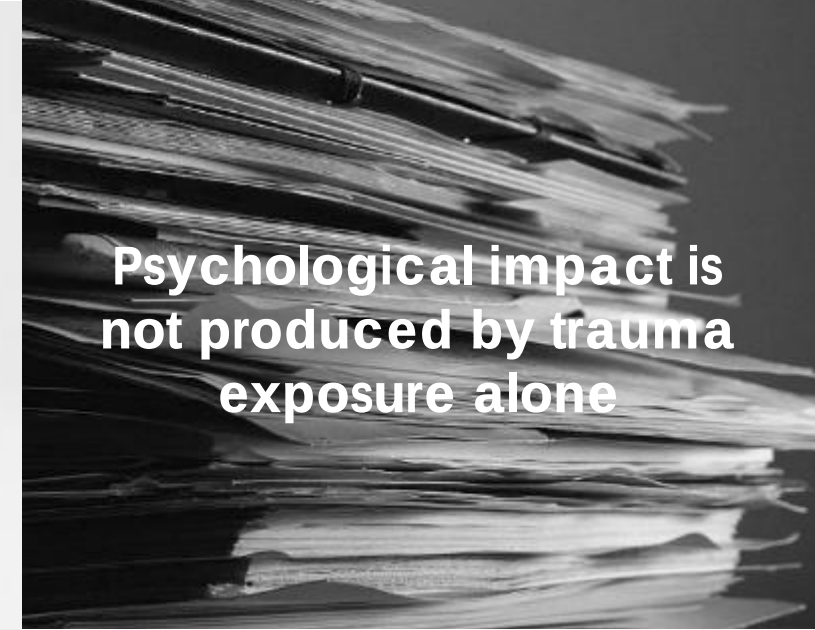
**Activism can change how
individuals perceive the world**



**Systemic helplessness is itself
psychologically consequential**



**Psychological impact is
not produced by trauma
exposure alone**



**Survivor-activists experience
particular identity effects**

The Psychological Effects of Activism

GBV activism has a dual psychological impact



**Distress and resilience
can coexist**

**Activism can generate
resilience, meaning and
growth**

The Paradox



Material



Organisational



Relational



Power



Movement



Healing

Model for Sustainability

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



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