

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM

EXPLORING COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND THE VALUE OF EVIDENCE-LED APPROACHES

27 October 2021



The Violence Prevention Forum

Evidence | Collaboration | Trust



Bayerische Staatskanzlei



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 27 October 2021, representatives from government departments, research institutions, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the donor community came together for the third meeting of the provincial forum on violence prevention. The meeting took place online.

The meeting was planned by the multisectoral steering committee, which identified the use and generation of evidence, and what counts as evidence, as burning issues for the forum to consider. Updates on developments in violence prevention in the province were shared and relationships and connections across sectors deepened. Opportunities for collaboration were explored.

The forum underlined the importance of connecting the many actions and activities undertaken by all sectors to prevent violence, and the desire for multisectoral collaboration to ensure better service delivery and impact.

There was a strong emphasis on early childhood development (ECD) and gender-based violence (GBV) and agreement that evidence-led solutions are desirable. Challenges include a need for practical, diverse approaches to assessing the effectiveness of interventions that are inexpensive and accessible.

The meeting agreed that it is important to create spaces to explore issues such as the impact of intergenerational trauma and its manifestation; how power and gender inform programme design and implementation; and how the generation of evidence can be enabled and supported.

There was an acknowledgement that many questions about the generation and use of evidence remain, and that these need to be explored collectively. The questions include:

1. What are cost-effective ways to generate evidence of the effectiveness of interventions to prevent violence, or address the risk factors for violence?
2. How can NGOs integrate evaluation into regular implementation practices so as to assess and provide a strong basis for the evaluation of programmes?
3. Since research shows that programmes that address only one form of violence, or a small set of risk factors, are not as effective as programmes that address multiple risk factors, how do we go about doing this given resource constraints? Is collaboration the answer?
4. How can evidence practically inform government practices?
5. How can we find a common language?
6. How can evidence help us stop doing what does not work?
7. How do we create a space to reflect on what works and what does not?
8. What are the skills and capacities required to implement and scale-up evidence-based interventions (including the need for interventions to be culturally relevant)?
9. How can more information be generated about how victims of crime and violence experience services provided by the government?
10. How can programmes be adapted to integrate components to address multiple forms of violence at the same time (e.g. parenting programmes that also address intimate partner violence)?



INTRODUCTION

On 27 October 2021, participants representing government departments, universities, NGOs and donors met online for the third time to strengthen violence prevention in the Western Cape.

Planning for the meeting was undertaken by a multisectoral planning committee, established after the second meeting of the forum in March 2021.

The aim of the meeting was to share information about recent updates in relation to the prevention of violence, to build relationships and common understandings across sectors, and to explore questions about how evidence can be used to improve violence prevention, and what this means for the different sectors.

Rules of engagement

- Share and be honest
- Be open to conversation
- Be aware of power – which often gets in the way of honest conversations
- Be present – do not be preoccupied with WhatsApps, emails or phones
- Accept dissenting voices
- Respect the process
- Be humble
- Manage differences between one another
- Be bold and vulnerable in volunteering yourself for action

The meeting started with an opportunity for participants to get to know each other better; this was followed by updates from all sectors, a panel discussion on evidence use and generation and working sessions.

CONNECTING



What you do is as important as how you do it. If the aim of this meeting (and forum) is to draw connections between people to allow them to start working better together to prevent violence and increase safety in the province, then space needs to be created that will allow such engagements.

(Western Cape Violence Prevention Forum steering committee)

Participants shared their motivations for working in the field of violence prevention and identified the values which drive their work, represented in the word cloud below (the words used most commonly are centred and in a larger font).

A value I care deeply about and how it came to be



May the light of your soul guide you

by John O'Donohue

May the light of your soul guide you.

May the light of your soul bless the work

You do with the secret love and warmth of your heart.

May you see in what you do the beauty of your own soul.

May the sacredness of your work bring healing, light and renewal to those

Who work with you and to those who see and receive your work.

May your work never weary you.

May it release within you wellsprings of refreshment, inspiration and excitement.

May you be present in what you do.

May you never become lost in the bland absences.

May the day never burden you.

May dawn find you awake and alert, approaching your new day with dreams,

Possibilities and promises.

May evening find you gracious and fulfilled.

May you go into the night blessed, sheltered and protected.

May your soul calm, console and renew you.



PART 1

Updates on violence prevention in the Western Cape

Participants provided short updates and presentations on the work of their institutions. The following made presentations and inputs:

- Lima Rural Development
- The Parent Centre
- University of Stellenbosch
- Mikhulu Trust
- Department of the Premier, Western Cape Government
- Department of Health
- Research
- Crime Prevention sub-directorate (Department of Social Development)
- National Violence Prevention Forum (VPF)
- Eden district workplace family violence prevention intervention
- Violence prevention consortium
- Victim Empowerment Programme, or VEP (Department of Social Development)
- National policy and VPF
- Youth pilot
- Western Cape Violence Prevention Forum steering committee.

Lima Rural Development

Jackie Saaiman

Lima is a national NGO with extensive experience in the agricultural sector, working on small-holder development and land reform. Lima was an implementing agent for the Community Work Programme and has done lots of community development work, including supporting the ECD Smart Start programme.

Lima has programmes in several provinces and is currently working in the Western Cape as an implementing partner with the DO MORE Foundation, focusing on ECD, including the first 1 000 days programme. Among others, the DO MORE Foundation is currently involved with the Office of the Premier, the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership and the University of Stellenbosch on the Nourish to Flourish (N2F) and the Nourished Child programmes in Worcester and Zwelethemba, exploring improved solutions to malnutrition and food insecurity impacting children under the age of five.

The organisation does not refer to its work as violence prevention, but believes that this framing adds value to its work. The organisation is exploring holistic care and support that is necessary for a child's development, and thinking about how to get violence prevention programmes into households and family spaces. Lima believes violence prevention is important for all areas of community development. Thus, it is important to create spaces to address intergenerational trauma, and to unpack and heal from it in order to move on.

The Parent Centre

Venecia Barries and Carmen de Vos

The Parent Centre is an NGO that provides parenting and caregiver support, including programmes, information and training. The work the Parent Centre does contributes to the prevention of violence, specifically violence against children. The organisation offers a range of programmes, including positive parenting programmes, teen parenting programmes and fatherhood training. These programmes provide psychosocial support to parents, help with anger management, equip parents with skills that help build relationships with their children, and enhance positive attachment between caregivers and children. The fatherhood programme teaches fathers about their role in their children's lives and alternatives to violence (against their children and partners).

The Parent Centre has 30 years of experience working with parents and continues to be intentional about being evidence-informed and evidence-based. Their antenatal and postnatal support programmes have been evaluated through a randomised control trial (RCT). The teen programme has been evaluated along with the fatherhood training, which has seen positive effects: an increase in co-parenting cases that are initiated by fathers who want to take part in their children's lives, and decreases in violence. The positive parenting programme has undergone an initial evaluation and the Parent Centre expressed a request for assistance in conducting another evaluation.

University of Stellenbosch

Jill Ryan

Jill is the coordinator for Gender Non-Violence in the Equality Unit at the University of Stellenbosch. She deals with coordination, monitoring, shared responsibility management, student movement support, training interventions and liaising, to create an institutional response to GBV through policy to address harassment and discrimination and to support transformation.

The university used to have an anti-rape culture committee, which was dissolved to give way to the broader anti-GBV structure. Jill is the secretariate, responsible for ensuring adequate institutional response at all levels (in their different structures and at faculty level). For more information on the committee, click [here](#).

Activities undertaken by the university which link to national campaigns include:

- Post Office to Parliament campaign.
- Launch of campus rape culture website – includes stories and experiences on campus.
- Gender series – looks at patriarchy, roles of gender and how this plays out at the workplace.
- Cyberbullying campaign – addresses social media, queer phobia and highlights report processes.
- Higher health engagements – includes creating protocols and structures and updating the curriculum for care educators around mental health, HIV and GBV.

Mikhulu Trust

Kaathima Ebrahim (South African Parenting Programme Implementors Network, or SAPPIN)

The Mikhulu Trust is an ECD organisation. Its work is focused on supporting parents who are at home with their children to provide stimulation for their children, and supporting caregivers to develop positive relationships with their young children in the home. This work is about creating ecosystems of support for parents and using evidence-based interventions to do so.

The Trust's main programme is called 'Booksharing' and includes wordless picture books which feature developmentally rich content that stimulates interaction and engagement between child and caregiver. An RCT was done on this programme in 2013/14. It showed that this non-didactic approach supports parents to work out their own unique ways of connecting with their children. It also positively impacts children's cognitive and socio-emotional development, as well as parenting behaviours (being more sensitive and reciprocal). The approach makes the link between well-supported children and lowered likelihoods of violence in their later years.

Mikhulu Trust's current research studies are:

- Previously, Booksharing mainly attracted mothers. Therefore, in partnership with Sonke Gender Justice and the University of Cape Town, Mikhulu Trust is conducting fatherhood Booksharing in Gugulethu. This will test children's risk factors later in life as well as the relationship between father and child. It will also check how this interaction impacts the relationship between caregivers in a household.
- Development of a series of violence-related picture books for children under the age of five. These will initiate conversations around violence-related issues between parents and their young children.

Department of the Premier, Western Cape Government

Gwen Dereymaeker

The Western Cape government is taking an evidence-based, holistic approach to violence prevention and understands that this may look very different from how things have been done in the past.

The government can improve the impact of its interventions if it changes the way services are delivered. Strides can be made in reducing and preventing violence by:

- strengthening services to address risk factors,
- focusing on where crime and violence happens,
- using evidence of what works and what does not, and
- strengthening intersectoral collaboration.

Area-based teams (ABTs) have been established in high-crime hotspots in the province. These bring together different government departments and civil society organisations working locally on safety. The overall aim is to strengthen coordination locally, to strengthen the impact of services and to be more responsive to community needs by planning well. ABT liaison officers have been appointed in the Department of Community Safety. These people will be bringing different stakeholders together in their areas and their skills will be developed internally. So far, two areas have been identified as in need of support for the success of ABTs: facilitation skills and working with complexity.

The government is trying to embed evidence in its design and delivery of this approach and has consequently developed a high-level theory of change and a fishbone problem identification for an area-based approach. This has helped identify the different areas for intervention.

In the last meeting of the forum which took place in March 2021, Melvin Moodley (Director: Health Impact Assessment at Western Cape Government Health) showed how the government uses data in its response to violent crimes. The government continues to work with health data to better understand violence. Analysis of the forensic pathology data is done to better understand homicides, including where and why they happen. This feeds back into the provincial planning for the LEAP programme (law enforcement programme funded through the City of Cape Town). These data are reviewed weekly so deployment can be more targeted.

The Department of Health has strengthened its data platform for information on patients in hospitals and in emergency rooms. Understanding these data helps in the development of better responses.

The evidence advisory committee meets every other month. Discussions focus on progress in relation to the provincial safety priority, and space is given for research to be shared. This is to ensure that the committee knows of new evidence being developed. This is an open platform; anyone can join. If you are interested in joining, please contact Gwen on: [**gwen.dereymaeker@westerncape.gov.za**](mailto:gwen.dereymaeker@westerncape.gov.za)

Finally, the focus area for the upcoming months is to continue with LEAP deployment with the City of Cape Town and use health data to determine the time and place of deployment. Four additional focus areas are:

- reduce alcohol harms,
- family strengthening (the government will begin working with the parenting sector to strengthen the evidence base of parenting programmes in the province),
- ensure better support for vulnerable youth, and
- GBV.

Department of Health

Elmarie Malek

The parent support package for the first 1 000 days shows the different touch points that could be better utilised to prevent child violence. What is needed is other platforms outside of Department of Health facilities to help inform parents and provide support for pregnant women and parents in the first two to three years of their children's lives. We need more role players to do this. The Nurturing Care framework assists by showing us what children need and brings together safety, health (including mental health) and nutritional issues. This is the plan, but it lacks capacity to co-create and make linkages. This needs to happen at local and provincial levels.

Research

Tanya Jacobs

Tanya has 20 years of facilitation experience and experience in implementing programmes focusing on GBV and HIV.

She is currently busy with a PhD on adolescent health policy and programmes, to see what the health sector can do to address the underlying social and structural determinants of health by asking how systems need to shift. Her work looks at how the Department of Health can work in a more transformative way, and how to start working with other sectors, particularly education. Her work also explores how to address issues of gender and power.

Crime Prevention sub-directorate (Department of Social Development)

Natasha Siebritz

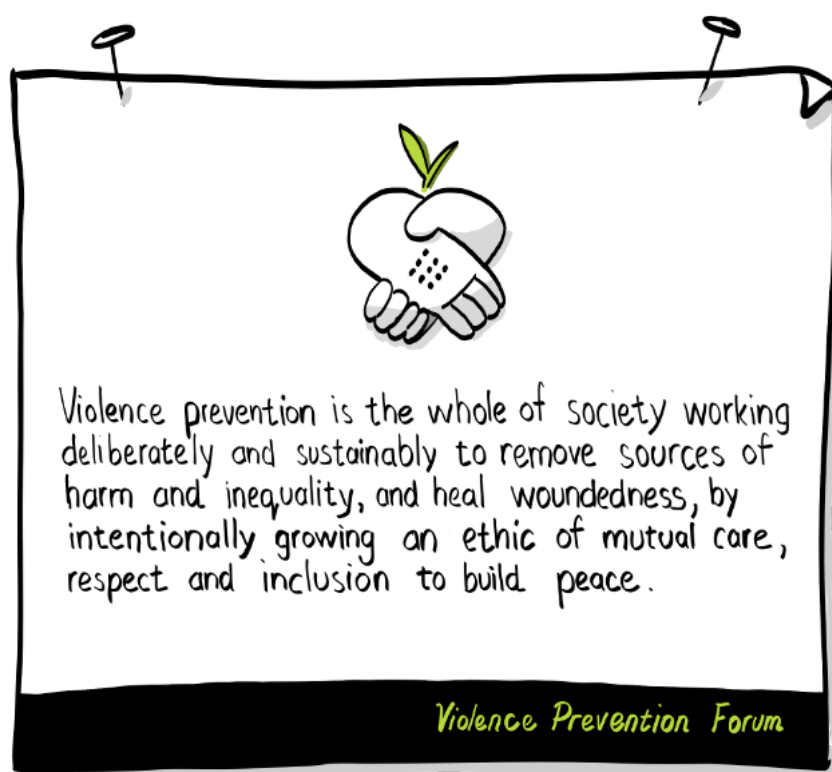
Most of the work being done by this directorate of the Department of Social Development is with children and adults in conflict with the law. Prevention work is done at a statutory level. The directorate has accredited diversion programmes, with most of the work centred on individuals involved in contact crimes, such as assault, rape and sexual offences. The aim is to address behaviours so as to prevent reoffending and divert children from such behaviours. Nine programmes have been developed. It was noted that where programmes have strong collaboration with NGOs in the area, a higher success rate is seen. Collaboration is therefore key and is built into the monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

National Violence Prevention Forum (VPF)

Ayanda Mazibuko

This year the VPF undertook an exercise to define what violence prevention means. Individual sectoral meetings were held with children, researchers, NGOs, community-based organisations, development partners and donors.

These definitions were then unpacked and consolidated to develop a single definition that resonated with all sectors. As a result of this two-part process, the final definition is:



Anyone in the VPF is welcome to use this definition, in particular to support dialogue about what constitutes violence prevention.

Eden district workplace family violence prevention intervention

Thandi van Heyningen

In collaboration with the Seven Passes Initiative and SAPPIN, a novel programme has been developed to prevent family violence. The content, curriculum and approach have been developed to integrate components that address violence against women and children. The project has undergone two rounds of prototyping at the research site. It is now moving towards formal evaluation in the next year or two. The initial anecdotal evidence points to a positive impact on participants, family members and colleagues of the participants, showing that the knowledge and information is filtering through into all relationships.

Consortium to prevent GBV in mining communities

Wilmi Dippenaar (SAPPIN)

The Institute for Security Studies, SAPPIN, Phaphama Initiatives and REOS Partners have formed a consortium to design a process for Anglo American to assist their service providers in the fields of education, health and livelihoods to better prevent GBV. It will take a long time to see what different communities need and how partners in the consortium will work together. However, this indicates great strides, in that companies are beginning to be active stakeholders in violence prevention.

Victim Empowerment Programme (Department of Social Development)

Renee Jeffthas

The VEP unit takes a victim-centred approach in responding to violence and addressing the needs of victims. This entails improving the resources available to victims of GBV and other crimes of violence. The VEP unit emphasises working with organisations that it already funds, as well as other government departments. A VEP forum including stakeholders from various government departments and civil society organisations takes place quarterly. The work of the VEP mostly focuses on working in partnerships and collaborations to provide victims of violence with psychosocial and therapeutic support. An additional element of the work includes an educational component which looks at community outreach, working with men, youth and women at local levels. VEP is currently looking at ways to strengthen support for LGBTIQ+ persons who are victims of violence.

Through the provision of shelter services, VEP also has a skills development component which focuses on providing women with economic empowerment. This is especially necessary for women who remain in violent relationships due to economic dependence on their partners.

National policy and VPF

Chandré Gould

During October, Matodzi Amisi led a process to support the Department of Women to develop a theory of change for the national prevention strategy to give effect to the prevention pillar of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide. Over 30 people attended the workshop – many from government and others who provide services to victims on the ground.

Youth pilot

Estelle Cloete

Estelle is part of a pilot project for youth in Atlantis. The project stems from research into youth who are not in education and training (NIET), done by Ariane De Lannoy at the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) and Lauren Graham from the Centre for Social Development in Africa at the University of Johannesburg. Pilots are being undertaken in Atlantis, Orange Grove and eThekweni. The project offers a basic package of support to youth in a centralised space, focusing on counselling and coaching support to help youth plan unique paths for their lives.

Estelle is also part of a process to build a community of practice of service providers, motivated by the fact that people in the field often do not know each other. This will include service providers and people who are interested in youth development in particular.

Western Cape Violence Prevention Forum steering committee

The steering committee was established as a recommendation from the Western Cape VPF meeting in March 2021 to provide strategic direction to it. The committee met three times between July and September (see Appendix 1 for a full list of committee members). The committee was faced with two questions emerging from the larger group: Do we need/want a VPF in the Western Cape? What is the purpose of the steering committee and broader Western Cape VPF?

It was agreed that the steering committee would be responsible for undertaking planning to inform the strategic direction of the VPF. In addition, it was agreed that the steering committee would:

- be the structure that informs the vision and purpose for the Western Cape VPF,
- suggest values that could guide the VPF,
- assist the VPF to play a knowledge-brokering role, and
- be a place where we can come together and think through problems, gaps, areas where solutions are needed or where policies are not working.

In relation to the mandate of the second meeting, the committee reflected on what it means to 'get our hands dirty'. It was concluded that any collective action taken would need to be informed by evidence and data and backed by collective consensus. Some other issues considered were:

- When thinking of interventions and implementation, do we start in low- or high-violence areas?
- We need to avoid duplication of our efforts and look at what policy already exists that we can build on (e.g. the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide). In so doing, we should seek to engage with the national VPF to give recommendations and views from a provincial perspective.
- In deciding what the next steps were in relation to the process and focus of the next meeting, the committee concluded that issues needed to be tackled 'chronologically', starting with the provincial issue around evidence. The questions identified in directing the meeting included: What is evidence? How can we strengthen evidence in our respective sectors? How can we make the case for being more evidence-based in our respective sectors? It was decided that the current meeting would be a capacity-building session to grapple with these questions.



PART 2

Unpacking the evidence

A panel discussion on evidence included the following speakers:

- *Lina Digolo* – Prevention Collaborative
Lina gave input on the use of evidence in violence prevention from a global perspective, with particular focus on the intersections between violence against women and children (to see Lina's presentation, [click here](#)).
- *Sara Naicker* – DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development, Wits University
Sara presented an evidence review of violence prevention in South Africa and its findings (to access the policy brief on this review, [click here](#)).
- *Wilmi Dippenaar* – Seven Passes Initiative
Wilmi made an input on how SAPPIN is grappling with the generation of evidence from an implementer's perspective.

After the presentations, participants met in their respective sectors to unpack the contents of the presentations, guided by the following questions:

- What does this information mean for our sector?
- What questions do we as a sector have for the panellists?

A plenary discussion followed where each sector was given the opportunity to present their insights and questions. The questions are documented below:

1. What are the mechanisms to generate evidence in cost-effective ways?
2. How can NGOs integrate methods for evaluating programmes into regular implementation practices so as to gather ongoing evidence to evaluate programmes?
3. If research shows that programmes that address multiple risk factors are more effective than stand-alone programmes, how do we go about doing so when this entails the need for more resources? Is collaboration the answer?
4. How can evidence practically inform government practices? How can we find common language?
5. How can evidence help us stop doing what does not work? How do we create a space to reflect on what works and what does not?
6. What are the skills and capacities required to implement and scale-up evidence-based interventions (including the need for interventions to be culturally relevant)?
7. Do we have more information on the levels of satisfaction of victims of crime and violence with respect to government services received?
8. How can we find ways to adapt programmes to integrate components to address multiple forms of violence at the same time?

Participants agreed that their questions about evidence and its use are complex, and can leave them feeling debilitated at their inability to find quick answers and solutions. However, it was suggested that this forum offers an opportunity to work towards answers. It was also noted that this forum is a great space to work together and collaborate organically through connections made.



PART 3

Next steps and conclusion

Engagements in the meeting indicated that participants were not only beginning to build familiarity with one another, but also that collaboration was being initiated. This was visible in the session where participants shared updates on their work. Participants exchanged details in the Zoom chat, with the promise of engaging outside the meeting to further explore collaboration.

There was a shared understanding that collaboration is associated with stronger, more impactful violence prevention services.

All sectors in the province seem to be focused on ensuring that their interventions are evidence-led. However, for some, such as community-based organisations, data are difficult and expensive to obtain. This led to the conclusion that it is important to look for other ways to assess intervention effectiveness.

In light of the questions listed around evidence use, participants agreed to continue meeting as the Western Cape VPF, led by the multisectoral steering committee, to begin to answer them. Jackie, from Lima Rural Development, agreed to join the steering committee.

It was noted that future meetings would benefit from representation by the criminal justice system and public health.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Surname	Affiliation
Gwen Dereymaeker	Western Cape Department of the Premier
Wilmi Dippenaar	Seven Passes Initiative & SAPPIN
Kaathima Ebrahim	Mikhulu Trust & SAPPIN
Diketso Mufamadi	Institute for Security Studies
Jill Ryan	Equality Unit, Stellenbosch University
Natasha Siebritz	Western Cape Department of Social Development
Jackie Saaiman	Lima Rural Development

Steering Committee meetings are facilitated by Antonia Porter and Vuyo Koyana.



PARTICIPANT EVALUATIONS

Participants engaged in an online evaluation of the meeting. To see the anonymous responses to five questions about the meeting, [click here](#).

PARTICIPANT LIST



Surname	Affiliation
Matodzi Amisi	Institute for Security Studies (Research/M&E)
Venecia Barries	The Parent Centre
Estelle Cloete	Feelsafe
Carmen de Vos	The Parent Centre
Gwen Dereymaeker	Western Cape Department of the Premier
Lina Digolo-Nyagah	Prevention Collaborative
Wilmi Dippenaar	Seven Passes Initiative
Kaathima Ebrahim	Mikhulu Trust
Chandre Gould	Institute for Security Studies
Nazma Hendricks	Rape Crisis
Suleiman Henry	Sonke Gender Justice
Tanya Jacobs	PhD candidate, School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape Consultant: Gender and Health Systems
Renee Jeffthas	Western Cape Department of Social Development
Vuyo Koyana	The Pan African Market
Robert Macdonald	Western Cape Department of Social Development
Elmarie Malek	Western Cape Department of Health
Ayanda Mazibuko	Institute for Security Studies
Lucille Meyer	Chrysallis Academy
Diketso Mufamadi	Institute for Security Studies
Sara Naicker	DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development, Wits University
Kwanda Ndoda	DG Murry Trust
Zukiswa Ntoyanto	Western Cape Department of Social Development
Antonia Porter	Independent consultant
Oswald Reddy	Western Cape Police Ombudsman
Jill Ryan	Equality Unit, Stellenbosch University
Jackie Saaiman	Lima Rural Development
Natasha Siebritz	Western Cape Department of Social Development
Claudia Taylor	Hanns Seidal Foundation
Qhamani Tshazi	DG Murry Trust
Thandi van Heyningen	Institute for Security Studies
Deidre Voster	Western Cape Police Ombudsman

The Violence Prevention Forum

Evidence | Collaboration | Trust

THEORY OF CHANGE

ULTIMATE GOAL

Evidence informed interventions reduce and prevents interpersonal violence in South Africa

Policies and decision aimed at preventing violence are informed by evidence

Expansion of who is represented/ participates in policy discussions and other spaces of influence

Increased collaborations and information flow between individuals and organisations

A mutually supportive network of people who understand violence prevention is created and maintained

Participants are likely to use evidence in their work and promote the use of evidence in their organisations

Participants apply skills learned in the forum when engaged in difficult discussions on violence prevention, even with dissenting voices

Relationships are built between individuals in different sectors that allow information to flow between different sectors

Participants have confidence to communicate privately and publicly about violence and its prevention

Participants have evidence informed understanding of violence and its impact on society, and what it is needed to prevent it

Participants learn self mastery and skills to engage with dissenting voices in violence prevention

Multisectoral driver groups conduct regular situations analysis, ensures content and progress remains responsive to member needs and external context

Workshops offer experimental learning

Individuals get to know and trust each other

Sectoral differences are acknowledged and empathy is built

Participants engage in translation and collective sense making of the evidence

All awareness (emotions, experience, etc.) and voices acknowledged during forum discussions

Individuals invited to participate because of their expertise and skills, but attitude and openness to be challenged, and ability to influence change in their organisations

Facilitators are skilled and equally participate

Participants spend time in relationships building activities (dinner, introspection, sharing in pairs/threes, etc.)

Government, researchers, NGOs, etc. all share knowledge information and evidence

Evidence from programmes being tested and other evaluations presented in the forum

Meetings facilitated using deep democracy and AV principles

Convenor is competent and credible

Existing evidence and established relationship base to draw from

Relationship building pathway

Evidence generation, translation and brokering pathway

Strengthening the workforce pathway