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CALLAS FOUNDATION
— HELPING IN OUR WAY —

Masibambisane Community-Based Survey Results: Incidences and Drivers of Gender-Based Violence & Femicide
2024

What is GBVF?

Gender-based violence includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse based on someone's real or perceived gender identity. Femicide is murder based on real or assumed gender identity.

This report provides an analysis of gender-based violence (GBV) and socio-economic conditions in the community served by the Callas Foundation, based on surveys conducted by GBV monitors from the organisation. The findings reveal that educational attainment aligns with national averages, while grant dependency is lower, and food insecurity is also better than national trends. Despite these indicators, financial insecurity remains a pressing concern, with many individuals reporting significant economic challenges. High levels of economic and psychological GBV highlight ongoing issues in the community, with low conviction rates across all forms of GBV pointing to persistent gaps in justice and support systems.

We spoke to

214

people in the community

109 **youth**

89 **adults**

16 **elderly people**

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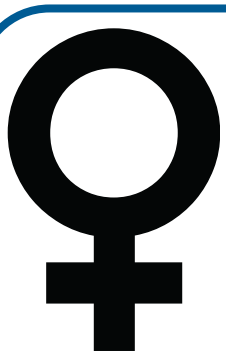
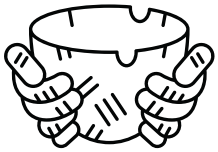




62
in 214 experienced
economic GBV

53
in 214 experienced
psychological GBV

29
in 214 experienced
physical GBV

18
in 214 experienced
sexual GBV

What are Socio-Economic Rights?

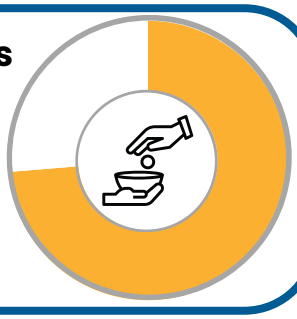
Socio-economic rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and include access to food, healthcare, water, sanitation, education and social security (grants) - the government must provide these rights to EVERYONE in South Africa.

The most common form of GBV was **economic**, followed by **psychological**, then **physical**, and lastly, **sexual**.

Financial insecurity was the highest risk factor.

158

of the 214 people we spoke to reported financial challenges to meet their basic needs.



Financial insecurity has serious implications for survivors of GBV. Survivors may remain dependent on their abusers for financial support, making it harder for them to leave abusive relationships. Additionally, the lack of income can prevent survivors from accessing essential services.

52

in 214 respondents said that they faced food insecurity

116

in 214 respondents **completed matric**, aligning with the national average

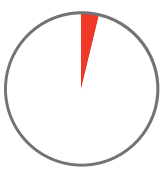
It was found that respondents relied heavily on social grants.

18

in 214 respondents relied upon grants, with the **Older Persons Grant** being the most common

The findings from the Callas Foundation report underscore the complex interplay between socio-economic conditions and gender-based violence (GBV) within the community. While educational attainment aligns with national averages and food insecurity is better, financial instability and economic dependency continue to leave survivors vulnerable. High levels of psychological and economic violence, combined with low conviction rates highlight significant gaps in both support and justice systems.

The conviction rates for sexual, psychological, and physical GBV are notably low, mirroring national trends and highlighting the need for stronger legal protections and support systems. Addressing these issues through targeted economic empowerment, improved legal accountability, and tailored GBV prevention programs for both youth and adults is essential for fostering safety, independence, and long-term recovery for survivors.



2 in 53

perpetrators of **psychological GBV** were convicted.

1 in 29

perpetrators of **physical GBV** were convicted.

2 in 18

perpetrators of **sexual GBV** were convicted.

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Introduction

This report provides an analysis of gender-based violence (GBV) and socio-economic conditions in the community served by the Callas Foundation, based on data from 214 household surveys conducted by GBV monitors from the organisation. The findings reveal that educational attainment aligns with national averages, while grant dependency is lower, and food insecurity is also better than national trends. Despite these indicators, financial insecurity remains a pressing concern, with many individuals reporting significant economic challenges. High levels of economic and psychological GBV highlight ongoing issues in the community, with low conviction rates across all forms of GBV pointing to persistent gaps in justice and support systems. These results underscore the importance of strengthened legal frameworks, economic empowerment initiatives, and comprehensive support for survivors.

Demographics

Out of the 214 people we spoke to, 109 were youth aged 18 to 34, 89 were adults, and 16 were elderly. This distribution closely mirrors national trends, with a slightly higher proportion of youth. Younger individuals in this community are more vulnerable to certain forms of GBV, including intimate partner violence, dating violence, and economic exploitation. The community's age structure underscores the need for tailored GBV prevention programs, particularly for the youth demographic, and targeted interventions to address their specific vulnerabilities.

Socio-Economic Conditions and Link to GBV

Education Level

Out of the 214 people we spoke to, 116 had completed at least matric, which aligns with the national average. While completing matric is an important milestone for increasing awareness of legal rights and access to resources, education alone does not guarantee economic independence or the ability to leave abusive relationships. For survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), the presence of educational qualifications is often not enough without the necessary financial support and empowerment to ensure long-term safety and independence.

Income Levels

Out of the 214 people we spoke to, 158 reported financial insecurity, meaning their income was either just enough or not enough to meet basic needs. Although this rate of financial insecurity is slightly better than the national average, it remains a critical issue for survivors of GBV. Economic dependence is one of the main factors that can trap survivors in abusive relationships, making it difficult for them to seek safety and independence. The need for economic empowerment programs is clear, as they could provide survivors with the financial resources needed to break free from abusive environments and rebuild their lives.

Grant Dependency

18 out of the 214 people we spoke to indicated that grants were their household's primary income source, a figure significantly lower than the national average of 3 in 10. The most common type of grant reported was the Older Person's Grant (7 people received this grant). While lower grant dependency may suggest slightly better economic conditions, the reliance on minimal grant income still presents challenges for GBV survivors. Limited financial flexibility, particularly when relying on grants, makes it difficult for survivors to leave abusive relationships and access essential services like housing, legal support, and mental health care.

Food Security

Out of the 214 people we spoke to, 52 reported experiencing food insecurity, which is better than the national average of 5 out of 10. Despite this, food insecurity remains a significant concern for survivors of GBV, as it can increase their dependence on abusers for basic needs like food. Ensuring consistent access to food is essential for empowering survivors, providing them with the resources needed to escape abusive environments and regain control of their lives.

GBV Analysis

Sexual GBV

Out of the 214 people we spoke to, 18 reported experiencing sexual GBV, with most incidents involving male family members as perpetrators. The rate of sexual GBV in this community aligns with national trends. However, the conviction rate remains low, with only 2 out of 18 perpetrators convicted. This lack of legal accountability highlights the barriers survivors face in seeking justice, such as societal stigma, fear of retaliation, and underreporting, making it harder to prosecute offenders.

Psychological GBV

Out of the 214 people we spoke to, 53 reported experiencing psychological GBV, with most cases involving current partners. This rate is higher than the national average, but the conviction rate remains extremely low, with only 2 out of 53 perpetrators convicted. Psychological GBV often involves emotional manipulation and control, leading to long-term mental health impacts for survivors. The lack of convictions for psychological violence reflects a broader issue within the justice system, where emotional abuse is often under-recognized and under-prosecuted.

Physical GBV

Out of the 214 people we spoke to, 29 reported experiencing physical GBV, with most cases involving current partners. This aligns with national figures, but the conviction rate is concerning low, with only 1 out of 29 perpetrators convicted. Physical violence not only causes visible injuries but also long-lasting emotional trauma. The combination of high rates of physical GBV and low conviction rates points to gaps in legal protection and support systems for survivors.

Strengthening access to justice and providing comprehensive support services are crucial steps to ensure that survivors of physical GBV can escape abusive environments and seek justice.

Economic GBV

Out of the 214 people we spoke to, 62 reported experiencing economic violence, a rate that matches national trends of 3 out of 10. The primary perpetrator was previous partners. Economic control, such as restricting access to money or preventing employment, is a common tactic used by abusers to maintain power over survivors. Economic violence traps survivors in abusive relationships, as they are financially dependent on their abusers. Addressing economic violence through financial literacy programs, job opportunities, and financial support services is essential for empowering survivors and helping them achieve long-term independence.

Implications of Low Conviction Rates

The low conviction rates for physical, psychological, and sexual GBV in this community mirror national trends and have severe consequences. Perpetrators may feel emboldened by the lack of legal repercussions, allowing cycles of violence to persist. Survivors may lose faith in the justice system, leading to a reduced likelihood of reporting abuse or seeking help. The inability to secure convictions compounds the trauma experienced by survivors, reinforcing feelings of helplessness. The absence of accountability normalizes harmful behaviors, making it harder to challenge GBV-related stigma and change societal norms around abuse.

Suggestions for Callas Foundation

- Expand Financial Resilience Programs: Offering financial literacy and skills development programs could help survivors gain economic independence, reducing reliance on abusive partners.
- Strengthen Legal and Psychological Support: Increasing access to legal aid and mental health support could improve outcomes for survivors, helping them rebuild their lives.

- Community Education: Raising awareness about psychological and economic abuse could encourage earlier reporting of abuse, helping survivors seek help before violence escalates.
- Collaborate on Social Protection Measures: Engaging with national organizations to strengthen social safety nets could ensure survivors have the financial and material resources they need to leave abusive relationships.

Conclusion

The findings from the Callas Foundation report underscore the complex interplay between socio-economic conditions and gender-based violence (GBV) within the community. While educational attainment aligns with national averages and food insecurity is comparatively better, financial instability and economic dependency continue to leave survivors vulnerable. High levels of psychological and economic violence, combined with low conviction rates for all forms of GBV, highlight significant gaps in both support and justice systems. Addressing these challenges will require comprehensive measures, including stronger legal protections, expanded mental health services, and targeted economic empowerment programs, to ensure survivors achieve long-term safety and independence.

The Masibambisane household surveys are co-funded by the European Union (supporting 18 partner organisations) and Ford Foundation (supporting 5 partner organisations).

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FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

creating GBVF free zones
Masibambisane

Co-funded by the European Union

Supported by:
Ford Foundation