



FACT SHEET

INCREASING SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN SOUTH AFRICA (ISSSASA)

CHALLENGE

Gender-based violence and sexual assault in South Africa is a widespread dilemma that leaves many women, children and other vulnerable people traumatized and helpless. In response, Thuthuzela Care Centers (TCCs) work with survivors and providers alike to tackle this epidemic.

APPROACH

In collaboration with South Africa’s National Prosecuting Authority and the MAC AIDS Foundation, the Foundation for Professional Development is working with Soul City, Sonke Gender Justice, and the South African Medical Research Council to implement a project drawing attention to the severity of sexual assault in South Africa. This \$10.7 million USAID/PEPFAR supported program, beginning in 2012 and running through 2017, is focusing on improving access to legal, medical and psychological counseling services for survivors of sexual assault.

OBJECTIVES

1. To raise public awareness by informing communities about the services provided by the TCCs within a wider approach to raising awareness and prevention.
2. To expand and improve the TCCs existing services, through:
 - Improving 24-hour services for victims.
 - Establishing four new TCCs.
 - Conducting community-level workshops for partners in the continuum of care.
 - Delivering inter-disciplinary training for legal, medical and education professionals nationwide.
 - Undertake a national assessment of sexual assault case withdrawals related to the attrition of rape cases in the criminal justice system.



RESULTS

- Four new TCCs open.
- Research for nation-wide assessment of sexual assault case completed in all provinces.
- A multi-faceted awareness campaign including community dialogues, PSAs and radio show guides developed to address the stigma around reporting of sexual assault was been developed.
- Children in 8,000 Soul Buddyz Clubs across South Africa have learned about TCC and received information about sexual assault.
- Baseline research for Impact Evaluation testing the impact of the ISSSASA interventions has been completed. Community Dialogues and Trainings have commenced.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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