

NLC INDABA: COMMISSION 4 FUNDING FOCUS AREAS

25-26 November 2025

Chairs: Chickey Mofet Mubu
Dr. Zukiswa Nzo
Thulani Skosana

Presenter: Gabeba Gaidien

Facilitation Support Q&A: Khumbulani Njilo
Suzan Mphule

FUNDING FOCUS AREAS (CONTEXT)

Funding sectors are defined by the Lotteries Act 1997 i.e.

Sector		Budget Allocation
Charities	Includes ECD, Vulnerable Groups (Children, Youth, the Elderly, People with Disabilities)	47%
Arts, Culture and National Heritage	Includes Climate Change as a focus area	22%
Sports & Recreation		28%
Miscellaneous		2%

THE AIM OF THIS COMMISSION

- The focus of innovative and responsive funding priorities to meet emerging sector needs:
 1. *Climate Change (Shifting to a narrative of Climate Justice as changing weather patterns is an additional social and economic risk)*
 2. *Gender Based Violence (A deepening crisis that is complex and nuanced into problem statement and pathways to solutions)*
 3. *Substance Abuse /Addiction (A fundamental social challenge that requires further research and a more specialized and nuanced approach)*
 4. *Technology driven projects (What does the technological advancement mean for how we approach programmatic design and delivery and how we operate administratively as the non-profit space?)*
 5. *Other themes to consider...*

Climate Justice

South Africa is warming at twice the global average, with temperatures already 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and extreme weather disasters causing losses exceeding R113 billion since 1980. The NDP sets a national target to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** by 34% by 2020 and 42% by 2025, and to ensure that **all vulnerable communities have climate-resilient development plans** in place by 2030. Without **investment in community-based adaptation, environmental restoration, and local green-economy innovations**, South Africa will fail to meet its transition goals, and poor communities — who are most at risk.

- **Climate Literacy (basic education & awareness)**
- **Research (what are the material risks and what does this mean for spatial planning in terms of the impact of extreme weather and rising ocean levels on migration patterns?) How should we prepare?**
- **Strategic lessons learned from KZN floods (waste management is essential to ensure drainage systems are functional to clear excess water) . What does this mean for waste management strategies (risk rating, innovative approaches needed)**

INTERSECTIONS:

- **The Youth should be a strategic stakeholder in empowerment and risk management strategies towards Climate Literacy and Climate Justice (Skills Development and Job Creation)**

Gender Based Violence

South Africa continues to experience one of the world's highest rates of GBV, with 33% of women reporting physical violence and femicide rates five times the global average. The National Strategic Plan on GBV & Femicide sets national targets to reduce GBV by 50% by 2030, **expand community-level prevention programmes, and strengthen survivor support and justice-system responsiveness**. The NDP also prioritizes **safer communities and social cohesion**. Without community-driven GBV interventions that address **prevention, behavioural change, survivor support and economic empowerment...**

- Research (Do we fully understand the social determinants of this form of violence?)
- Develop and support more integrated solutions that consider the barriers faced by survivors or those at risk (access to services, long term needs, intergenerational trauma, mental health first aid)
- Be intentional about the inclusion of the LGBTQI community and how this scourge impacts their reality and the support required
- Creative partnerships to enable innovatively practical methodologies to challenge toxic social norms and beliefs about women (e.g. taxi industry/transport industry upskilling and comms plan etc.)

INTERSECTIONS:

- Mental Health (both perpetrators and survivors) is a theme that cuts across preventative and response strategies
- Arts& Culture is a powerful non-clinical mechanism for healing interventions also education & awareness
- Beyond the clinical, law enforcement and judicial aspects of GBV, what are the softer community driven interventions that can be supported to educate (storytelling wisdom of the elders etc.).

Substance Abuse/Addiction

Substance abuse contributes significantly to violence, school dropout, unemployment and family breakdown. The National Drug Master Plan 2019–2024 sets a national target to reduce substance abuse-related harm by 30%, **expand community prevention programmes, and strengthen access to treatment and aftercare services**. Alcohol misuse remains high, with harmful drinking patterns affecting over 40% of adults, while drug use is rising among young people. Without **dedicated investments in prevention, youth-focused outreach, early intervention, and rehabilitation support**, South Africa will continue to face escalating social and economic harm that undermines NDP goals of a healthier, more productive population.

- **More strategic focus on preventative strategies (a need to understand the psychology of addiction in our context and mitigating the risk)**
- **Requires a more integrated approach that is wider, deeper and more long term than clinical rehabilitation efforts (what are the intersectional community pillars of such a support system?)**
- **Interventions must include the power of nurturing human agency as a healing mechanism (develop constituencies where people lead their own collective healing efforts through community structures)**

INTERSECTIONS:

- **Mental Health (both perpetrators and survivors) is a theme that cuts across preventative and response strategies**
- **Arts& Culture is a powerful non-clinical mechanism for healing interventions also education & awareness**
- **Beyond the clinical, law enforcement and judicial aspects of GBV, what are the softer community driven interventions that can be supported to educate (storytelling wisdom of the elders etc.).**

Technological Driven Projects

South Africa faces structural unemployment, with youth unemployment at over 45%, and the digital divide still excluding millions of young people from opportunities. The NDP sets the target that 90% of South Africans should have **broadband access by 2030**, and that **ICT should be a key driver of inclusive economic growth, innovation, and job creation**. To meet these targets, **communities require investment in digital skills development, local technology hubs, tech-enabled enterprise development and community connectivity**. Without targeted support for technology-driven interventions, the country risks missing its digital-economy growth potential and deepening socioeconomic inequality.

- **A systemic connectivity strategy required for geographically marginalized communities (INFRASTRUCTURE needs)**
- **The need to marry systems thinking with technology empowerment to capacitate partners in thinking about HOW to apply technology**
- **Technology empowerment needs to be methodical and context specific (not broad stroke approach but meet orgs where they are at)**
- **Empowerment (skills development in AI and other emerging digitization themes) must happen at grassroots level**
- **Assist communities with the cultural and psychological aspects/impact of technological advancements (cyber bullying privacy breaches and fears)**

INTERSECTIONS:

- **The Youth should be a strategic stakeholder in empowerment and risk management strategies towards technological advancement in the non-profit sector(Skills Development and Job Creation)**
- **What are the softer community driven interventions that can be supported towards technological empowerment (intergenerational learning opportunity)**

Other critical emerging themes ?

- Youth Unemployment
- Youth Development
- Community Safety Forums (as part of Community Safety & Security needs)
- Focused support for Child Headed Households (Family Empowerment strategies)
- Disabilities (Are we being strategic enough, nuanced enough in our support)
- Healthcare (as a standalone theme and to unpack it)
- Capacitating Community Based Organizations as a strategy
- Mental Health (a common theme in discussion)

The need to acknowledge intersections:

- Arts & Culture programmes are widely embraced as healing methodologies also as powerful vehicles of education & awareness interventions. There is, however, a need for the sector to better articulate these impactful aspects of the arts.
- Are we doing justice to the elders as solution drivers (as opposed to limiting their status to their vulnerabilities)? Elders have storytelling wisdom which can educate, make aware and provide healing qualities and with tech interventions there is room for an intergenerational approach to capacity building?



THANK YOU!