Newsletter 2024





Welcome

Welcome to the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund's Newsletter. Together, let's stay informed, engaged, and committed to creating a world free from violence and inequality.



Faith Khanyile

Board Chairperson, GBVF Response Fund1

Dear Stakeholder,

The Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund ("The Fund") is pleased to announce another first with the launch of the inaugural edition of our Quarterly Newsletter. As the Chairperson of the Fund's Board, it is indeed an honour to provide a reflective overview of the impactful work the Fund has undertaken as we forge ahead with optimism, actively engaged in the ongoing efforts to combat gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in our society.

During a media briefing in early December last year, Cabinet reaffirmed the importance of prioritizing the implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) to address GBVF within communities. The Minister in the Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshaveni, acknowledged the establishment of the Fund as an innovative approach of ensuring private-public partnerships in addressing GBVF. The Fund's role was further affirmed by Government's decision to extend the initial two-year mandate to three years, signifying confidence in

the Fund as a trusted partner and catalytic mechanism in the National GBVF prevention agenda. This extension emphasizes the Fund's vital contribution in closing the funding gap for community-based organisations at the frontline of the prevention and response to GBVF.

The past year has been challenging on a social, economic, and geopolitical level. We grapple with issues such as high inflation and elevated unemployment rates, coupled with persistent challenges like the ongoing energy and water crises and rising food prices. These challenges are further compounded by global issues stemming from climate change, political instability impacting food production, and the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Palestine and Israel.

Despite this challenging external environment, the Fund managed to navigate difficult times and continued to make positive progress in the implementation of its strategy.

The Fund reached several significant milestones over the past year, with the most significant being the successful disbursement of R73 million to grant partners in the first Request for Proposals (RFP1) cycle. Our strategic approach of focusing on community-based organisations (CBOs) in under-resourced GBVF hotspot areas, continues to be a pivotal intervention. Without our funding,

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INTERVENTION. 55

many of these organisations, serving as first-line responders, would lack the crucial support they need. To further augment this glaring gap, the Fund is actively developing a plan to address the capacity and skills constraints faced by our grant recipients.



Looking ahead, the Fund will continue to fundraise and mobilise in-kind resources through current and prospective donors in light of the persisting resource constraints for communities heavily affected by the scourge of GBVF.

A pivotal role of the Fund is fostering collaboration with various stakeholders, following a private-public partnership approach. Emphasizing our advocacy function, we will persist in engaging stakeholders, promoting constructive dialogue, turning policy into action, and spearheading behaviour change campaigns, in an effort to advance gender equality and eliminate GBVF in our communities.

On behalf of the Fund, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow pro-bono Board members for their ongoing guidance. In addition, I would also like to thank our pro bono and donor partners, the Fund's dedicated staff, and all other stakeholders for their unwavering dedication.

Your resolute leadership is making a profound and sustainable impact.

I wish you all a prosperous and blessed 2024.

Faith Khanyile

Board Chairperson, GBVF Response Fund1







Sazini Mojapelo CEO of the Fund

1. What inspired your decision to join the Fund, and how has that motivation evolved since you started?

My motivation for joining the Fund was to contribute to addressing one of the most significant social challenges in our country. I firmly believe that achieving gender equality is impossible when women and girls do not feel safe at home, school, or work due to the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV). I saw the work of the Fund as an incredible opportunity to support positive change.

As a trisector leader, I have worked in government, civil society organizations, and the corporate sector. The concept of being a trisector leader, adept at driving private-public partnerships across these three spheres, resonates with me and as a social impact architect, I have identified an opportunity to strengthen this multi-sectoral approach within the Fund.

I was responsible for setting up the Fund in 2021, working closely with the inaugural Chairperson and Board members at the time, so I was acutely aware of the huge challenge we face as a country with the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide. I can safely say that, after working in the Fund on a full-time basis for some time now, my drive to make a difference is even more pronounced.

I am committed to serving my country and to play a strategic role in turning the tide on GBVF, specifically the manner in which it is intergenerational. It must be arrested, and I am convinced that as a country we can overcome it as we have dealt with far worse social challenges such as HIV/AIDS. I recall, at the advent of HIV/AIDS, we were faced with a mammoth task, but we managed to curb the spread and I believe we can do the same with GBVF.

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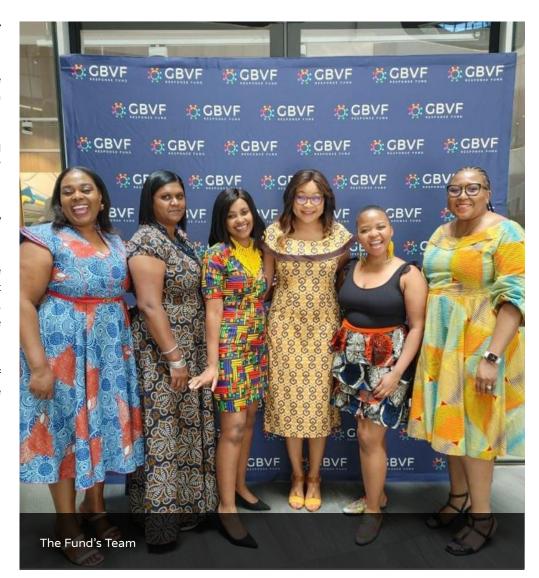
2. Before joining the Fund, what professional experiences or roles shaped your career, and how do they contribute to your current role?

Before joining the Fund, I was working at Absa Group as the Managing Director responsible for Corporate Citizenship. I also headed the Absa Foundation. I was effectively running a big fund which facilitated grants to NGOs and CBOs across South Africa. So, this fund management expertise is what I bring to this role. Given that this is a private sector-led Fund, my experience of leading CSI and shared value in a corporate is an invaluable skill that I use on a daily basis. This is paired with my experience of running an NGO for over 7 years and working in Government as well.

3. Considering your unique perspective, how do you believe we can enhance greater collaboration to achieve the Funds mandate?

Drawing from my diverse experience in both corporate and non-profit sectors, I believe the key is to remain accountable and transparent in the challenges we face in the fight against GBVF. Be it CBO's, activists, Government, funders/donors or the general public, our common goal remains the same: ensuring a world free from gender-based violence and femicide.

With this single-minded focus, we need to embrace innovative ideas and new ways of tackling the problem. We need to strengthen institutions that prevent GBVF and those that respond, prosecute and support survivors of gender-based violence.







The Fund hosted a number of impactful events and actively participated in key strategic platforms to optimize its catalytic and national convening role in the fight against gender-based violence.

The launch of the RESPECT Campaign

The Fund launched the GBVF Prevention National Flagship Campaign, RESPECT, on 23 September 2023, as part of last year's Heritage Day commemoration. The campaign was unveiled at the DSTV Delicious Food Festival and announced on 200 digital billboards nationwide, courtesy of Tractor Outdoor Media. The roll-out of the campaign has been sustained through social media engagement and media partnerships with entities such as SABC TV and radio, who supported the Fund on a pro bono basis during December 2023 and into January 2024.



The Empowermen Conference

The Fund supported the Empowermen Conference to reinforce GBVF prevention messaging. Curbing the spread of GBVF requires active engagement with men, and the Fund emphasized the importance of men leading in the fight against GBVF, given that they are the majority perpetrators towards women, girls, and even men and boys. The Conference convened men from various communities and sectors to discuss issues related to positive masculinity, toxic cultural constructs, and strategies for addressing them.



The Top Women Conference partnership

The Fund partnered with the TOP Women Conference and hosted a panel discussion on the role of the Private Sector in the fight against GBVF. The panel discussion featured Board members and key stakeholders of the Fund such as the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). This partnership enabled networking, created awareness, and visibility of the work the Fund is doing and encouraged further private sector participation from the companies in attendance.





The launch of the Integrated Annual Report

The Fund launched its 2022/23 Annual Report on 26 October 2023. In our quest to remain transparent and accountable to all stakeholders, including the public, the launch of the Report signified a crucial milestone for the Fund.

Key highlights included progress on work being done with the Thuthuzela Care Centers (TCC), a privatepublic partnership between the Minerals Council and the National Prosecuting Authority, capacity-

> buildina of CBOs through

intermediary partners, substantial disbursements the practice of Ukuthwala in Mjejani Village, of funds in GBVF hot spots and the launch of Mpumalanga by providing support to the RESPECT GBVF prevention campaign. (See one of their community leaders, Innocent Annual Report for more details – click here)



for Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to aligned to the RESPECT campaign's actionsecure funding for their diverse initiatives. The call based approach of empowering voices and was issued in October 2023 for a six-week period, supporting community-based efforts in the resulting in over 400 applications from across fight against GBVF. nine provinces. All applications are currently being adjudicated, and successful CBOs can expect communication soon. Another call is scheduled

for February to address provinces with insufficient responses, with the goal of disbursing at least R80 million to over 100 CBOs nationwide during this year.



The Pride March

During African Pride Month, the Fund took to the streets to march in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community at the Johannesburg Pride Parade. We walked alongside 25,000 people, speaking out against hate crimes and GBVF directed at LGBTQIA+ individuals. This initiative signifies the Fund's commitment to ensuring an inclusive approach in addressing GBVF, understanding the needs of all key communities affected by GBVF. As part of a deliberate effort to strengthen an inclusive approach in implementing GBVF response programs at the community level, two of the CBOs supported by the Fund also participated in the march.

16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children The Fund contributed to community efforts against Madonsela and other stakeholders. They coordinated several activities such as a and facilitated a dialogue that was held The Fund initiated the second call for proposals during 16 Days of Activism. This was





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GBVF

Engaging Michelle Obama and Melinda Gates "Anti Child Marriage" dialogue

The Fund's CEO attended a moderated discussion where Melinda Gates, Michelle Obama, Graca Machel, and Amal Clooney shared their journey on empowering women and girls. From changing unjust laws by Amal, to protecting the autonomy of women and girls by Melinda, and keeping girls in school by Michelle. This discussion, hosted in November 2023 in Cape Town, emphasized that we are part of a global movement, ensuring that the rights of women and girls remain central to the country's developmental agenda.



The AU Positive Masculinity Conference

The Fund attended the AU Positive Masculinity Conference hosted in Johannesburg by his Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa alongside the AU Chairperson and President of Comoros, His Excellency President Azali Assounmani. One of the key takeaways from the two-day conference was the development of an Africa-wide Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG), which will be the first of its kind on the continent.



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The RESPECT initiative

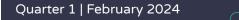
Introducing our social behavioural change initiative, RESPECT Prevention Campaign.

RESPECT is a multi-sectoral 3-year national GBVF social behavioural change campaign which anchors pillar 1 and 2 of the National Strategic Plan for Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 17.

The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness and catalyse action against GBVF using the RESPECT Framework as a globally recognized approach as well as leveraging the unique South African concept of Ubuntu, which means "I am because you are", Founded on the principles of respect, it is premised on the belief of fostering a culture where everyone is equally valued and respected.







The R.E.S.P.E.C.T Acronym is broken down into key actions necessary in the fight against GBVF.

R - Recognise the problem

GBVF comes in many forms. We must call it out for what it is before, when and as it happens.

E - Empower Voices

Raising our voices together is essential to seeking justice, healing, and empowerment in the fight against GBVF.

S - Shift Social Norms

Challenge and change the deeply rooted norms, stereotypes and misogyny that perpetuate GBVF.

P - Promote Prevention

GBVF can never happen if it never starts. Working together we can break the cycle before it happens.

E - Engage Everyone

Only a collective effort can win the fight against GBVF. Men, women, children, institutions, and sectors have a role in eradicating it.

C - Create Support Systems

Comprehensive and accessible support systems are vital to protecting survivors, allowing them to heal and rebuild their lives with dignity.

T - Take Action

Action, not words, is the only way to bring perpetrators to justice, reform legal systems and finally eradicate GBVF.







Gaopaleloe Mothoagae

Vice President CSI RSA & Sasol Foundation

1. What role does your organisation play in reducing gender-based violence and femicide?

At Sasol, we have a zero-tolerance policy that speaks out against sexual harassment, violence, bullying, and victimisation. This is reflected in established policies and procedures to address GBVF and signifies a commitment to creating a secure environment for all employees and communities. Any perpetration of such acts is considered a violation of the Code of Conduct and company values and constitutes misconduct under the Disciplinary Code for Employees.

Sasol is committed to eliminating perpetration of these acts by, among other interventions:

- Proactively raising awareness through regular presentations, workshops, and awareness drives to destigmatise issues related to GBVF.
- Promptly investigating all complaints and allegations of gender-based violence.

 Emphasizing respect, consent, and the importance of maintaining a safe workplace culture.

We have implemented various policies and programs dedicated to empowering women in the workplace, utilising forums like Women-in-Mining and Women-in-Engineering to create awareness and training. The Employee Assistance Programme offers comprehensive support, including assistance for GBVF-related matters.

Through "Sasol for Good", employees participate in the "United in Action against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide"



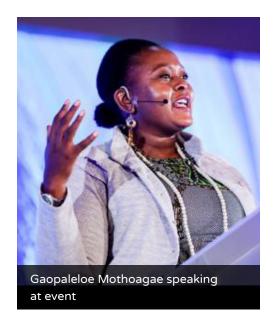
campaign, engaging in initiatives like donating toys and dignity packs, as well as improving infrastructure at Thuthuzela Care Centers and shelters. This is done in collaboration with various stakeholders such as the Department of Social Development, the National Prosecuting Authority, centre managers as well as community-based organisations. We also support edutainment films promoting positive masculinity, collaborating with stakeholders and endorsing the "What About The Boys" film, which is available to employees and their families.

2. To drive social change, what decisive action can corporate South Africa take to prevent and monitor GBVF in the world of work?

Corporate South Africa can play a crucial role in preventing and monitoring workplace GBVF. Emphasising that GBVF affects individuals across classes and socio-economic backgrounds, collaboration between companies through partnerships allows sharing



of best practices, pooling resources, and coordinating initiatives. We recognise the importance of employees, families, suppliers, and contractors in the broader community, advocating for a comprehensive approach addressing issues in both the workplace and communities. Collaborating with government entities is essential to ensure resource availability where needed.



We work in tandem with Government on initiatives to allocate resources effectively to combat GBVF, while also recognising that GBVF is an intergenerational challenge requiring societal transformation over time. To combat GBVF in the long term, addressing underlying attitudes and norms perpetuating gender disparities, especially in the workplace, is crucial.

Corporate entities should collaborate on programs fostering societal change, engaging all stakeholders to collectively reject violence, actively contributing to eradicating GBVF and promoting a culture that rejects violence and inequality in the workplace.

3. Looking ahead, what are your aspirations for your partnership with the Fund and how do you see your involvement evolving over time?

Sasol remains a steadfast supporter of the Fund since its inception, , recognising its pivotal role in addressing GBVF at a national level. The Fund's strategic positioning surpasses individual corporate capabilities and partnering with the Fund, possessing the reach and infrastructure, is crucial for nationwide impact given corporations' limitations in resources and expertise.

Our commitment to the Fund extends beyond financial support, envisioning a collaborative partnership with joint initiatives, knowledge-sharing, and expertise exchange. The evolving collaboration aims to optimise impact and sustain commitment through the sharing of valuable insights and best practices, contributing meaningfully to eradicating GBVF and creating a safer, more equitable society.

4. What's the one thing that you would change now so we can live in a GBVFfree South Africa?

Consequence management and reform are crucial in eradicating GBVF, serving as both a deterrent and a reinforcement of the principle that a just society holds perpetrators accountable for their actions. Clear collaborative actions are essential to minimize and eradicate instances of GBVF.

5. From your perspective, what are some of the obstacles that we still need to overcome as a society as we work towards gender equity?

The most formidable challenge in achieving gender equality is deeply rooted societal and cultural norms fostering discrimination and bias, hindering progress. Lasting change necessitates a cultural shift towards gender equity, challenging ingrained attitudes through awareness and education to create an environment promoting equal opportunities and rights.

Overcoming the obstacle of deeply ingrained societal and cultural norms necessitates a comprehensive approach. Systemic barriers need to be dismantled through policy changes, fostering inclusivity, and promoting cultural shifts that advance gender equity and equality. This collective effort needs to involve Government, the private sector, communities, and individuals and is vital for creating a world where everyone, irrespective of race or gender, can fully realise their potential.





The Fund supports community-based prevention and victim empowerment organization COPESSA

The Fund has prioritised the strengthening of community systems in its approach to addressing GBVF. In the first year of implementation, the Fund reached an impressive 280,775 individuals through support to 160 CBOs. It continues to contribute to tangible change at the community level, ensuring that key and vulnerable populations have access to lifesaving GBVF response services and support.

COPESSA, a community-based organization based in Protea Glen Soweto, is among the beneficiaries of the Fund's impact-driven approach in the fight against GBVF. They offer a variety of services to the community, such as counselling and medical assessments for abuse victims, community mobilisation, and community development projects. Over its 18-years existence, COPESSA has consistently served as a crucial resource in the community, receiving numerous awards and recognition for its impactful work.

COPESSA's theory of change is aligned with the objectives and focus areas outlined in the Fund's strategy, guided by the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF. The organisation

has secured funding support for its work under Pillar 2 of the Plan, which emphasizes increasing awareness, knowledge, and understanding of GBV. They also provide women, children, and LGBTQI+ individuals with the tools, knowledge, and self-efficacy to counteract GBVF. COPESSA also implements programs for perpetrators, victims, and those at risk, offering a range of services such as care packs, groceries, psychosocial support, perpetrator counselling, and victim support.

COPESSA's response to GBVF centres around ensuring the accessibility of psychosocial services, particularly in remote settings, taking into account the challenges posed by load shedding, power cuts, and resource limitations. The Fund's grant has enabled the organisation to train its staff in remote methods of service delivery, data capturing and management, with a specific focus on ensuring compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA). COPESSA has adopted a comprehensive approach to addressing GBV, striving to holistically address the various connected issues and providing support to all those affected by it. For more Impact Stories, read our Annual Report at here.

OVER ITS 18-YEARS EXISTENCE, COPESSA HAS CONSISTENTLY SERVED AS A CRUCIAL RESOURCE IN THE COMMUNITY, RECEIVING NUMEROUS AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR ITS IMPACTFUL WORK.





GBVF Response Fund1: Making a significant impact, not only in Women's Month but all year round.

By Tirhani Manganyi, Programmes Manager, GBVF Response Fund1

In our attempt to conceal emotions, we often overlook the silent language spoken by our eyes. The haunting memory of Thandi, a young woman I encountered years ago, remains etched in my mind. Despite her smiling face, her eyes betrayed a painful truth. Trapped in an abusive relationship, exacerbated by her partner's job loss during the Covid-19 pandemic, Thandi endured physical assault and coercion into degrading acts for survival. During a recent regional site visit in my role as Programmes Manager of the GBVF Response Fund, I witnessed a transformative shift in Thandi's demeanour. Engaging in the IMpower intervention empowered her to recognize the value of her life. Learning self-defence and setting boundaries, she reclaimed confidence, asserting her right to a different and better life.

Impower is one of several evidence based GBVF prevention initiative implemented by the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HTAC), which aims to challenge perceptions of adolescent girls and young women. By granting young women like Thandi agency through voice and action, this intervention empowers them to navigate a safer, healthier future. This intervention is particularly important for the Fund for a number of reasons, such as the need to prevent violence.

South Africa holds the shameful distinction of being one of the most unsafe places in the world for women and girls. For decades, GBVF has not received the attention and action proportionate to its prevalence, which has led to a fragmented and inadequate response. The Fund, established in early 2021 as a bridging mechanism to support the National Strategic Plan (NSP), has made significant strides contributing to pillars addressing prevention, social cohesion, justice, safety, protection, response, care, support, and healing.

The Fund's focus has shifted to preventing violence, amplifying the voices of survivors, and creating supportive ecosystems. Awareness campaigns, knowledge enhancement, and skill development initiatives equip stakeholders to respond to GBVF more effectively. By prioritizing underfunded CBOs addressing GBVF, there has been increased accessibility and improved quality of support services through strategic partnerships and collaborations. As the Fund enters its next growth phase under CEO Sazini Mojapelo's leadership, we aim to intensify our role as a catalyst for sustained and impactful change. Assessing impact becomes crucial in understanding whether the Fund drives positive change where needed.

Academics define "impact" as efforts that create real value with a "marked effect or influence" on a particular entity or environment. Impact is therefore a key measure that we use to understand whether the Fund is driving positive and sustained change where it is most needed.



Consider an innovative initiative to establish a distinctive township school for girls, dedicated to fostering an environment marked by freedom, independence, and safety. This collaborative effort with Molo Mhlaba, Khayelitsha's first private girls' school, goes beyond educational support, incorporating a STEAM-focused curriculum and advocating for positive parenting to prevent Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

In recognition of the unique challenges faced by persons living with disabilities (PLDs), the Fund partners with Iris House Children's Hospice. This collaboration resulted in the creation of the ALL Ability Victim Support Unit at Bothasig Police Station, designed with Fund support. This unit ensures survivor-friendly services tailored to the needs of PLDs, reinforcing the commitment to inclusivity.

Additionally, efforts to establish violence-free zones in Umlazi, a hotspot for violent crimes, involve a collaboration with Ubuzwe Health Care Initiative (HCI). Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) play a pivotal role in identifying violence hotspots, conducting community dialogues, and recruiting community engagers for safety audits and door-to-door campaigns, fostering active community involvement in promoting safer environments. This multifaceted approach underscores the Fund's dedication to positive transformative change across various aspects of community life.

Through continuous resource mobilization and collaboration with partners, the Fund strives to drive far-reaching change, creating a society where all South Africans can live free from fear, violence, and discrimination. Our commitment remains unwavering in the relentless pursuit of a society where GBVF is eradicated, and respect prevails—not just in Women's Month but throughout the year.







THE PUSH FOR GENDER PARITY IS INTENSIFYING





SPORT - PHAKAAATHI - LIFESTYLE - ENTERTAINMENT - TRAVEL MOTI

Report shows SA made progress in mobilising funding to combat GBV

The Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund 1 yesterday released its second integrated annual report.





SOUTH AFRICA

MARKETING & MEDIA

EVENTS & CONFEREN SEARCH

The countdown to the annual Standard Bank Top Women Conference 2023 begins

The GBVF Response Fund 1 launches its Flagship Campaign 'RESPECT'









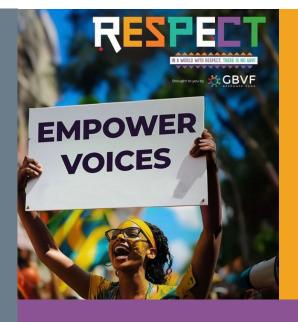


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Hotline Numbers & Links

National GBV Helpline	0800 150 150
National Counselling Line	0861 322 322
POWA	011 642 4345
Rape Crisis	021 447 9762
TEARS Foundation (FREE SMS Line)	*134*7355#
Childline	08000 55555
SADAG	080 021 2223
Toll Free Crisis Line	086 157 4747
Rape Crisis	021 447 9762
Emergency	107
Skype address for members of the community	HelpmeGBV
GBV and Femicide Complaints by SAPS	0800 333 177
Child abuse call back request line	SMS 'help' to 3102
Vodacom Bright Sky App	Download on Play



Your Empowered Voice Can Save Lives

Take Action. Report GBVF to enable a world with RESPECT.

Our website GBVF Respond Fund – Together we can take action against GBVF. (gbvfresponsefund1.org)

Find us on:

vstore

0800 203 598

- in https://www.linkedin.com/company/gbvf-response-fund-1/
- (f) GBVF Response Fund1 | Facebook
- O Instagram: @gbvfresponsefund1



• Whistle-blower hotline