

LESOTHO



Rethabile Pholo
Gender Links Board Member



Mabetha Manteboheleng
Lesotho Manager



Ntolo Mary Lekau
Programme Officer

Gender Links Lesotho office was legally registered as a local NGO on 1 February 2011 though GL's work in Lesotho started in 2007 with seminal research in women's representation in political leadership in local government titled "At the Coalface, Gender and Local Government in Southern Africa." In 2016 the office:

- Worked with 50 COE councils to review their Gender Action plans to incorporate the Post 2015 SADC Gender Protocol, African Union Agenda 2063, Beijing plus 20 Review and SDGs targets.
- Strengthened partnership with the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation and Principal District Gender Officers and the gender focal points within the municipalities. This approach promotes sustainability and stronger ownership of GL programmes while saving financial costs of programme delivery.
- Conducted a national summit attended by all the COE councils. Councils contributed 68 entries in 13 categories with 13 winners and runner ups.
- Successfully conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for Entrepreneurship mentors from all the 10 pilot councils and mentorship with 14 women who were in the pilot and follow-up phases of the Entrepreneurship and Life Skills programme.

GL's Monitoring and Evaluation through the Gender and Local Government Score Card, and the Gender Empowerment Index shows that as a result of this work:

- Councils contributed R2.2 million to work on gender mainstreaming in 2016.
- Women comprise 52% of those employed by the COEs.
- Women chair 39% of COE committees.
- 10% of those employed through COE projects are disabled.
- 175 survivors of GBV in 10 councils trained as entrepreneurs.
- 99% completed a business plan and 92% followed through on the plan. 44% indicated starting a new business, 15% increased the size of their business and 32% opened a bank account.
- 93% indicated that the project gave them choices to reduce GBV and helped build their confidence.

