Registered in 2012, Gender Links Swaziland has scaled back to a project site due to funding challenges but maintains an active presence through strategic partnerships. In 2016 the Swaziland office:

- Developed strong buy-in and collaboration with local chiefs in influencing change in cultural beliefs, practices and behaviour. GL Swaziland worked with 250 chiefs from three regions through the Centres of Excellence programme for gender mainstreaming. GL also worked with three new councils and implemented the COE programme.
- Conducted Gender Action Planning reviews with 12 COE councils, aligning the gender and GBV action plans to the SDGs, Agenda 2030 SADC Gender Protocol and council budgets and key priorities.
- Held two Agenda 2030 SADC Gender Protocol consultative meetings with the



Swaziland Council of NGOs (CANGO) and the COE councils to review the progress and strategise means to localise global, continental and regional instruments in Swaziland.

- Held a joint SADC Protocol@Work Summit with Capricorn District Municipality in South Africa that brought together 16 councils from Swaziland and South Africa; 148 participants, 107 females, 41 male in 13 categories; and 13 winners and runner ups who shared their best practices in gender mainstreaming.
- Provided additional mentorship to 60 of the 140 survivors of GBV who received entrepreneurship training.
- Participated in the Sixteen Days of Activism campaign on ending GBV collaboratively with faith based organisations through the media.

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 R22 million towards work in gender mainstreaming.
- In the COE councils women constitute 23% of committee chairpersons and 25% of the chairs of water committees.
- 81% of the entrepreneurs completed a business plan; 72% followed through on the plan. 67% grew their businesses and 65% added new products; 50% found new markets. 49% started a business and 27% opened a bank account.
- The average monthly income for the Swazi participants increased from R206 to R350.
- 86% indicated experiencing less or much less gender based violence.

## **SWAZILAND**





Ncane Maziya Swaziland Country Facilitator

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"I was selling chickens before, but my business failed because I misused the profits and did not know how to manage my business properly. Now I have started selling fat cakes and the training has equipped me with new ideas and strategies to run my business".

Florah N Siyaya from Lavumisa