

# BOTSWANA



Ntombi Setshwaelo - Board member



Magdeline Madibela - Board member



Gomolemo Rasesigo - Country Manager



Keletso Metsing - Programme and Finance Officer

## 15 years of service

- 2008 At the Coal Face Study completed.
- 2012 GBV Indicators Study completed.
- 31 Local Government COEs completed the 10 staged COE process.
- 7 Media COEs.
- 2013 Launch of Botswana Gender Media Policy.
- 2011 to 2015 Botswana Barometers produced annually.
- National Summits held annually since 2012.
- 3 editions of Botswana "I" stories published.
- Entrepreneurship project has reached 15 councils to date.
- **Key partners:** Botswana Association of Local Authorities, Gender Affairs Department, BOCONGO, UNFPA, UB Media Studies, Press Council Botswana, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, American Embassy, SADC Gender Unit, SADCNGO and Ministry of Local Government and rural development, European Union.

In 2008, Gender Links opened a satellite office in Botswana's capital city Gaborone, to cascade its regional programmes and to be strategically positioned close to the headquarters of SADC. The office was officially registered in 2009 and currently has two full time employees, a country manager and finance and administration officer; and an intern. The mandate of the office includes strengthening GL profile in Botswana, providing national programme support in the areas of Gender and Media, Governance, and Justice at a local level and the efficient implementation of planned activities.

## Key achievements

### Local Government COE

- GL Botswana successfully secured funding from the European Union Delegation in Botswana for an 18 months contract to strengthen the local government COE work and cascade the entrepreneurship project.
- Botswana Office maintained its good standing with UNFPA and was funded for 2015 gender work.
- 31 out of the 32 COEs in Botswana have developed and are implementing gender and GBV action plan. This is from the 27 in 2014. One council remains to compile and adopt its plan being Charles Hill Sub District Council.

### Entrepreneurship and Life Skills Training for GBV survivors

- In 2015, GL completed the Entrepreneurship and Life Skills project for 92 women GBV survivors in 10 COEs. An impact assessment was conducted of the programme.
- Businesses of selected beneficiaries were visited during the review and family members were interviewed regarding changes they saw in the women since joining the project, to inform the comprehensive documentation of the project.
- GL Botswana cascaded the project to 100 more women with funding secured from the EU.

- GL Botswana produced, published, launched and distributed the third edition of the Ministry of Gender funded "I" Story booklet.
- GL collected 94 "I" stories in 2015 in the 5 districts Gender Links worked with, South East, Letlhakeng, Boteti, North East and Moshupa. The booklet is used as an advocacy tool for government to put GBV as one of the priority areas of the country through realisation of the magnitude and the impact of GBV on women and children. Each of the stories collected has been edited and published and the 3rd edition of the "I" stories was shared with stakeholders during the 16 days campaign in 2015.

### Protocol@Work Summit facts

- The two district summits attracted over **105** participants in total with **22** COEs taking part.
- **17** councils presented case studies of their institutional work on gender mainstreaming.
- The national summit brought together **152** participants, **44** men and **108** women from local government institutions, media, government and civil society organisations
- **68** entries were made by **58** women and **10** men, in **16** different categories.
- **19** local councils were represented, amongst them mayors, councillors, council secretaries and officials.
- The national summit was attended by the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Deputy Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, The speaker of the National Assembly, the Head of Media Studies at the University of Botswana, the WHO Representative among thought leaders
- The regional summit brought together 12 SADC countries and over 300 participants.
- Various media houses covered the event including Mmegi, The Voice, Daily News and Botswana TV.

## Protocol@Work Summits

- In 2015 Summits, Councils contributed towards the district, national and regional summit. by sponsoring for transport and accommodation for their participants.
- The SADC Gender Protocol national summit attracted over 152 participants and 48 entries under various categories such as climate change, GBV and Women's rights. This platform was used to show case and share best practices in promoting gender equality.
- Emerging Entrepreneurs also shared their business plans and achievements as best practices at the national and regional summits. Emerging entrepreneurs both from Chobe took the first position for start-up business and existing business categories at the regional summit awards.
- Botswana office raised funds locally for the national summit and regional summit from the Department of Gender Affairs.

In 2015 for the first time GL held the SADC Protocol@Work summit outside Johannesburg in Botswana, ahead of the SADC Heads of State summit. It was an honour for GL Botswana to host this epic event. The office had to ensure that the event was a success and at the same time continue with programme implementation. The event was a success and it increased confidence of local partners on the ability of GL to deliver as expected!

## Sixteen Days of Activism

- GL Botswana took part in the National launch of the 16 days held in Tlokwen and attended the Lobatse 16 Days campaign, which targeted footballers. GL Botswana also took part on the launch of the *He for She* Campaign organised by the International Working Group (IWG) on Women in Sports.
- 10 councils conducted their own 16 days of activism against GBV on women and children activities and some conducted campaigns collaboratively with Gender Links. GL Botswana attended and supported council's campaigns and activities.

## National study on GBV

At the end of 2015 Gender Links had submitted a tender to conduct consultancy work on the National GBV study in Botswana and currently are in the process of finalising agreements.

## GBV Training Workshop for Politicians and GFPs

In efforts to intensify GBV campaigns in Botswana a training was held with 43 councillors and gender focal persons from 25 Councils. This training was essential for new councillors after the local and national elections in 2014 and therefore needed induction and leadership training on gender responsive decision making and governance and strategies for ending GBV. The GBV Indicators study results were presented to the participants including the National GBV strategy on ending GBV by 2020. The councils were encouraged to align their GBV action plans to the National strategy.

## Alliance

The launch of the 2015 barometer took place at Tlotlo Hotel and Conference centre and was commissioned by the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs during the 2015 National Summit. Strategic meetings were held in collaboration with

the Alliance as part of lobbying for collaboration in the regional summit and lobby for Botswana to sign and ratify the SADC Protocol. An alliance consultative meeting held after the national summit aimed at collating contributions from the gender movement on the post 2015 agenda.

## Media

In the third quarter of 2015 GL conducted a workshop for media houses on gender sensitive reporting. Ten print and electronic media houses articles, 15 radio programmes and one television article formed part of the 2015 Gender and Media Progress Study.

## Key Challenges

- Most local councils do not have funds that are deliberately earmarked for gender mainstreaming. Those that are able to carry forwards their gender plans do so by using budgeted funds for other activities. As a result, most councils fail to cost and effectively implement their gender and GBV action plans.
- Trained Gender Focal persons transfer from time to time and often times when they get to the different areas they do not become active.
- The media policy has not started being fully implemented by media houses which GL has MOUs with.
- Media COEs do not own the process and some GFPs are transferred to other media houses which are not part of the COE process.
- There are few funding opportunities within Botswana which is classed as a middle income country. This hinders some of the GL programs to take off as envisioned such as the entrepreneurship training.

## Key priorities for 2016

- Intensify local and international fundraising as current funding soon ends.
- Promote sustainability of all COEs to reduce dependence on Gender Links.
- Establish foci of responsibility to roll out the strengthening of COEs. Conduct backstopping workshops (update council action plans and facilitate councils to budget for them and lobby for government funding).
- Disseminate the pilot entrepreneurship and life skills project impact assessment results and lobby for improved women's empowerment initiatives for ending violence.
- Complete phases two and three of the EU funded entrepreneurship training in 5 councils and seek mentorship for emerging entrepreneurs.
- Publish repeat "I" stories for Botswana.
- Strengthen media COE work through the implementation of the gender media policy.
- Conduct district and national summits successfully and in collaboration with the government and private sector.
- Educate Batswana on the new protocol document upon signing.
- Strengthen relationships with organisations in the Alliance nationally and internationally.
- Train newly elected gender champions and women commissioners on gender based violence.

