

Gender Justice



Linda Musariri - Gender justice manager



Anne Hilton - Economic justice manager

15 Achievements 15 years

1. Championing the Sixteen Days of Activism and its extension to 365 days of action.
2. Supporting 10 governments in developing 365 Day Action Plans with prevention as a central focus.
3. Research on a model for preventing GBV applied in 425 Centres of Excellence for Gender in Local Government across the region.
4. Championing the SADC Gender Protocol target of halving GBV by 2015.
5. GBV Baseline Studies in seven SADC countries involving 30 327 respondents.
6. Two national and one provincial action plan, and 260 local action plans to end GBV.
7. Global sharing of the research through the UN Economic Commission.
8. President of Botswana and Prime Minister of Mauritius instructing their cabinets to mount high profile, concerted campaigns for ending GBV.
9. Piloting a unique model to assist 1500 survivors of gender violence to reclaim their lives through entrepreneurship training linked to the COE's for Gender in Local Government.
10. Working with over 400 councils on local action to end GBV.
11. Member of the South African National Council against GBV (NCGBV).
12. Partnering with the University of Cape Town in a diagnostic study on violence against women and children commissioned by the South African government.
13. Convening a high level round table meeting attended by gender ministers from Mauritius and Lesotho to take stock and map a way forward in responding to GBV.
14. Proposing a possible 100 indicators concerned for measuring gender violence in the Post-2015 era.
15. Through the Alliance, a member of Women's Major Group, GL contributed to the adoption of two indicators on gender violence in the SDGs.

No. of events during the year	Country No.	Ang	Bots	DRC	Les	Mada	Mal	Maur	Moz	Nam	SA	Sey	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	Total
					1			5	2		1	1	1	4			15
No. of participants in 2015	MALE				FEMALE				TOTAL								
	187				467				654								
Outputs in 2015	Reports	Action plans			Books		Fact sheets			DVDs/Infographic			Pamphlets/posters				
Outreach in 2015	Website hits		Contacts generated			Media mentions			Other events attended			No of MOUS with partners					
Evaluation scores in 2015	Content	Design	Documen-tation	Facili-tation	Group work	Outputs	Outcomes	Learning	Networking	Admin	Overall						

Over the last fifteen years, GL's gender justice programme has grown in breadth and depth, distinguishing itself for constant innovation and pushing new boundaries. From an initial focus on campaigns and advocacy centring on the Sixteen Days of Activism, the programme has worked with governments on National Action Plans to End Gender Violence, then moved on to ground-breaking work in measuring GBV. The GL justice and governance portfolios are interlinked. GL has sought to cascade

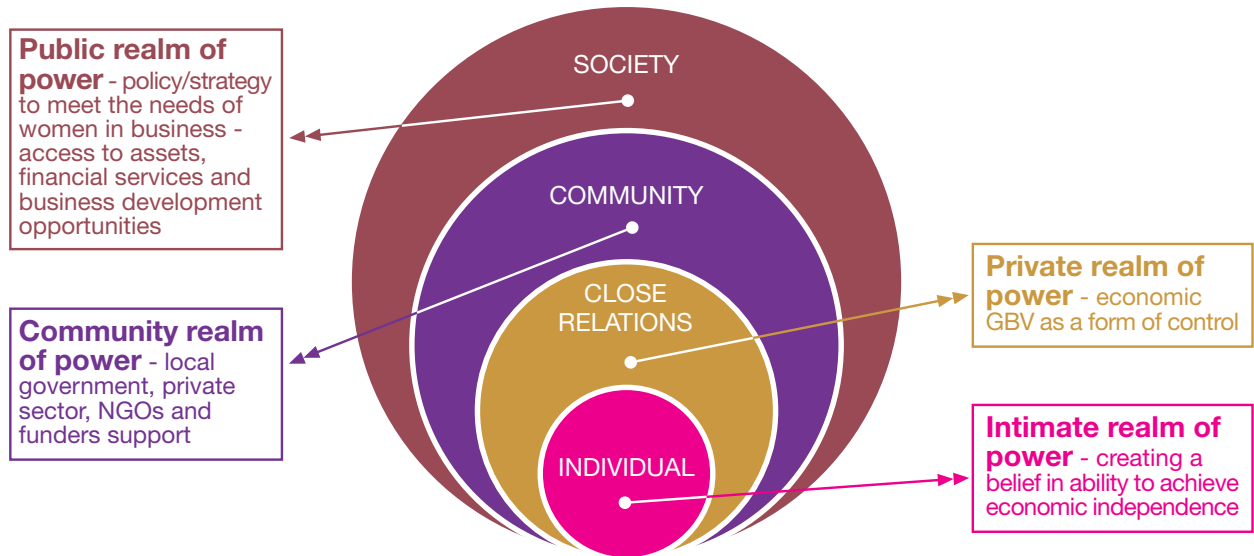


national action plans for ending GBV to local action plans. The GBV indicators research is also being cascaded to the local level, so that it can be used to measure progress in ending gender violence. This has been taken even further, with parts of the survey used in the Gender Empowerment Index (GEI) devised for GL's innovative pilot programme on economic empowerment of survivors of GBV at the local level. This project is testing the hypothesis that *women who are economically empowered have more voice and more choice and are thus better able to challenge societal norms through enhanced agency.*

How the justice programme works

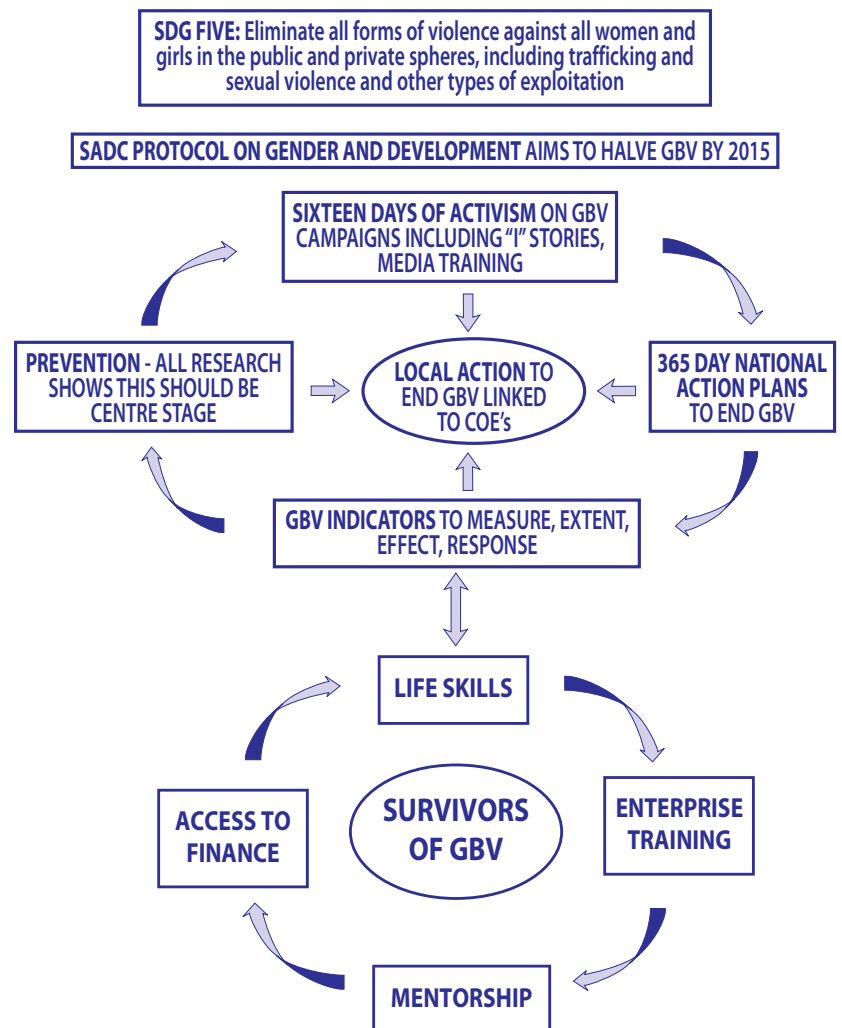
Gender-based violence in the SADC, as elsewhere in the world, remains a complex issue that is rooted in the structural inequalities between men and women that result in the persistence of power differentials

between the sexes. Decades of acceptance have entrenched and normalised GBV. Despite the several constitutional and legislative advances to gender equality in the SADC region, levels of gender violence remain exceptionally high in all countries.



The ecological model is a theoretical framework that explains why some of the violence occurs, why some men are more violent than others and why some women are consistently the survivors of abuse. This model considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community, and societal factors. This model shows how violence is rooted in women's lack of self-worth and self-esteem at the individual level; compounded by attitudes, traditions and customs at the close relationship and community level; and unresponsive systems and structures at the societal level. While the model identifies the arenas and the factors that put people at risk for experiencing or perpetrating violence it also locates prevention strategies in a continuum of activities that address multiple levels of the model. GL's Theory of Change (ToC) is that the vicious negative cycle of VAW can be turned into a virtuous positive cycle by working around different initiatives that target all levels of the model from individual to societal through a simple slogan that has been translated into dozens of local languages - "peace begins at home".

Conceptual model



Key activities

GBV Baseline studies: To date, GL has completed the GBV Baseline Study in six countries and is at the stage of data collection in Seychelles the seventh

country. GL is also still to launch the Zambia report, as the gender ministry and Central Statistics Office conduct their final verification of the sampling methodology and results.

Participants in the GBV Indicator	Females	Males	Total
Botswana	639	590	1229
Lesotho	1777	1590	3367
Mauritius	679	678	1357
Zambia pilot study	578	719	1297
Zambia national study	3963	3639	7602
Four provinces of South Africa	2800	2821	5621
Zimbabwe	4507	3847	8354
Seychelles	750	750	1500
Total	15693	14634	30327
	52%	48%	100%

The table shows that a total of 30,327 people have participated in the GBV indicators research: 52% women. With 8,354 respondents, Zimbabwe had the highest sample, enabling the country to draw data for each of its ten provinces, in addition to the national survey.

In late 2014, GL facilitated an inception workshop in **Seychelles** on “Measuring Gender Based Violence” organised by the Seychelles Ministry of Social Affairs with the collaboration of the Australian High Commission and the British High Commission. The workshop laid the ground work for nationwide research in Seychelles. In January 2016, GL trained around 30 field workers for the GBV Baseline Study. Data collection commenced in February and was expected to finish by April. However due to geographical barriers and high attrition rates of researchers the data collection process ran behind schedule and is now expected to finish by end of April. Launch of the report and action planning workshop are scheduled to take place in July 2016.

Following a successful launch of the **Botswana** VAW Baseline study, the government has developed a new costed NAP and approached GL to assist with cascading the baseline study to district level so as to broaden the sample and be able to draw indicators at district level. Preparations to undertake the study are now at advanced levels. Currently the Gender Affairs Department is reviewing the questionnaire in preparation for the data collection to commence in June 2016.

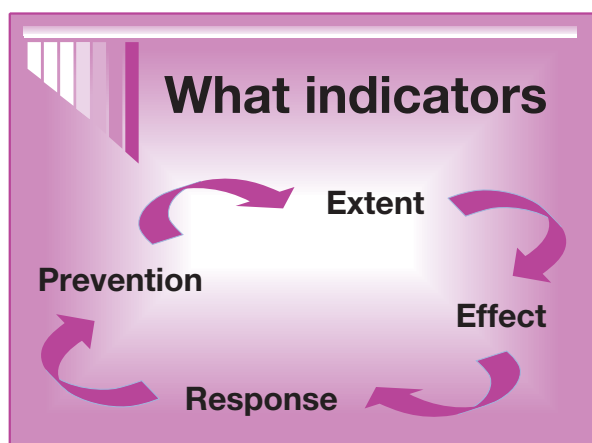
In **Zambia** the Ministry has been spearheading the national research and hopefully will adopt the study

as an ongoing monitoring tool. In August 2015, the Ministry in partnership with GL convened a validation meeting of the GBV Study. This has led to a series of consultations and further engagement regarding strengthening the methodology. The process has led to a decision of undertaking advanced statistical analyses on the data which is currently underway. GL is hoping to finish this project and launch the report followed by reviewing of the NAP by August 2016.

In **South Africa**, GL finished the GBV indicators research in four provinces, and aims to upscale this to a national study. GL has been a member of the National Council against GBV (NCGBV) since its inception and was actively involved in the review of the National Strategic Plan to end GBV. However, the NCGBV and the development of the NSP were suspended in 2014. Several CSOs came together to form the National Strategic Plan GBV Campaign Network which is lobbying for the development and adoption of the GBV NSP. GL continues to be part of the NSP GBV Campaign Network.

Strengthening the methodology: As part of the Sixteen Days of Activism, Gender Links and UNICEF convened a one and half day Critical Thinking Forum on measuring GBV from the 2nd to the 3rd of December 2014. The forum brought together a broad range of experts to review methodologies for measuring GBV in the SADC region, and the underlying drivers, including childhood experiences of violence. The meeting revisited the methodologies used in conducting Violence against Women Baseline studies in six SADC countries. The meeting took place against the backdrop of a regional campaign to streng-

then indicators in the Post-2015 global agenda and in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (SGP) that will be reviewed in 2015. Two key concerns regard sampling, and expanding the methodology to cover Gender Based Violence, not just Violence against Women. The need to revisit and refine the methodology has been prompted by Botswana's desire to cascade the research to district level and make it a GBV study, as well as the new interest from Seychelles.



Following the two day workshop, GL reconvened another technical meeting to revise the two questionnaires. This resulted in the Violence against Men (VAM) Module being introduced to the current questionnaire making it a GBV rather than a VAW study. The new questionnaire is being piloted in Seychelles. Botswana is currently contextualising the same questionnaire in preparation for the data collection scheduled to take place this year. The new methodology has also come with the use of tablets in place of PDAs. Tablets have proved to be efficient and enhance data quality.

Mining the data: After several consultations with and recommendations from stakeholders in Zambia, GL is mining the data further to conduct advanced statistics such as predictive models and structural modelling equations. These are useful for determining the major factors contributing to GBV as well as urgent matters needing the attention of policy makers. An example below shows findings from the predictive models conducted by University of Cape Town under the Safer South Africa Initiative using GL data from the four provinces of South Africa.

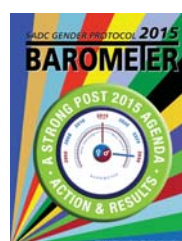
Synoptic view of direct determinants of perpetration of violence in South Africa's 4 provinces (Gauteng, KZN, Western Cape and Limpopo)

Determinants (in chronological order of association/influence)	Outcomes				
	Physical IPV	Emotional IPV	Economic IPV	Sexual IPV	Sexual violence
Male Control of Relationship	2	3	4	2	
Personal gender norms	3	2	3	4	3
Childhood abuse	1	1	1	1	1
PTSD			2	3	2
Multiple sexual partners	4	4		5	4
Experienced trauma		5			
Own alcohol abuse	5				

The table shows that while controlling for other factors, child abuse came out as the most dominant determinant of various forms of GBV perpetration among other factors; male control relationships, personal gender norms, PTSD, multiple sexual partners, experienced trauma and own alcohol abuse. A conclusion reached from the analysis was addressing child abuse should be a priority in addressing GBV. These findings were presented at the South African cabinet end of 2014. GL is undertaking the same analysis with the Zambia data.

Influencing the regional and global Post-2015 agenda:

GL has linked the work on measuring VAW at national and local level to regional and global debates. The 2014 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer broke new ground by proposing potential new targets and indicators for the Post-2015 agenda. Of the 300 possible indicators, 100 concern gender violence, and they derive from these studies. The 2015 Barometer refined the indicators and reduced the



number to about 50. Through the Alliance, a member of the Women's Major Group, GL has commented on several different versions of the Sustainable Development Goals that now comprise 17 goals and 169 targets. As a result Goal five - gender equality now has a specific target on VAW and adopted two indicators on gender violence that can only be measured through the GBV household survey similar to GL's GBV Indicators Study. These are;

- *Indicator 38: Prevalence of girls and women 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence [by an intimate partner] in the last 12 months.*
- *Indicator 39: Percentage of referred cases of sexual and gender-based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced.*

GBV Action Plans: GL worked with the Limpopo Provincial government to develop an action plan to end GBV as well as a Strategic Communication Plan to publicise the findings in the province. Currently GL is engaging Western Cape provincial government regarding the development of provincial action plans to end GBV. By end of 2016 GL is working towards having three more national/provincial action plans and strategic communication plans in Seychelles, Zambia, Botswana and Western Cape.

Cascading GBV action plans to the local level: In all the six countries where the study has been undertaken, GL has managed to work with local government to review local action plans to end GBV aligning them to the findings from the study. To date 260 GBV local action plans have been reviewed in the six countries. GL is using the results from GBV Indicators to lobby local governments to review and develop action plans that address economic justice at local level. The local government COE's create a link between national policy initiatives and the practical implementation of strategies to address GBV in communities. This challenges the prevailing assumption that GBV is not a local level competence. Many of the conditions that cause women to be unsafe such as poor lighting, lack of security in public spaces, naming streets, lack of basic services - water, electricity and sanitation - are controlled by local government. The local government COE process also arose from the realisation that the only way to empower the most marginalised women is to work through local government. GL has learned that the only way to ensure gender responsive

governance, especially to the economic needs of women, is to work council by council. The ingenuity of the COE model is that as work takes place at the local level, it is linked through to the region through the SADC Gender Protocol that sets targets and timeframes for 2015 now extended to 2030: as aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Beijing Platform for Action and Africa Agenda 2063.

GL held **District Level Summits** (DLSs) for the first time in 6 of the 10 SADC Countries running the COE programme in 2014 and 7 in 2015. GL held Pre-summit verification meetings in the three countries that did not hold DLSs to review progress of the councils in gender mainstreaming, promoting local economic development and ending GBV within their communities. The DLSs are used as a learning, knowledge sharing and networking platform for councils within similar geographical locations showcasing best practices. This localised model gave COEs more time to participate, to share experiences and best practice. This model proved so popular that two South African Councils (Mossel Bay and Capricorn) held their own local level summits to end GBV. Grand Port Council in Mauritius, which won the prize for the best COE in all of Southern Africa, hosted a study visit for all the councils of Mauritius, themed around local level peace initiatives.



Lobatse town council Sixteen Day march.

Photo: Mboy

Advocacy: In 2015, GL embarked on a vibrant online campaign during the Sixteen Days of Activism that saw several "I" stories and opinion pieces from various countries being published on the GL website on a daily basis. GL and partner organisations ran the 16 Days campaign under the banner, *From Peace in the home to Peace in the world: End Violence! Empower women!* In Zambia GL ran workshops to publicise the Anti GBV Act. In Mauritius and Mozambique GL engaged the media through workshops. GL

collaborated with the councils to run vibrant Sixteen Days of Activism campaigns under the banner “*End Violence: Empower Women*,” underscoring economic emancipation as key to long term, sustainable solutions. Councils developed a variety of associated campaigns such as “*Take Back the Night*” and “*Making IT work for Gender Justice*” campaigns. Moving boldly into a new and sensitive area given the high levels of homophobia in the region, GL Namibia piloted a campaign on discrimination of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transsexual, Intersex, Asexual and Queer (LGBTIAQ) persons and reviewed the action plans of 4 councils to include LGBTI policy level and implementation needs.



Empowering women, ending violence: Since its founding in 2001 GL has worked with over 2000 women in documenting their experiences of Gender based Violence (GBV). GL has

also conducted GBV prevalence surveys in Mauritius, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Lesotho that that one in four (Mauritius) to four in five women (Zambia) have experienced gender violence. The most likely forms of violence are also those least likely to be reported to the police - economic, psychological and verbal abuse. Many women spoke about staying in or returning to abusive relationships because they lacked economic independence or experienced financial control as a form of abuse. GL set out to test the links between economic empowerment and ending GBV.

The programme focuses on an integrated approach of life skills and entrepreneurship training including confidence building; decision-making, business management, use of IT, networking and addressing the underlying structural inequalities between men and men. Informed by the ecological theory of change, the project aims at addressing power relations at an individual, personal relationship, community level.

Participants in the empowering women, ending violence programme

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Baseline GEI	Baseline "I" Story	Repeat GEI	Repeat "I" Story
Target	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Zambia	188	158	133		179		124
South Africa	150	143	90		153		81
Swaziland	214	163	140		114		107
Mauritius	195	116	105		140		74
Madagascar	184	172	154		181		139
Botswana	183	134	109		163		89
Zimbabwe	181	166	150		179		141
Lesotho	175	131	130		172		75
Namibia	156	153	128		164		128
Mozambique	119	192	220		179		175
	1745	1528	1350	1127	1604	1141	1133

The table shows that 1350 women, 90% of the original target, completed the third stage of the project. A total of 1133 shared their follow up “I” story. In 2014 and 2015, 202 women from the programme (two from each of the 101 participating councils) shared their business plans at the national SADC Gender

Protocol@Work Summits. Two from each country went on to compete at the regional summits which awarded prizes in two categories: existing and start up business. Many of the women obtained passports for the first time. The summits opened their eyes and their horizons to the broader issues in the region.

One example of how summits have changed the lives of the entrepreneurs is Mafumanang Sekonyela who won the national award in Lesotho and applied for a passport for first time in her life to participate in the regional SADC Gender Protocol@Work summit in 2014. During the summit, GL arranged a study visit to the Maponya Mall in Soweto. One of the businesses expressed interest in ordering the flowers that Mafumanang makes in her business. After the summit she rushed home excited about the new market opportunity. She got big orders and had to hire two women to help her. Sekonyela now goes to Johannesburg four times a year; an empowering experience. She has opened a bank account for the first time in her life; is able to pay her kids school fees and takes care of her family.



On a winning track: Mafumanang Sekonyela.

Photo: Ntolo Lekau

Outputs

Targets for the year	Indicator(s)	Baselines	Progress
Multi-media materials on the VAW Baseline Studies in 19 languages by March 2016.	No of advocacy materials in multi-media formats.	13 (cumulative) pamphlets and audio visual programmes in one relevant language produced in each country.	To date GL has produced 14 advocacy materials; South Africa 4 English and 2 local languages, Zimbabwe 1 English and 2 local languages, Lesotho 1 English 1 local language, Mauritius 1 English, Zambia 1 English =13 pamphlets + 1 infographic.
Strategic communication workshops and implementation in four (cumulative) countries and in communities based on the findings of the VAW Baseline Studies.	No of strategic communication workshops held.	Two strategic communication workshops held in Lesotho and South Africa - Limpopo province.	GL is still planning to hold strategic communication workshops in Zambia (after the publication of the research) and Seychelles. Plans are advanced for a similar engagement in the Western Cape.



In the six countries where GL has undertaken research to measure Violence Against Women and Girls (South Africa, Mauritius, Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana) GL has translated the findings into local languages and used these to strengthen local action plans with specific targets and timeframes for “ending gender violence community by community.” Examples of local level strategies for ending GBV include involving politicians in community sensitisation workshops in Botswana. The Beitbridge Rural District Council in Zimbabwe has installed street lights around public entertainment centres and street corners and lobbied government for additional funds to construct clinics for health care services.

Outcomes

Targets for the year	Indicator(s)	Baselines	Progress
Progress towards four (cumulative) strengthened and costed national/provincial plans; at least 60 local plans (cumulative). Research conducted in two additional countries. VAW embedded in the SDGs. Strengthened and costed GBV strategies and action plans at national, provincial and local level in countries that have undertaken Violence Against Women Baseline Studies as well as continued uptake/leveraging of the methodology and practise.	Comparative analyses of the national and local action plans.	Plans developed in Lesotho and Limpopo province. 37 local plans achieved, VAWG targets incorporated in the SDGs. Seychelles has expressed interest in the VAW Baseline Study.	To date GL has helped Lesotho and Zimbabwe to develop NAPs and Limpopo Province of South Africa to develop a provincial action plan informed by the findings from the study. GL has made significant progress in undertaking the project in Seychelles. GL has signed a contract with Botswana to repeat the study there with a larger sample and bringing in violence against men. By December 2015, 62 councils in the countries that have conducted the GBV baseline surveys in Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa reviewed their action plans to incorporate the findings of the VAWG baseline study's findings and recommendations.
To test the hypothesis that increased economic capacity will result in a decrease in GBV and increased agency for 1500 GBV survivors.	Number of survivors who complete the entrepreneurship training. % change in their income.	New.	1350 emerging entrepreneurs, 90% of the initial target group, completed the three phases of the training. Of those trained, 91% completed a business plan and 79% implemented their plans. The repeat monitoring and evaluation conducted in September to November 2015 showed a 66% increase in earnings for the participants involved in the programme regionally.
To change attitudes on GBV in the 100 local councils that anchored the entrepreneurship project.	% change in the Gender Progress Score (GPS).	Overall average of 61% at baseline.	Overall, the Gender Progress Score (GPS) administered in all councils at inception and at the end of the project rose from 61% to 63%. Three countries - South Africa, Botswana and Zambia - registered a decline, showing that social change is not always linear. But the fact that this score improved in seven countries is encouraging.
Learning on local action to end gender violence and the link between economic and gender justice is shared through monitoring, evaluation, documenting and engagement in the Annual Gender Justice Summits, creating multiplier effects that shows that the SADC Gender Protocol target of halving GBV can be achieved.	No of case studies presented at summits.	New.	In 2014 and 2015, Gender Justice summits were held at District and National level in all 10 countries and included the participation of 20 emerging entrepreneurs from the entrepreneurship programme. This led up to the presentation of 20 good practises by the top 2 women from each country at the Regional Gender Justice summit in Johannesburg in 2014 and Gabarone in 2015. Since 2013, GL has collected 267 good practice case studies on ending GBV at the local level.

These case studies are presented and further analysed to inform the writing of the book and development of the DVD for this project. Councils and their presentations are collected and shared on the GL website. To further campaign against GBV, the case studies were used to produce a DVD on Connecting the Dots - Ending Violence, Empowering Women. GL has compiled a book and ten country pamphlets on the findings and lessons learned from the project.

Empowering Women - Ending Violence in Southern Africa

The GL Funding for Leadership and
Opportunities for Women (FLOW)
Programme 2012 - 2015



Ending violence - empowering women:

In September 2015, GL conducted an extensive review of the project to find out what had changed and how best to move forward. Drawing on data from the Gender Empowerment Index (GEI) administered at the beginning and end of the project, as well as first-hand accounts and interviews, GL found both a marked improvement in the financial circumstances of the women, and in their personal agency. The programme has broken new ground in establishing the link between economic empowerment and ending gender violence and has been able to positively link increase in economic independence to a more amicable relationship with partners; resulting in less abuse. The review also led to several recommendations on how the model can be strengthened in the next phase, as part of GL's vision of ending violence, community by community.

Application of knowledge: One of the most valuable outcomes of the programme was the extent to which women were able to apply what they had learnt. Many spoke of improvements in their businesses and felt empowered by the information and skills they had learnt. A number found new markets (54%), added new products (59%) and 67% grew their business. 48% indicated that they had started a new business. The opening of bank accounts (41%) is a significant change in the lives of these women and whilst the project has not quantified the levels of savings, the fact that women have recognised the importance of saving for their businesses is important.

Here is one example from the book documenting the project: "Since I started attending the workshops my business is doing well. I am not suffering abuse anymore because I am earning my own money from my business. I can buy my own food and pay school fees for the kids. I am no more abused by my husband as we made peace with my husband. This happened because now I am making money and can buy food for the house and help our children wherever I can. Our children are progressing well at school since they are no more facing poverty unlike in the past. Now I feel like I am empowered with information from Gender Links to make right decisions." Faustina Petrus from Ongwediva in Namibia.

Increases in income: The regional average increase rose from R270 of R796 per month. This is an important outcome and demonstrates a positive outcome in their financial situation for many of the women.

"Before, I was an abused woman who suffered abuse from my partner in silence. But since I met the NGO Gender Links, I took control of my life. Today, I became financially independent. I went from being an abused woman to a woman entrepreneur. I encourage all women who suffer in silence to reach out and gain the means to get out of their hell and become financially independent," said Noelle Simirone, who received entrepreneurship training from Gender Links, and used her newly developed business skills get back on her feet after a history of domestic violence.

Nomcebo Dlamini, an entrepreneur from Swaziland who is developing a business for plus sized women, and women with disabilities, says that Gender Links built her confidence as a business woman, and now she wants to pass that confidence on to her clients. "My dream is to dress people like me so they can be comfortable in their bodies and have the confidence to lift their heads high. Looking good is feeling good and as a plus-sized woman who is also disabled, I know what would make another woman like me feel good and also look comfortable in," says Dlamini. Dlamini met Gender Links (GL) through entrepreneurship workshops that taught participants how to develop business plans. "GL came to teach us about business plans. They catered for us even if one did not have a plan but a vision for the business they wanted to develop. About 20 of us participated in this initiative. Through this I have been empowered and gained knowledge on how I can improve my business plan. I can talk confidently and know how to approach people in business. I want to register my business and get a license and be able to get tenders."

Advancements in technical skills: GL believes that the use of IT and mobile technologies are key to the economic advancement of women. Computer skills training was introduced in the first training workshop. The use of computers increased from 18% to 68% and email usage by 35 percentage points to 48%.



Participants learning computer skills in Lesotho during the programme.

Photo: Gender Links

Personal agency: Regionally the overall score for relationship control increased from 62% to 66%, with Botswana highest at 82%, a 12 percentage point increase from before the programme. Lesotho and Zambia recorded increases of 11 and 10 percentage points respectively.

“GL enlightened me and I realised that I am better off without my husband who always abused me and caused a lot of problems in my life. The freedom that I earned through the knowledge that was imparted to me gave me the strength to work hard and escape from the challenges brought about by polygamy. However, the most important skill I attained is business management. The entrepreneurial skills helped me in setting up my vending business, selling vegetables and fruits. I used US\$30 which I borrowed from my cousin as start-up capital. I started with a vegetable business so as to raise money to set up my desired project, a poultry production business. With the profits I realised from selling vegetables and fruits I managed to construct a fowl run with a carrying capacity of 100 chickens. I need US\$150 for my project to be fully operational but I have been unable to meet the desired results within a short period of time as yet. I am tied down with other responsibilities like paying rent and bills, hence the delay in making my project tick. My husband and his second wife continued insulting me through telephone calls and text messages. The day they realised that I was working with Gender Links they immediately stopped their insulting behaviour. I am still wondering what is in the name of Gender Links that forced them to stop insulting me. However, I feel indebted to GL because they brought peace of mind into my troubled life.”

**Ropafadzo from Gweru Zimbabwe*

Women indicated substantial decreases in their experiences of GBV: The regional score for experiencing “less or much less” abuse was 87%, for “same” 6% and for “worse or much worse” 7%. Women have shown increased assertiveness within their relationships, families and communities and have suggested that the decrease in GBV and increase in respect in these relationships is due to their acquired knowledge and ability to support themselves and their families. “He doesn't get angry easily with me anymore because I also put food on the table; he respects me.... During the training I learnt a lot of skills on how to maintain peace with my husband and avoid conflict with him.” *Donatilla Amwaalwa from Oshikuku in Namibia*

The Gender Attitude survey results show an overall increase in the Gender Progress Score (GPS) of two percentage points in all the councils where baseline and progress surveys were conducted. Lesotho has the highest progress score of 73% and Mauritius the lowest at 57%. Mozambique records the most improvement by 11 percentage points from 56% to 67%. Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mauritius and Namibia recorded slight increases of two to three percentage points. Botswana, Zambia and South Africa regressed, by one to two percentage points showing that social change is seldom linear. However, within these averages, some councils registered high scores and improvement. The council scores ranged from 95% (Seate in Lesotho) to 56% (Black River in Mauritius). No council fell below the 50% mark. Several fell within the 60-70% range which is well above their country averages.

* This is a pseudonym



Claudia Rakotonirina (right) interviewing a participant at an Entrepreneurship workshop in Manjakandriana, Madagascar. Photo: Zoto Razanandrateta

Challenges

The GBV Indicators research relies heavily on partnerships with governments, necessary for ownership and follow up, but often onerous for planning. In Zambia, where the research is being funded by the UN through the gender ministry, GL has experienced several delays. For a project that commenced in 2013, GL is still to finalise and launch the report. Despite the challenges, government ministries remain crucial in this process as they ensure ownership and sustainability especially the adoption of the indicators for ongoing monitoring. Another challenge has been of implementation costs going over the budget in the case of Seychelles. This was affected mainly with the devaluation of the Rand in the past year.



16 Days of Activism march against gender based violence, Orange Farm, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Photo: Thando Dlamini

Risk analysis

Risks	Rate - High/ Medium/Low	How these will be mitigated
GBV INDICATORS		
Partnerships dynamics can have negative impact on project success.	High	Ensure effective partnerships with both relevant government departments and CSOs. The flexible funding has enabled us to go forward with the project where there was some stalling by partners e.g MGCD Zambia
Implementation costs of conducting research can creep if not capped.	Low	GL seeks to establish mutually beneficial partnerships with governments using the Botswana case as a model. Seychelles government contributed 40% of the total costs. This helped to make the research possible and enhanced ownership of the results.
Lack of or poor buy-in by government officials has implications for advocacy and the outcome of strengthening national and local action plans to end GBV.	Medium	GL will ensure political buy in from the onset to ensure ownership of the results and subsequently commitment in advocacy activities.
Wide expression of interest from new countries implies taking on more work than planned initially.	Medium	Partnerships with the governments and in country fundraising cut costs in the overall implementation for GL for example Botswana is now cascading the project to district level all costs covered by the Botswana government.
Unpredictable political environments	Medium	GL will ensure political buy in by existing structures rather than individuals.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING		
Funding to continue to offer the programme.	High	Diversified sources of funding will be sought including the private sector. Support will be aimed at both financial and in-kind contributions.
The project is run by staff with already high volumes of work.	Medium	Ideally dedicated staff with entrepreneurship experience should be engaged in each country but funds do not permit at this time.
Cooperation from COE councils. The pilot achieved mixed results in this regard.	Medium	Going forward the selection of councils and will be more robust and MOUs will need to be signed.
Drops out rates of participants.	High	Going forward participants will be selected based on a set of criteria aimed at having a better understanding of the clients circumstances and willingness to see the programme through. The programme will also be redesigned to be more demand rather than supply driven.

Next steps

GBV indicators

- Launch the Zambia report, and use the findings to revisit and strengthen 365 Day National Action Plan to End Gender Violence, with accompanying strategic communications plans and frameworks.
- Finalise the studies in Seychelles and Botswana testing the new questionnaire.
- Develop Strategic communication plans and strengthen action plans to end GBV in light of the findings in Botswana and Seychelles.
- Use the research in the seven countries where it has been completed to strengthen local action plans for ending gender violence.
- Campaign for all SADC countries to undertake comprehensive national GBV prevalence and attitude surveys, as part of the Post-2015 SADC Gender Protocol and SDG campaign.

Entrepreneurship training for survivors of GBV

- Choosing councils more carefully and locking in their commitment for better results.
- Working with fewer councils at a time to facilitate links and sustainability of the project and the women's business aspirations.
- Choosing participants more carefully and supporting them holistically for the workshop period to maximise impact of the training.
- Strengthening links with potential support for the women in councils.
- Introducing of communities of business women and peer mentorship for learning, sharing and networking.
- Identifying potential sources of funding has been difficult and needs to be a focus issue with each new council and as a key issue in the Post-2015 agenda for the economic mainstreaming of women in SADC.



Looking to the future: Mayor of Bongatsara, Rabearisoa Lancelot Annick, and GL Madagascar Country Manager, Ialfine Papisy.

Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna