



Marta Cumbi - Board Member



# MOZAMBIQUE

## 15 years of service

- GL Mozambique got registered on 21 March 2011 (GL's tenth anniversary) and registered as a National Non-Profit in February 2015.
- Completed Gender and Local Government research study - "At the Coalface Gender and Local Government in Mozambique."
- Local Government COE process completed in 19 Councils.
- Successfully held three Gender Justice and Local Government national summits and awards.
- Completed and strategically disseminated findings and recommendations on the Gender and Media Progress Study (GMPS) and Glass Ceiling Researches.
- Successfully rolling out Media COE work with 12 media houses.
- **Key partners:** Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Gender, National Municipality Association, Ministry of Land and Environment, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Commission for Social Action, Gender, Technology and Communication, The National Parliament, Media Houses, Forum Mulher, Muleide, WLSA, Embassies, United Nations Agencies such as UN WOMEN.



Alice Banze - Lusophone Director and Mozambique Country Manager



Raul Manhisse - Finance and Programme Officer

GL inaugurated the Lusophone office in Mozambique on its tenth anniversary in March 2011. GL Mozambique became a national non-profit organisation with its own board in February 2015. The mandate of the office is to advance GL's vision and mission in Mozambique and Angola. Significant strides have been made in domesticating and localising the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the SDGs through GL's programmes including Governance and Gender Justice, Media and also through the Alliance. GL Mozambique achieves its mandate through strategic partnerships across various government ministries, donors, women's associations and local government associations, women's rights organisations, community based organisations and within communities worked in.

### Key achievements

**The 50/50 campaign:** In advancing gender equality through a robust 50/50 campaign, GL Mozambique initiated lobbying and advocacy for electoral systems reform and quotas at local and national levels through the partnership with the Parliament ahead of imminent elections in 2018. Mozambique has 53 councils and only 5 out of those are led by women. This situation is concerning for GL in the quest for localise gender parity and equality according the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Centres of Excellence for Gender in Local Government:** GL Mozambique has rolled out the COE programme to 19 councils with costed and adopted gender and GBV action plans. This work is carried out in Maputo Province (Namaacha, Manhica), Gaza Province (Xai-Xai, Mandlaki, Chibuto, Chokwe Bilene and Macia), Inhambane Province (Inhambane, Maxixe, Massinga and Vilankulos), Mozambique Central, Tete Province (Ulongue), Zambeze Province (Mocuba), Sofala Province (Beira), Manica Province (Chimoio), North

Mozambique in Nampula Province (Nampula) and Pemba Province (Mocimboa da Praia). The office managed to strengthen strategic new partnerships and two confirmed donors for 2016 programme implementation, DIAKONIA and Amplify Change; in strengthening the COE work in new areas such as SRHR and working with young people.

**Ending violence, empowering women:** GL Mozambique successfully completed the Entrepreneurship and Life Skills Programme for women GBV survivors in 10 councils. GL Mozambique trained 220 women who had experienced any type of GBV within the council communities. The impact assessment done at the end of 2015 showed that 80% of the participants completed their business plans, 41% improved their businesses, 56% extended and expanded their businesses from which 50% opened bank accounts and 36% had knowledge on how to use computers. Participants also reported a 66% decrease in GBV experiences. The average relationship control improved from 69% to 73%, showing a four percentage point increase during the project period.

**The Gender and Media COE project:** GL Mozambique is working with 12 media houses on Print, TV and Radio namely, Mozambique TV Mozambique, Noticias, TIM, Radio Tera Verde, Mutiana, Magazine Independente, Radio Mozambique, Escorpiao, Zambeze, Savana, Soico and Mira Mar.

**The SADC Gender Protocol Alliance:** GL continues to work collaboratively with Forum Mulher, the Alliance Focal Point in Mozambique on nationalising, localising and monitoring the implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol and Post 2015 Agenda. The Mozambique Alliance has produced annual barometers tracking government implementation of the protocol and produced.

**The 2015 Mozambique SADC Protocol@ Work Summit** built and strengthened partnerships, showcasing council's best practices and GL's work through its core programmes. Participants included the Minister of Gender, USA Ambassador and the UN Women Country Representative, Senior Management within councils - Mayors, councillors and other civil society organisations.

#### Protocol@Work Summit facts

- 106 participants - 37 males and 69 females. Amongst the participants were government officials, members of the donor community; and alliance representatives from the alliance, local government and media houses.
- GL Mozambique received 55 from 33 females and 12 men in eight categories.
- 15 female and 10 male winners.
- 16 Ministries represented.
- 11 councils represented.
- 12 media houses represented.
- 1 government entities represented.

#### Key challenges faced by the programme

- Gender specific financial budgeting at council and ministerial levels remains limited. GL Mozambique has lobbied the Ministry of Gender through its partnership to allocate more funds to councils for gender specific objectives. Councils have been encouraged to tap into district funds for specific gender responsive projects.
- Political and socio economic dynamics within different provinces and councils limit optimal engagement and robust networking and peer learning between councils. In some cases even within the same geographical region, human and financial constraints deter the momentum of the COE process.
- Though some funds are secured for 2016, these are inadequate to cater for GL Mozambique's increasing demand and work within councils and communities. The funding challenges are expected to continue to improve as GL Mozambique since 2015 is registered as a national non-profit organisation. The quest to secure funds to provide for operational, human resources, administrative and programmatic needs continues and needs increased efforts.

In the face of dwindling donor funding globally, the Lusophone office worked hard to keep its head above water. The daunting realities of lack of funding to sustain the office posed serious threats of downsizing or even shutting down operations. These challenges caused anxiety for all staff in the office and within Gender Links. Fortunately, an attitude of hope and perseverance to fundraise robustly provided courage and determination to surge forward. Several applications were submitted to prospective national, regional and international donors and two positive responses were received, providing hope for the office and work to continue breaking new ground.

GL Mozambique is overcoming its funding challenges and working towards strengthening and sustaining its growth and expectations through new donors like Diakonia and Amplify Change. Resilience, working through smart partnerships and hard work is paying off as the Lusophone office is venturing into new areas of advancing gender justice, women's empowerment, gender equality and rights such as Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Climate Change, Gender and Disability and working with young people in 2016; in addition to strengthening gains achieved over the past 15 years of service in influencing gender responsive policy making and implementation for the marginalised and vulnerable. The team is inspired to continue to believe in a popular slogan in Mozambique - A LUTA CONTINUA!

#### Lessons learned

- Having mayors and senior councillors participating in summits and presenting their best practices facilitates increased ownership of the COE process by the gender champions and senior management at councils. Consequently, mayors and senior management have increased their involvement in the implementation of the action plans and gender responsive governance.
- The summits have provided platforms for strengthened partnerships between the mayors, and fostered peer learning.
- Strengthening partnerships with the National Municipality Association and the Ministry of State Administration was key to influencing the gender machinery in Mozambique to anchor gender mainstreaming, promote gender equality and advance women's rights.

#### Key priorities for 2016

- Vigorous in-country fundraising to enable effective roll out of the COE and entrepreneurship programmes within the remaining 34 councils.
- Strengthen achievements and continue to advance gender issues in relevant and needful cross cutting thematic areas such as climate change, SRHR, disability and diversity within local government.

- Develop a clear cost effective strategy to working with regional clusters of local government authorities due to the geographical vastness of councils. This approach will help manage implementation costs, increase synergies, ownership and sustainability of interventions; as councils increase collaboration in advancing the gender agenda.
- Strengthen and leverage off strategic partnerships with the private sector for financial and in-kind contributions to programme work from 2016 onwards. Ensure partnership with government institutions is strengthened to ensure sustainability of programs.
- Moving beyond COE programs with councils towards work in other thematic areas such as SRHR, GBV, HIV and AIDS Climate Change and within extractive industries is key.



Journal Noticias article covering 16 Days of Activism community dialogues in Namaacha Council in Mozambique.