



BOTSWANA AND SADC LIAISON OFFICE



Pinky Mekgwe



Keabonye Ntsabane, Country Manager



Roos van Dorp, Programme Officer



Vincent Galatlhwe, Field Assistant

FACT FILE

Country	Botswana
Board Member	Pinky Mekgwe
Staff Members	Keabonye Ntsabane - Country Manager Roos van Dorp - Programme Officer Vincent Galatlhwe - Field Assistant
When registered	2009
Alliance focal network	BOCONGO
How many governance COE's	23
How many media COE's	7
Key partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Affairs Department • University of Botswana - Department of Media Studies • Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) • SADC-CNGO • WLSA • BOMWA • BOCONGO (Alliance) • Botswana Councils of Churches • Botswana Caucus for Women in Politics • FES • UNFPA • YWCA • Women Against Rape • American Embassy



Zubeida Raphael

Zubeida Raphael is the Coordinator of the BALA Women Commission and a councillor at Boswelatlou ward in Lobatse Town Council. She first encountered GL in 2008, at a meeting on developing the roll-out strategy for local government work. She has started going around councils, teaching people about GBV. "My light bulb moment was when I was giving vote of thanks at the National Gender Justice summit. I felt

very proud to be part of change taking place in the country," she said. Raphael said GL is responsible for her public speaking skills and the positive attitude that she has and how to counsel people suffering abuse: "I am able to make all this change because I take advantage of every public gathering or pitso and bring up the subject of GBV to get the message across".

Raphael pointed out that GL has educated her on issues of GBV, they showed her that it is real and it is happening in normal families. She added that they gave her tools on how to address both men and women regarding the issue. She said one person influencing her in GL is Colleen since they met at the Big5 Lodge through the very first workshop that she attended. "The way she was explaining made me understand things in a simple way, she made realise how I was connected to GBV, she made me ask myself what I am doing to curb GBV in my country, thanks to her now I can make a difference," she said. Raphael said GL is responsible for her public speaking skills and the positive attitude that she has. - Read more on

<http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/zubeida-raphael-botswana-2012-06-22>

Registered in 2009, the Botswana office manages the work in-country and serves as a point of liaison with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development.

Key achievements

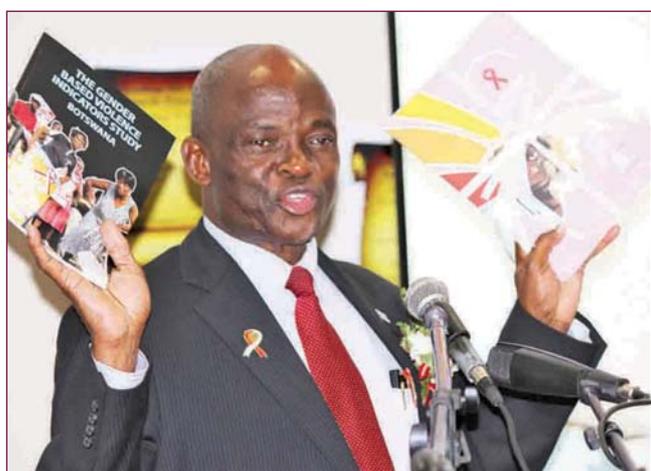
The SADC Gender Protocol campaign and barometer report: With support from GL Botswana and the head office, the Botswana Council of NGOS (BOCONGO), also the country focal network for the Alliance, has developed a strategy for getting Botswana to sign the Protocol. The office also assisted in completing the Botswana Country Barometer.

COE workshops with local authorities

Gender Links and the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) worked with 23 out of Botswana's 29 local councils in rolling out the Centres of Excellence for Gender in Local Government. Although Botswana is not yet a signatory to the SADC Gender Protocol, village level meetings on the Protocol were held galvanising support from the ground upwards for the Protocol be signed. Several councils adopted innovative strategies for the Sixteen Days of Activism campaign, showcased at the first Botswana Gender Justice and Local Government Summit in March 2012. Eight winners from Botswana went through to represent Botswana during the regional summit in Johannesburg.

GBV indicators Research:

GL Botswana in partnerships with the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, Women's Affairs Department, the Ministry of Health Research Unit and the Central Statistics office, completed the GBV Indicators research in Botswana. Over two-thirds (67.3%) of 639 women who participated in the nationwide survey had experienced violence perpetrated by men: 29% of these in 2011 alone. Launching the report on the eve of the first Botswana Gender Justice and Local Government Summit Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Honourable Minister Edwin Jenamiso Batshu stated: "The findings of this research are shocking. Rather than be defensive and find ways of distancing our society



Honorable minister J. Batshu, launching the GBV Botswana report.

Photo courtesy The Voice



Keabonye cutting her birthday cake in Botswana.

Photo: Roos van Dorp

from the depicted reality, it is wiser to pick the lessons and get to work. In many ways the results of this study are a wakeup call to everyone." The findings of the research were presented to the Botswana cabinet. GL is now working with WAD on a strategy for cascading the research to district level to strengthen local level plans for ending GBV.

Gender Policies in seven Media houses

The office supports seven media houses in developing gender policies as part of the Centres of Excellence for Gender in the Media. Media COEs conducted field visits and reported on local actions to end GBV as part of the Sixteen Days of Activism campaign.

Key challenges

- Botswana is still not yet a signatory to the Protocol. The Botswana office refers to the goals of the country's Vision 2016. However, all our programme work centres on the Protocol, and we continue to measure Botswana against the targets of the Protocol. This sometimes causes confusion.
- Fund raising in middle-income countries like Botswana is challenging; this casts an unfortunate cloud on the sustainability of office operations.
- Working with partners towards common goals, agreeing on times and schedules.

Lessons learned

As our engagement with partner organisations is crucial to the success of our work, we have learned it is important to plan together and keep each other informed on progress and developments. Nurturing partnerships takes time and flexibility, but is essential for successful outcomes.

Key priorities

- Fund raise to sustain the work of the office.
- Continue to lobby for Botswana to sign the SADC Gender Protocol.
- Conduct Training of Trainer workshops and extend the COE's to all 32 local councils (Should this succeed, Botswana would be the first SADC country to enlist every council in the programme).
- Cascade the GBV Indicators Research to the local level and launch local level GBV prevention campaigns.