



# NAMIBIA



Emily Brown, Board Member



Sarry Xoagus-Eises, Country Manager



Laurentia Golley, Programme Assistant

## FACT FILE

Country	Namibia
Board Member	Emily May Brown
Staff Members	Sarry Xoagus-Eises - Country Manager Laurentia Golley - Programme Assistant
When registered	February 2012
Alliance focal network	NANGOF
How many governance COE's	14
How many media COE's	2
Key partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALAN</li> <li>• PON</li> <li>• UNESCO</li> <li>• NALAO</li> <li>• Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare</li> <li>• Ministry of Local government Housing and Rural development</li> <li>• University of Nambia</li> </ul>



Georgina Mwinga

"I am a local ward councilor from the Caprivi region. I was elected as a representative for the region during the congress of the association of authorities in 2004. I then started working with the association on management. A while later, another congress elected me a member of the Association of Local government Associations of Namibia (ALAN) as management committee member. Later on, I was appointed an executive in the committee of the association as the focal person for gender desk. The association is like a government of its own; it deals with a lot of issues, including gender, where it tries to create a balance without discriminating against men or women.

My relationship with Gender Links started in 2004 when I attended a local authorities meeting. I will never forget that meeting; it changed my life forever and made me the confident politician I am today. I treasure the confidence that GL has in me, and the way they continue to invest in my leadership. In 2011 and 2012, I was invited to chair sessions at the second and the third annual regional summits.

One of my first assignments was to put in place a massive campaign to get more women to participate in the local authority elections."

Read more: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/georgina-mwinga---namibia-2012-05-29>

**By Sarry Xoagus-Eises**  
Country Manager

Registered in February 2012, the Namibia office supports 14 Local Government Centres of Excellence. The Namibia office recently secured funds through the Spanish Gender Equality Fund managed by NEPAD to roll out ten new COE's each year and host the national summit. Through its Advisory Services and Alliance portfolios (see these reports) GL has also worked with the Gender Ministry in Namibia on developing a costed Gender Action Plan aligned to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

**Key achievements**



Gariseb Maximauian, Keetmanshoop explaining to participants the cultural and financial barriers to gender equality. Photo: Gender Links

- Registration of the office and raising of donor funds.
- High levels of buy in and progress in the 14 COE's in Namibia.

- Decentralising the Sixteen Days of Activism campaign especially the cyber dialogues.
- The training on how to run successful campaigns linked to service delivery by Councils assisted in getting buy in from Outjo in Kunene and Arandis in the Erongo.
- Donations came from councils and business person in these towns.
- Working with the media during the Sixteen Days raised the profile of local government work.
- Strong partnerships with the Association for Local Authorities (ALAN); NALAO, Ministry of Gender and Local Government Housing and Rural Development, Polytechnic of Namibia, University of Namibia (UNAM) and UNESCO.

**Key challenges**

- With the funding received, Namibia now needs to set up an office, hire staff and strengthen institutional processes.
- Getting the media to sign up for COE's in Namibia is another challenge.

**Lessons learned**

Namibia has learned from other country offices, notably Lesotho, how to roll out the COE process. The Namibia office has also learned many useful fund raising skills.

**Key priorities**

- Expanding the COE's to 20 and getting them to sign statements of commitment.
- Garnering support for the GBV Indicators Research at the local level.
- Encouraging media houses to join the COE process.
- Preparing for the 2013 Gender Justice Summit that will bring together governance and media work.

**Equality pays off for Namibian Council**

If you blink on the straight road from Namibia's capital Windhoek to the coastal resort of Swakopmund you might miss the turn to the mining town of Arandis which has a mere 6000 residents.

Not to be missed in the council chambers are the three certificates that the Council walked away with at the second Gender Justice and Local Government Awards and Summit. With a municipality displaying all the trappings of a small mining town (almost all the formal jobs go to men; women dominate in the informal sector or as sex workers and there are high levels of gender violence) the council has its work cut out.

Starting from within, the Council has four women and three male councillors; a gender balanced management team and woman CEO. Armed with the council's Gender Action Plan developed as part of GL's Centres of Excellence initiative, Arandis has formed a gender justice committee that includes community members and for which the council has allocated a budget.

Underscoring its commitment to a future free of violence, and HIV and AIDS, the council has enlisted the support of junior councillors (two boys and two girls) to conduct peer

education, especially at shabeens (illegal liquor stores). "If we can win the youth over, half the battle will have been won," says Hoabeb.

Councillors here have mastered and readily join in the slogan of the Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance, also a mantra of the Gender Justice and Local Government Summits: "2015, yes we can! Yes we must, the time is now!" Read more on <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/arandis-coe-mockup-2012-02-07>



Namibia shows off its awards from the Gender Justice and Local Government Summit. Photo: Gender Links