



ZAMBIA



Sarah Longwe, Board Member



Faides Nsofu, Country Manager



Albert Ngosa, Field Assistant



Cynthia Kalizinie, Intern

FACT FILE

Country	Zambia
Board Member	Sarah Longwe
Staff Members	Faides Nsofu - Country Manager Albert Ngosa - Field Assistant Cynthia Kalizinie, Intern
When registered	14 December 2011
Alliance focal network	Women and Law In Southern Africa (WILSA) Regional Office
How many governance COE's	13
How many media COE's	7
Key partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Association of Zambia Gender and Child Development Ministry WILSA Regional Office NGOCC



Shadreck Mwiinga

"Ignorant as some people can be, hard hearted, seemingly illiterate and inconsiderate about some issues, a little advocacy is what it takes to change their attitude or behaviour forever. I can even say the same is true of myself; I have totally changed my focal point, and how I perceived gender and understood GBV after meeting Gender Links.

The first time I met Gender Links was in the year 2008. At that particular time, we had an event that involved introducing links and finding out how the local councils were faring as far as women's participation in politics and leadership. I recall being visited by Faides .T. Nsofu, Susan Tommy and Hope Kasase. Since 2008 I have been in contact with Gender Links on matters of GBV at the local level, as well as attending seminars and workshops. I have come across a few challenges since that first meeting, as I became aware that women are discriminated against by men due to misinterpretations of tradition and culture, and that through this also women are taught negative attitudes.

My most memorable experience with GL was a time when I participated in the publication of the first GL book, Coalface. This has made me proud, because I could see that my contribution has added value to GL. My subsequent encounters with GL include a time when I was invited to attend a Local Government and Gender Justice Workshop for all Mayors and Chairs of all the 72 Local Councils, which was held at Lusaka Hotel. There, we were challenged to champion GBV in our councils."

Read more: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/shadreck-mwiinga-2012-05-24>

The Gender Links Country office has been operational since July 2009, and registered as a satellite office in December 2011. The office has been instrumental in mainstreaming gender in 10 local authorities of Zambia. GL also has seven media COE's in Zambia. The Local Government Association of Zambia (LGAZ) has provided GL with office space (see governance report).

Key achievements

- GL successfully launched *At the Coalface, Gender in Local Government in Zambia* and *GL@10 Giant Footprints* at the 55th Annual conference of the LGAZ held in Nakonde on 26 May 2011.
- Registration of the GL Zambia office on 14 December, 2011.
- Adoption and implementation of the Gender and GBV Plans are beginning to empower local authorities, stakeholders and the community in championing Gender issues at local level.
- Councils beginning to document good practices on GBV, showcased at the last three Summits including the first Gender Justice and Local Government Summit in Zambia.
- Councils have embraced the "Making IT work for Gender Justice."
- During the elections when work in Councils came to a halt, GL undertook consultancy work with GIZ.
- Popularising of the SADC protocol at community level, through the village level workshops gives Councils the opportunity to acquire skills aimed at enhancing assertiveness in demanding equal representation of women at local level.
- In 2011, seven councils - namely Chingola, Luanshya, Kabwe, Chongwe, Katete, Ndola and Kafue - participated in the 16 days campaigns as compared to 2010 where

only three councils participated. Some of the councils like Chingola and Katete attracted media coverage.

- The Zambia National Office kicked off the in-country Summit series in March with 30 entries.

Key challenges

- Internet challenges affected the uploading of M and E forms.
- Councils virtually shut down during local elections, and the representation of women remained static at a paltry 6%.
- The elections resulted in new councillors. Some key staff lost their jobs.

Lessons learned

- Implementation of the Gender Action Plan has still been a challenge as a result of leadership changes.
- The Councils have been asked to prepare gender responsive budgets, but have not been trained by the ministry on how to do so.
- Internally, the GL office requires greater staff and capacity building.

Key priorities for 2012

- Resource mobilisation in country for programme sustainability.
- Popularising the SADC Protocol at community level in the new councils.
- Roll out of the provincial Gender Action Plan and GBV plans to council level in the 10 new councils identified.
- Create synergy with the Gender and Local Government ministries on the rollout of the COE process.
- Secure funding for the GBV Indicators Research.
- Prepare for the 2013 Gender Justice Summit that will bring media and governance work together.

During the few months of my role as a resident Board of Director for the local Gender Links satellite office, I have witnessed with delight the industriousness of the Zambian team. There is great opportunity for synergy in the areas of Gender-Media-Justice-Governance with the like-minded actors (state and non-state).

I observed with pleasure this synergy during a seminar to commemorate the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women and the Enactment of the Zambian GBV Act 2011 co-organised by the local Irish Embassy and UN Team on 24 November 2011. GL CEO Colleen Lowe Morna presented some results from the GBV Indicators Project.

She captivated the audience with the facts that resonated with everyone. There were rich contributions from all walks of life: diplomats, civil society organisations, survivors of GBV and civil servants that included the Inspector General of Police (IG) and the gender machinery. Since then a female IG has been appointed and GIDD has been elevated to a full Ministry of Gender and Child Development. The current Gender Minister is a former activist in

women's civil society, Inonge Wina. There is great expectation from the IG and the Ministry of Gender by the women's movement. The Centres of Excellences (COE) in Governance, Media and Justice are poised to deliver the goods.



Centres of Excellence? GL Chair Dr Muna Ndulo and Board Member Sara Longwe (in a COE T-shirt) at the Gender Justice and Local Government Summit. Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna