

Gender Justice

By Mercilene Machisa ~ GBV Indicators Research Manager



Men marching to end gender violence in Gaborone, Botswana.

Photo: Courtesy Women's Affairs Division



Valencia Mogegeh, WAD Director

“Back home in Botswana, the findings have sparked an unprecedented engagement around the results as everyone has internalised the reality that VAW has reached unacceptable levels. Cabinet sent the Women's Affairs Department back to the drawing board to come up with baseline data for every district beyond the "narrow statistical sample" to better understand the dynamics of each locality that would inform future strategies.

In fact, the President of Botswana, Ian Khama has tasked everyone in the country to map the response that each current and prospective stakeholder would undertake as part of a multi-sector approach to addressing GBV as a response to the findings. The Women's Affairs Division (WAD) is setting the pace by taking the study to local level through local government structures working closely with the Centres of Excellence for gender mainstreaming in local government that Gender Links has established.” Valencia Mogegeh, WAD Director speaking at CSW event in New York, March 2013

“The formulation of the Protocol on Gender and Development by SADC has proven to be an important step in the domestication of internationally agreed upon norms on VAW. In fact, the binding nature of this regional document is important for advocacy networks in the region and the SADC member states to hold their governments accountable to these agreements. The SADC Gender Protocol not only contributes to their domestication, but also to their implementation, as it specifies 28 targets and a timeframe within which these have to be reached.” Anouka van Eerdewijk & Joni van de Sand in “The normative power of regional advocacy networks: framing Violence against Women in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.”

FACT FILE

Programme	Justice									
Sub-programmes	GBV Indicators Research Project									
No of events during the year	Zimbabwe	Zambia	South Africa	Namibia	Mauritius	Botswana	Total			
	11	1	6	6	2	3	29			
No of participants	MALE					FEMALE			TOTAL	
	179					470			649	
How rated by partners in evaluations - average scores	Content	Design	Documentation	Facilitation	Group work	Output	Outcome	Learning	Networking	Admin
	88.2%	88.2%	86.9%	86.9%	86.1%	85.8%	83.4%	85.1%	85.3%	82.9%
Outputs	Reports		Policy briefs		Action Plans		Books	Fact sheets		Pamphlets/Posters
	16		2		0		2	10		5
Outreach	Website hits (Justice)		Contacts generated			Media mentions		Other events attended		No of MOUs with partners
	58 077					76				1
Outcomes - summarise	Contribution to the SADC Gender Protocol target of halving gender violence by 2015 through a comprehensive set of indicators tested in three countries, illustrated through personal accounts.									
Main risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships dynamics can have negative impact on project success. Implementation costs of conducting research can creep if not capped. 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 Wide expression of interest from new countries implies taking on more work than planned initially 									
Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political buy-in is essential for project implementation and follow up processes. 									
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampling that allows for national and district level disaggregation in Limpopo, Zimbabwe and Lesotho Use of PDAs for data collection Use of the dropbox system for quality assurance and monitoring purposes. Remote support to field staff through team viewer 									
How VFM is being realised	VFM is being achieved through partnerships. Human resources for the survey are mainly partner employees and human costs are only allowances.									



Children saying no to GBV during the 16 Days march in Otavi, Namibia.

Photo: Laurentia Golley



Mercilene Machisa ~
GBV Indicators Research Manager



Linda Musariri - Programme
officer

Synopsis

This report covers the gender justice portfolio of GL's work. This has evolved from an initial focus on campaigns and advocacy centring on the Sixteen Days of Activism, to working with governments on National Action Plans to End Gender Violence, to ground-breaking work in measuring GBV. The GL justice and governance portfolio intersect closely. 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. GL has just embarked on a project for the economic empowerment of survivors of GBV at the local level. This project seeks to explore the links between economic empowering and ending gender violence. These dimensions of the programme are covered in the next section (governance). This report focuses primarily on the GBV indicators research, now at various stages of implementation in six SADC countries - South Africa, Mauritius, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Lesotho.

Objectives:

The GBV Indicators Research Project seeks to provide baseline data of GBV across countries to be used to monitor and evaluate the efforts of governments and civil society to halve the current levels of GBV by 2015, as provided in the SADC Gender and Development protocol signed in 2008. In addition to being a key benchmarking tool, the indicators project will help to strengthen the argument for areas for improvement in GBV response, support and prevention. As part of this programme, GL works with survivors of gender violence (see example below) to tell their own stories in their own words. These lived experiences <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/page/i-stories> form the essential backdrop to the research and advocacy that we conduct.

The human face of GBV



In Zimbabwe, GL worked with the Musasa project to gather first-hand accounts of GBV as In a powerful account of the "I Stories" or first-hand accounts of gender violence Musasa Director Netty Musanhu recounted the heart wrenching tales of women who believe that being battered is part of social acceptance. "The idea that this affects only a minority of women is a myth," she said. "Another common myth is that only physical violence has wounds." The GBV indicators research being undertaken by Gender Links (GL), the gender ministry and Musasa shows that the highest form of violence in all Southern African countries is emotional violence: "this can be worse than physical violence," Musanhu said. Below is one example of the stories gathered:

"My name is Thokozile. My first husband was a soldier named Joe. When we got married we went to his rural home for two months, as he was on leave. Joe went back to Harare when his leave was over, and I was left at the rural home with my mother-in-law, brother-in-law and aunt.

Joe had been married before, but the marriage had failed because they were unable to have children. The ex-wife told me she had become pregnant by another man in retaliation for ill treatment by the in-laws.

Through that, my husband's relatives concluded it was their son who was infertile. After one month Joe came back to take me to the city, but his mother refused to let

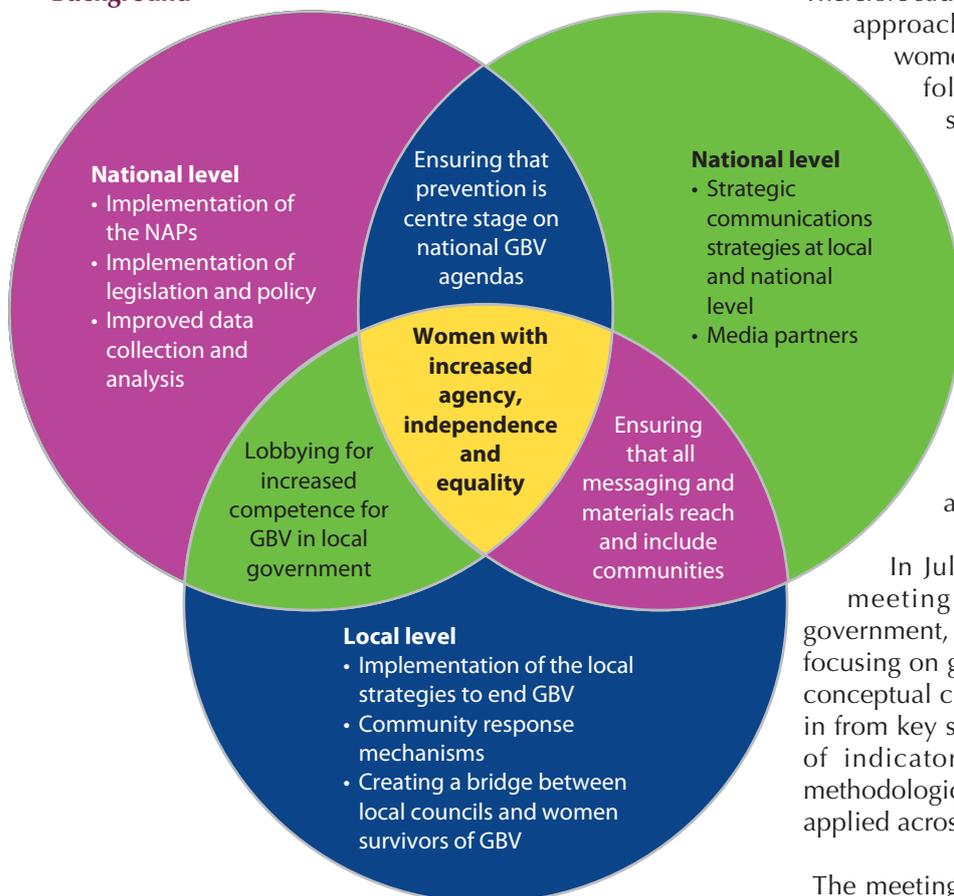
me go. I desperately wanted to go with my husband, but there was nothing I could do. I didn't know that my in-laws had an immoral plan. My mother-in-law continually found an excuse to send me to my brother-in-law's bedroom. The plan was for me to sleep with my husband's brother in order to conceive.

My in-laws also ensured that the brother helped me in all household chores, even fetching firewood. When in his room, the brother-in-law fondled my breasts and buttocks. I complained to my aunt, and she said my brother-in-law had every right to act that way, because it was our African way of life. My mother-in-law also supported this. One day I beat my brother-in-law on the mouth when he tried to rape me. He threatened to beat me up, and I ran away to seek refuge at their grandfather's place. My mother-in-law came to fetch me, as I was afraid to go back. She told me to sleep with my brother-in-law to have children.

When I refused, she vowed to make my life a living hell. She gave me loads of household chores, which were unbearable, and she did not give me food. Relief came when my husband came to fetch me. I had lost a lot of weight and he asked me what had caused this, but I couldn't tell him.

Thankfully, I fell pregnant when I returned to Harare. I asked my husband why he had failed to have kids with his first wife, then for a long time with me, and he said his mother had bewitched him so she could continue controlling him financially without the burden of children. So my mother-in-law became my sworn enemy. I am grateful my baby is a carbon copy of her father to erase any doubts. My mother-in-law thought I was the one who had reversed the effects of her potion. (* Not her real name; this is one of a series of "I" Stories in Zimbabwe.)

Background



GL has been working in the gender justice arena for the last eleven years, using the Sixteen Days of Activism on Violence against Women as a platform for training activists in the SADC region in strategic communications. These campaigns led to inevitable questions about the sustainability of such campaigns beyond the Sixteen Days. In 2006, GL began working with nine countries in the SADC region to extend the Sixteen Days to a 365 Day National Action Plan strategy to end gender violence. In 2006, GL began working with nine countries in the SADC region to extend the Sixteen Days to a 365 Day National Action Plan strategy to end gender violence.

Developing action plans inevitably led to the need for reliable baseline data, targets and indicators for measuring progress in an arena where most violence is under-reported or not reported at all, leaving administrative data as an unreliable source of information. To measure the efficacy of both government and civil society programmes, there was need to have baseline data on the extent and effects of GBV, as well as the manner in which governments and civil support organisations respond to GBV.

Unique features of the project

Unlike previous research that focused on a few aspects of GBV, the set of indicators developed seeks to measure:

- The extent of the problem (what uniform administrative and survey data could be obtained across all SADC countries).
- The social and economic effects of GBV.

Therefore strategies to address GBV require a multi-pronged approach that ultimately contributes to increasing women's agency, equality and independence. The following graphic shows how the different stakeholders contribute to building women's capacity in all these areas.

Drawing on the 2007 UN Expert Group Report on developing indicators for measuring GBV, some preliminary work began in earnest in Southern Africa through an initiative supported by UN Trust Fund and spearheaded by GL. The key players included representatives from government (i.e. gender, justice, health, police, and prosecuting authority), research institutes and NGOs working on gender justice issues.

In July 2008, GL convened a reference group meeting comprising 16 representatives from government, research organisations and regional NGOs focusing on gender violence. This meeting sought to get conceptual clarity on what is required as well as get buy in from key stakeholders on developing a composite set of indicators to measure gender violence that is methodologically solid; pre-tested and can eventually be applied across the region.

The meeting resulted in key conceptual decisions that have since informed the design of this research. Overall, the team emphasised the need to test a draft set of indicators in a pilot project at local level before these are cascaded nationally and regionally. This study would gradually build support and buy-in for a comprehensive set of indicators that provides meaningful and nuanced measures of progress or regression.



Relationship study Researcher administering a questionnaire during the Zimbabwe Relationship study survey in Mashonaland West province. Photo: Gender Links

- Response and support interventions as measured by the multi stakeholder National Action Plans to End Gender Violence based on the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.
- Prevention interventions that underscore the importance of a paradigm shift towards prevention rather than focus primarily on response.

The main tool is a prevalence/attitude/costing survey covering a representative sample of women and men making use of PDA's, or palm held computers that are self-administered or administered through an interviewer. The flagship tool is the prevalence/ attitude study, justified on the basis that statistics obtained from administrative data do not cover many forms of gender violence, and even those that are covered are under-reported. However, the "I" stories, or lived experiences, give a human face to all aspects of the research. The administrative data, media monitoring and political content analysis provide key insights in relevant areas. Triangulation of findings from all the methods helps to verify and strengthen the findings, as well as provide key insights for policy-making and action planning.

Since 2010, GL in partnership with government and local civil society partners conducted this research in Botswana, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, South African Provinces of Gauteng, Western Cape, Kwazulu Natal and Limpopo; and Zambian districts of Kasama, Kitwe, Mansa and Mazabuka. The

research has provided evidence for the adoption and strengthening of National Action Plans to End Gender Violence (NAP) in the five countries. As GL cascades the indicators to other countries, the plan is to conduct the research at local level with the Centre's of Excellence (COE's) that we are working with and to aggregate these results into a national survey. The project with a local level approach is on-going in Lesotho and will be conducted in Zambia at national level before the end of the year.

Participants in the GBV Indicators research survey by country			
SITE	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
Botswana	639	590	1229
Mauritius	679	678	1357
Four districts of Zambia	578	719	1297
Four provinces of South Africa	2800	2821	5621
Zimbabwe	3326	3274	6600
Total	8022	8082	16104

Delivery - activities and inputs

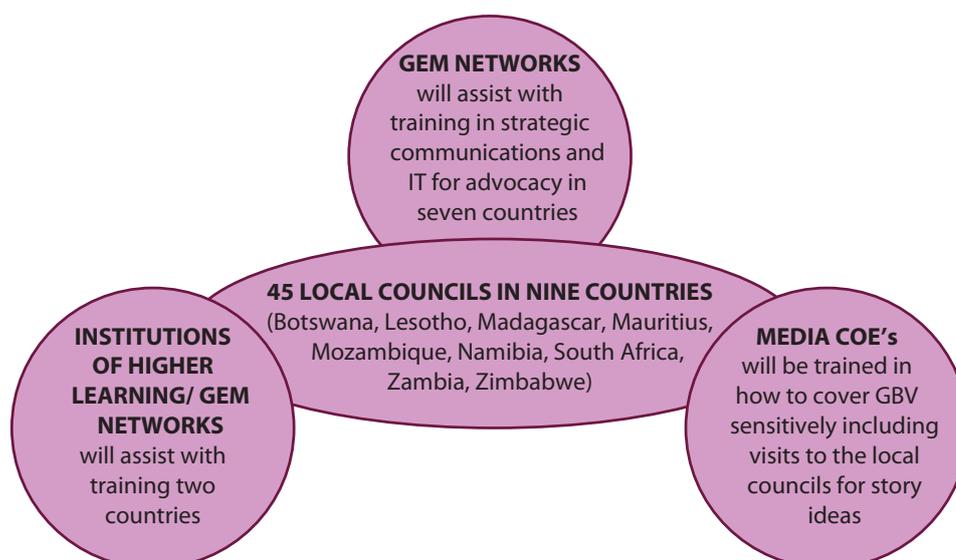
Activities	Inputs
Meetings to obtain political buy-in at local and national levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation - concept notes, briefing documents, questionnaires, administrative forms • Human Resources - field researchers, project staff, consultants • Equipment - PDAs, computers and modems • Internet • Transport - ground fieldwork travel and hired cars, flights • Financial resources- procurement, subsistence, wages, administration, conferencing
Survey activities:	
• Tool refinement	
• Sampling	
• Translation	
• Training of researchers	
• Community mobilisation	
• Fieldwork planning	
• Data collection	
• Data synchronisation	
• Data management	
• Data analysis	
Collection of first-hand accounts of violence - the "I" stories workshops	
Desktop research	
Collection and interrogation of administrative data	
Political discourse analysis	
• Collection of speeches	
• Creation of databases	
• Data entry and capturing	
• Data analysis	
Media monitoring	
Research Report writing and editing	
Research Report publishing	



Sixteen Days of Activism

In 2012, GL focused on bringing together its media local government COE's. Stages 7 and 8 of the local government COE process involves campaign training; this is often applied to the Sixteen Day

campaign. As part of stage 7 of training for the media in the media COE process, GL exposes journalists to real issues. Covering work at the local level is eye opening for media practitioners. GL also works closely with gender and media networks in a number of countries. The campaign focused on the five councils that will pilot the entrepreneurship training for survivors of gender dialogues. All partners came together in daily cyber dialogues in four major languages.



Targets

The prevalence and attitudes survey is based on a random and representative sample of the populations to allow for statistical inference and to be able to generalise. As a result the women and men of all socio-economic status have equal chance of participating. The sampling also ensures geographical coverage of all areas including even the remote areas. The "I" stories are collected in collaboration with both the rural and local councils. Rural women have thus participated and shared their stories in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Lesotho. The Sixteen Days focused on communities and the media through GL's COEs.

Outputs

Botswana: One final research report per studied location: Credible data available on the extent, drivers, effects, response, support and prevention. GL and the Women's Affairs Department (WAD) launched the Botswana research report on 29 March 2012. GL and WAD are using the findings to raise awareness and sensitise communities about GBV: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/the-gender-based-violence-indicators-study-botswana-2012-03-28>.

Mauritius: One final research report per studied location: Credible data available on the extent, drivers, effects, response, support and prevention. GL launched the Mauritius research report on 25 November 2012 at an event graced by Ministers of Gender, Health, and other high level delegates. GL produced radio programmes based on the findings which are being used for advocacy purposes: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/warhome---mauritius-country-report-2012-11-16>.

Zimbabwe: One final research report per studied location: Credible data available on the extent, drivers, effects, response, support and prevention. GL completed the

Zimbabwe research and drafted a research report. GL produced a pamphlet based on the Zimbabwean findings. The Zimbabwe report will be launched in May 2013. GL collected stories from women and has published them on the GL website: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/zimbabwe-i-did-not-let-it-happen-again-2012-12-06>

Zambia: One final research report per studied location: Credible data available on the extent, drivers, effects, response, support and prevention. GL completed the research in Zambia's four districts and drafted a research report.

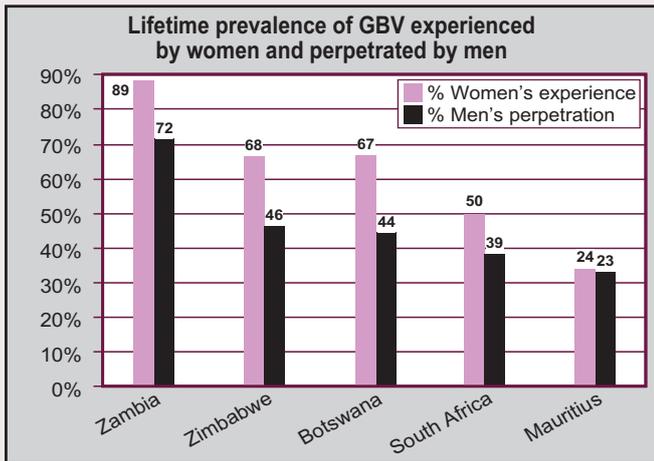
South Africa: Provinces of Western Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal; One final research report per studied location: Credible data available on the extent, drivers, effects, response, support and prevention. GL completed the research in South Africa's three provinces and is drafting research reports. GL produced pamphlets from the findings in the provinces: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/the-warhome-findings-of-the-gbv-prevalence-study-in-south-africa-2012-11-25>. GL collected stories from women and has published them on the GL website: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/support-through-trauma-2012-11-27>.

Lesotho: Personal first-hand accounts of GBV experience. GL collected stories from women and has published them on the GL website: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/lesotho-raped-by-a-ruthless-man-2012-11-29>.

Regional: Credible data available on the extent, drivers, effects, response, support and prevention across the region. GL has compiled an overview pamphlet highlighting the key findings from the five countries where the research has been conducted: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/gbv-indicators-research-project-key-findings-in-5-countries-2013-03-08>

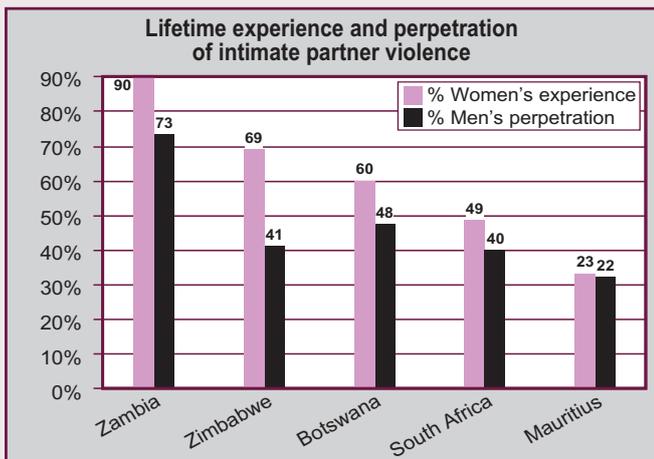


Key findings of the GBV Indicators research in the five countries

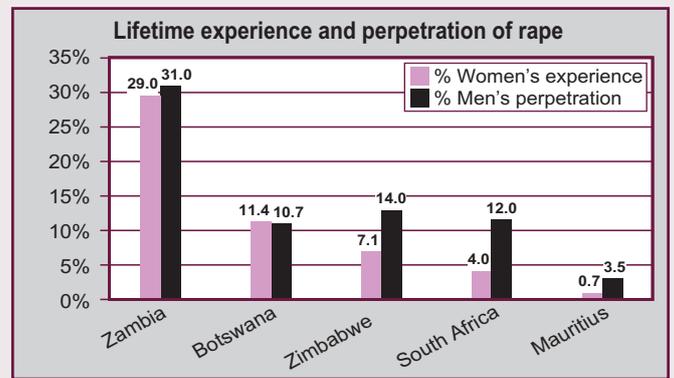


High levels of underreporting of GBV to police

The studies found that 89% of women in Zambia's four districts of Kitwe, Mansa, Kasama and Mazabuka; 68% of women in Zimbabwe, 67% of women in Botswana; 50% of women in South Africa's Gauteng, Western Cape; Kwazulu Natal and Limpopo provinces; and 24% of women in Mauritius have experienced GBV. A higher proportion of women compared to men reported experience in all five countries.

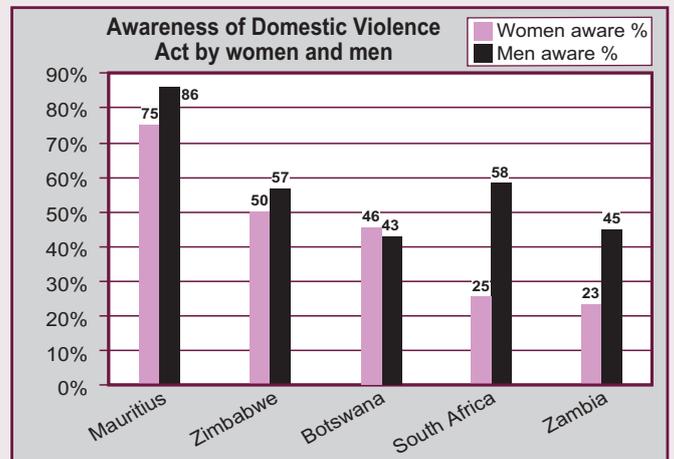


The most predominant form of GBV experienced by women and perpetrated by men occurs in the five countries occurs within intimate partnerships. 90% of women in Zambia, 69% of women in Zimbabwe, 60% of women in Botswana, 49% of women in four South African provinces, and 23% of women in Mauritius reported experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime. Interestingly, the most common form of IPV in the three countries is emotional violence - a form usually not addressed in police statistics.



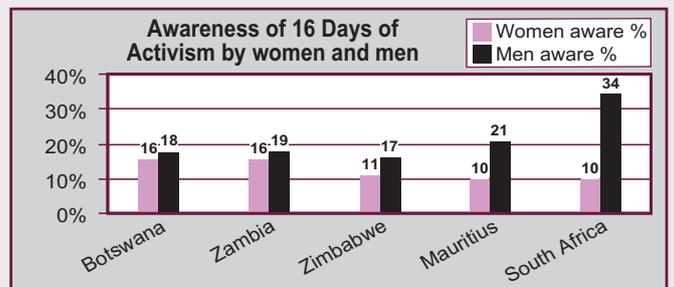
Women also suffer from GBV perpetrated by strangers.

29% of women in Zambia's four districts, 7% of women in Zimbabwe, 4% of women in South Africa's four provinces and 0.7% of women in Mauritius reported experiencing non partner rape in their lifetime. The proportion of men reporting rape perpetration in the five countries is significantly higher than the proportion of women reporting experience.



Women and men are relatively aware of Domestic Violence Acts in their countries.

Except for Botswana, men are more aware of the Domestic Violence Acts in their country than women. Three quarters (75%) of women in Mauritius, 50% of women in Zimbabwe, 46% of women in Botswana, 25% of women in South Africa's four provinces and 23% of women in Zambia were aware of their country's Domestic Violence Act. These findings speak to the need for greater efforts in raising public awareness of the Domestic Violence Acts across the region.



Need for more concerted efforts to raise public awareness and prevent GBV. Knowledge of 16 Days campaign

The majority of women and men in all the five countries were relatively unaware of the Sixteen Days of Activism Campaign. Unique to all countries is that a greater proportion of men are more aware of the campaign than women.

Outreach

Regional and international forum were the GBV methodology and findings were shared include:

- The SADC Regional GBV Strategy Meeting held in Johannesburg in March 2012
- The SADC meeting in preparation for CSW 57 held in Maputo in February 2013
- The Methodological Workshop to measure the socio-economic costs of VAWG held in Addis Ababa in February 2013
- CSW 57 events held in New York during March 2013

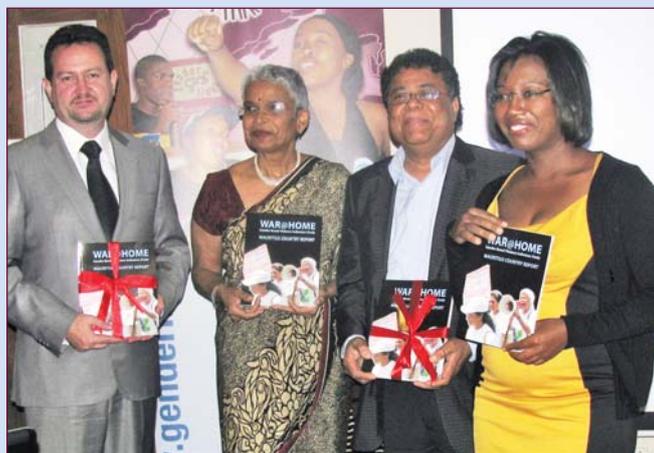
Media: Press releases and briefing are issued at the launch of each report or materials. Dissemination of findings have also been conducted in Mauritius through radio-spots. GL also responds to media queries and makes comments around GBV in the media. This also includes responding to radio and TV interviews.

New Media: GL has been using cyber-dialogues to stimulate discussions around the findings during the sixteen days of activism.

Website: The GBV Indicators project has pages on the organisational website which is regularly updated and new related articles are uploaded. This section of the website received over 58,000 hits during the period under review.

Publications: GL publishes a research report for each research site. GL staff also write opinion and commentary pieces that are based on the findings. The commentary pieces are sent to the GL listserve through the Opinion and Commentary service. Some commentaries are picked up and republished by the media.

Reaching in, reaching out in Mauritius



Brian Glover, the Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Loga Virahsawmy, Director of Gender Links Mauritius, Denis Ithier, Director of La Sentinelle and Hon Mireille Martin, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. Photo: Gender Links

The launch and advocacy that surrounded the War@Home report in Mauritius in November 2012 offers insight into how GL's research and advocacy tools work together for gender justice, as well as how GL programmes work together.

The report found that about a quarter (24%) of women in Mauritius have experienced some form of gender-based violence in their lifetime including partner and non-partner violence. An almost similar proportion of men (23%) admit to perpetrating violence

“During a Cabinet Meeting the Prime Minister has given instructions for all his Ministers to support the report. It is not laws that will change mentalities and attitudes. You can count on the Prime Minister and all Ministers to help combat GBV”

Hon. Lormus Bundhoo

against women in their lifetime. One in twenty-five women (4%) experienced gender-based violence and a similar proportion of men (4%) perpetrated gender violence in the 12 months before the survey.

GL launched the report at a high level “accountability forum” with over 70 guests, ministers (charged by the Prime Minister with taking the report forward) and survivors of violence. GL followed the launch with seven daily community meetings to review each chapter of the report hosted by the local government COEs across the island. Participants then joined cyber dialogues in creole in which they could discuss their thoughts. To add to the multi-media mix, the MBC (a GL Media COE) hosted daily radio talk shows.

GL Francophone Director, Loga Virahsawmy declared at the launch: “The report also shows that we live very much in a patriarchal society with the gender attitudes not changing, sexual entitlement of men over women and the negative attitudes of both women and men on rape.”

Mireille Martin, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Shakeel Mohamed, Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, Lormus Bundhoo, Minister of Health and Quality of Life, Brian Glover, Chairperson of the Equal Opportunity Commission and Mr Denis, Director General of La Sentinelle Group responded to the findings.

Mauritian leaders respond to the War@Home

“I am speaking as a father, a husband, a Minister and the Secretary General of the Labour Party and I find it unacceptable that 51% of our population goes through violence. I come from a family of five boys and one girl who is the youngest. Each year my father sold a plot of land to send his son abroad for studies. I ask myself the question if he would have done the same if there were five girls and one boy. All sacred books condemns

discrimination so why are we discriminating women. It is painful to read the statistics of the research and the health consequences associated with GBV.” *Lormus Bundhoo, Minister of Health and Quality of Life.*

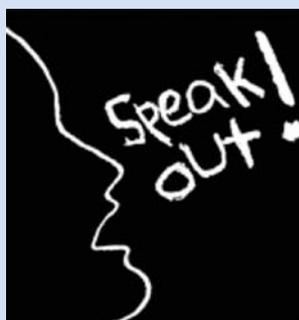
“Mauritius is a rotten society where Mauritians believe they know everything and spend their time in gossiping instead of helping each other. I am ashamed of this report as it points a finger at Mauritius.” He said he is not surprised

that 6.3% women said they have known sexual harassment at work. "In fact the figure must be multiplied by 10. Mauritian women do not know their rights."

The Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, Hon. Shaqeel Mohamed.

"The media has a multiple role. It should inform with the objective of preventing, a difficult task as reporting should go beyond just reporting. The 2% coverage by the media of GBV is shocking and unbecoming of a country where awareness for such issues depends for most part on the media. We media people should be determined to be as fierce, fearless and more gender-aware concerning this sensitive issue of GBV."

The Director General of La Sentinelle Denis Ithier

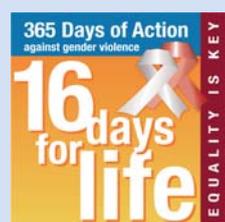


"Unfortunately emotional violence is not recognised by the authorities. As soon as a Protection Order has not been violated and the woman wants to put a complaint, the police refuse to take the complaint saying that it is a civil affair. The police is not the only ones to be blamed but lots of people in position of power wash their hands."

Brian Glover, Chairperson of the Equal Opportunity Commission

"But it is for survivors to come forward and denounce the perpetrators. My Ministry will not be able to help if the survivors do not go to the police. Before highlighting the sensitisation campaigns must target at everybody, adults and the young. "There must be a collective effort to change mentalities."

Mireille Martin, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare.



During a visit to Mauritius by the GL CEO Colleen Lowe Morna in October 2013, the District Council of Grand Port Savanne officially launched a Gender Links Section in their Library. The CEO proposed that librarians of local councils anchor cyber dialogues in Mauritius during the Sixteen Days of Activism campaign focusing on the findings of War@Home - Gender Based Violence Study - Mauritius Country Report. All nine municipal councils of Mauritius joined the campaign.

The MBC forms part of the Centre of Excellence Process to ensure that by 2015 there are at least 50% women's sources in news content. The MBC has signed a Memo-

randum of Understanding (MOU) with Gender Links agreeing to the COE Process. The MBC is the first media enterprise in the region that has a daily editorial on the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development even though Mauritius has not yet signed the Protocol.

The Francophone Director, Loga Virahsawmy had several meetings with the Director of Radio of the MBC to devise a special six day programme with the participation of auditors on the different chapters of War@Home. MBC Radio agreed to give Gender Links one hour from 11.00 to 12.00 on 30th November and from 3rd to 7th December 2012 to talk about the report but also giving the chance to auditors and localities to respond through radio and cyber dialogues.

Outcomes - results

Articles 20 to 25 of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development require organisations, communities and state entities to adopt strategies and targets to address the high levels of GBV in the Southern African region with a target of halving GBV by 2015. One of the provisions is to develop comprehensive multi-sectoral national action plans (NAPs) in all SADC countries. GL has worked with governments, civil society and other stakeholders to develop NAPs in ten countries including Botswana, Mauritius, Zambia, Lesotho and South Africa. The major challenge in most countries is that plans that have been developed have remained national policy documents without filtering to other levels, particularly local communities. GL is adding value through the following:

Conducting research, data collection and analysis: Until the piloting of the GBV indicators project, these plans also lacked effective ways of establishing baseline data and tracking progress. In line with the arenas for action identified in the UN Secretary General's UNITE to End GBV Campaign, GL has developed and tested a comprehensive set of indicators to measure extent, effect, response and prevention campaigns to end GBV that can be applied for the rest of SADC. Through the GBV Indicators projects GL is engaging regional, national and local actors to strengthen efforts to address GBV. GL has been invited by the SADC Gender Unit and United Nations Economic Commission to gain a platform of sharing the learning from the project

with actors from the region and the continent. Engagement with SADC GU and UNECA has led to high level commitments on addressing GBV by governments and led to the adoption of best practices. Initially the research was conducted in three countries, now three more countries have come on board.

Supporting implementation of multisectoral policies and national action plans

At national level, data from the GBV Indicators research is being used to strengthen the implementation of National Action Plans for ending Gender Violence (NAPS). GL works with the national GBV task teams responsible for spearheading the implementation of the NAPs in the selected countries. The task teams are multi-sectoral including both government departments and civil society.

In South Africa GL is a member of the National GBV council and in Mauritius GL is a member of the National Platform on ending GBV. In Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia, GL has collaborated with the ministries responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of the NAPs. It is important for the ministries to understand the GBV Indicators research methodology and own the findings which have implications in terms of GBV programming.

GL therefore continues to lobby the ministries to use the GBV Indicators in reviews and subsequent amends to the

existing NAPS are only possible in collaboration with the national task teams. GL is also advocating for the ministries and task teams to adopt the GBV Indicators, repeat similar research and take responsibility for monitoring efforts to reduce gender violence using the findings from GL led research as a baseline.

Lobbying for resources/gender-responsive budgeting for addressing violence against women

The ministries are responsible for providing overall leadership in efforts to reduce GBV at government level and allocating resources for GBV. GL is also advocating for ministries to renew their commitment to allocate resources for NAP implementation. GL has called on the ministries to ensure a budget for the implementation of the revised NAPS. The national task teams should ensure the adoption and effective implementation of NAPS.

Enhancing capacities at local level

GL is working with local government councils in the SADC countries training councillors to mainstream gender in local government. One of the modules in the eight stage training is on strategies to address GBV. Currently the GBV research has been cascaded to district level in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Lesotho. The cascading model to local level will allow for the review and strengthening of the implementation of local action plans to end gender violence.

Civil Society strengthening

Civil society organisations have shown commitment to assist governments in implementing the NAPS while at the same ensuring that they hold government accountable for delivery. GL has partnered with CSOs in all six countries particularly around the collection of first accounts of violence. Through the partnerships GL has shared its strength of good monitoring and evaluation systems including measuring gender attitude which partners can use to strengthen their own programmes.

Changing lives: Through its gender justice programme GL is recruiting drivers of change at several levels, as illustrated in the following example:



"I was so happy that when Gender Links asked for my contribution for the "Take Back the Night March" I did not hesitate one second and I took 50 young people with me. We all marched in the streets of Curepipe. I was the loudest one as I had the megaphone in my hand and I was chanting slogans of "Stop violence" "Replace

violence with respect" "Stop beating, burning and killing." Women, men and children were repeating after me. It really made my day. I really felt I was contributing to stop violence against women." - Marie Lepredour, Curepipe, Mauritius

Challenges and opportunities

- **Lack of government funding and financial commitment for GBV research:** GL has had to mobilise substantial financial resources for project implementation while in most cases government has brought political will. For example GL has had to mobilise the full costs of the research in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mauritius and Lesotho. This has provided opportunity for personnel development in the area of fundraising and financial planning with appreciation to value for money principles. Another example is from the implementation of the Zimbabwe project GL had to approach two donors for funds at the initial stage and when unanticipated costs arose, had to request for additional funding. GL has also had to think around how to run the project more efficiently and for cost-effective means of executing activities. During the research in Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Mauritius for example GL has trained staff from partnering government departments or research institutions instead of hiring survey companies. This is a cost-effective solution in that GL avoids some project management costs but at the same time can build capacity and transfer skills.
- **Lobbying governments to adopt the indicators and repeat the studies in five years:** This has led GL to rethink its partnerships with government and revise the structure of memoranda of agreement so that they are broader and longer term to allow for follow up processes. The memoranda also state the commitment of the government concerned to adopting the indicators. GL has also had to take a more serious approach to engaging the Ministries of Gender. Several meetings were held where methodology was shared and discussions started on the need for governments to adopt the indicators. GL also continues to leverage from its stronger partnerships with Ministries of local government in lobbying the Ministries of Gender.
- **Generally administrative data relating to GBV services and political speeches are not centrally located within the departments:** So when headquarters were approached to request data, GL is referred to the provincial level or stations for the data. This is a major challenge and a recommendation from the research has been that countries need to create centralised portals for GBV or domestic violence. The different service providers should then be required to provide data on a regular basis. Another proposed recommendation from GL, has been that there is need for GBV surveillance and referral systems in all the countries where the research has been conducted so far.

Next steps

- Launch of research reports in Zimbabwe, Limpopo, KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape.
- Conducting national studies in Lesotho and Zambia. Launch of research reports.
- Development of a regional and national advocacy strategy papers.
- Launch of national and local level advocacy campaigns based on the Indicators research.
- Compilation of an Indicators "how to" publication.