

Gender Justice

By Linda Musariri, Gender Justice Manager



Marching for gender justice.

Photo: Gender Links

FACT FILE

Programme	Justice																
Sub programmes	GBV Indicators Research																
No of events during the year	Country	Ang	Bots	DRC	Les	Mada	Mal	Maur	Moz	Nam	SA	Sey	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	Total
	No		3		2			9			5				1	5	25
No of participants	MALE					FEMALE					TOTAL						
	77					85					162						
How rated by partners in evaluations - average scores	Content	Design	Documentation	Facilitation	Group work	Outputs	Outcomes	Learning	Networking	Admin	Overall						
	59%		61%	54%	52%	56%	62%	67%	66%	64%	59%						
Outputs	Reports		Action plans			Books		DVDs		Pamphlets/posters							
	8		0			0		0		0							
Outreach	Website hits	Contacts generated			Media mentions			Other events attended			No of MOUS with partners						
	246							6			1						
Outcomes - summarise	Contribution to the SADC Gender Protocol target of halving gender violence by 2015 through a comprehensive set of indicators tested in six countries, illustrated through personal accounts.																
Main risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships dynamics can have negative impact on project success. Unstable political environments can hinder progress 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	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 Zambia 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.																



Linda Musariri

Synopsis

This report covers the gender justice portfolio of GL's work. Over the years, the programme 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 portfolios are interlinked. 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 is testing the hypothesis that *women who are economically empowered have more voice and more choice and are thus better able to challenge societal norms through enhanced agency*. 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 Protocol on Gender and Development 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 to tell their own stories in their own words. These lived experiences form the essential backdrop to the research and advocacy that we conduct.

How the justice programme works

Gender violence remains one of the most telling indicators of gender inequality. Despite the several constitutional and legislative advances to gender equality in the SADC region, levels of gender violence remain exceptionally high in all countries. The

ecological model is a theoretical framework that explains why some of the violence occurs, why some men are more violent than others and why some women are consistently the survivors of abuse. Understanding the reasons for and the factors associated with experience or perpetration of gender violence is a precursor in the design of gender violence prevention interventions.

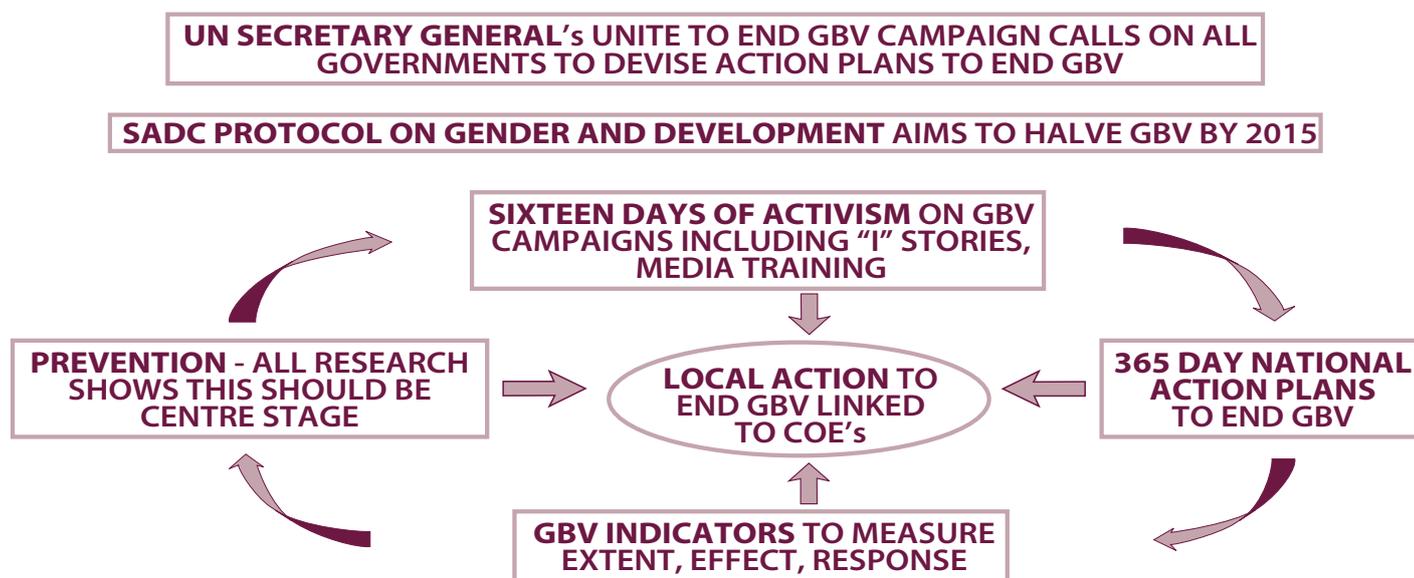
This model considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community, and societal factors. This model shows how violence is rooted in women's lack of self-worth and self-esteem at the individual level; compounded by attitudes, traditions and customs at the close relationship and community level; and unresponsive systems and structures at the societal level. While the model identifies the arenas and the factors that put people at risk for experiencing or perpetrating violence it also locates prevention strategies in a continuum of activities that address multiple levels of the model.

GL's Theory of Change (ToC) is premised on the ecological model which assumes that the vicious negative cycle of VAW can be turned into a virtuous positive cycle by working around different initiatives that target all levels of the model from individual to societal. GL's work in the gender justice programme seeks to "turn around" the layers of attitudes, behaviours and practices at the level of family, community and society through a simple slogan that has been translated into dozens of local languages - "peace begins at home".



NSP petition march to ministry of women and children - Johannesburg, SA. Photo: Judith Maneli

Conceptual model



As illustrated in the conceptual model GL brings together global, national and local actions to end GBV in a holistic, multi-sector approach. With its strong media and communications background, GL began work in the gender justice arena by 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 line with its ToC to influence change at a policy level, in the public sphere, GL began working with countries in the SADC region to extend the Sixteen Days to a 365 Day National Action Plan strategy to end gender violence.

Since 2006 GL has worked with nine governments in developing National Action Plans to End Gender Violence (NAPs). NAPs are blueprints or frameworks that provide for comprehensive, multi-sector, and sustained actions for addressing VAW at country level. The NAPs allow all sectors to co-ordinate and systematise actions and building on initiatives so that approaches remain adaptive and responsive for the specified time frames. The model NAP framework outlines the scope of the GBV problem within a country, identifies the structural causes and drivers and sets actions to address the problem through actions in the area of legal reform, provision of services, prevention as well as co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation approaches. For each of the actions or interventions responsibility for championing is allocated to either a lead government department or organisation. NAPs involve drafting actions in consultation the different stakeholders to ensure effective implementation. The development

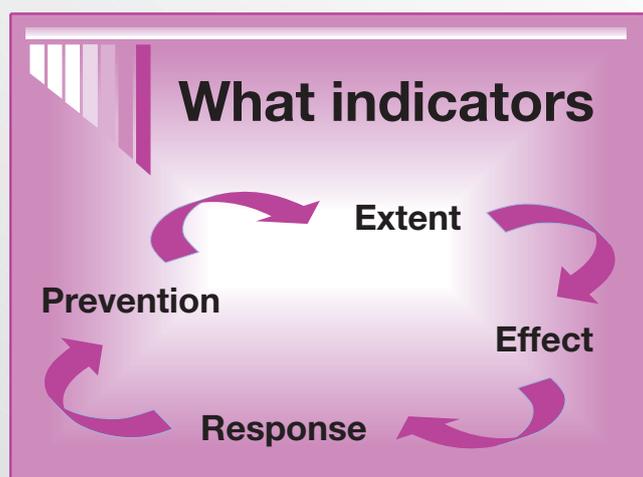
of NAPs received added impetus through the launch of UN Secretary General's UNiTe to end GBV campaign, and the adoption of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (SGP) in 2008. The adoption and implementation of multi sector NAPs is one of the five key expected outcomes of the UN Secretary General's UNiTe to end GBV campaign which is being run until 2015. The SADC Protocol obliges Member States to adopt integrated approaches, including institutional cross sector structures, with the aim of reducing current levels of gender based violence, by half by 2015.

At the community level, GL has linked its governance and justice work through flagship programmes for ending GBV through 300 Centres of Excellence for gender in local government that bring together research, policy and practice in a unique on-the-job capacity-building project that is continuously monitored for its impact. Good practices are gathered and shared at the SADC Gender Protocol Summit. Situating GBV work within the broader SADC framework of halving gender violence by 2015, GL faced the challenge of how to measure progress, when there is so little valid data on actual levels of GBV. In 2010, GL successfully piloted a comprehensive set of indicators for measuring gender violence that involves a prevalence survey, better use of administrative data, media and discourse analysis, and qualitative tools. GL has worked with governments in Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to conduct household surveys to establish the prevalence of GBV. The "I" stories are analysed and used to expand on and triangulate the findings of the prevalence study.

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 moni-

toring 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 Zambia.

Strengthening the methodology



As part of the Sixteen Days of Activism, Gender Links and UNICEF convened a one and half day *Critical Thinking Forum* on measuring GBV from the 2nd to the 3rd of December 2014. The forum brought

together a broad range of experts to review methodologies for measuring GBV in the SADC region, and the underlying drivers, including childhood experiences of violence. The meeting revisited the methodologies used in conducting Violence against Women Baseline studies in six SADC countries. The meeting took place against the backdrop of a regional campaign to strengthen indicators in the post 2015 global agenda and in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (SGP) that will be reviewed in 2015. Two key concerns regard sampling, and expanding the methodology to cover Gender Based Violence, not just Violence Against Women. The need to revisit and refine the methodology has been prompted by Botswana's desire to cascade the research to district level and make it a GBV study, as well as the new interest from Seychelles (see later section).

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 all the six countries where the research was conducted. These stories were published on the GL website during the 16 Days Campaign.

Participants in the GBV Indicator	Females	Males	Total
Botswana	639	590	1229
Lesotho	1777	1590	3367
Mauritius	679	678	1357
Zambia pilot study	578	719	1297
Zambia national study	3963	3639	7602
Four provinces of South Africa	2800	2821	5621
Zimbabwe	4507	3847	8354
Total	14943	13884	28827
	52%	48%	100%

The table shows that a total of 28 827 people have participated in the research: 52% women. With 8354 respondents, Zimbabwe had the highest sample, enabling the country to draw data for each of its ten provinces, in addition to the national survey.

Key activities



Gender justice manager Linda Musariri at the GBV Indicators Round Table meeting during the 2014 Summit. Photo: Mukayi Makaya

To date, GL has completed the VAW Baseline Study in six countries. During the 2014 SADC Protocol@Work summit GL convened a high level round table meeting attended by gender ministers from Mauritius and Lesotho to take stock and map a way forward. The meeting demonstrated the extent to which the VAW Baseline studies have politicised the issue of GBV in the region and placed it under the media spotlight. Although linking the research to national action plans is not a linear process, it is a key strategic long term goal that is gaining momentum in all countries.

In the past year GL cascaded the research to two more countries Lesotho and Zambia. GL is working towards launching both reports between April and May 2015. In 2014 GL launched the Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal (KZN) reports in September and November respectively. In December 2014, GL convened an expert group meeting to review and refine the methodology. Currently GL is preparing to take the research to Seychelles and Botswana piloting the revised and refined questionnaire that not only looks at VAW but violence against men as well.

Following a recommendation from the Zimbabwe reference group, GL continues to analyse the “I” stories in relation to the findings of the prevalence/attitude survey. This has formed part of GL's in-depth analysis of quali-

tative research over the last year, enabling GL to target these accounts more effectively in the reports and in the advocacy. Findings from the “I” stories show a general trend similar to survey results where emotional abuse is the most dominant form of abuse yet largely under reported and unrecognised. GL has put “I” stories on the website. The GBV Indicators project section of the website received over 246 hits during the period under review.

Outreach

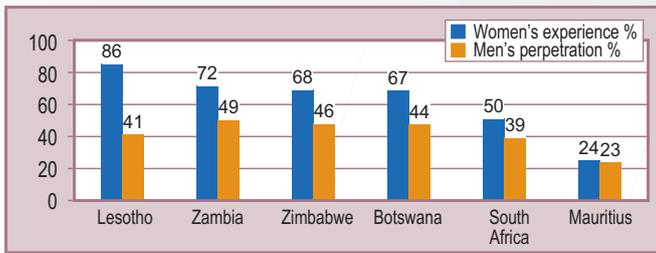
GL embarked on a successful multimedia campaign using during the Sixteen Days of Activism to publicise the findings of the VAW Baseline Study. GL ran this campaign through the 360 councils it is working with under the banner, “End Violence, Empower Women!” In Zimbabwe, the English pamphlets were translated into Shona and Ndebele and widely distributed during the campaign. In Lesotho the pamphlet was translated into Sesotho and in South Africa into Afrikaans and IsiZulu. GL produced an infographic on GBV that has been uploaded on the GL website and on YouTube. GL has been making presentations on the findings at key stakeholder meetings in all the countries. During the 16 Days GL held business breakfast meetings in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe attended by more than 90 participants. The aim of these meetings was to disseminate the findings from the study with the aim of bringing the private sector on board to render financial and non-financial support to survivors of violence. GL also held two google hangouts one focusing on economic justice and the other on femicide as well as four cyber dialogues during the 16 Days campaign. During the same period, GL published stories related to GBV from across the region in English French and Portuguese. On a daily basis three stories were published on the GL website.



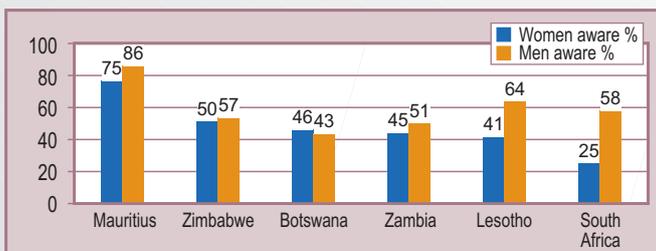
GL staff participating in march demanding a plan to end violence in South Africa.

Photo: Gender Links

Key findings of the GBV Indicators research in the six countries



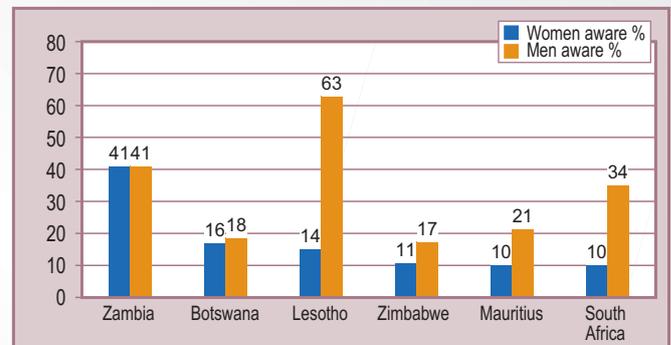
The studies found that 86% of women in Lesotho, 72% of women in Zambia, 68% of women in Zimbabwe, 67% of women in Botswana; 50% of women in South Africa's Gauteng, Western Cape; KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo provinces and 24% of women in Mauritius have experienced GBV in their private and or public lives. For all countries the proportion of women that reported experience was greater than the proportion of men that reported perpetration, however the difference is most pronounced in Lesotho and least evident in Mauritius. The findings show that violence against women is being confirmed strongly as a social problem across the region. Also apparent is that men openly disclose it to a greater degree as it is often legitimised as an expression of masculinity and male dominance. Men also may have openly disclosed their violent behaviour because in the research setting confidentiality is sworn and no course of justice is followed after the disclosure. On the other hand women do not disclose experiences because of the associated stigma attached to abused women.



Women and men are relatively aware of Domestic Violence Acts in their countries. Three quarters (75%) of women in Mauritius, 50% of women in Zimbabwe,

46% of women in Botswana, 45% of women in Zambia, 41% of women in Lesotho and 25% of women in South Africa's four provinces were aware of their country's Domestic Violence Act or Sexual Offences Act in the case of Lesotho. Except for Botswana, men were more aware of the Domestic Violence Acts in their country than women. This is evidence to the significant gender disparities in access to legal rights information between women and men. These findings speak to the need for greater efforts in raising public awareness of the laws that protect women against violence across the region with greater emphasis in raising legal rights awareness for women who constitute the majority of the marginalised within communities.

Knowledge of Sixteen Days campaigns



Need for more concerted efforts to raise public awareness and prevent GBV: The majority of women and men in all the six countries were relatively unaware of the Sixteen Days of Activism Campaign. Unique to all countries except for Zambia is that a greater proportion of men were more aware of the campaign than women. The greatest difference is in Lesotho followed by South Africa. This raises a critical question on the strategic communications employed and the impact of the campaigns on the intended target audiences. While campaigns are run at national level there is need to develop clear strategic communications strategies so that messages reach the intended audiences.

Outcomes

In the past year GL had made progress in getting buy-in from Lesotho and South Africa to review and strengthen their action plans based on the findings from the studies. However in both countries due to political changes there has been some stalling showing once again that in all GL programme work, especially involving governments, the process is not linear.

In **South Africa**, GL finished the GBV indicators research in four provinces, and aims to upscale this to a national study. The then Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities Lulu Xingwana expressed interest in adopting the VAW indicators as a national baseline study and invited GL to present the findings of the study in four provinces to the

National Council for GBV (NCGBV) where this received broad support. The minister lost her post in the cabinet reshuffle after the May 2014 elections. GL requested a meeting with the new Minister of Women Susan Shabangu but this has not materialised. GL has also been a member of the National Council against GBV (NCGBV) since its inception and was actively involved in the review of the National Strategic Plan to end GBV. However the NCGBV and the development of the NSP were suspended with the coming of the new minister. In the past year, GL also entered into an MOU with UNICEF and the University of Cape Town as part of the DFID-funded Safer South Africa project to share data from the four provinces in a diagnostic study on violence against women and children. The findings were presented to the South Africa cabinet in December. Currently GL is engaging the provincial governments of Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal regarding development of provincial action plans to end GBV.

broaden the sample and be able to draw indicators at district level. Preparations to undertake the study are now at advanced levels.

In late 2014, GL facilitated an inception workshop in **Seychelles** on “Measuring Gender Based Violence” organised by the Seychelles Ministry of Social Affairs with the collaboration of the Australian High Commission and the British High Commission. GL Board Member Loga Virahsawmy shared her experiences of the Gender Based Violence Indicators research in Mauritius. The workshop laid the ground work for nationwide research in Seychelles.

Cascading to the local level: In all the six countries where the study has been undertaken, GL has managed to work with local government to review local action plans to end GBV aligning them to the findings from the study. To date 37 GBV local action plans have been reviewed in the six countries. GL is

using the results from GBV Indicators to lobby local governments to review and develop action plans that address economic justice at local level. The local government COE's create a link between national policy initiatives and the practical implementation of strategies to address GBV in communities. This challenges the prevailing assumption that GBV is not a local level competence. Many of the conditions that cause women to be unsafe such as poor lighting, lack of security in public spaces, naming streets, lack of basic services - water, electricity and sanitation- are controlled by local government. The local government COE process also arose from the realisation that the only way to empower the most marginalised women is to work through local government. GL



Civil society in South Africa is growing restless with government inaction.

Photo: Judith Maneli

In **Lesotho** GL has made progress in bringing the then Minister of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation Chief Thesele Maseribane on board. During the 2014 regional summit, the Minister pledged to mount a multimedia advocacy campaign following the launch of the research study and link it to the country's GBV plan. The Minister has shared the preliminary findings from the baseline study with the Lesotho cabinet. However, the Minister lost his post during the February 2015 elections; GL will now work to build relations with the new Minister of Gender.

has learned that the only way to ensure gender responsive governance, especially to the economic needs of women, is to work council by council. The ingenuity of the COE model is that as work takes place at the local level, it is linked through to the region through the SADC Gender Protocol that sets targets and timeframes for 2015 now extended to 2030: also the target date for MDG three - gender equality.

Following a successful launch of the **Botswana** VAW Baseline study, the government has developed a new costed NAP and approached GL to assist with cascading the baseline study to district level so as to

Influencing the regional and global post-2015 agenda:

GL has linked the work on measuring VAW at national and local level to regional and global debates. The 2014 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer broke new ground by proposing potential new targets and indicators for the post-2015 agenda. Of the 300 possible indicators, 100 concern gender violence,

and they derive from these studies. Through the Alliance, a member of the Women's Major Group, GL has commented on several different versions of the Sustainable Development Goals, that now comprise 17 goals and 169 targets. Thanks to these lobbying efforts, Goal five - gender equality - has a specific target on VAW. Indicators currently being crafted concern life-time experience of gender violence. These numbers can only be derived from prevalence studies such as the study that GL has now piloted in six countries. Should these targets and indicators be adopted by the UN General Assembly in September, they will be a major vindication of this pioneering work on measuring GBV.

Challenges

The GBV Indicators research heavily relies on partnerships with governments, necessary for ownership and follow up, but often onerous for planning. In Zambia, where the research is being funded by the UN through the gender ministry, GL has experienced several delays. For a project that commenced in 2013, GL is still to finalise and launch the report. Despite the challenges, government ministries remain crucial in this process as they ensure ownership and sustainability especially the adoption of the indicators for ongoing monitoring.

Risks	Rate - High/Medium/Low	How these will be mitigated
Partnerships dynamics can have negative impact on project success.	High	Ensure effective partnerships with both relevant government departments and CSOs. The flexible funding has enabled us to go forward with the project where there was some stalling by partners e.g MGCD Zambia.
Implementation costs of conducting research can creep if not capped.	Low	GL seeks to establish mutually beneficial partnerships with governments using the Botswana case as a model. The MGCD in Zambia and the Bureau of Statistics in Lesotho assisted in kind by providing vehicles used for data collection. This helped to make the research possible and enhanced ownership of the results.
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	Medium	GL will ensure political buy in from the onset to ensure ownership of the results and subsequently commitment in advocacy activities.
Wide expression of interest from new countries implies taking on more work than planned initially.	Medium	Partnerships with the governments and in country fundraising cut costs in the overall implementation for GL for example Botswana is now cascading the project to district level all costs covered by the Botswana government.
Unpredictable political environments	Medium	GL will ensure political buy in by existing structures rather than individuals.

Next steps

- Launch the Lesotho and Zambia reports, and use these to revisit and strengthen 365 Day National Action Plans to End Gender Violence, with accompanying strategic communications plans and frameworks.
- Test the revised methodology in Botswana and Seychelles.
- Use the research in the six countries where it has been completed to strengthen local action plans for ending gender violence.
- Campaign for all SADC countries to undertake comprehensive national GBV prevalence and attitude surveys, as part of the post 2015 SADC Gender Protocol and SDG campaign.



Women in Zimbabwe wave their placards in protest against GBV. Photo: Archive.kubatana.net