

Grassroots and agricultural developments are among our top priorities.



“Gender Links has greatly contributed in making us aware of the Gender Mainstreaming in our projects”, Ghova Ramanjooloo, Ag. Chief Executive

The Moka District Council.
http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=26244
 Photo: Ghirish Abdhoosee

COUNTRY	Mauritius
COUNCIL	District Council of Moka/Flacq
WHY SELECTED	Best case
Score when score card first administered	60
Agreed score during verification	77
Population	214,000
Key characteristics	Agricultural Industry and Tourism Industry
Contact person	Ghova N. Ramanjooloo
Designation	Ag. Chief Executive
Contact details	+230 782 8627

What was the situation before the intervention?



Since the locality has signed the MOU, there has been very good collaboration between GL and the council. The gender score card is quite revealing for a council which did not take part in the GL summit 2012. It is even better than the localities GL has worked with for a longer period. Port Louis, for example, gets an agreed score of 47, while Moka Flacq gets 77.

Ghova Ramanjooloo the Ag. Chief Executive addressing to the participants during the Action Planning workshop.
 Photo:Ghirish Abdhoosee

How has life tangibly and demonstrably changed as a result of the intervention?



Relationship with Gender Links

Since Moka/Flacq DC has become part of the COE process, it has covered most of the important stages of the COE process. A Gender Action Plan was conceived together with the councillors and staff of the council. Two days of intense training on Women in Politics was given by Gender Links to the councillors and community members so as to encourage women to enrol for the elections.

Distribution of Medicinal plants from the Ministry of Environment.
Photo:Ghirish Abdhoosee.

How do we know this change has occurred?

Gender Mainstreaming in the locality

After the last village elections, the percentage of women as district councillors rose from 0% to 17.6%. Two women, Mrs Anupama Bolah and Mrs Anuradha Aujayeb, who was given training by Gender Links, became village councillors.

This locality has successfully put in place quite a few projects and programmes for the empowerment of women and to combat GBV. Some of these are as follows:

- Stalls for women in a recently constructed market
- Positioning themselves as facilitators for women who want to do their own businesses
- Accommodating the Small and Medium Development Authority with large rooms comprising of all facilities in villages so that training can be given to women to become economically independent
- Make sure that all streets in villages have proper lighting for the safety of women, men and children
- All 36 Village Councils are equipped with computers so that women can become IT literate



- 250 women have been selected to start their own businesses through the incubator project
- MID (Mauritius Durable Island) has an environmental club and there are more girls in the club

Women in politics workshop in Quartier Militaire/St Pierre dated 24th & 25th May 2012.
Photo:Ghirish



Woman working in the agricultural sector going back home after a hard day of work.
Photo: Ghirish Abdhoosee

- An environmental award was organised where all the village councils were invited to participate. It was over 8 months, and a panel selected the best project.
- Campaigns are being done in villages to sensitize people on the environment.
- Women are part of a cooperative to sell their products
- Facilities have been put in place for women to join sports and badminton and table tennis courts have been put at their disposition
- Two scholarships have been given to girls for atheism
- Through the National Women's Councils activities are organised for the 16 days campaign
- The HR Manager is a woman and there are women in the Inspectorate Department (formerly a male dominated job)

All above activities go through the Council. Reports and pictures are kept on all the above activities.

Gender Links facilitated a workshop for four villages of this District, and after three days came out with a GBV Action Plan for the four villages. To make sure that all streets have names and that the name plates are standard, the Council has opted to do the plates themselves instead of contracting.

What are the characteristics of this group that distinguish it from the others?

This locality highlights sports, local economic development, the environment and sustainable development for women. They organised a Football event which saw the participation of over 2500 women. Although they do not have female councillors at the level of the District, they work with village female councillors.



Additionally, the council has a big market which has an average of ten thousand visitors on Sunday only. It has a wide range of products, from fresh vegetables to clothes. It is a place where women receiving entrepreneurial courses can have stalls to sell their products.

Women working in potato fields.
Photo:Ghirish.

The council created an environment award where councils were invited to participate. It was over a space of 8 months. It was done in 3 stages:

- 1) The juries visited the site

2) Another visit was done after 3 months to check the progress

3) The final visit was to award the winner.

It was an incentive to make the community aware of the importance to preserve the environment.

2 of the waste inspectors are women, which was previously a job specifically for men.

Why or why not?

The success of this Council lies in the potential development for Local Economic Development for women. The willingness of the Chief Executive to make grassroots sustainable development and use untapped resources of the locality is a great asset for the council.

What factors might be barriers?

One of the major barriers is the splitting of the Moka/Flacq DC. GL has already worked alongside several stages of the COE process. It will be a challenge to reorganise the COE process afresh for both localities. This will cause the development to delay for a while.

How can performance be strengthened?

Start the whole COE process at the new DC. Now that women form part of the councillors, gender mainstreaming in projects will be more probable. The action plan for grassroots development will include gender. More focus will be laid on Local economic development, and targeting women entrepreneurs.



http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=20380

Photo: