

## **Voice and Choice GL Mozambique Summit**

Gender Links Mozambique held on 26 and 27 August last the sixth National Good Practice Summit on the Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development Post-2015, in the context of Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights and Combating Premature Unions.

The event took place at the Hotel Cardoso, and 26 of the country's 53 municipalities, various civil society organizations, government officials, and the entrepreneurs benefiting from the Gender Links empowerment program called the Sunrise campaign attended to it.

Gender Links Mozambique Executive Director Alice Banze recalled that the summit is a remarkable moment as it brings together various social actors who share and monitor each other's work and achievements. It is also an opportunity for learning and replicating the good practices presented, it is a moment to show the work that Gender Links has been doing with the different cooperation partners.

The second part of the first day of activities was marked by parallel sessions, where candidates from the media, entrepreneurship and municipal classification categories shared the work done according to their competencies and areas of expertise. Presentations followed highlighting the categories of Good Youth Practice and Associations already established, and Change Agents (people transformed and / or influenced their community with personal projects).

### **PARALLEL SESSIONS PART II**

The municipalities paraded their class and presented the best they have done in their municipalities as a way to improve the local quality of life, as the main objective is human development. It has been noted that gender parity, or resource allocation for gender issues, remains relatively low, but with the same awareness of this need.

Young people spoke of their initiatives in the causes that stand out for, like child trafficking, the economic and social empowerment of women, especially girls, and the eradication of violence against women.

The entrepreneurs shared their experiences of survival with GBV, as well as their overcoming through the business they started. Several experiences were shared that inspired emerging entrepreneurs to visualize and outline strategies to achieve their goals.

## **Awards**

The second day of the summit was marked by the usual ceremony of distinguishing the best projects and works presented. In the media category the winners were Aida Matsinhe- for the print media, Arson Mbanguini- Radio Voz Coop was the winner in the Radio category, followed by Nolasca Cuna, journalist for Muthyana radio, who took 2nd place.

In the Youth category, the glory went to Dalva Mangoba, and Catarina Choly, representing the Mozambican Feminist Movement, MovFemme.

Of the 3 candidates for the drivers of Change category, Mandlakazi's mayor Maria Helena Langa and Boane's mayor Jacinto Loureiro won the jury's sympathy with their presentations and results, reaching 1st and 2nd place respectively.

For the category of Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights, the great recipients of the night were Alberto Zeca, of the Youth Association, followed by Emídio Xavier.

The participants of the meeting praised the need for new approaches to achieve the goals set when it comes to gender equity, as there are still many obstacles that do not allow the advance of this struggle to have a fairer society, opportunities and justice.

Gender Links Mozambique held the Summit in partnership with the Alliance, represented by the Women's Forum, with funding from the AGIR Program Diakonia, funded by the embassies of Sweden and the Netherlands, and the UN Women.