



Niombi Setshwaelo
Gender Links Board Member



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Country Manager



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Finance Officer



The **Lobatse Town Council** has over the years built a strong gender structure with a gender champion and gender focal person. The council has an annual activity plan derived from the Gender Action Plan. It is in the process of developing a gender policy. 44% of the council management are women. The current Mayor and Town clerk are both women. The Finance and Works Committee is chaired by a woman. The youth focal person is a young woman. The council keeps sex disaggregated data. 74% of funds from financial schemes in the council go towards women empowerment. The Council has hosted commemoration events for International Women's Day; the Sixteen days of Activism on GBV; a Gender vs. Culture workshop including traditional healers, pastors and community elders in discussion about practices that perpetuate GBV. GLB and Lobatse collaborated in a workshop on the "I stories" for men.

Gender Links Botswana (GLB) opened in 2008 as a liaison office with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and country office. In 2018, GL carried out and completed a follow up to the GBV indicators study contracted by the Government of Botswana. GLB also undertook a

consultancy with the Botswana Open University through the Commonwealth of Learning to sensitise the university on gender issues.

GLB's COE programme extends to all 31 of the country's district councils. In 2018 the Botswana office:

- Conducted a national SADC Gender Protocol at work Summit on 6-7 March 2018 with 19 COE entries and 52 case studies in total.
- Trained 120 women standing for council and parliament positions in the 2019 general elections and facilitated six media engagements on women political representation.
- Trained 16 councils to take over the running of the Sunrise Campaign. The councils to date have trained 174 survivors of GBV.
- Conducted two meeting to strengthen council Gender Action Plans.
- Conducted one SRHR training for 15 local councils and youth organisations working on SRHR issues.
- Conducted one SRHR policy mapping meeting with nine organisations represented.

GL's Monitoring and Evaluation through the Gender and Local Government Score card shows that in Botswana there are:

- 20% women in local government.
- 39% women in council management.
- 24% women chairing committees.
- COE's allocated land to 15% women.
- COE's allocated housing to 30% women.