

"Business knows no gender. Previously male dominated industries, like the construction industry, now have women. For a business to succeed it takes hard work and determination not gender. My mission statement is to use my experiences to motivate other young people to consider starting business, and help them through the process." *Nondumiso Maseko, Emerging Entrepreneur, Sunrise Campaign Mankayane Council.*

GL Eswatini has been in operation since July 2012. In 2019 Gender Links Eswatini:

- Conducted a Training of Trainers workshop with seven COE councils including the gender champions, gender focal persons (GFPs) and youth mentors.
- In partnership with Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) established three networks - Women in Local Government Forum (WLGF), Young Women in Local Government Forum (YWLGF) and the Women in Local Economic Development (WLED) Network.
- In preparation for the SADC Protocol@ Work Summit worked with GBV survivors who shared their "I" stories and collected data for the Gender Empowerment Index (GEI). Through this activity GL Eswatini collected documentaries to illustrate the progress of the survivors' businesses as well as to measure the rate of GBV after the entrepreneurship training conducted with survivors.
- Conducted #VoiceandChoice SRHR training with 41 participants from 11 local councils where they developed SRHR and communications action plans as well as the #Voice and Choice campaign action plans.

- Supported the Alliance on the implementation of the #Voice and Choice campaigns on Early Child Marriage and the Sexual Offences Domestic Violence #YourSODV #YourRights campaigns. The SODV Act was passed in 2018.
- Collaborated with Eswatini Young Women's Alliance (EYWA) in implementing the Sexual Offences Domestic Violence #YourSODV #YourRights campaign at Ngwempisi Inkhundla in Mankayane.
- Partnered with SAfAIDS in the implementation 'My Choice: Our Choice' Regional Campaign on Ending Unsafe Abortion in the SADC region, #VoiceandChoice national campaigns and the theme of the 2019 International Safe Abortion Day, "Abortion is Healthcare."

GL's Monitoring and Evaluation through the Gender and Local Government Scorecard based on the data for 11 councils show that:

- **Representation of women** in the local councils in Eswatini is 18% with 18% women in political leadership positions.
- **Employment of women** in councils is 37%.
- **Women in council management** constitute 38%.
- **Land:** 39% of land is allocated to women for various uses in the councils.
- **Housing:** 38% of housing is allocated to women ensuring that they are independent and able to negotiate safe relationships without fear.
- **Disability facilities:** 82% of councils have facilities that cater for people with disability.

ESWATINI



Ncane Maziya
Country Coordinator



Thandokuhle Dlamini
Programme Officer