

LESOTHO



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Gender Links Lesotho (GLL) was registered on 1 February 2011. In 2019 Gender Links Lesotho:

- Embarked on an innovative project to develop a GBV smart phone app “Nokaneng-Breaking the Silence” to teach women about their rights and services available for GBV.
- Partnered with UNFPA to run “Husband Schools” to change men’s attitudes towards GBV and address the SRHR needs of men and their partners.
- Worked with the SRHR Alliance cluster on three SRHR campaigns: menstrual health, child marriage and abortion. Minister of Finance Dr Moeketsi Majoro announced during the budget on 12 March 2019, that sanitary towels in Lesotho will no longer be taxed.
- Supported ten COE councils (Kanana council, Lilala Council, Mafeteng Urban Council, Mamantso Council, Maisa Phoka Council, Mazenod Council, Qibing Council, Sephokong Council, Siloe

Council and Tsana Talana Council) in carrying out local action plans on SRHR that cascaded the national campaigns on child marriages, GBV and menstrual health to local level.

GL’s Monitoring and Evaluation through the Gender and Local Government Scorecard based on the data for 47 councils show that:

- **Representation of women** in COE councils in Lesotho is 41% (consistent with the national average) but women comprise only 6% of these in political leadership showing that there is still much work to be done.
- **Employment of women** in councils is 50%.
- Women constitute 58% of **council management**.
- **Land**: COE councils allocate 41% of land to women.
- **Disability facilities**: 57% of councils have facilities that cater for people with disability.



Matanki Sekeleme presenting at a Sunrise workshop in Mazenod.
Photo by Tokelo Lefoka

“I have tried to motivate many women around my area to report abuse as they fear victimisation. I have made it a priority to meet every month survivors of gender-based violence and talk about anything, encourage and support each other; and contribute money to assist other members in need of financial assistance.” *Matanki Sekeleme, Sunrise Campaign participant from Mazenod Council.*