

GL Eswatini has been in operation since July 2012. 2021 was a difficult year for GL Eswatini and the GL family. On 21 June 2021, GL lost one of its most loyal foot soldiers, Ncane Maziya, GL Eswatini country facilitator, she died leaving a remarkable legacy in the fight for gender equality in Eswatini. To honour Ncane Maziya, GL renamed the reception room in the GL Offices in Johannesburg, South Africa the Ncane Maziya Reception Room. Our dearest sister will never be forgotten. During 2021, Gender Links Eswatini:

- Held 41 events and reached 671 people, 564 women and 109 men.
- Had a Fifty Media Learning and Sharing meeting in Mbabane in March 2021.
- Participated in the regional virtual #VoiceandChoice Protocol@Work Summit and GL's 20th anniversary in Mbabane in March 2021.
- Completed a GEI baseline survey with 197 GBV survivors from 12 councils.
- Conducted a training of trainers with gender focal points in 12 COE's Gender focal persons and youth mentors in preparation for councils to start rolling out the sunrise programme.

- Disbursed start-up finance of \$150 to 197 sunrise participants in December 2021 to assist in reviving businesses that were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Strengthened the Women in Local Economic Development (WLED) networks formed in 2020 as part of the roll out of the Jo Cox project, in partnership with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. By the end of the project, the networks had developed action plans to guide their work beyond the project period. For example, in Eswatini, mentoring and business support continued through the Canadian High Commission funding.
- Worked with the Eswatini WLED Network to set up a Facebook and Instagram Store. As at the end of September 2021, the Gwacatela Nsika Facebook page had 1607 likes and 1638 people following.

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 14% 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 disabilities.



Entrepreneurs in Siteki entering their data into the Gender Empower Index (GEI) on tablets. Photo by Thandokuhle Dlamini



# ESWATINI



Mbuso Simelane  
GL Board Member



Ncane Maziya  
Former Country Facilitator



Thandokuhle Dlamini,  
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