



GENDER JUSTICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUMMIT AND AWARDS
Parktonian Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa
22 – 24 March 2010



Swaziland delegation celebrate their awards

Introduction

By being a signatory to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development (SPGD) and other regional and international commitments, Southern African member states have made a commitment to take measures to ensure that the obstacles that continue to exist for women in terms of their equal participation in all spheres of life - socially, politically, economically and culturally are removed. However, reality for most women is still one of social, economic and political marginalisation; women are still the majority of the poor, they have limited access to employment and economic opportunities and are also constantly under physical threat as gender violence is on the increase which further exacerbates the HIV and AIDS epidemic affecting more and more women and especially young women.

The SPGD has 28 targets for achieving gender equality and equity. Gender Links (GL), a regional NGO working to promote equality and justice for women, has been working with local councils in 10 SADC countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) specifically around achieving the target of 50% women in all areas of decision making and halving the current levels of gender based violence (GBV), by 2015.

365 Days of local action to end gender violence

There is still a great lack of understanding about gender and gender equality in communities and myths about gender based violence (GBV) abound, linked to this is the issue of stigma that still surrounds GBV resulting in survivors being afraid to report incidences of violence and to speak out. Cultural norms and beliefs are still deeply entrenched and keep women marginalised evident by the fact that women are still grossly under-represented in all areas spheres of life - socially, politically, economically and culturally. Unequal power relations, poverty and lack of economic empowerment lie at the heart of GBV. Lack of political will to implement laws and policies and inadequate knowledge and information on GBV and the mechanisms and facilities available to address it are also exacerbated by low literacy levels.

Through its extensive work at the local government level GL identified a gap in the work of local councils in that many of them have not considered addressing issues of GBV as being part of their core competencies. This is of course not the case as it is because of its proximity to communities and homes, which is where most GBV takes place, that it most certainly should be a concern for local councils. Addressing GBV needs to take place at various levels using different approaches and local government can address GBV as a key service delivery issue in a number of ways. Interventions can be categorised into three main areas, prevention, including specific campaigns and communication strategies, response and support.

As a result of this gap GL implemented a two pronged approach in its work with local government, i) to work directly with councils in developing specific GBV action plans and ii) to convene the first ever Gender Justice and Local Government Summit and Awards to recognise and award councils for the work being done in this crucial area.

With support from the Dutch Ministry for Development Cooperation's MDG3 Fund, under the banner '*365 Days of local action to end gender violence*' the first ever

Gender Justice and Local Government Summit and Awards was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from the 22 - 24 March 2010 which brought together 260 participants (local government authorities, municipalities, NGOs and representatives of ministries of gender and local government and local government associations and journalists) from ten countries, presenting 103 entries, 69 by women and 34 by men, on empowering women and ending violence at the local level. At least 40 of these participants got passports and travelled out of their countries for the first time to participate in the summit.

Background

The first local government and gender justice summit aimed to bring together local government councillors and officials, relevant government ministries and NGOs that work with local government from the region. The summit featured awards on good practices in ending gender violence, provided an opportunity to document and disseminate these good practices as well as giving incentives to local authorities to innovate new and effective strategies for combating violence against women. Parallel seminars on promoting women's representation and effective participation in local government structures were a key feature at the summit and awards.

The SADC Gender and Development Protocol signed in August 2008 set a target for governments to halve current levels of gender based violence by 2015. It also emphasises that States should adopt an integrated approach to address gender violence. The United Nations Secretary General's 2006 report on gender violence

highlights that that States should: build and sustain strong multi-sectoral strategies, coordinated nationally and locally; show political commitment as well as build on the work done by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), scale up and institutionalise it and share experiences with other countries



A delegate from Madagascar presenting her good practise with the help of an interpreter

Many local municipalities in at least seven countries, namely South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Swaziland and Zambia have developed gender action plans where gender violence features as a key service delivery issue. Hence many initiatives to prevention gender

violence have been adopted. For instance, some municipalities have localised the 365 Days of Action against Gender Violence campaign. The 365 days of Action is a concept, first adopted in South Africa, to extend the 16 days of Activism on Gender violence Campaign to a coordinated and comprehensive year-long response through the development of a National Action Plan to end Gender Violence.

As a region, we realise that the quest to end gender based violence is long from over. Yet, in the same breath we realise that we have had many prominent victories, particularly within the local government sphere, more women now hold prominent positions within the public service and local authorities actively gets involved in activities to counter gender based violence. These 'many victories' are often based on numerous good practice models that can assist many other countries with their own quests and challenges to counter gender violence, therefore it is important for us to share these good practice models in order to see clear and very positive results

we aspire to in terms of addressing gender violence and improving women's representation and access.

Many of the gender violence initiatives have succeeded in raising awareness and preventing GBV but very little effort has been made to document and share these rich experiences. To address this gap, Gender Links, working with local government and other strategic partners hosted a Gender Justice and Local Government Summit and Awards from the 22 - 25 March and this event will now be hosted annually.



Ialfine Tracoulat, GL country facilitator in Madagascar enjoys counting votes

The Local Government and Gender Justice Summit and Awards 2010 aimed to engage with these issues through thematic parallel sessions that looked at strategies that are being used to engage with media local authorities, communities and identify key priorities that need to be addressed and strategies to address these.

Objectives of the local government and gender justice summit and awards 2010 were to:

- Provide delegates with platform to debate around local government approaches to preventing gender violence in local communities.
- Affirm the progress that has been made through the first LG and GBV Awards that was expected to attract entries from across the region.
- Contribute towards building a community of and share good practices on addressing gender based violence at local level.
- Provide an opportunity for local government practitioners to develop strategic partnerships and networking opportunities
- Afford all stakeholders the opportunity to interact and present content of what they understand the role of local authorities to be, in turn also affirming their good practise models through the LG and GJ Awards thus broadening the impact and enhance efficiency with regards to addressing gender violence collectively

Categories for the local government and gender justice summit and awards:

- **Prevention** of GBV at local level – how do councils/ organisations work to ensure that GBV does not occur?
- **Response** to GBV at local level – what do councils and organisations do to advance legal literacy, work with local police, etc. To ensure redress for victims?
- **Institutional good practises** – E.g. council/ organisations working together on GBV; e.g. lobbying for a GBV budget in IDPs / Municipality's Annual Strategic Plans, etc
- **Support** around GBV at local level – how do we support those who have experienced GBV
- **Innovative communication strategies** - Messaging, slogans, banners and posters to end GBV that have an impact.
- **Specific GBV campaigns** – e.g. 16 Days campaigns, lighting campaigns, etc
- **Individual innovation** – Three prizes will be awarded to individuals who show particular innovation and dedication to ending GBV at the local level.

Summit activities

- **Thematic parallel sessions** took place from the 22 – 24 March and delegates were allocated per session according to each category. Entrants were given the opportunity to showcase their good practises and present them through PowerPoint presentations. After each presentation delegates and judges at the session were able to ask question of clarity around the good practise then both the judges and participants were able the vote/ score the good practise. These votes were counted on a daily basis by GL's 'electoral' team.
- On the evening of the 23rd of March, GL hosted a **cultural event** evening and delegates from across the region rehearsed a cultural activity unique to their country and show cased it to the rest of the delegates. This activity was very well received and delegates were able to engage on a different level.
- On the evening of 24 March 2010, Gender Links awarded nine winners and nine runners up awards at a colourful **awards ceremony and gala dinner** that was held at the City of Johannesburg offices, Reception Room. Video footage documenting some of the grassroots initiatives was shown. Footage can be made available on request. The judges also made their choice and a winner and three runners up were awarded.



A group of Swaziland delegates presenting their cultural activity

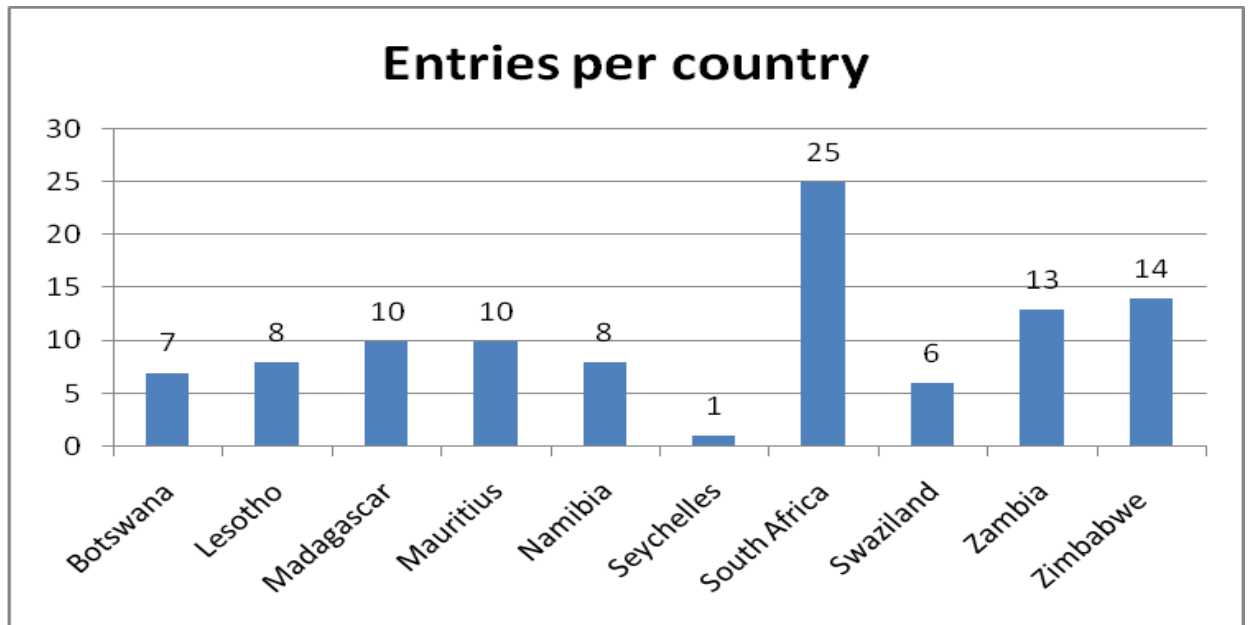
QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE FIRST GENDER JUSTICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUMMIT:

- 102 entries, 69 by women, 33 by men in 7 categories
- Submissions from 10 countries.
- Winners from nine countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- 3 women and 2 men got special commendations.
- 6 women and 3 men are runners up
- 5 women and 4 men are winners

Entrants and entries

The first Gender Justice and Local Government Summit saw 102 entries being submitted from 10 SADC countries. Figure one illustrates the entry breakdown per country, showing that the largest number of entries were received from South Africa and the fewest came from Seychelles.

Figure one: Entries per country



As mentioned above entries were received in seven categories, figure two illustrates the breakdown per category, showing that the largest number of entries were received for the support category (23) followed by prevention (20), response (18), institutional good practise and specific GBV campaigns (13), individual innovation (11) and the fewest were received in the category for innovative communication strategies (4).

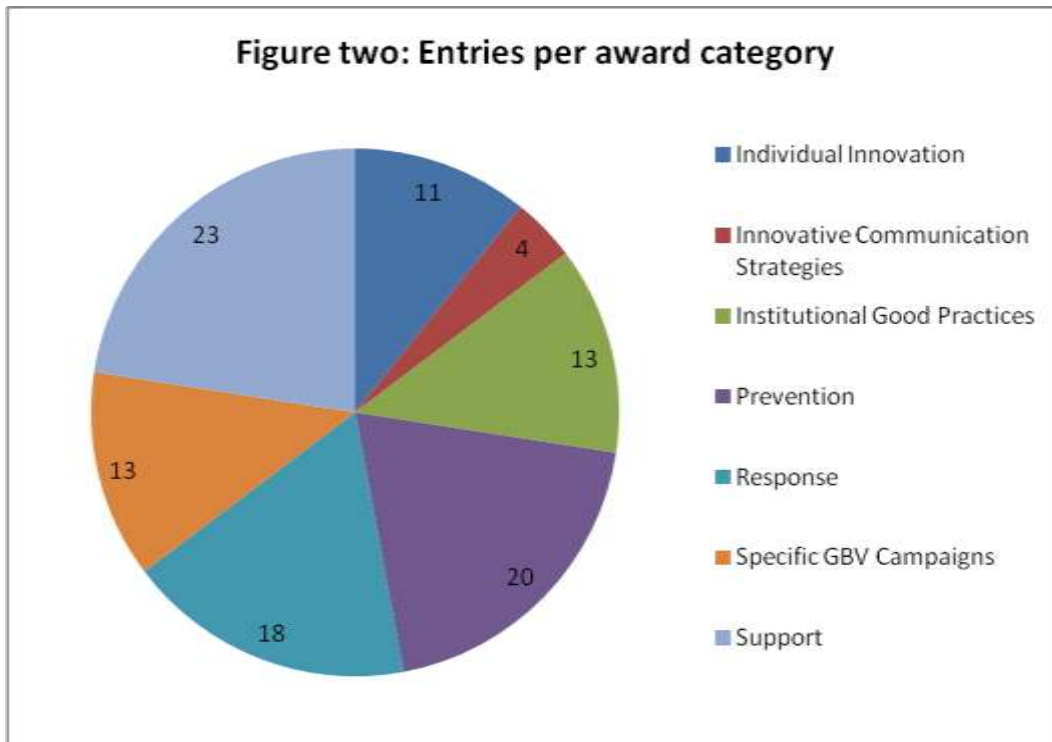


Figure three illustrates the break down per entrant category showing that the largest number of entries were received from NGO's (56) followed by local government councils (41) with only a few entries coming from government.

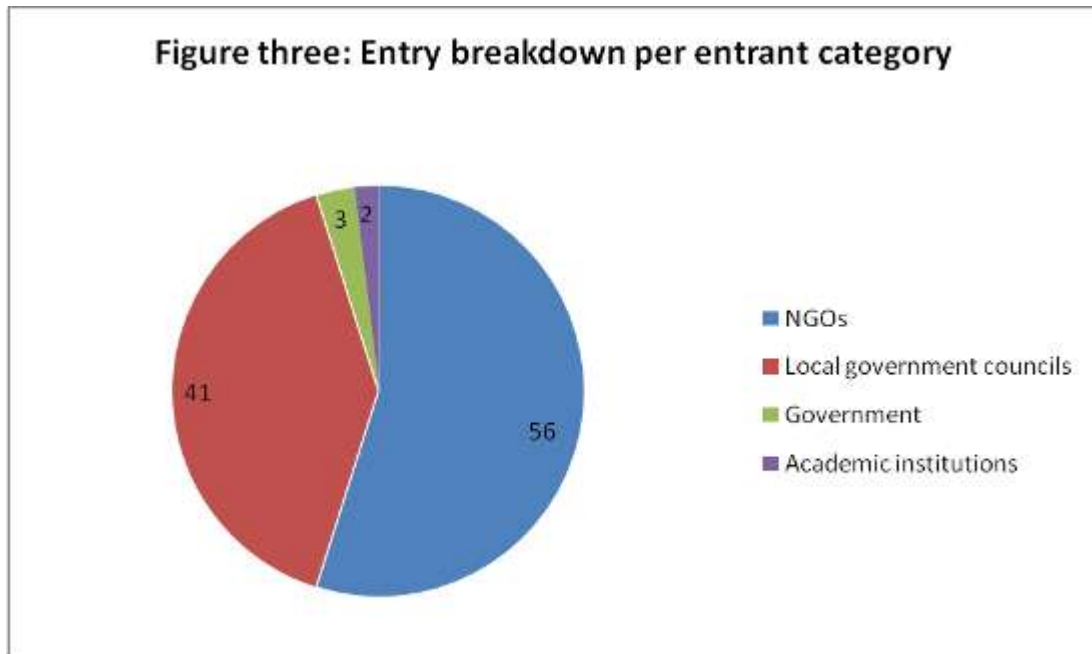
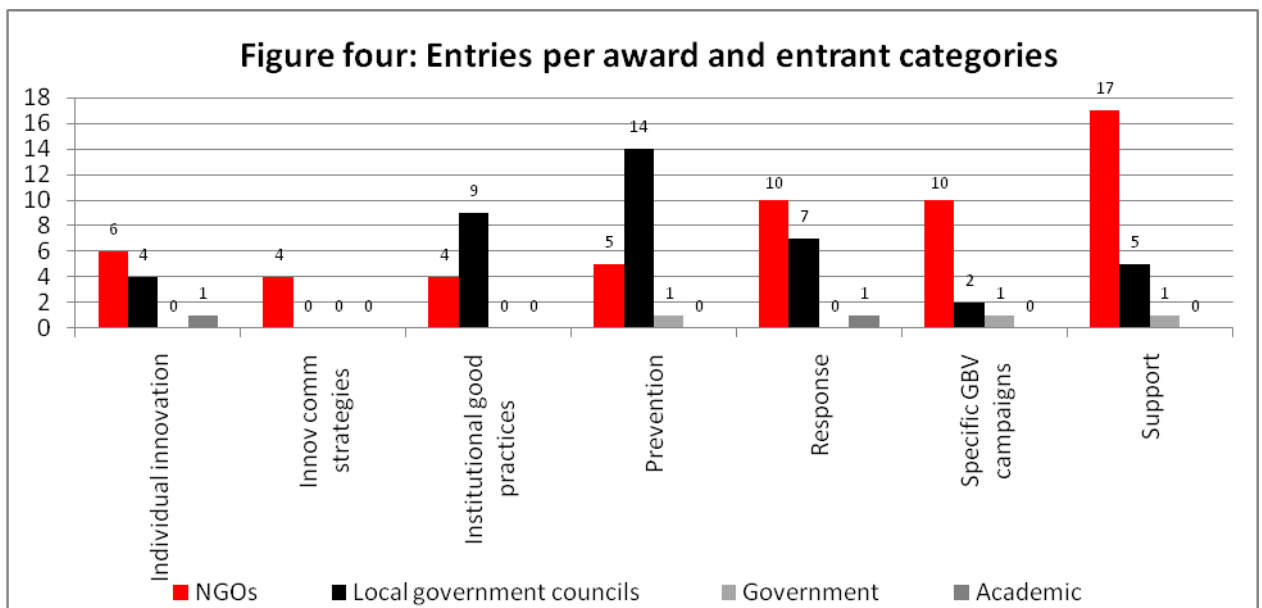
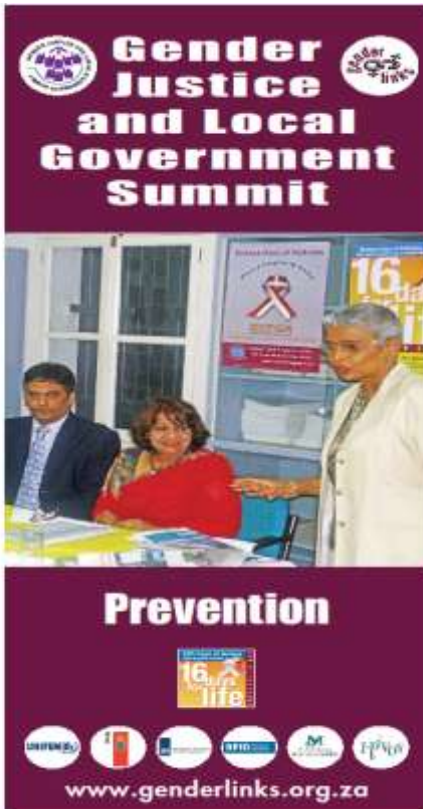


Figure four illustrates the entries per award and entrant category.



ENTRIES AND AWARDS

PREVENTION



Prevention strategies look at how councils and local organisations work to ensure that GBV does not occur. There were 20 entries from six countries for this category focusing on prevention programmes including establishing Police posts and GBV watch groups, youth groups and centres, holding seminars, producing television programmes and other multidimensional approaches to prevent GBV.

Runner up: Lubinda Mwala (Mongu Municipal Council, Zambia)

The case study on the construction of Imwiko Police Post with the constituency development fund (CDF) clearly demonstrates the importance of preventing gender violence through effective policing and providing information on available mechanisms to address GBV at community level. It addresses the problem of inadequate information on the availability of mechanism to address GBV and the existing

facilities for enforcement of legal provisions. Perpetrators of GBV have quite often gone scot free mainly as a result of victims not reporting to police due to distance and lack of information. By providing information and a police post within reach the community, members shall be able to take measures to address the problem of GBV.

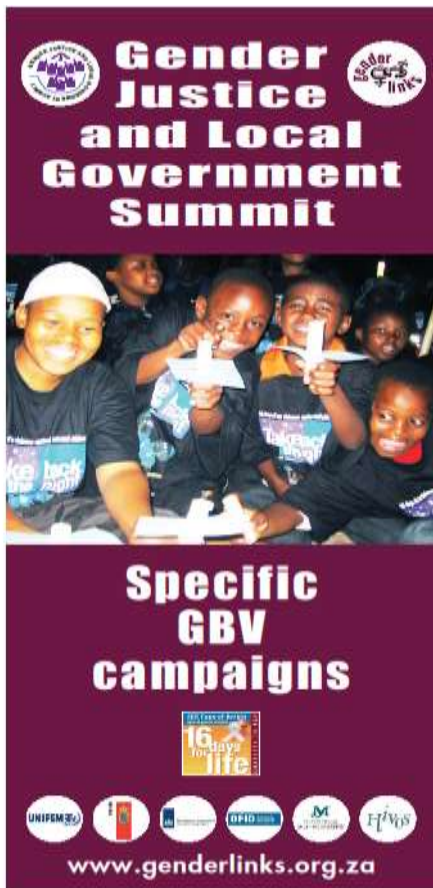
Winner: Michael Sik Yuen (Curepipe, Mauritius)

The winner for this category illustrates the range of interventions that councils can make to ensure that GBV does not occur. Michael Yuen Sik, Former Mayor of the Municipal Council of Curepipe presented the various initiatives being undertaken by his council which include installing a CCTV camera in the town, cleaning up 'bare land' areas which are fertile grounds for gender violence such as assaults and rape, installing appropriate infrastructure including lighting on streets and in public spaces, building and maintaining sports and social facilities and sensitisation and awareness programmes.



Pat Made presenting Michael Sik Yuen with his award

SPECIFIC GBV CAMPAIGNS



One of the ways that GBV can be prevented is through raising awareness by co-ordinating and participating in high profile *specific GBV campaigns*, such as the Sixteen Days of No Violence against Women and Children. 13 entries from seven countries were received for various campaigns that councils have participated in including using radio programmes, talks, outreach and educative sessions and study circles, marches and implementing women's safety plans.

Runner up: Sifiso Kunene (Swaziland)

Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) presented a good practice on involving men in the fight against GBV through engaging them in gender activities and creating forums for them to talk openly about social and family issues and break the silence on GBV. The programme is also about creating space for men to share and learn and to manage their anger.



SWAGAA sees the importance of involving men in addressing GBV

Winner: Nakayi Godfrey Nengomasha (Zimbabwe)

The winning entry came from Nakayi Godfrey Nengomasha from Padare, a men's organisation that works to popularise men's involvement in bringing about gender equality and addressing gender violence related issues in Zimbabwe. By collaborating with traditional authority structures, key gatekeepers of patriarchy, Padare has opened up new terrains of deconstructing the concept of power and masculinities in rural and urban settings in Zimbabwe. There is also inter-generational capacity building as Padare engages younger boys who are being groomed for their future role to promote gender equality.

INNOVATIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES



In the category of *innovative communication strategies* the question being addressed was what messaging, slogans, banners and posters are being used to end GBV that have had an impact. Only four entries were received and they included the production of an audio CD, establishing a youth health, gender and welfare desk, a demonstration project on gender and parenting including a PhotoVoice activity and digital stories. A Stop Gender Based Violence Billboard that at the entrance of the main town of Manzini was the winning entry from Baphalali Red Cross in Swaziland.

Winner: Senelile Khumalo (Baphalali Red Cross, Swaziland)

A Stop Gender Based Violence Billboard that at the entrance of the main town of Manzini was the winning entry from Baphalali Red Cross in Swaziland.



**Stop Gender-based Violence
Be Faithful to Your Spouse
Prevent the Spread of HIV/AIDS**

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RESPONSE



If GBV cannot be prevented additional strategies need to be put in place which respond effectively to the scourge. In the category of *response* 18 entries were received from six countries focusing on projects which work with men and churches in addressing GBV, social welfare and community development programmes, listening and legal counselling centres, training programmes and environmental initiatives. The high calibre of entries resulted in two winners in this category.

Runner up: Rachel Buhle Jeremia (Sowa Town Council, Botswana)

The Sowa Town Council, through its social welfare and community development department, has given women in a predominantly mining town skills, knowledge and opportunities to reduce their dependency on their partners and provided



Women participate in empowerment programmes in Sowa, Botswana

them with safe spaces to talk about gender violence and to seek counselling. This programme is a good example of how town councils can build programmes to address gender violence, skills development and create economic opportunities for women.

Winners

Regis Manjoro (Fatherhood Peace Project, Zimbabwe)

Regis Manjoro from the Fatherhood Peace Project in Zimbabwe presented the good practice on educating men about child abuse. This Project has challenged men to join the response to supporting orphans and vulnerable children (OVC's). Their aim is to promote best fatherhood, traditional, religious and cultural peace building practices and ensure that men from various churches and communities formulate care and support programs for OVC's and other vulnerable minority interest groups in Zimbabwe.

Anna Selaelo Mohojane (City of Johannesburg, South Africa)

Anna Selaelo Mohojane, from the largest metropolitan municipality in South Africa, the City of Johannesburg, presented a unique and complicated project involving a multi-sectoral approach which the city has managed to craft. The uniqueness of the programme is reflected in the holistic approach which does not only address incidents of gender violence but also seeks sustainable solutions through economic empowerment programmes to ensure women do not stay in abusive relationships because they are bound by lack of economic opportunities. The economic empowerment model is difficult to replicate in less affluent municipalities but it is an important strategy in responding to GBV which should be considered where resources allow.

SUPPORT



Local councils and organisations see their biggest role as *support* to survivors, evidenced by the 23 entries from eight countries received and which focused on economic empowerment initiatives, support groups, victim support and counselling, shelters and protection projects.

Runner up: Tresphord Kasale (Zambia Police Victim Support Unit, Zambia)

Victim Support Unit is the department under Zambia Police Service which was established following the Police Reforms Programme. To purpose of the VSU is to reduce GBV throughout the county, provide counselling to victims of GBV, arrest and prosecute perpetrators of



Tresphord Kasale celebrates his award

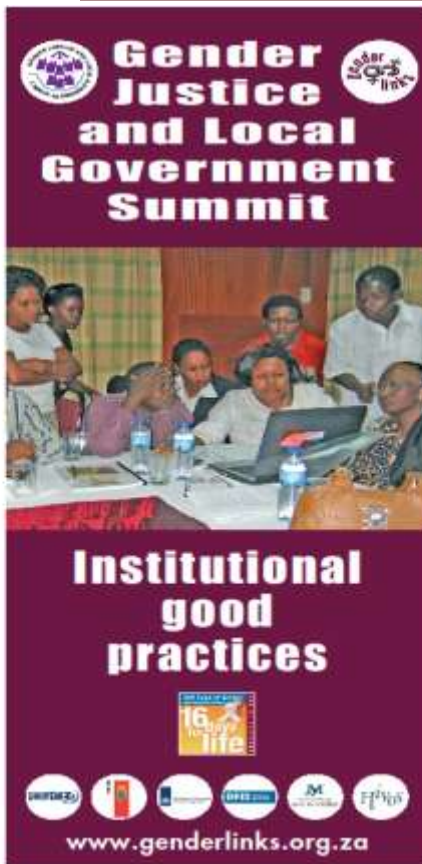
GBV, create awareness on GBV to the general public and to encourage people who are victims of GBV to report these cases. Part of the best practice of this project is the fact that out of 430 police officers, 320 are women.

Winner: Thulisile Chapa (World Vision, Swaziland)

The winning entry from World Vision in Swaziland was for a microenterprise development programme. This well planned project cultivates a culture of understanding money at the household level. The savings and credit scheme is an integrated approach which combines a fund for social emergencies and a fund for OVC's. The project ensures that women are able to build the social capital that validates them in their culture whilst at the same time empowering them with knowledge.



INSTITUTIONAL GOOD PRACTICE



The 16 Days Campaign has been stretched to year long programme or campaign in partnership with various sectors of society. The project has resulted in an increased awareness of high levels of domestic and gender violence against women and children. The programme has encouraged victims to speak out. There is an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place. There are efforts to ensure sustainability through partnerships.

It is important to recognise that initiatives to address GBV require both individual innovation as well as strong institutional support. In the category of *institutional good practises* the question asked was how councils work together with all stakeholders and how they have begun to institutionalise programmes and strategies for addressing GBV and the empowerment of women in local communities. The 13 entries from five countries received for this category focused on implementing gender action plans, establishing women in local government forums, participatory budgeting and effective use of information technology.

Runner up: Naledi Masipa (Polokwane Municipality, South Africa)

The Capricorn District Municipality (CDM) has developed a 365 Days Action Plan addressing the issue of violence in the home and school environment.



CDM walks against neglect

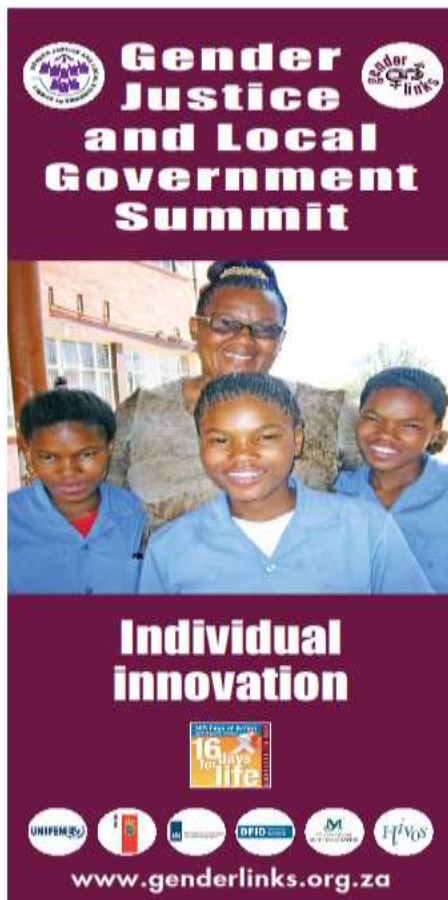


Delegates from the Western Cape celebrating with Jo Ann Krieger

Winner: Jo Ann Krieger (Witzenberg Municipality, South Africa)

Jo Ann Krieger from the Witzenberg Municipality in South Africa presented the council's *Women in Empowerment Programme*. This programme targets the poorest groups in the municipality focusing on women and children and facilitates access to government services and it empowers the youth to participate in economic development. It was initiated by the local authority, but recognises the importance of strategic partnerships with other spheres of government and civil society organisations in making the municipal efforts sustainable.

INDIVIDUAL INNOVATION



The category of *individual innovation* called for submissions from individuals who have shown particular innovation and dedication to ending GBV within their council's. The 11 entries received from seven countries for this category included establishing traditional dance groups and empowerment clubs, training courses, 'I' stories, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, working with resident development committees, and spearheading policy development initiatives.

Runner up: Mary Chipango Chanda Makai (Mongu Municipal Council, Zambia)

Case Study: Initiating the law of succession in Western Province
Alone, Mary ventured into the remote areas to sensitise women and men about the Zambian inheritance law. To date, she boasts of having empowered a lot of rural women about their rights.

Winner: Bertha Amakali (Namibia)

Bertha Amakali from Namibia won the award for her role in the "I" stories project, which recognises the importance of documenting the stories told by survivors of gender violence. Working in partnership with local stakeholders she specifically targeted young girls, highlighting the forms of gender violence they go through and motivating other survivors to come out to share their stories which will also assist them in accessing the support systems they need.



JUDGES CHOICE

The large number of entries received for the awards is testament to the work being done on the ground and the judges thought it apt to recognise a few individuals, outside of the five award categories, for their contribution. Four women received Judges commendations for their efforts in fighting for justice against land being removed from women and orphans by high ranking government officials, assisting and positively impacting on the life of one young woman who was a victim of gender violence, using cultural youth engagement and mentoring to address issues of GBV through traditional dance and organising mass weddings free of charge, to promote greater commitment and respect of women's and children's rights by husbands and fathers in the context of non recognition of rights in cohabiting relationships.



Patience Tsoho from Lesotho receiving her honorary award from Ayanda Nabe

Winner: Bernadette Chipembere (Zimbabwe)

This courageous councillor used her personal convictions and bravery to fight against land being removed from women and orphans by high ranking government officials. She risked her own life and that of her immediate family by forging ahead to seek justice for voiceless victims in a highly sensitive political environment where corruption is rife and the rule of law is not observed. Her integrity and conviction succeeded in having repossessed land to be returned to its rightful owners.



Bernadette Chipembere receives her award from Ayanda Nabe

CHALLENGES

Lack of resources, both financial and human, remains one of the biggest challenges for local councils in implementing programmes that address GBV; often lot of reliance is placed on volunteers to do the work which results in them burning out. Linked to this is the limited capacity for skills development programmes, lack of research in programme development and ineffective monitoring and evaluation of initiatives or programmes. Integrated approaches to addressing GBV are essential but internal politics in local councils can be obstructive and leads to key and relevant stakeholders not working together.

EXPERIENCE AND LEARNING

Many of the case studies showed that targeted awareness raising initiatives do lead to increased awareness about GBV and therefore GBV can be reduced through sensitisation programmes. Capacity building in communities is integral in teaching them how to do things for themselves and community participation inspires pride and a sense of ownership in addressing community problems. Participative and consultative approaches in planning, identifying needs, decision making and implementation is crucial as community members are not mere recipients of imposed interventions but they are able to make meaningful contributions and are partners in finding sustainable solutions to problems that concern their communities.

When community leaders are empowered they take up issues of GBV effectively and efficiently and where religious leaders are engaged they are willing to work with local stakeholders to address GBV. Where communities work with councils and other local stakeholders GBV can be decreased. Participation by high profile politicians also helps to improve the effectiveness interventions as political will and buy in at a high level is crucial.

Some of the comments from participants on their learning are as follows:

Information sharing and networking

- I will return home with my suitcase full of positive ideas which I will share with my colleagues and together we will implement some of these ideas to be more efficient in our services to victims. We will network and maintain the contacts. Many thanks to Gender Links for giving us all the opportunity to be in this summit. (Mauritius, Male)
- I have learnt that irrespective of where in the world we live, we are all affected by GBV and this platform provided the opportunity to share experiences and learn. For what the other countries are doing to improve our own situation. (Namibia ,Female)
- In our minds as South Africans, we always thought that these things happen only here in South Africa, I was shocked to learn that even in other countries the problem is prevalent due to the statics presented. It was good meeting different people from different countries or places and it seems we have been together for so long. Though the languages were different, we all were speaking one language which is GBV and we all want to end it (South Africa, female)
- This was a very educational session as it gave me the opportunity to interact with other gender activists from different countries. New programmes were tabled and

I got to learn how to deal with legal, traditional, religion and gender issues (Botswana, male).

- Generally I was impressed with the projects that were presented, both in terms of presentation and contents. I am more than certain that through the presentations, a lot of likening has taken place. Personally I have gathered as much information that brought to light the way women councillors are engaged in the fight and struggle against GBV. The individual innovation were most wonderful and I am sure upon my return home, I shall be more knowledgeable on how to initiate GBV projects. What impressed me the most was the conviction and voluntarism and passion with which the projects were being implemented? All in all the sessions were most stimulating and have opened avenues for networking amongst the organizations and countries (Seychelles, female).
- The presentations were very informative and I learnt a lot from the presentations, when I leave here I will be richer than when I came. Sharing information is the most empowering tool to use. In future politicians should also be invited in such a summit for instance the minister of women, youth and disability, I was expecting her presence (Swaziland, female).
- I learnt a lot of things, which I know that when I go home I will do more than what I was doing. I also need to start more initiatives because I have managed to talk and share lots of ideas. I managed to get people's email addresses meaning if I am stranded in the project I can also give a ring to someone I know. I thank you Gender Links (Zimbabwe, female).
- I learnt that the levels of dealing with GBV issues are different, some at lower levels and some at higher levels. Therefore exchange of experience from different countries can help the participants to improve on the way of doing things and enabling them to do things right to end GBV (Namibia, male).

Importance of innovation and collaboration

- Nowadays more than ever before, I think all countries, humanity as a whole are realizing on the negative impact of gender based violence in our society and we must all, be it Government or Non Governmental Organizations wage a war against violence of all types in our society (Mauritius, Male).
- GBV can be reduced with supported efforts from the stakeholders in our areas e.g. the police, local authorities, the business community etc.(Zambia, Male).
- The summit presented an opportunity to learn of the many efforts conducted in the SADC region, therefore had the opportunity to interact with other community communicators. Where there is a political commitment profound results are attained. Inspiring to see number of citizens in various municipalities demonstrating their active involvement in their communities, very passionate about their work, I wish this could be replicated to other municipalities or districts. Modern use of technologies is made to reach to the broader community (South Africa, Male).
- Projects need to be implemented in partnership with others and that monitoring and evaluation should be done seriously. Also the issues of resource mobilization and resources received from other partners need further amplification so as to establish the resources gap (Zambia, male).
- It was very interesting to see that responses to GBV are getting closer to the people and these are new actors such as churches and local councils in the response to GBV. Use of new media at local levels by a GBV watch group to respond to GBV, this is exciting because a small group of men have organized themselves to respond and they quickly alert the police (Zimbabwe, female).

- I learnt that we as an organization need to more funding to be able to make progress. Where there is political will and support from the governments' structures, financially programmes addressing GBV can succeed. Collaborations at country level such as this SADC summit is great experience/ idea sharing for organizations/replicate some ideas from other programmes (Botswana, female).
- First of all I would like to congratulate Gender Links for coming up with a laudable initiative to regroup so many representatives from the SADC countries to end GBV. In fact through the different presentations we have been able to be appraised of actions and measures taken to combat GBV. The male involvement in this combat is commendable and I only hope that it becomes a success like what Mauritius is doing. Unlike Mauritius other African countries lack political will and funding to really sustain their strategies to end GBV. GBV is an international concern and requires a multi-sectoral approach including government institutions, the civil society and NGOs to address the problem (Mauritius, female).
- The most profound element that came out from the presentations held in today' session was how all the participants took the initiative. A common theme that I observed and am sure the audience too was the nature of how presentations were all proactive in nature. I saw how people from various backgrounds without the expertise, enough resources or networking, set up successful projects that impacted and benefited their communities. Far reaching and sustainable projects are an outcome that should be aimed for all these presentations have the potential to impact their countries and the region (Zimbabwe, female).

Involvement of men and traditional leaders

- The presentations were all enriching and educative. Various issues were raised by the presenters; however, of interest was the presentation on the involvement of traditional leaders in the fight against GBV. In my view traditional leaders as agenda setters need to be engaged in the fight against GBV and therefore as a country. There shall be need to involve traditional leaders in the fight against GBV as an intervention worth bringing on board (Zambia, Male).
- I have learnt that integration is key in the fight against GBV as well as involving man in the process creates an element of sustainability for GBV programmes. The sharing of best practices was very good; the spirit in our group was very good and constructive (Swaziland, female).
- The presentations were diverse and showed clearly the efforts local governments are making to address GBV. The most challenging discussion centered around strategies to address traditional practices which encourage GBV. During the discussion it was noted that because traditions evolve, it is desirable to work for a gradual change in tradition to avoid fruitless confrontation. We also agreed that the traditional practices are internalized by the victims and this requires targeted empowerment programs. I feel that this area requires special focus since it is a challenge in all southern African countries (Zimbabwe, female).
- The shift from merely blaming men as perpetrators of GBV, towards viewing and encouraging men as catalysts of GBV prevention work suggests maturity of thinking and action in the fight against GBV. Men are presented as partners and not as perpetrators. It is only one in four men who rapes, the other three are not and it is encouraging that these three are taking part in fighting against GBV (South Africa, male).

Exposure

- This opportunity was very important because I flew for the first time in my life. For the first time I said it is really good that we have an NGO like Gender Links. I learnt many things like to represent my land and people, what is going on in Namibia and communicate with other people and I think that will not be the last (Namibia, female).
- Today was the greatest day of my life, seeing women's expressing themselves strongly is something which was not there before. I enjoyed meeting fellow women from different places and getting to know more about their interventions and learning that men are mostly the perpetrators of GBV (Zambia, female).

Areas for growth

- Capacities still need to be built around mobilizing resources, assessing project/programme impact and also the monitoring and evaluation component which was relatively weak for most of the presentations. This being the first regional summit and has laid a good template for how the 2011 summit could be conducted in terms of focus and streamlining (Zimbabwe, female).

OUTCOMES

- Contribution to the body of knowledge on gender justice and gender and governance at the local level in the region and globally.
- Showcasing and recognising good practice in addressing GBV at the local government level.
- Encouraging local councils to document their events and programmes so that these may be showcased at the annual summit and awards.
- Opportunity for participants to network with individuals and organisations' from across the region.
- Equipped stakeholders with a practical understanding of the status of gender violence within the Southern African region and how involved local authorities are in addressing GBV.
- Illustrating the importance of learning from each others' ideas and good practices especially through encouraging councils to become centres of excellence to ensure buy across all levels with councils.
- Improved access to information (particularly good practice models) on gender violence and the role local authorities have played and still play in our quest to stop gender violence and reach our SADC protocol targets, therefore GL's centres of excellence concept now includes informing and empowering both councils and communities at the same time around the SADC protocol on gender and development therefore ensuring that information around the SADC protocol is constantly shared.



Judges at the summit sharing a light moment

- Provided stakeholders with practical tools to improve and apply the learnings from the best practices within their respective contexts and through the centres of excellence councils will now be able to do on the job capacity building that specific to their council's context and needs therefore equipping them will all of the necessary tools.

LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ORGANISERS

The comments above are evidence that on the whole the summit was a great success and that the participants learned a great deal. There were however some criticism and suggestions about how things could be improved or done differently in the future summits. Comments are categorised and summarised below:

Presentations - templates used

- Monitoring and evaluation was not dealt with effectively in most presentations.
- Budget allocations were not elaborated on effectively in most presentations.
- Criteria set did not match the template for monitoring and evaluation and partnerships.
- Changes in templates compromised the quality of presentations as presenters had not previously incorporated the guidelines that they were marked against i.e. monitoring and evaluation, resources.
- Participants had different understandings of the presentations which were expected of them.
- The generic template did not include certain issues that judges were evaluating as we as others listening to presentations and having to vote.

Recommendations

- Presentation template needs to be sent out in time for organizations to take their time in preparing their work, in a nutshell to clearly understand what really needs to be done.
- Include transformation of culture and norms should be included since culture and religion has been identified as the main perpetrators of GBV.

Presentations – capacity and time

- Insufficient time was given to prepare presentations.
- Presenters need to be capacitated on presentation skills, we need to work on our presentation skills and we need to work on our coordination efforts between field officers and country presenters.

Judging

- No clear explanation on the process of voting for other listening to the presentations.
- There was confusion about how to judge. The criterion was not explained and information was not given to the presenters.
- The diversity of the presentations could result in unfair judgments for example
 - Authorities competing with individuals
 - A well funded projects against one that is not
 - A newly emerged project against one that stood the test of time
- The assessment tool was not good. Why grade time? Why give 10 marks on each when some are more important

- On the first day presenters were not allowed to vote, but on the second day they could. This raises a question of bias and giving each organization an equal opportunity.

Recommendations

- In future, there is need to separate fully funded projects from individual projects. The judging becomes difficult in that those with resources excelled in both presentations and meeting the objectives and criteria of the competition. The issue of impact and sustainability needs to be pursued further.
- Define the categories more clearly - not sure if judges and presenters understood the same thing.
- How do you measure performance between local government/municipalities and NGOs, this should be assessed differently.

Ballot papers

The ballot paper should be in different colour for each category so that participants do not keep extra papers for their friends.

Categorisation

Some best practices seemed to be incorrectly categorised which made voting difficult.

Translation

- No provision was made for translation.
- Enough time was not allocated for translation.

Recommendations

- Translations should be arranged for presenters who cannot speak English.

Time keeping

Recommendations

- Judges should be more assertive in time keeping.
- There is need for a time counter for the PowerPoint presentation at eye level so that they can see the time.



Translation was required for Madagascar participants

- Presenters also have to click slides on their own. Gender links should make sure that all the participants are there especially in the afternoon sessions as most did not attend in the afternoon which grossly affects the presenters' votes adversely.

Summit planning and communication

- Insufficient consultation and preparation.
- The rooms were not well aired.
- There were clear communication barriers between some participants and organisers i.e. some countries knew well before the summit that there would be a cultural evening. NGOs and local government presentations should not be evaluated together.

Recommendations

- All participants should receive certificates of participation

- For consistency and continuity, summits of this nature must come up with resolution and recommendations which must be followed up or feedback to be received and possible implementation. A lot of will is there, but there is no concrete/real solutions offered.

CONCLUSION

Addressing GBV is about integrated, multi-sectoral, year-long initiatives, with cooperation and collaboration between all sphere's of government, NGO's, CBO's and community members to ensure that different experience and expertise is brought together which guarantees a holistic approach resulting in successful programmes.

The first Gender Justice and Local Government Summit showed is that there are pockets of good practice in the SADC region, and that it is crucial that these be acknowledged, celebrated and rewarded. We hope that the first Summit will pave the way for increasing the quality and quantity of good practices in the years to come.



Lesotho display