



2015 Yes we can!

The main outcome of the COE's will be:

- Political, economic and GBV targets of the SADC Gender Protocol are given effect at the local level.
- Tangible examples of ending gender violence and empowering women at the local level emerge.
- Change is measured through Monitoring and Evaluation tools administered throughout the process including the Gender and Local Government Score Card; attitude and knowledge surveys.
- Learning through good practices shared at the annual Gender Justice and Local Government Summit leads to a groundswell of support for gender equality at the local level.

Yes we can! The time is now!



The Centres for Excellence for Gender Mainstreaming programme is being managed by GL's Gender and Governance Programme Manager based at the offices of GL in Johannesburg.

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The Centres of Excellence for Gender in Local Government bring the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development to the coalface through gender policies and action plans with flagship programmes to end gender violence as well as promote local economic development and green municipalities.



Admiring the COE certificate in Arandis, Namibia.

Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna

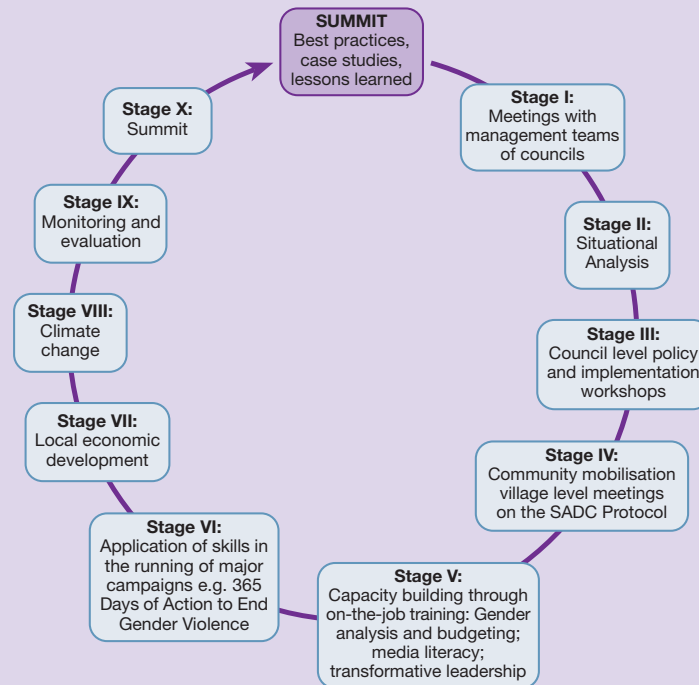
Centres of Excellence for Gender in Local Government

Background

The Centres of Excellence for Gender in Local Government concept is a follow up to the gender and local government research, strategies and Gender and GBV action plans roll-out that have been taking place from 2007 - 2010 across municipalities in the SADC region that Gender Links (GL) has been working with. From an initial 100 municipalities the initiative will be cascaded to another 200 Councils by 2014. The COE process involves sustained interventions that bring together policy, implementation and capacity building through on-the-job training, monitoring and evaluation and the sharing of good practices at the annual Gender Justice and Local Government Summit.



The approach builds on experience that GL has gained over several years in working at the local level on developing and implementing gender policies and action plans through a six stage processes, as well as several years collaboration with the City of Johannesburg on its gender audit, policy and gender mainstreaming programme.



government specific modules with them around gender analysis and budgeting, media literacy and transformative leadership.

- **Application of skills:** Assisting councils and communities to apply these new skills through running major campaigns, e.g. 365 Days to End Gender Violence.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Administration of score cards and other monitoring and evaluation tools that can be used to measure change in the immediate, medium and long terms.
- **Knowledge creation and dissemination:** Working to gather and disseminate best practises, case studies, etc that can be presented at the annual gender justice and local government summit and awards that provides councils and communities with a platform to learn from each other on empowering women and ending violence at the local level.



Objectives

To promote gender responsive local governance through:

- **Political support:** Getting buy-in at decision-making level.
- **An evidence-based approach:** Conducting a situation analysis that is council-specific and will help to address the needs of that council.
- **Context specific interventions:** Conducting council-specific gender and GBV policy and implementation workshops that localise national and district gender policies and action plans.
- **Community mobilisation:** Doing community mobilisation through informing and empowering communities, with the help of councils around the SADC village level workshops.
- **Capacity building** through on-the-job training with council officials, politicians, etc by doing local

- **Multiplier effects** through building the capacity of local associations, our key partners, and in turn providing a platform for them to take ownership of these processes for replication in and among other councils.
- **Cascading the COE's:** GL is working with local government associations across the region on innovative strategies for cascading the COE's that include working through gender focal points of the associations and peer support.

