



THE LUSOPHONE AND MOZAMBIQUE OFFICE



Eduardo Namburete, Executive Director



Mevasse Sibia, Country Manager



Bayano Valy, Lusophone Editor



Ruben Covane, Field Assistant

FACT FILE

Country	Mozambique
Board Member	Eduardo Namburete
Staff Members	Mevasse Sibia - Country Manager Bayano Valy - Lusophone Editor Ruben Covane - Field Assistant
When registered	March 2011
Alliance focal network	We are working with Forum Mulher to take up this role, and as for now Forum Mulher has accepted to play the focal point role
How many governance COE's	7
How many media COE's	10
Key partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namaacha Council • Manhiça Council • Macia Council • Chokwe council • Chibuto Council • Mandlakazi Council • Xai-Xai Council



Maria Langa

"Somehow the English terminology that we learn in regional meetings and summits on gender end up with us so much so that we unconsciously reproduce them in Portuguese speaking environments. During Frelimo's (the party to which I belong) Cadres National Conference in Matola, I asked the party's highest body for the floor, and argued that as it is the political parties that present candidatures to the electoral bodies, Mozambican women should have the right to 50% of quotas in party lists, thus attaining parity. I used the English expression 50/50 to give more weight to my statement.

My intervention was well-applauded by the women who are always a majority in meetings although a minority in the higher decision-making body. From that moment on they call me Ms 50/50. I'm a woman who always fought for women and children's rights. That's why in 1997 I established MUCHEFA (Mozambican Association for the Development of Women Heads of Family). This was in the post-war moments and it was necessary to inculcate in women the zeal to fight challenges and the zest to win, and that is what we did.

Being MUCHEFA's leader made me known to the communities through the activities we carried out, and which pleased the communities. As a result I was indicated and elected Mayor of the Mandlakazi municipality. I had two moments with GL in 2011."

Read more: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/maria-langa-mozambique-2012-06-22>

By Eduardo Namburete

GL launched the Mozambique and Lusophone Office on its tenth anniversary, 17 March 2011. From a staff of two, the office has grown to include four people: the Director, the Country Manager, the Lusophone Opinion and Commentary Service Editor and the Field Assistant.



Eduardo Namburete and Colleen Lowe Morna at the opening of the Mozambique office, March 2011.
Photo: Danny Glenwright

In April 2012, the GL Board appointed Eduardo Namburete as a full time Executive Director, with the aim of giving a substantial push to the work of this office over the coming year.

Mozambique is one of the SADC countries most vulnerable to climate change. The Mozambique Alliance network has championed an Addendum to the SADC Gender Protocol on Gender and Climate Change. This will receive further impetus at the SADC Heads of State summit taking place in Mozambique in August.

Key achievements

Generating debate

Commenting on an article written by Celina Henrique on the GL Lusophone Service, the Deputy-Minister of Fisheries, Gabriel Muthisse. Wrote: *"Celina says that 'for women today, gender opportunity is more than having a few women in power. It means having equal opportunity for both men and women; it means access to education, to health and jobs. It means the right to control their own bodies and sexuality, as well access to land.' I agree with this. I also think that special emphasis should be put on access to education Where I disagree with her is when she says that 'the new French government did what the SADC region promises to do by 2015, which is to have parity in decision-making bodies, by appointing equal number of men and women in the cabinet.'" Well, from what was discussed, if these appointments are not replicated in higher education; the number of women registering their companies; in those holding positions in the business world, judiciary, science,... these appointments will be a mere cosmetic exercise."*

- The GL Lusophone office is firmly established and received its first grant from UN Women.
- Successful launch of *At the Coalface: Gender in Local Government* and *Gender in Media Education* at a workshop that brought together Mayors and Chairs of municipal assemblies from three provinces - Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane.

- Implementation of the COE's in Local Government in seven councils of Maputo (Namaacha and Manhiça) and Gaza (Chibuto, Chokwe, Macia, Mandlakazi and Xai-Xai) provinces.
- Successful launch of the Gender and Media Progress Report (GMPS) Report; two Mozambican journalists, Salane Muchanga and Alves Talala, received awards.
- Hiring of the editor of the Portuguese Opinion and Commentary Service - this has been a long process, but GL has managed to hire an experienced Editor to lead the Portuguese Opinion and Commentary Service, and there are visible results.
- Two Opinion and Commentary writing workshops, including one on Gender and Climate Change that involved gathering stories in communities.
- Implementation of Gender in the Media Centres of Excellence in ten media houses.
- MOU with Forum Mulher to anchor the work of the SADC Gender Protocol Alliance ahead of the 2012 Heads of State Summit.

Key challenges

- Being a country that speaks Portuguese in a region where the majority speak English sometimes poses a challenge, mainly because at head office English is the first language. Communication is sometimes not clear or easily understood. Translation is essential yet expensive.
- The long lead time required for fund raising.

Lessons learned

- The importance of identifying and building strategic alliances.
- Convincing donors that the Mozambique office is viable.
- Being responsive and timely communication.

Key priorities

For the current year the Mozambique office will prioritise the following activities:

- To continue implementing of the remaining stages of the COE process in both local government and media.
- Consolidate current partnerships and forge new ones.
- Identify new funding opportunities.
- Use the upcoming SADC HOS to give the Lusophone office, Opinion and Commentary Service the necessary boost.



Celebrating Mozambique's cultural heritage at the 2012 Summit: Eduardo Namburete and Ruben Covane.
Photo: Gender Links