



***NAME OF GOOD PRACTICE: Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace***

***PRESENTERS NAME: Mamotsiba Makara***

***CATEGORY: Education and Economic Development***

***INSTITUTION: Faith Based organization***

**COUNTRY SADC GENDER PROTOCOL SUMMIT**

**DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**VENUE: Lesotho Sun**

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**

# Background of the organization

- Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) is faith based organization of the Lesotho Catholic Bishop's Conference (LCBC). It is mostly concerned with promoting human dignity as all have been created by God's image. It is found in the structures of the catholic church; in the four parishes Leribe, Qacha 's Nek, Mochales Hoek and Maseru. In all the parishes, there are Justice and Peace members who work voluntarily and indepen

# BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

## Key elements of the project

- Establishing information centres at village level
- Celebrating the amazing rural women by award ceremonies
- Planting of fruit trees to remain as orchards for rural women to nurture



# WHAT IS THE PROBLEM BEING ADDRESSED? WHY?

- Rural women still depend on their male counterparts who work in the South-African mines for survival hence are more vulnerable because of their economic dependency.
- lack of financial resources and transport also affects service reach leading to most cases being unreported.
- Unbalanced power between men and women as a result of lack of information

# HOW IS THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 28 TARGETS OF THE SADC PROTOCOL?

<b>PROTOCOL TARGET</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
Article 14: Education and Training	Establishment of information centres or libraries at village level
Article 15-19: Productive Resources and employment, economic empowerment	Income Generating activities such as planting of fruit trees for rural women to sell.

# **DESCRIBE YOUR TARGET GROUP**

**List and explain your target group**

- Rural women and men (especially the old and most vulnerable)

**How many females and males**

- 200 females and 80 males

**Why did you choose to work with them**

Most rural women envisions themselves as intrinsically inferior to men hence government policies and media campaigns have very limited effect on them.

# OBJECTIVES

## List objectives

- To establish information centres where books, newspapers, newsletters, posters and other important documents gathered from different institutions could be kept for reference especially on issues of GBV.
- To motivate and encourage notable rural women of Lesotho.
- To encourage rural women to engage in income generating activities

# PROCESS

- With assistance from the local community councillors, notable women have been selected in the 5 categories to receive awards. The five categories are, Economic development category, health, politics and good governance, and education category





# WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN SUCCESSES?

- Women have begun to appreciate themselves and have started to speak openly about their challenges
- More women are now actively engaged in economic empowerment activities by engaging in income generating activities (cooperatives);
- There is access to information as a result of the information centres



# WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN SUCCESSES?

- Celebrating women's month with rural women by awarding them according to their good practices.

Women from the local council, the support groups, business women, and the first woman to drive Excavator were awarded



# KEY OUTPUTS (MATERIALS ETC.)

- Publications of the good practices by local newspapers
- Collaboration between rural women and the local authorities



# CHANGING LIVES

Makananelo Phallang is a 48 year old Mosotho woman from Qacha's Nek. She has been engaged (volunteering) in training prisoners on how to produce items by using recycled bottles and plastics since 2003. During all these years, she never received any support either from individuals or government. During the past 16 days of activism she was honoured to receive recognition and was on tears when she delivered her speech on behalf of her colleagues. She mentioned that rural women have been neglected for a very long time in terms of information sharing, opportunities and other issues. What she was mostly thrilled about was the motivational talks from the ministers. She further mentioned that changing lives does not only come in terms of money and tangible items, but even in terms of recognition. "Realizing how important you are in your community can change your attitude as well as other people's attitude".

# LESSONS LEARNT

- “Educate a woman, educate the village and the whole nation”
- Motivation is key to development

# WAY FORWARD

Ongoing campaigning and sensitization of groups will lead to a broad attitude and behaviour change on a community level. An increased traditional knowledge and understanding of gender relations and common law will help create an enabling environment for women's exercise of their rights

CCJP groups have been established across the country and they work as community-based volunteers. These groups are established within the church structures and continue to operate even after the project ends