



**Bonds  
Community  
Recreation  
Association**

PLEASE FEEL  
FREE TO ADD  
YOUR OWN  
BACKGROUND!

***GOOD PRACTICE: Bonds Community Recreation Association  
PRESENTERS NAME: Mr M.A. Roberts  
CATEGORY: Education and Economic Development and Climate Change  
INSTITUTION: ALLIANCE***

**COUNTRY SADC GENDER PROTOCOL SUMMIT**

**DATE: 18-19/03.2013**

**VENUE: Maseru Sun**

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

# BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

- To fight poverty
- Start income generation projects
- Empowering communities



# WHAT IS THE PROBLEM BEING ADDRESSED? WHY?

- Fighting poverty, vulnerability and inequality



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

<b>PROTOCOL TARGET</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
<p>Article 15 (iv)- that states that there should be introduction of measures that would ensure that women benefit equally from economic opportunities.</p>	<p>- Income generation projects like: piggery, chicken rearing, fruit tree seedling plots where women have equal opportunities with those of women. The recently started manufacturing of cement blocks is owned by both women and men.</p>

# DESCRIBE YOUR TARGET GROUP

- List and explain your target group
- The project targeted women, men and youth especially those that are outside employment. Our membership since we started last year is + 1000 and its growing. The intention is to grow at least every year by 50% throughout the country. many females and males
- Why did you choose to work with them

Photographs of the target group

# OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the organisation is to fight poverty through sustainable income generation activities and to build the capacity and competencies of the local communities so that they can sustain these activities. The core activities of Bonds as outlined in the objectives include:- income generation activities, network, research & fund raising



# PROCESS

The process set out to ensure that members of the association have access to a startup capital for their economic activities. So this is how it works, At time  $t_1$  individual/group *A* borrows money from individuals/groups *B, C, D, ...* for set-up of project *I* that is *A*'s choice. *I* might be a chicken production system, vegetable garden, dairy farm, tailor, motor mechanic station, etc. *I* would start small, and could always grow. The loans from *B, C, D, ...* are individually modest, they are interest free, and there is no collateral except the reciprocity that I'll explain in a moment. When *I* is established and there is a payback, then *B, C, D, ...* are reimbursed. *A* proceeds as an operating small enterprise.

At time  $t_2$  it is now individual/group *B*'s turn to be on the make. He/she/it borrows money from *A, C, D, ...* to set up another project *J* which might for example supply and deliver chicken food to the chicken production operations developing in the district. When *J* comes to fruition, then *A, C, D, ...* are repaid their loans, and it is now the turn of individual/group *C* to start up a new project. And so on. The process set out to ensure that members of the association have access to a startup capital for their economic activities.





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# WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN SUCCESSES?

- Provide specific examples
- The number of projects and training activities that we have undertaken far exceed what we have set out to do. The level of success is tremendous. Members are now earning income and our groups have grown and are sustainable.



## KEY OUTPUTS (MATERIALS ETC.)

- Outputs have been in the form of income earned by the members but we have not yet compiled documentation to this effect. We also have secured funding to capacitate local communities and children in climate change

# KEY OUTCOMES (MAIN RESULTS)

- As mentioned, local communities who are our members are now able to earn income from these projects which is really our main objective.

# CHANGING LIVES

- Tell a short story of someone whose life has changed because this project/process

I have been out of employment for more than 10 years and did not have a clue in terms of what I should do to meet my domestic needs, so establishment Bonds has enabled me to earn some income which has enabled me to pay fees for my children.

# LESSONS LEARNT

We have not yet documented lessons learnt, this will be done after two years. However, contribution of communities or labour brings element of sustainability in development . This approach also of self determinism also empowers local communities where there planning and implementation is bottom-up.

# WAY FORWARD

- The way the project has been designed is such that it is sustainable and indeed can be replicated to other areas within and outside the country.
- In the past, young men migrated from Lesotho 'rural areas' in particular, to find employment in the RSA mining industry. This migratory pattern (external migration) has been the most noteworthy in Lesotho until the middle of the 1990's when there were retrenchments in RSA mining industry **due to economic conditions. This was also done to deal with unemployment issues that faced South Africans then.**
- As employment opportunities dried up in RSA mining industry, the pattern of migration also changed, whereby it has mostly become domestic with people (mostly youth) moving from rural to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities. Significantly in this new migratory pattern (internal) is the fact that it is now dominated by young women as opposed to the old pattern(external), which was dominated by young men. This internal migration is due to the presence of textile manufacturing sector in the country which employs almost exclusively females. For instance, of the estimated 50,000 people employed in this sector, 95% are women (MoGYSR, undated). So through the initiatives of Bonds, their own employment.