



FATHERHOOD PEACE PROJECT

Building a Culture of GBV Prevention through Village Dialogue Forums on Girls Rights

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CATEGORY: GENDER BASED VIOLENCE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

INSTITUTION: ALLIANCE/COUNCIL

REGIONAL SADC GENDER PROTOCOL SUMMIT

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VENUE: INDABA HOTEL JOHANNESBURG

GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

Men Are Saying Yes Villages Free of GBV are Possible.

- Born out of Wide Consultative and Consensus Process.
- Women and Girls Participation in Village Dialogue on Girls Rights Forums.
- Home Grown Solution to Home Grown Challenges.
- Building a Culture of GBV Prevention at grassroots level.
- Opening up Strategic Partnership Opportunities.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM BEING ADDRESSED? WHY?

- Curbing Increasing Cases of Rape and Exploitation of Girls.
- Redressing the Societal Culture of Silence On Gender, Sexuality and Reproductive Health Issues.
- Bridging the Information and Knowledge Gaps amongst men particularly on Gender, Women and Girls Rights.
- Curbing the discrimination of Girls in the Wake of Food Insecurity.



GIRLS REMAIN THE UNIFYING FACTOR IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Catching them Young; School Children Entertaining Delegates During the Village Dialogue on Girls Rights Awareness hosted by Fatherhood Peace Project.

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

PROTOCOL TARGET Article: 20 -25	ACTIONS
GBV Awareness Raising	mobilising men to accept their traditional responsibility of promoting, protecting and defending women and girls rights.
Building a Culture of GBV Prevention	men as traditional abusers are become important stakeholders in finding the lasting practical solution to all forms violence against women.
Discourage Traditional and Cultural Practices that Exacerbate GBV	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. promoting a culture of communication between men, women, and children. 2. establishment of community based intergenerational GBV preventive institutions and social safety nets.

DESCRIBE YOUR TARGET GROUP

- **Primary target group** – Men
- **Secondary Target** - Women, Girls, Boys, Traditional Leaders, RDC, Gvt and Stakeholders.
- **How many** - 600 females and 600 males.
- **Why did you choose to work with them** – Promote a Culture of Tolerance and Gender Justice at Grassroots Level.



OBJECTIVES

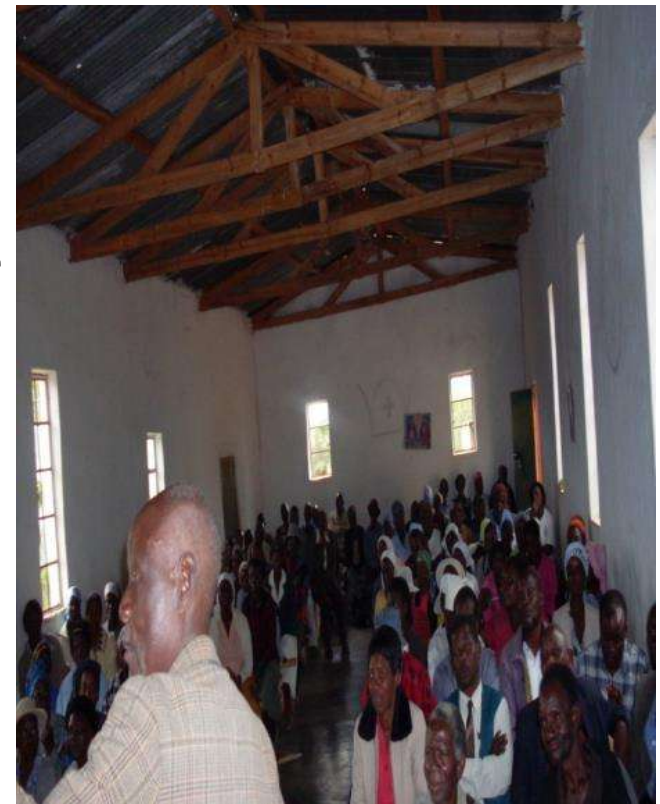
- To raise GBV awareness through hosting Village Dialogue Forums on Rural Girls' Rights.
- To enhance Women Rights Programs' buy-in from men and traditional leaders.
- To mobilize men, the traditional abusers and greater part of the GBV problem to become part of the GBV solution and defenders of women and girls rights.
- To harness the collective power of communities to drive social change.

PROCESS A: Baseline Survey

- **Data Gathering** – Questionnaires, Focus Group Discussion and Interviews.
- **Major challenges faced by Girls** - dropping out-of-school, child labour, transitional sex, raped, forced marriages and lacking information on sexuality and reproductive health.
- **Major Perpetrators** - Men were cited as major perpetrators of GBV and least involved in Girls Rights Protection.
- **Village Unifying Factor** – Both Men and women equally expressed willingness to attend Girls Biased Programs.
- **Dialoguing Platforms** - Engagement and dialoguing Platforms on GBV were reportedly non-existing.

PROCESS B: Village Dialogue Forums

- **Instilling a culture of open communication** on gender and sexuality at family and village level.
- **Girls are groomed** to stand up for their rights, defend their rights and negotiate for their rights.
- **Open discussions and gender debates** aimed at finding the collective home grown practical solutions.



PROCESS C: Local –to- Local Dialogue Forums

- **Engagement and dialoguing of stakeholders** - RDC, traditional leadership, Gvt departments, girls' representatives and NGOs.
- **Review of Harmful Religious and Cultural Practices** - reinvent or discard harmful practices while documenting traditional best practices.
- **Commitment by Stakeholders** - Strategic Action Plans developed and adopted.



Stakeholders Follow Proceedings during the Local –to – Local Consultative Dialogue Meeting on Girls Rights held at Sherukuru Business Centre.

PROCESS D: Village Defenders' of Girls Rights

- **Identifying and training** - Community Focal Persons and Peer Educators (15 Village Heads, 40 men, 15 boys, 40 women and 40 articulate girls).
- **GBV Preventive Institutions** - Established 15 Village Defenders of Girls Rights Committees.
- **Advocacy** - Organize Community Advocacy Campaigns on Women Rights Marches.
- **Sustainability** - Develop targeted solutions to local GBV challenges.



PERFECT ADVOCACY PLATFORM

Headman Njerama's Wife hands over the Mutasa Women's Land, Housing and Property Rights Charter to Traditional Leaders after a March Organized by Village Defenders of Girls Rights Committee.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN SUCCESSES?

- No Rape Case has been reported in 15 Villages as compared to an average of 5 rape cases per month before the Project.
- Increasing buy-in from traditional leaders with 15 Village Heads already trained and chairing the VDGR Committees.
- Villagers are now pulling their own resources to host Village Dialogue Forums on Girls Rights.
- Actively functional 15 Village Defenders of Girls Rights Committees were established. (VDGR).
- Increasing buy-in from traditional leaders with 15 Village Heads already trained and chairing the VDGR Committees.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN SUCCESSES?

- One of the greatest achievements of FPP is the creation of Village Dialogue Platforms which are perceived by men and women as balanced platforms helping men, women and children communicate thereby saving women and children's lives.



KEY OUTPUTS (MATERIALS ETC.)

- Improved community access to information on GBV, HIV, Sexuality, Reproductive health and Girls Rights.
- Improved child participation in planning, budgeting, decision-making and advocacy and lobby programs.
- Increasing Demand for Village Dialogue Meetings from far, wider and nearer communities.
- Dialogues on Girls Rights are now popular and are pulling large crowds.

KEY OUTCOMES (MAIN RESULTS)

- Fatherhood finally managed to bring men aboard in efforts to find the lasting practical solution to GBV.

15 Actively Functional Defenders of Girls Rights Committees have been launched.

- Villagers are now pulling their own resources to host Village Dialogue Forums on Girls Rights.
- 6 Women have been Appointed into Village Heads Councils.
- *Girls who have participated in our activities have bestowed their hope, gained a sense of belongingness, now positive about their Culture and are now further imparting the knowledge gained.*



RURAL WOMEN COMING UP WITH THE OWN ADVOCACY MESSAGES

Grassroots Women and Girls took advantage of the presents of Traditional Leaders at the Village Dialogue Meeting on Girls Rights to Demand Reform of Traditional Institution and 50% Women Representation in Village Head's Council, Headman's Council and other Traditional Leadership structures.

CHANGING LIVES: From A Victim to Activism

- Thandi (not real name) was raped by a stranger on her way from School. Her family is ashamed of her because they did not receive Mombe YeChimanda. She opened up during the Village Dialogue Forum. Fatherhood referred Thandi to **Survivors in Action** where she received psycho-social support and advocacy training. Thandi has since joined the Defenders of Girls Rights Committee.



LESSONS LEARNT

- Sustainable GBV Prevention Measures requires a partnership between men and women.
- Rural girls are not just mere recipients of ideas and interventions imposed but they can become meaningful partners in finding the lasting practical solutions to issues that concerns them, their families and their communities.
- Education and practical skills acquisition by young women and girls remain the gateway out of vicious cycles of poverty and exploitation.
- Success is not only securing Funding, it is also about building partnerships, engagement, strengthening organizations and learning.

WAY FORWARD

- Train Watchdog Committees in Community mobilisation, Peer Education, facilitation and data gathering.
- Invite and build capacity of Village Heads to host Village Dialogue Forums using local resources.
- Propose some Strategic Partnerships and forging Alliances with key complimenting Partners.
- Mutasa's most abundant renewal resource is **Solidarity** – willingness to help fellow neighbour. Fatherhood will undertake a research on how can communities channel solidarity into positive change for women and girls.

THANK

YOU