



**SANQEBETHU COMMUNITY COUNCIL J03**

**TLALI MOHALE**

**CATEGORY: LOCAL GOVERNMENT COE**

**LESOTHO SADC GENDER PROTOCOL SUMMIT**

**22-23 April 2013**

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

# BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL

## MOKHOTLONG DISTRICT SANQEBETHU COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Population 10, 237 people
- How many councillors 15  
number of females 9 & males 6
- How many employees 5  
number of females 2 & males 3
- It has been 2 years the Council  
been part of the COE
- We have completed 9 stages



# KEY GENDER AND SERVICE DELIVERY CHALLENGES

- People take time to understand and be socialised into the era of local government councils controlled by women, as men have always been heads of families and customarily the chiefs.
- Women are not yet fully empowered to be in charge in rural communities where they are councillors.

# GENDER CHAMPIONS

- We do have a gender champion in the council
- Mrs Mafu Lerotholi
- She is a vice chairperson in the community council
- Holding public gatherings (pitso), teachings. Mostly informing society about gender equality

# HOW HAS THE COE PROCESS CONTRIBUTED TO ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES?

- Public gatherings have been the most used way of communicating and teaching in campaigns and ensuring participation.
- There has been high participation of woman on gender issues than men.



# HOW HAS THE COE PROCESS CONTRIBUTED TO ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES?

- GBV cases have declined and woman and men are now able to share ideas and woman are now involved in the decision making processes in the family especially over property.
- Men now understand that they have a role to play in doing performing jobs regarded as women jobs i.e. cooking, helping to clean.
- Widows ' don't find themselves destitute anymore as relatives taking their inherited property after death of spouses cases have declined .
- We are involved in initiative for promoting the PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission )

We taught community about voluntary testing on HIV and AIDS

We are teaching herd boys about negative effects of burning grazing pastures.

Sensitised community about garbage and waste disposal

As council we have a handicrafts centre meant for men and women sowing group

As council we are building a market place right now for economic development.

# HOW HAS THE COE PROCESS CONTRIBUTED TO ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES?

- Programmes promoting gender equality in the families
- We now have our own budget that we are in controlling and we work our projects inline with our budgetary allocations.
- We do Monitoring and evaluation of work done by going on sight seeing where roads were constructed.

We keep contact with community members and find out what changes exists in families and ways of approaching their everyday life work.

# HOW IS YOUR COUNCIL CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 28 TARGETS OF THE SADC PROTOCOL?

<b>PROTOCOL TARGET</b>	<b>COUNCIL ACTIONS</b>
Target 12-13 gender equality 50/50	<p>We have reserved seats in the community council reserved for women.</p> <p>We have a community council that has 60% and 40% men in Sanqebethu community council</p>
Target 20-25 Gender Based Violence	Council held campaigns on awareness against gender based violence



# IMPACT

- Women now have a voice in decision making in their families which would be a long lasting practice in the society.
- Now men and women have equal rights and responsibilities and powers in the decision making processes in the society

# CHANGING LIVES

- Moreki family had problem and challenge of the husband not involving the wife in the decision making process but with the intervention and processes of COE the husband and wife ended having an understanding that women have a an equal role to play over property and decisions in the family. i.e. the husband would sell the livestock without involving the wife and squander the money but now he involves the wife and they use the money for family matters

# CHALLENGES TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING

- Men used to abuse their powers and end up abusing woman and disregarding their rights, and woman are mostly portrayed by society as people who cannot be leader of the society.
- Woman could not even elect one another to leadership positions.
- Ensuring we continue and ensure continued voluntary HIV/AIDS testing.
- The implementation of the PMTCT

# WAY FORWARD

- To continue sensitising and teaching community about gender equality and the contribution of woman to society.  
(economically and socially and politically)

