



Gender and Climate Change Workshop

24-25 March 2012

Xisaka - Hotel & Centro De Conferências

Namaacha - Mozambique

Workshop Report

Organised by Gender Links

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Background

Various studies conducted by Gender Links that analysed media content from a gender perspective showed that gender issues have not been fully taken into account by the regional media in their reportage of the myriad of issues confronting the region. The Glass Ceilings and the Gender and Media Progress studies showed that women account for only 19% of news sources, and that women are rare in decision-making positions.

The studies suggested that there was marginal improvement in the make-up of female sources in the news in the region from 17% in the 2003 Gender and Media Baseline Study (GMBS) to 19% in the 2010 Gender and Media Progress Study (GMPS).

However, the 2010 GMPS result was still lower than the 24% figure for women sources in the 2010 Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) but the same as the rest of the figure for the continent, according to the 2010 GMPS.

As such, studies recommended the establishment of Centres of Excellence for the integration of Gender in the Media. Consequently, GL moved ahead to getting the media onboard on the need to integrate gender in their writings. This led to the establishment of COEs with the view to offer regional media a tool for the integration of gender. Thus, from 2011 to 2014 GL aims to work with 100 newsrooms in the SADC region with the objective to ensure that the media reaches at least 30% of female sources in their news content, and that men and women be equally represented in all areas and all levels in the media in line with the 2008 SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

The main objective of COEs is to contribute towards the advancement of gender targets enshrined in the SADC Gender Protocol in the media by 2015.

To achieve the objective of promoting the coverage of news, current affairs and reportage through a gender perspective, Gender Links started the Gender Links Opinion and Commentary Service (GL Service), an innovative project of Gender Links, to provide the media with fresh views and voices on current affairs. The service has its roots in the Gender and Media Baseline Study (GMBS) which showed that women's voices are grossly under-represented in the media.

It is against this background that Gender Links Mozambique organised a workshop with some media practitioners in order to get them to buy in into the Service and start writing for the Lusophone Opinion and Commentary Service.

Process

This is a report on the proceedings of a Gender and Climate Change workshop held in Hotel Xisaka, on 24-25 March 2012, in the border town of Namaacha. The purpose of the workshop was two-fold:

- a) to introduce journalists to the concept of gender and climate change and
- b) to introduce journalists to the Lusophone Opinion and Commentary Service.

In specific terms, the first objective aimed at discussing climate changes gendered dimensions; that is to say, the impact climate change has on gender, as well as inculcating on journalists the need to adopt a gender perspective when writing on climate change.

Specifically, the second objective involved explaining to the journalists what the Lusophone Opinion and Commentary Service is and also interest them into writing for the service.

This Workshop organized by Gender Links Mozambique brought together 24 participants (of whom ten were female) representing various Mozambican media house based in Maputo, and journalism students (see Annex 1 for Participant List). The workshop provided a unique opportunity to bring together participants with different views on gender.

The participants were able to deepen their understandings of gender and consider the gender dynamics caused by climate change and how differently it impacts on men, women and children. The Workshop introduced the participants to a number of tools such as the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, the Gender Roadmap, the Module Nine of the COEs Media Training Manual, among others.

DAY I

Session Summaries

Opening Session: Introductions and Opening Remarks

The Workshop was opened by Gender Links Mozambique Director, Eduardo Namburete, who welcomed the participants and explained to them the role of Gender Links as a regional non-governmental organization with the mandate to coordinate the monitoring of the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, and its traditional role of promoting gender equality in and through the media, the role of the COEs, the rationale for the Lusophone Opinion and Commentary Service, as well as the impact of climate changes on gender issues.

Participants were then welcomed to introduce themselves and to subsequently fill in the Monitoring and Evaluation forms distributed at the beginning of the session.

Session One: Key Gender Concepts

In the session on key gender concepts, the participants learnt the difference between sex and gender. This proved to be an eye opener to many who had not yet internalized the concepts before the workshop. One participant said that it "would henceforth impact on his reporting." Most importantly was the fact that the participants grasped that the subjugation of women and the roles assigned to them are mostly social constructs with the exception of biological roles.

The discussions on what women and men can do proved to be a very lively one. The main issue had to do with the fact that in some jobs women are somewhat invisible and this helps to perpetuate the perception that they cannot do such jobs. There was a recommendation that journalists should look for women who do jobs which traditionally were meant for men.

There was a further heated debate regarding whether women in the same category and do the same job as men should or not be paid the same wage. Some men among the participants felt that this might destroy social cohesiveness in the home. They felt that when women earn more than their men, they tend to behave bossy and humiliate men. It was pointed out that as journalists they should dig deep in order to try to understand what was really happening rather than merely suggesting that this behaviour was wide-spread.

Furthermore, the discussion also agreed that gender is a cross-cutting issue

The participants agreed that the understanding of gender can be contentious, difficult and complex. As such, it is imperative that they understand that gender is a social construct, which is different from a biological distinction.

The facilitator reminded participants to effectively use the tools made available to them at the beginning of the session, which provide examples of best practice guidance for media practitioners. Among such tools are

Then the Workshop closed for the day.

NB: It was not possible to do all the exercises and have group work owing to the fact that the day's programme had to be truncated because the workshop started late. GL could not use the hotel facilities because the Cabinet was holding its meeting at the premises, and for securities reasons nobody else was to be at the hotel premises.

DAY II

Session Two: Gender and Climate Change

This session was facilitated by Dr Telma Manjate, a climate change expert at the Ministry of Environmental Coordination (See her presentation in Annex 3). Dr. Manjate divided her presentation into two parts, namely Climate Change in Mozambique and Gender and Climate Change.

She focused her presentation on the evidences of climate change in Mozambique; Mozambique's contribution to global emissions; policies, strategies, programmes and relevant projects that the country has implemented in order to tackle climate change. She then proceeded to show the impact of climate change on agriculture and the challenges presented to Mozambique, as well as on human health, water systems and ecosystem and biodiversity.

She pointed out that the sector that most contributes with emissions is agriculture. This has lots of implications because it is the sector that employs most of the population, and women. However, since the data used arose out of the 2000 CO₂ inventory, the sector could be surpassed by that of energy owing to gas and coal exploitation.

Speaking specifically on gender and climate change, Manjate said that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is silent regarding gender. In her opinion, this reflects the fact that women were not consulted when drafting the Convention since traditionally men viewed the task as their domain.

Consequently, she said that this called for the inclusion of women in future debates on climate change, as they would be able to lobby for the discussion of gender concerns.

In the ensuing discussion the facilitator pointed out that women and children are likely to be more affected by climate change much like poverty affects this population group. She gave the example of the family of Rosita, the girl who in the height of the 2000 flooding in southern Mozambique was delivered on a tree. The father was safe in Maputo while the wife had to bear the impact of the flooding. This example showed vividly how men and women were affected differently by climate change.

However, some of the questions raised by the participants showed that they have a weak perception and understanding of climate change and the impact it causes on the population. For example, one wanted to know whether there was any relation between tsunamis and climate change.

Owing to the role the media plays in the education of society, there were suggestions that journalists do more coverage of climate change with a gender perspective, by looking closely at how climate change impacts differently on men, women and children.

The session ended with a suggestion put forward by the facilitator that there should be a continuous dialogue between the media and climate experts. She thought that such a partnership should foster good quality work.

Session Three: GL Opinion and Commentary Service

Eduardo Namburete and Lusophone Editor Bayano Vally spoke interchangeably about the Gender Links Lusophone Opinion and Commentary Service and its role in providing the media with fresh views and voices on current affairs. They explained the rationale behind the creation of the Service, mainly the realisation that women's voices are grossly misrepresented in the media.

They then explained what type of articles the editors of the Service were looking, namely that they must be Opinion pieces which provide a gender analysis of news, issues, etc..., as well as being written in a clear, engaging and accessible style and if possible, have a bearing on the SADC region. The facilitators used an article on gender and climate change in Module Nine of the COEs Media Training Manual to show how such an opinionated article should look like.

Then participants were asked to individually come up with ideas for stories they would write. After this particular exercise, there was some discussion regarding the way-forward. It was decided that the editor would look into every single story idea and send any observations and green light to write to each participant.

Closing Session

Gender Links Mozambique Director thanked the participants for attending, being engaging and share their experiences. And he urged them to write to the Lusophone Opinion and Commentary Service.

Workshop Evaluation

1. Drafting of Programme

Most of the participants gave a score of excellent, which accounted for 37.5%. A second group of seven awarded a score of nine (9), accounting for 21.2%. Four participants scored an eight (8), some 16.7%. 12.5% gave the score of six (6) – there were three of them. And only one participant scored a seven (7), amounting a mere 4.2%.

2. Programme Content

22 participants split equally in awarding a score of nine (9) and ten (10), accounting for 45.8%. and the remaining two gave a score of seven (7) and eight (8) each, a mere 4.2%.

3. Documentation

The overwhelming majority, 14, gave a perfect score (10), 58.3%. seven (7) of them awarded this section a nine (9) point-score, accounting for 29.2%. Just two (2) gave an eight score (8.3%). And one scored a six (6), accounting for 4.2%.

4. Facilitation

Fifteen (15) participants awarded this section a perfect score, accounting for 62.5%. seven participants gave the score of nine (9), which accounts for 21.2%. Two scored an eight (8), an 8.3 percentage points. And a further two scored a seven (7), representing 8.3%.

5. Group Work

No group work was undertaken due to the fact that the first day sessions were truncated for reasons explained under Session One.

6. End Product

The overwhelming of the participants gave a nine (9) point-score, representing 41.2%. six (6) of them gave a perfect score, amounting for 25%. Five (5) scored an eight (8), a 20.8 percentage points. A cluster of three (3), one each, gave a score of seven (7), five (5) and zero (0) points, representing 4.2% each.

7. Outcome and Follow-up Plans

18 participants were equally split in awarding a nine (9) and ten (10) score, accounting for 37.5% each. A group of five (5) awarded an eight-point score, representing 20.3%. And one (1) scored a zero (0), a mere 4.2%.

8. Learning Opportunities

A cluster of 13 scored a perfect score, accounting for 54.2%. a group of four (4) gave a score of nine (9), accounting for 16.7%. Six (6) of the participants gave a score of eight (8), representing 25%. And one gave a four-point score, just 4.2%.

9. Opportunity for Contacts

13 participants gave each a score of ten (10), accounting for 54.2%. And a group of six (6) awarded a nine-point score, representing 25%. Four (4) participants awarded a score of eight (8), which translates into 16.7%. And only gave a five-point score, just 4.2%.

10. Administrative Preparation

14 gave a ten-point score, which accounted for 58.3%. Just three (3) gave the score of nine (9), which translated into 12.5%. Six (6) awarded an eight-point score, some 25%. Six (6) participants were equally split in three (3) pairs in giving scores of seven (7), five (5) and four (4) each, which accounted for 8.3% for each pair. And just one (1) participant gave a six-point score, just 4.2%.

Discussion

Most of the participants found the session on Gender and Climate Change the most useful, mostly because they had not a strong understanding of the linkages between the two. Some pointed out that the facilitator had been up to task in explaining the subject.

However, some felt that all of the sessions had been useful.

On the question of how they would implement the knowledge acquired during the Workshop, the participants said that would continue reading about climate change in order to deepen their understanding, so that when they write opinion pieces these will be better informed.

ANNEX 1

Participant List

Name	Institution	Email
Joana Macie	Notícias	joanamaria2003@yahoo.com.br
Jaime Mause	Rádio Moçambique	jaimemause@gmail.com
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Attendance statistics by gender

Females	10	41.7%
Males	14	58.3%
TOTAL	24	100%

ANNEX 2

Programme

TIME	ACTIVITY	WHO
DAY 1: 24 MARCH 2012		
08:00-08:30	Registration and M and E	Ruben Covane
08:30-09:00	Official opening, welcome and workshop objectives	Eduardo Namburete
09:00-10:00	Key gender concepts	Bayano Valy
10:00-10:30	Discussion	All
10:30-11:00	TEA	ALL
11:00-11:30	Roadmap to Equality DVD	ALL
11:30-12:00	Discussion	All
12:00-12:30	Findings of the Gender and Media Progress Study Mozambique	All
12:30-13:00	Discussion	EN
13:00-14:00	LUNCH	ALL
14:00-15:00	Group work <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media Monitoring	ALL
15:00-15:30	Report back and discussion	ALL
15:30-16:00	Media Diversity and Change	
16:00-16:30	Wrap up and close	EN
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DAY 1: 24 MARCH 2012		
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10:00-10:30	Discussion	All
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11:00-11:30	Roadmap to Equality DVD	ALL
11:30-12:00	Discussion	All
12:00-12:30	Findings of the Gender and Media Progress Study Mozambique	All
12:30-13:00	Discussion	EN
13:00-14:00	LUNCH	ALL
14:00-15:00	Group work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media Monitoring 	ALL
15:00-15:30	Report back and discussion	ALL
15:30-16:00	Media Diversity and Change	
16:00-16:30	Wrap up and close	EN

ANNEX 3

Gender and Climate Change Presentation