



MAHALAPAYE VILLAGE LEVEL WORKSHOP

Person capturing the form	Onalenna Rammekwa
Name of event/ workshop	Village level Workshop
Country	Botswana
Location	Mahalapaye
Date	10/10/2013
Total participants	27
Women participants	15
Men participants	12

REPORT

Issues raised

- Women need to start spearheading more gender activities
- SADC Protocol on Gender and development needs more capacity building
- Awareness campaigns need to move away from the urban areas

Next steps

Constitutional and legal rights

- The participants argued that the institution of marriage needs to be respected. Cohabitation was pointed out to be a result of failed marriages and couples who fail to marry due to high marriage costs such as Bogadi.
- It was further suggested that the government should intervene to address the problem of cohabitation by making it easier for couples to get married.
- The participant's requested that marital rape should be criminalised and that all spouses taking part in such should be punished.
- The participants were not able to reach a consensus on the issue of legalisation of abortion as a choice one side of the house suggested that abortion should remain illegal as legalising it would promote high HIV/AIDS contractions. It was further argued that Botswana has a small population and cannot afford to lose any more lives.
- The other participants who were pro-abortion argued that lives are being lost due to illegal backstreet abortions that are not safe and end up increasing government health bill from admitting individuals ill as a result of failed abortions.
- The group also stated that HIV/AIDS transmission is still rife with the current status quo (i.e abortion being illegal). They called on for legalisation of abortion but asked

that it should be highly regulated so that individuals are restricted to the number of abortions they can have in their lifetime.

- It was the opinion of the participants that legal fees are high in the country which deters people from seeking legal services and attaining justice and protection by the law.
- It was indicated that differences in customary laws results in conflicts while a uniform national customary law would achieve harmony and uniformity in the law.
- It was suggested that some harmful practices need to be made safer or done away with completely as they serve no significance to society. The argument was further solidified by the participants pointing out that cultural practices are dynamic and are ever evolving governed by the needs of society
- A request was made that the costs of policy implementations should always be factored in when calling for the involvement of civil society as they mostly operate on donor funding.

Governance

- There are low numbers of women who occupy leadership positions in the country.
- Voter apathy is rife among the youth in the country because the current electoral system is not inclusive.
- Women are marginalised from participating in governance by traditional roles which dictate that women should remain at home as care takers.
- The participants called for women to be more supportive of each other in attaining the progress they want as there are more women in the country than men.

Education and training

- Criticism was made on cases of sexual harassment by teachers of learners and parents and teachers need to work together more to ensure safety of learners at home and school.
- Parents need to create an atmosphere where they can learn to talk to their children openly so that they can be able to know first when the child is troubled by anything.
- The participants argued that teachers often influence student career paths by forcing them to do optional subjects at school according to the norms surrounding gender. An example cited was that often female students are encouraged to take Home Economic or business subjects while male students are made to undertake art and design and technology.

Economic justice

- A call was made for organisations such as WIBA to be more inclusive of women in rural areas.
- It was the opinion of the participants that women in business in rural areas need the same support as those in urban areas if not more.
- The recommendation was accepted citing that some financial institutions are biased to not giving women financial aid for business related ventures as opposed to their male counterparts.

- It was suggested therefore on this recommendation that government should make it easier for women to get funding for business as a strategy for women development.

Gender based violence

- A suggestion was made that GBV campaigns should be made as vigorous in rural areas as in urban areas because that's where most GBV cases go unreported.
- It was requested that couples should undergo marriage counselling as a prevention strategy to marital rape.
- It was suggested that village leadership should be included in such campaigns.
- It was the view of the participants that 17-18 year olds are still vulnerable and need the protection of the law.
- A request was put forward for human trafficking to be included in the laws of the country.

Health

- It was the overall feelings of the participants that female condom is not widely used in sexual activities and such government losses money on these condoms that are bought and eventually discarded after they expire. Government should therefore reduce the quantities purchased in order to cut losses.
- It was suggested that the debates on abortion should be inclusive of the varying opinions surrounding the issue.
- Government campaigns on reproductive health should not be gender biased.

HIV/AIDS

- Women are often imprisoned with their infants, which is not a conducive environment for early child development therefore government should cater for pregnant women and mothers.
- It was pointed out that women are gaining inclusion into security service although incentives offered are unknown and that government should continue doing so.
- Government annual budget to be inclusive of gender oriented activities and policies as the implementation of these has proven costly for civil society.

Peace building and conflict resolution

- It was suggested that legislation needs to be reviewed regularly not just related to issues of peace building and conflict resolutions.
- It was further suggested that women shouldn't always wait on incentives for them to be motivated to take up jobs in the security services sector.
- The recommendation was fully accepted. The closing comment on peace building and conflict resolution being that the church needs to also get involved in peace keeping initiatives and that the Kgotla should be more inclusive of women as advisors to the chiefs and headmen.

- Government was commended for introduction of women officers in the defence force.

Gender and the Media

- It was pointed out that the media sexually objectify women in advertising.
- It was called for more articles to discuss issues of women in development in a positive light as opposed to always being negative. It was called for media houses to support women initiatives by giving them as much publicity as those of their male counter parts.
- Evaluation and monitoring committees should also be set up at village level.
- It was pointed out that regulatory authorities are often urban area based and are unable to represent the views of village residents.

Gender and climate change

- A call was made for these campaigns to reach farmers in rural areas as much as possible.
- Women should be encouraged to advocate for better environment care.
- The recommendation was accepted without objection.
- It was suggested that language used by government should cater for rural area dwellers who are more comfortable with using Setswana than English.
- It was suggested that more public awareness campaigns should be done to make farmers aware of climate change and what measures they can take to adjust their farming practices to the new weather patterns.

Annex A WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM



SADC GENDER BAROMETER MEETING MAETO HOTEL - MAHALAPYE
10/10/2013
REGISTRATION FORM

Name and Surname	Sex	Organisation	Position	Cell Phone / Land Line	Email
1 Prisoelo B. Sedute	F	Young Women's Friendly Centre	Director	73213061/7791444	brodura@gmail.com
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5 ONTOMETSE RAMPHO	M	VISION SUPPORT GROUP	COORDINATOR	71334855	Onty.ramps@ymail.com
6 LILLIAN Mothegoe	F	VISION SUPPORT	Volunteer	74765098	
7 ADAM MATI ZHA	M	M.U.Y.C	DIRECTOR	71752844/4714355	antlolaclamski@gmail.com
8 MAIETO RAJEPHO	M	MAKE A DIFFERENCE YOUTH GROUP	DIRECTOR	75310548/75793079	rajephon@yahoo.com
9 Tsepo Lesetsoitse	M	MAHALAPYE UNITED YOUTH CENTRE	Project Director	77133708/4714355	

	Name and Surname	Sex	Organisation	Position	Cell Phone / Land Line	Email
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1	Ketumetshe Kobetsa	F	MAEP	PEER EDUCATOR	72862372/4711951	kobetsa29@yplus.com
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9	MR MICHAEL O. KEWANE	M	Minister's Personal	Asst-Secretary	75555595	michaelkewane@yahoo.com
10	ESTHER MONTHE	F	African Women's	Director	47102191	montheesther@yahoo.com
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13	K. MOKOTONJI	M	YOUTH DEPT	YES WITNESS	4714266	
14	PRINCE DUEPE	F	Voice of Women	Chairperson	71735017/4711368	-
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Name and Surname	Sex	Organisation	Position	Cell Phone / Land Line	Email
26. CHANAPINA MATIKHA	F	Bocoroso		3911319	chanapina.bocoroso@gmail.com
27. ANITA T. SIBIKO	F	Bocoroso		7823732	anitasebiko@yahoo.com

ANNEX B –WORKSHOP AGENDA



PROGRAMME

SADC GENDER PROTOCOL: NATIONAL ALLIANCE BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Moderators: A. Sebopelo and R. Letsatsi

Time	Action	Who
8hrs-0805hrs	Inter-Faith prayer	Volunteer
8h05-8h30	Registration, DVD, Roadmap to Equality	
8h40-9h00	Welcome Remarks	R. Letsatsi
9h00-9h15	Introduction and Objectives of Meeting	A. Sebopelo
9h15-10h30	Accountability Forum Strengthening of the Alliance Response by the forum	Botswana Country Manager- Gender Links
10h30-11h00	TEA	
11h00-13h00	Interactive exercise and group work: Identifying key issues and priorities in Botswana, assessing progress in-country, identifying champions and members of steering committee	Lead Organisation
	1. Constitutional and legal rights	
	2. Gender and governance	
	3. Education and training	
	4. Economic Justice	
	5. Gender Based Violence	
	6. Health	
	7. HIV/AIDS	
	8. Peace Building and Conflict resolution	
	9. Implementation	
	10. Gender and Climate change	
	11. Gender and media	
13h00 -14h00	LUNCH	
14h00-16h00	Key campaigns overview 16 Days of activism 50/50 (Women in Politics) Climate change	
	Working TEA	
16H00-17H00	Way Forward and Closure	BOCONGO and GL Facilitators