

## REPORT

### INCEPTION AND PLANNING WORKSHOP

**VENUE: Riviere du Rempart Youth Centre**

**DATE: 17 September – 19 September 2014**



[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2\\_itemId=47430](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=47430)

Participants and GL staff and volunteers at the Inception and Planning Workshop at Riviere du Rempart

Photo by: Leiken Ponon

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## Acknowledgement

Gender Links is grateful to the Riviere du Rempart District Council for providing us with the venue, most particularly the Riviere du Rempart Youth Centre for the three days workshops with Councillors and members of different associations. The Council has been of great help to Gender Links by providing us with all information needed to contact the Councillors and associations members.



[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2\\_itemId=47409](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=47409)

The CM of GL offering the Hon Minster Deva Virahsawmy a publication of GL  
Photo: Jensee Chengalanee

Moreover, Gender Links also recognises the help provided by the National Empowerment Foundation for the three days workshop by putting at our disposition a resource person each day to help us in the smooth running of our workshop.

Gender Links cannot disregard the enormous contribution made by the Hon. Minister Deva Virahsawmy who conducted the launching of the workshop on 17 September 2014. The launching ceremony was also covered by the press and the presence of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) journalists is highly appreciated by Gender Links.

Gender Links acknowledges the contribution of the representative from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Association (SMEDA) as resource persons who provided useful insights and information to the participants of the workshop.

Last but not the least, the workshop would not have been successful without the help and determination of the participants. 14 Villages in all were represented during the three days workshop.

## **Executive Summary**

This is a report on the proceedings of the Planning and Inception workshop in the Centres of Excellence for Gender Mainstreaming in Local Government in villages. The workshop was held for three days from 17<sup>th</sup> September to 19<sup>th</sup> September and entitled "Local Action to End Gender Based Violence" at Riviere du Rempart. At the end of the three days workshop, participants were expected to develop a Gender Action Plan and a Gender Based Violence Action Plan.

The following themes were discussed and analysed:

- Gender Concepts and Gender Planning Concept
- Key concepts like gender policy and planning concepts
- The importance of understanding HIV AIDS and Care Work, HIV AIDS and Teenage Pregnancy, HIV AIDS and changing attitudes by breaking stereotypes
- Knowledge and skills on how to start small businesses/ entrepreneurship and the different facilities provided by the SMEDA and how the same can be implemented in the villages

- Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Gender and Climate Change and Solutions and Precautionary measures to adopt to success in having a green Mauritius
- Leadership skills
- The problem of witchcraft in Mauritius and how it is part of every village
- Developing a Local Gender Action Plan
- Developing a Local Day Gender Violence Action Plan
- Collection of good practices for addressing GBV at the local level
- Collection of good practices on Local Economic Development, Climate Change, Care Work and HIV and AIDS
- The challenges parents are facing with the new generations and the solutions proposed.

See the full workshop programme attached at **Annex A**.

The 3 days workshop was attended by several Councillors inclusive of Village Chairpersons, Village Vice-Chairpersons, Village Councillors, President and members of different associations within the District Council of Riviere du Rempart.

A total of ... participants attended the workshop and included ... men and ... women. The registration attendance sheet is attached at **Annex B**. The launching ceremony consisted of 25% men's presence and 75% women's presence.



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Launching of the workshop

Photo by: Fadeela Khodabocus

The participants of the workshop equally shared their best practices among each other. A working network was created since ideas from different villages were shared among the participants. The participants were encouraged to work in groups to be able to better share ideas among themselves and collectively find solutions.

The most interesting thing of the workshop at Riviere du Rempart has been the fact that the participants were allowed to do the HIV / AIDS test during Day 2 of the workshop. Many participants benefitted from this test and many of them even testified that it has been the first time that they have done the test and they are glad that Gender Links gave them this golden opportunity. Participants have successfully learnt and internalised that HIV and AIDS is not a taboo and those who conduct the test should not be subject of stereotypes.

On day 3 of the workshop, a Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan was drafted by each village present in the workshop. Hence, a total of 14 Gender and Gender Based Action Plan has been the outcome of the workshop.

The participants evaluated the workshop as interesting and useful as they have learnt a lot especially on HIV and AIDS, Climate Change, Parents v/s Children relationship, Media and Gender Based Violence. Participants also said that they will share what they have learnt with the community, their friends and relatives. Some of them said that after the workshop they feel more responsible and have access to more information. They all agreed that subjects like stereotypes, discrimination, and power relationship are now well grasped since they have been exposed to different statistics and testimonials presented to them. Some of them said that Gender Links have helped them to realise the amount of problem women face in the Mauritian society.

## **Background**

In 2003, GL undertook the first comprehensive study of the impact of women in politics in Southern Africa. One of the key findings of "*Ringing up the Changes, Gender in Politics in Southern Africa*" was that local government is a sadly neglected area of the gender and governance discourse. Taking heed of this finding, GL conducted ground-breaking research in

2006/2007, *At the Coalface, Gender and Local Government* covering South Africa, Lesotho, Mauritius and Namibia.

A key finding of this study was that few practical steps have been taken to mainstream gender in this tier of government or to build the capacity of councillors to lead this process. The study has since been extended to nine countries. In terms of process, once the research reports have been written up, GL hosts launch and strategy workshops in the respective countries with key stakeholders and partners, ideally the local government associations of that particular country to map out a way forward of how to roll out the strategy and host Gender and GBV action plan workshops. The launches are then followed by Gender and GBV action plan workshops that are held at a provincial, regional or district, level to ensure that all councils have gender action plans.

In 2007, GL embarked on a study in Mauritius on women's representation and participation in local government to assess the conditions necessary to increase the representation of women in local government in Southern Africa, and to ensure their effective participation. The fruit of GL continuous action towards increasing the representation of women came to reality during the 2012 Local Government Elections where the representation of female Local Government councillors increased from 6.4% to 31%.

Since 2010 GL has been convening Gender Justice and Local Government Summit and Awards to gather evidence of best practices at local level as well as localities which have put in place best practices to empower women and to combat GBV. Below is the full detail regarding the Summit of 2014:

- Number of participants in all categories are 42 of which (30 are women and 12 were men)
- Number of women and men winners : twelve Women and Four Men
- Number of men and women runner ups : Three Men and six Women
- Number of organisations represented : 27 organisations were represented
- Number of councils represented : two rural and four Urban
- Number of media houses represented : Two Media Houses
- Number of government entities represented : two

## Launching

The official launch of the 3 days workshop at Riviere du Rempart Youth Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 was done by the Hon. Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Deva Virahsawmy. The presence of the Vice – Chairman of Riviere du Rempart District Council, Mr Ganeshan Mooneesawmy was also highly appreciated during the launching ceremony.

Besides, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) covered the launching ceremony.

## Welcome and Opening

In her opening address, the Director of GL Mauritius, Anushka Virahsawmy welcomed all the participants and audience present for the workshop. She explained on the work being done by GL in general and elaborated on the purpose of this workshop with Councilors and Associations. She also thanked and welcomed the Hon. Deva Virahsawmy for finding the time in his heavy schedule to open the workshop.

The opening speech of the Director of GL was followed by the speech of Mr Ganeshan Mooneesawmy, the Vice Chairperson of Riviere du Rempart District Council. Mr Mooneesawmy explained on the representation of women Councilors in his Council. He was glad that he has the opportunity to work with female councilors who were absent in the decision making level lately.

He also showed his gratitude to GL for the continuous work GL is doing to promote gender empowerment and equality including the continuous training that GL is conducting



with men and women councilors. Mr Mooneesawmy equally mentioned that he

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Mr Moneesawmy during the Launch of the workshop

Photo by: Leiken Ponen

hopes that Mauritius will be bestowed with the golden opportunity of having a women Prime Minister hopefully in the years to come since women are making enormous progress by forming part of the decision making panel. He ended his speech stating that councilors and members of different associations and decision makers present learn from this workshop and share the same with other members of the community.

The Hon. Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Deva Virahsawmy officially opened the workshop after the address of Mr Mooneesawmy. He talked about the high representation of women in local government today since the 2012 Local Elections. He stated that women “can take decision as men and can decide for the development of the country” as well. He stressed on the continuous training that need to be done with both men and women to encourage female participation in politics and at decision making levels.



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The Hon Minister Deva Virahsawmy doing his speech during the launching of the workshop

Photo by: Fadeela Khodabocus

Minister Virahsawmy recognised the work GL is doing to promote the active participation of women at decision making level and in the community at large. He elaborated on the need to have more women candidates for national elections following the success of women’s participation at local level elections. By stressing on the need for men and women to work collectively towards social progress, the Minister also put light on the hard work which exist after being elected as Local Councillor by fulfilling all the duties and meet up the vision of the Council as per the Local Government Act.



Minister Virahsawmy further gave an account of the work his Ministry is doing in collaboration with all Councillors and Associations of different villages nationally so as to help in their development and progress. The following themes were developed:

- The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has sensitised people for tree planting. The project titled 'Tree planting campaign for Clean Air' had as target the planting of 200,000 trees throughout the country in 2014. The project was launched 12 February and has been successfully executed. Both men and women participated in the campaign which also highlighted on sustainability and creating a green environment for a cleaner Mauritius. Municipal Councils, District Councils and Village Councils actively participated in the campaign.

- The Ministry also encouraged women to prepare medicinal lotions using herbs. The distribution of medicinal plants was successfully executed by the Ministry whereby villages benefited a lot. The success story of a lady was narrated by the Minister. The lady in question has been able to set up her own



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Launching of the workshop

Photo: Fadeela Khodabocus

business by making medicinal drinks and selling them throughout the country. She was then contacted by the Minister to educate other women to do the same.

- Minister Virahsawmy elaborated on the campaign done to discourage the use of plastic bags which are to be replaced by cloth bags and paper bags also known as eco bags. Women were encouraged to take up courses to learn about the making of such bags and therefore promote cleaner and greener environment by also reducing pollution and the spread of diseases.

## The Workshop

### Gender Concepts/Gender Stereotypes/Gender in the media/Gender and advertisement

After the Launching ceremony, the facilitator welcomed the participants of the workshop and started by explaining on the gender concepts and gender related issues. A total of 14 villages were represented.

Participants were given cards with different roles of women and men and were asked to put the cards on the wall on what are specific to women and to men. They were then asked to see which cards were inter-changeable. Through this activity, participants were made to understand the difference between sex and gender. Sex refers to the biological differences between males and females, while gender refers to the existing cultural differences that are internalised through the socialisation process. The session helped the participants to



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Participants conducting the gender concept activity

Photo: Jensee Chengalane

understand the changing roles of men and women, the breaking of stereotypes process and the way society designs the social roles of individuals. The economic aspects of gender in terms of the roles men and women have in the labour market was analysed and debated upon.

After the activity, participants were separated into different groups to discuss about stereotypes. The definition of stereotype was provided as being a biased belief that one person has towards another. It was explained to the participants that stereotypes is a major problem in



society which can have adverse effects on the life of individuals including discrimination, decrease in the level of self esteem, self fulfilling prophecy and other societal problems. The participants were put in groups to discuss about songs, proverbs and common languages that convey distinct messages on women and men and where very often women are discriminated.

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Participants during the workshop

Photo: Leiken Ponen

The following comments were gathered from the audience. It includes the common languages and concepts used in everyday life to discriminate between boys and girls:

- 'koze kouma en vre zom' *which means talk like a real man*
- 'aret res enba jupe to fam' *which means stop hiding under the skirt of your wife*
- 'si to ena fiel to fer li' *which means if you have the male power you need to do it*
- 'ferme to boite' *which means shut your mouth and stop talking nonsense*
- 'taler mo coupe toi' *which means I will chop you in pieces*
- 'moi ki mari dan lakaz' *which means I am the man in the house*
- 'to en boboc' *which is a rude language to express when a man is submissive to his wife*
- 'fam palad' *which means that women only know how to gossip*
- 'fam pa kapav marse tousle lor simer asoir' *which means that women and girls cannot walk down the streets alone at night*
- 'garson premier lot' *which means that the birth of a baby boy is symbolical to winning a jackpot*
- 'pa plorer kouma fam' *which means stop crying like a girl*

- 'get sa size la' is a common comment made by boys to refer to the body size of girls
- 'get sa manger la' is another comment used by boys to refer to girls as being sex objects meant to fulfill the desires of men

These ideas and comments show that men are meant to be the superior sex and when they agree to what a female says they are considered as the weaker sex and being submissive. The participants commonly agreed that such facts are harmful to the Mauritian society and is causing a lot of discrimination.

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**Testimonial:**

**A lady testified that the birth of a son is given more value and she has experience the same in her life. She explained that a midwife would usually charge a higher fee when a boy takes birth compared to when a girl takes birth. There is a specific reason behind this act though. It is assumed that a baby boy is a pride to the family and to welcome him, we can spent a lot while if a girl is born, she is equivalent to the weaker sex and thus no lavish celebration is done.**

Participants also testified regarding the typical Mauritian songs which highlight stereotypes and discrimination. They include songs titled:

- 'Maryer moi mo contan li' which is a very popular song in Mauritius revolving around the theme of marriage. It describes the romance and passion existing

among couples. Small kids are also singing this song nowadays whereby lately such songs were meant for adults and lovers only.

- 'Li kone danse sega sa fam la' is another popular sega song in Mauritius. It revolves around the theme of dance and celebration. The song explains that women know how to dance well by elaborating on the body movements that women make while dancing. The tone of this song is highly vulgar by being descriptive and at the same time by setting the idea that women are dancers and can be objects of pleasure for men.
- 'Kraze masala' is a also a Mauritian song whereby women is depicted as a housewife to need to prepare spices at home and cook food for the man and rest of family. The woman in depicted as 'sexy' when she grinds the spices and herbs on the stone motar and do the body movements.

## **HIV AND AIDS**

Mrs Kamila Jaghambrum from the AIDS Unit of Ministry of Health and Quality of Life was present during the workshop to provide the participants with relevant information about HIV and AIDS and what solutions they can bring and implement in their respective villages.

The presentation made by Mrs Jaghambrum revolved around the following issues:

- The Statistics regarding HIV and AIDS in Mauritius
- The modes of transmission of the HIV virus
- The vulnerability of women in regards to HIV and AIDS
- The facilities provided to victims of HIV in Mauritius by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
- The stereotype linked with HIV and AIDS

The detailed presentation made by Mrs Jaghambrum allowed the participants to be



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HIV /AIDS test being done during the workshop

Photo: Fadeela Khodabocus

exposed to the different issues around HIV and AIDS. She explained the different modes through which one can be infected which includes unprotected sexual relationship, from pregnant women to the baby and when drug addicts share their syringes. In Mauritius, the most common mode of transmission is through sharing of syringes whereby correspondently the problem of drugs is also very alarming in Mauritius.

The resource person from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life also explained that the 'methadone programme' has been set up by the Ministry to help drug addicts. However, the problem of unprotected sex among youngsters is also a big problem which not only results in teenage pregnancy but can also produce HIV and AIDS infection. To this end, Mrs Jaghambrum inquired about the right age to teach children about sex education. Various answers were provided by the participants. While some noted that it is adequate to talk about sex to their kids when they are 10, others agreed that a kid of 5 years old can very well understand sex issues. Hence, the resource person added that children need to be in line with sexual education at a very early age so that they can better understand an abuse case.

Councillors and members of associations present in the workshop showed a positive response and agreed to pass on the message and sensitise the youngsters in their different villages. Some participants agreed to invite the resource person from the Ministry to conduct the HIV test in their villages.



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Mrs Jaghambrum from the AIDS Unit from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life

Photo: Leiken Ponen

This learning session brought about many interesting facts and speculations as well. The audience was made aware about the vulnerability of women in regards to HIV. It was noted

that officially there are 1200 infected women in Mauritius and since 1987 to date, 42 infected babies have been registered at the Ministry who got the virus from their mother. The following reasons cater for the vulnerability of women:

- Women have menses.
- It is mostly women who are indulged in sex work.
- Women are the only ones who get pregnant and carry babies in their womb.
- It is mostly women who are anaemic and go hospital for blood infusion.

#### **Key Activity for HIV/ AIDS**

As included in the executive summary of this report, the participants of this workshop had the privilege of a free, anonymous and volunteer HIV test done on Day 2 of the workshop. The resource person from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life was present on the spot and 27 people conducted the test. The results of the test were provided on the same day. Some participants were very eager to do the test and were glad of this opportunity being provided to them.

### **Gender, Sustainable Development and Climate Change**

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development resource persons were invited to talk and elaborate on the Climate Change theme on day 2 of the workshop. Mr Maxwell Sardou and Mrs Tisha made a presentation on Climate Change. They elaborated on different topics such as:

- The difference between Climate Change and weather
- The impacts of climate change in Mauritius
- Pollution and its effects
- Gender and Climate Change
- Sustainable Development
- Solutions and prevention measures to adopt
- Waste Management

The resource persons started their expose by putting the forward the following question: "what does the environment consist of?" Several answers were received from the audience yet they missed the most important composition of the environment apart from animals, plants and objects, the most important is the presence of human beings. The facilitator explained that human beings are the principal source of problem in the environment, they are victims of the problems caused and they are the ones who have the ability to bring potential solutions to this problem.

Mrs Tisha emphasised on the fact that there is a huge difference between climate change and weather. She questioned the audience about what they know concerning climate change and weather. The difference between weather and climate is that weather consists of the short-term (minutes to months) changes in the atmosphere. Most people think of weather in terms of temperature, humidity, precipitation, cloudiness, brightness, visibility, wind, and atmospheric pressure, as in high and low pressure. On the other hand climate is the average daily weather for an extended period of time at a certain location.



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The Climate Change Presentation

Photo: Leiken Ponen

The resource person equally explained that there are many factors that contribute to climate change. One of the main factors is pollution. Nowadays there are too many vehicles and industries which produce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and this excess of carbon dioxide is destroying the ozone layer. Pollution speeds up the process of change in climate. Even if those gases, know as gas greenhouse, are important because they help to maintain warmth, too





much heat nowadays is however not beneficial. It can even cause death due to enormous heat. Mrs Tisha took the example of '*Canicule*' in France.

[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2\\_itemId=47514](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=47514)

Participants during the workshop discussing on climate change

Photo: Fadeela Khodabocus

The presentation made further elaborated on observations made since some years from now. Changes that are blatant in Mauritius are that there are no cyclones but it is predicted that when there will cyclones it will be stronger and causing much chaos. It can be seen that an imbalance in the ecosystem will occur as when it rains it causes floods where so many people lost their lives. But on the other side it may not rain at all. Some observations and statistics made all around the world demonstrate that many natural disasters are occurring such as floods in Cachemire, fire in forest of Australia, violent cyclones in Philippines where more than 6000 thousand people died..

Study has shown that Mauritius is one of the 7<sup>th</sup> countries which are the most exposed to natural disasters and one of 13<sup>th</sup> country at risk of disasters. Mauritius is extremely exposed to the climate change. The Ministry of Environment explained that these changes have a huge impact on many areas in Mauritius such as agriculture, health, tourism. It has been found that the level of water had risen to one metre and also temperature had risen. From now on Statistics shows that corals are dead and that the fact that there is a change in climate it aggravates everything. There are more and more diseases. Also, due to erosion, fruits and vegetables are the most affected. Hence prices are raising and women who are the ones who mostly do the house chores and prepare food are the most affected. The resource person also highlighted that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development shall launch a publication on '*Gender and Climate Change*' in the months to come.

It has also been found that concerning diseases such as *Chikungunia* which mostly occurs during summer are now being spread more frequently in all seasons. The importance of planting trees has been explained as there is only 2% of forest left in Mauritius. Trees are essential for life as they release oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. Thus lack of trees lead to an excess of carbon dioxide in the air which can be harmful to human beings. Therefore it is crucial to start act as from now. People must change their mindset concerning environment. The decision makers present were asked to conduct campaigns encouraging the planting of trees.

Other important suggestion was also made concerning acts of change that participants present can bring in their respective villages. Below is a list:

- Encourage inhabitants to stop the use of plastic bags and adopt the use of cloth made bag instead
- Plant more trees in their villages
- Promote cleanliness by putting waste segregation bins in their localities
- Reduce the maximal use of electricity during daily activities
- Adopt the composting system

At the end, participants were encouraged to share the best practices among relatives, friends, neighbours and members of the community.

### ***Groupwork***

After the presentation of the Ministry of Environment, there was a group work done with the different villages that were present. The group work consisted of finding at least one thing which can be done in each village to help the environment. The following ideas in the form of solutions proposed by each village were gathered:

- Will encourage people to do composting

Two participants present in the workshop testified that they had previously given courses on the use of compost bins and they are willing to share the same in other villages.

- Will sensitise people on waste segregation

- Will do 'porte a porte' to sensitise people about the harms caused when using plastic bags
- Will sensitise people to sew fabric bag and village councils will propose such courses for women

One village present took the incentive to provide courses to women regarding bag making using fabric and agreed that they will share the same in other villages.

- Will encourage planting of trees and medicinal plants
- Will sensitise people on the need to recycle plastic bottles and papers



### **Local Economic Development**

Mrs Seetohul from the SMEDA facilitated a presentation on local economic development during the workshop as requested by GL. SMEDA, known as the Small Medium Enterprises Development Authority has been established under the Small Medium Enterprise Authority Act 2009. SMEDA operates

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The CM explaining during the workshop

Photo: Leiken Ponen

under the aegis of the Ministry of Business, Enterprises, and Cooperatives and its aim is to promote entrepreneurship in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

The resource person discussed about the services offered by SMEDA such as training programmes, seminars and workshops available in regional centres across the country. Courses are conducted at the training centre of SMEDA, at Coromandel. It consists of basic management courses, costing and pricing, marketing and selling techniques, and information technology when building up a business. Moreover, the Business Facilitation and Counselling Unit of SMEDA assist people who intend to set up their own business. Information was provided to participants on how to develop a business idea, where to seek assistance and how to prepare a business plan.

Below is the list of aims of SMEDA:

- To encourage people to start new businesses
- To facilitate business set up
- To disseminate information on financial facilities available
- To enhance the visibility of the products and services.
- To assist entrepreneurs to plan their business and minimise failure

The participants of the workshop responded positively to the facilities provided by SMEDA. They agreed to pass on the message to potential people who will be interested in following the courses that SMEDA offers. The resource person also gave information on how to register a business, which institution to go and which certificates are needed. Participants probed further into soft loans; booster loans and loans in general for women and men to start their business. They questioned permits and how permits are delivered. Hence Mrs Seetohul explained on the loan facilities provided by the Development Bank of Mauritius which has the lowest interest rate nationally.

### **Gender Based Violence**

Gender based violence (GBV) was one of the main theme discussed extensively during this workshop.

The SADC protocol on gender and development (articles 20 to 25) stipulates the rights of men and women, Gender Based Violence (GBV), punishment of criminals by law lastly, support that

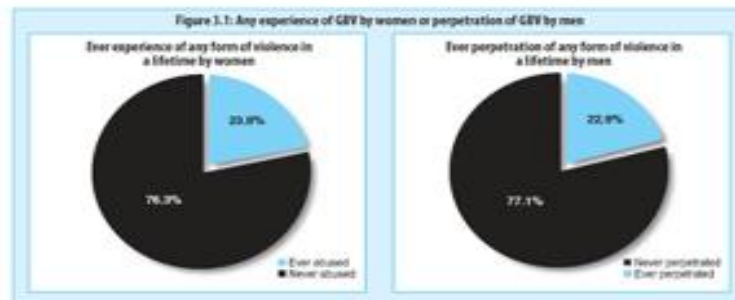
are given to GBV survivors. The SADC protocol's aim is to dwindle violence by half by 2015. This issue was explained to all participants of the workshop and they agreed on the need to act immediately so as to bring an end to GBV.

The participants were explained on what is violence, the importance of understanding all the forms of violence, why violence is present in a society and how can we curb down violence at community level.

The facilitator talked about the publication of 'war @ home'. A survey was conducted before this publication where 400 questions were set for 2000 persons. This survey was essential to see people's perceptions on violence. The facilitator also presented the statistics on the survey. The testimonies of GBV survivors were also read to the audience.

## GBV – Facts and figures

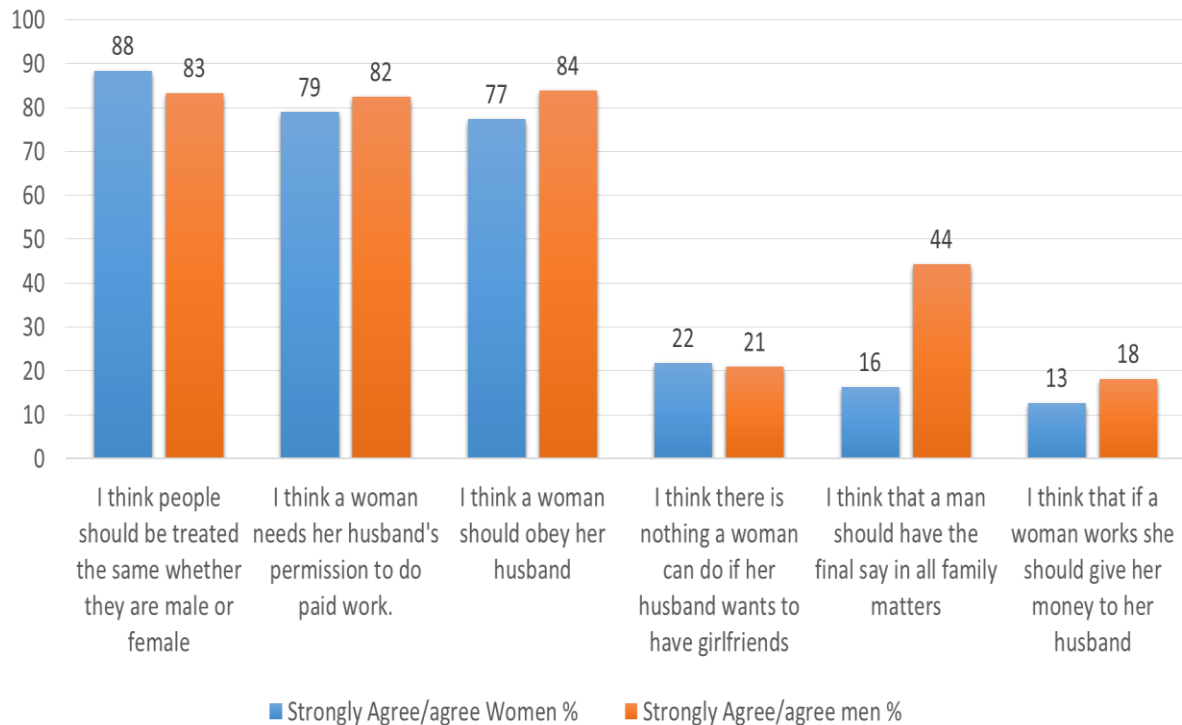
### Experience of Women and perpetration by men



One on four women have experience GBV and the same percentage of men agreed to have perpetrated GBV. A woman told us that she lived in an abusive relationship throughout her pregnancy which became worse when she gave birth to girls. She was insulted, slapped and belittled. "We have been living separately for 2 years but under the same roof. This did not prevent him from breaking the door, tearing my clothes and raped me."



Part of the presentation made by the CM of GL



Part of the presentation made by the CM of GL

**Groupwork**

After being exposed to testimonies and statistics of violence, the facilitator encouraged the participants to bring solutions to existing problems in their existing villages. Hence participants were asked to work in groups and share ideas among them.

The audience reported about the following existing forms of violence:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Psychological
- Economic

The participants made a list on the reasons behind violence. It was noted, violence exist because of the problem of alcoholism, jealousy, lack of trust and communication and finally due to lack of knowledge and guidance.

Participants also provided some insights on the impact of violence, whereby a woman reported that violence can even cause a person to become depressive and commit suicide. Besides, participants reported that children are the most affected ones when parents are fighting while being violent.

The audience explained that to dwindle violence, people need to communicate with each other on any problems that they encounter. It is important for people to understand each other as well. There should be counselling sessions available in schools and community. Participants explained that there should be moral values and good socialization and this should start from a very young age in primary school. They also reported that people should have disciplines and guidance and lastly, the audience recommended more leisure activities targeting men and women as well as boys and girls.

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**Below is the detailed list of ideas that came about from the village discussions:**

- One group has decided to gather people from their community to help victims of violence. For that, they have decided to perform a survey first and do courses to help those people. A participant, who forms part of art living programme for peace building, has decided to work with the victims.
- Another group is already working in collaboration with caritas and other NGOs to help victims of violence. They will conduct visits and provide counselling service for the victims.
- On the other side, the representative of National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) testified about the existing problems about GBV in Riviere Du Rampart district. The issue is that people do not reveal if they are victims of violence. In this case, help cannot be provided. The victims are usually ashamed to reveal their problems due to existing stereotypes. Nothing can be done in this case as people cannot be forced to testify. The NEF also provide psychological help to GBV victims. Training on adult life skills is also provided for victims and beneficiaries.

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This workshop session also came forward with another important theme which was non-existent in the previous workshops conducted. The participants and Country Manager of GL engaged in an extensive debate about children and parents relationship. The volunteers of GL

present at the workshop who constitute off three girls aged 20 as well gave their testimonials to bring more light to the debate. The conflict between parents and children were analysed and questions were set. It was agreed by all that a proper communication can curb down many problems existing in families today.

There is also a need to trust each other besides



[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?q2\\_itemId=47427](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?q2_itemId=47427)

The volunteers of GL explaining on parents children relationship

Photo: Anushka Virahsawmy

communicating. The volunteers brought forward a list of problems that they believe parents should be aware of. Below are some points that have been revealed:

- Parents do not listen to their children
- Parents always talk behind the backs of their children to other people
- Parents always compare other children to their own
- Parents repeat the same thing each time
- Parents interfere too much in the life of their children

This session brought along lots of discussion between the audience and the volunteers of GL. The two sided nature of this debate was however considered. Many participants agreed to implement what they have learnt and will share the same with family members.

Finally, during this workshop two participants who are members of the Northern Association for the Welfare of Disabled People came forward to explain the aims and vision of their association.



This sharing seemed to be very fruitful as many people present were not aware of the work being done by the association.

### **Outcomes**

- An increased knowledge and awareness on mainstreaming gender at the local government level
- Participants were informed and empowered around the HIV and AIDS and Care Work, Climate Change, Local Economic Development and the 16 days campaign
- Gender Action Planning and the Gender Based Violence Planning

### **Way forward**

Participants engaged in a very meaningful way in all of the activities and practical work and group exercises which ensured that the workshop was participatory.



[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?q2\\_itemId=47436](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?q2_itemId=47436)

Participants being instructed on how to fill their action plans

Photo: Jensee Chengalanee

The use of group work proved to be an effective training method. There was much interaction, debates throughout the workshop, the participants felt free to express their views. Participants were ready to continue the work through the 16 Days campaign and projects on GBV, Climate Change, LED and HIV and AIDS.

### **Evaluation Comments**

- Found all sessions professionally done
- Grasped the gender concept so well that can become a trainer on this issue
- Very good work by Gender Links
- Subjects like stereotype, discrimination, power relationship became clear
- The sessions on HIV and AIDS, Local Economic Empowerment of Women and Climate Change were of utmost importance and very interesting
- Need more session especially with the community
- See the Gender Action Plan as very interesting
- Very good team spirit, interaction and brainstorming
- Agreed that the parent children relationship debate has been very fruitful to them

### **Outputs**

- Cottage Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Roche Noires Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Pointe des Lascar Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Goodlands Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Poudre D'or Hamlet Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Plaine des Roches Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Riviere du Rempart Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Mapou Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Poudre D'or Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Amaury Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Panchvati Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Roche Terre Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Piton Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- L'Amitie Village Council Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan.

ANNEX A



## Local Action to end Gender Based Violence.

### Gender Action Planning Workshop by Gender Links in collaboration with National Empowerment Foundation

**3 day workshop from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Venue: RIVIERE DU REMPART YOUTH CENTRE**

**Objectives:** Understanding Gender concept, gender and governance, leadership, conflict resolution and action planning.

Cascading the Centres of Excellence in villages of Riviere du Rempart District:

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	WHO
<b>DAY ONE:</b>		
9:00 – 9:20	<b>Registration.</b>	Gender Links.
9:20 – 9:40	<b>Opening.</b> <b>Welcome and Introduction, Anushka Virahsawmy,</b> <b>Manager Gender Links</b>	Gender Links
9:40 – 10:00	<b>Speech</b> <b>Vice Chairman Riviere du Rempart District Council</b>	Mr Ganeshan Mooneesawmy
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Launching by Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development</b>	Hon. Minister Deva Virahsawmy
10:15 – 10:30	<b>Tea Break</b>	All
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Introductions and objectives.</b> - Quick overview of gender concepts.	Gender Links
10.45 – 10:55	<b>Group work on stereotypes.</b>	All
10.55 – 11.30	<b>Report Back.</b>	Group.
11.30 – 12.30	<b>Gender and Governance – Access, participation and transformative leadership.</b>	Role Play (all)
12.30 – 13.30	<b>Lunch.</b>	

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	WHO
<b>Gender, HIV and AIDS, Care work.</b>		
13.30 – 15.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>The unwaged work of women.</b></li> <li>- <b>HIV and AIDS and Care Work.</b></li> <li>- <b>Plenary discussions (questions).</b></li> </ul>	AIDS Unit of the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life
15.00 – 15.30	<b>Conflict Resolution – Identifying conflict with community and Village Councils.</b>	Role Play
15.30 – 16.00	<b>Tea.</b>	
<b>DAY TWO</b>		
9.15: 9:30	- Reflections, Eyes and ears .	Participants.
9.30: 10.00	- Practical and Strategic Needs – Gender Budgeting.	All
<b>Gender, Sustainable Development and Climate Change.</b>		
10.00: 11.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>the link between climate change and sustainable development.</b></li> <li>- <b>the impact of climate change on our everyday lives.</b></li> <li>- <b>what councillors and NGOs can do to mitigate the effect?</b></li> <li>- <b>projects that can be put in place.</b></li> </ul>	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
11.15: 11.30	<b>Tea..</b>	
<b>Local Economic Development – Gender and the Economy.</b>		
11:30 – 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Women in Development.</b></li> <li>- <b>Strategies for local economic development.</b></li> </ul>	National Women Entrepreneur Council
12:30 – 13.30	<b>Lunch.</b>	
<b>Gender Based Violence</b>		
13.30 – 15.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Definitions.</b></li> <li>- <b>Type of GBV and who is affected most.</b></li> <li>- <b>Extent of GBV – Gender Based Indicators Findings.</b></li> <li>- <b>Places of safety.</b></li> </ul>	Gender Links and Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare
15.00 – 15.30	<b>Tea.</b>	
<b>Developing a Gender Action Plan.</b>		
15.30 - 16.00	- <b>Overview of a draft Gender Action Plan and home work.</b>	All.
<b>DAY THREE:</b>		
	- <b>Key Gender issues in local Government.</b>	
	- <b>Developing a Gender Action Plan.</b>	
	- <b>Group 1: Governance: Representation,</b>	

<b>DAY/TIME</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>WHO</b>
9.30 to 13.00	<b>participation, communication, planning.</b>	
	- <b>Group 2: Gender in existing programmes: Economy, informal sector, procurement, housing, transport.</b>	
	- <b>Group 3: Gender in existing programmes: Health, HIV and AIDS, environmental health, education, social development.</b>	
	- <b>Group 4: Employment practices and environment: working conditions.</b>	
	- <b>Group 5: Gender management system: gender structures, budgets, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building.</b>	
13.00 – 14.00	<b>Lunch.</b>	
14.00 – 14.45	<b>M &amp; E – Attitudes, Quiz and Citizen Score cards.</b>	Group work.
14.45 – 15.30	<b>Collecting Changing Lives</b>	Participants.
<b>Follow Up – Adoption of Action Plan and Statement of Commitment –Villages Council, NGO's &amp; FBO's</b>		



**ANNEX B**

**Local Action to End GBV- Riviere du Rempart- Riviere du Rempart Youth Centre**

**Date: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SEX</b>	<b>ORGANISATION/ POSITION OIN ORGANISATION</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
AujaneelLall	F	Roche Noires	57546231	
Janita Devi Rajroop	F	Occupational Therapist at Northern Association For the Welfare of Disabled	57081721	janita_2610@live.com
Mala Devi Sungkur	F	President MahilaSamaj. Vice Preseident Force Vive P.d.P	52916160/57568985	
SurekhaRamdony	F	Mapou	57921655	
GayetreeRamtohul	F	Poudre d' Or Hamlet	57750963	
OormilasingRamsawack	F	G.W.C Centre Ex Chairperson V.C	57610535	
LutchanahSunyasi	F	Chairperson RNVC	57760486	
Patricia Roothras	F	President New Generation Woman	59322179	
LuisieGarosee	F	Goodlands	57997771	luisiegarosee@yahoo.fr
NoelieLauricourt	F		4124597	
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Ansuya Devi Neethalia	F	Amaury	59468493	ansuyadevi@yahoo.com



**Local Action to End GBV- Riviere du Rempart- Riviere du Rempart Youth Centre**

**Date: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SEX</b>	<b>ORGANISATION/ ORGANISATION</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>OIN</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
HemaMuthalu	F	Amaury			4124790	
Uma Devi Conhye	F	L'Amitie			57680110	
Pooneeta Devi Conhye	F	L'Amitie			4123887	
Viswanee Devi Thumadoo	F	L'Amitie			4129389	
KooplaNarvada	F	L'Amitie			4129508	
Hema Devi Asyrigadoo	F	L'Amitie			4125145	
PillyAppadooTolasee	F	President of Young Women Association Unity Young Women Movement			59822568	ptoolasegri@yahoo.com
Nirmala Devi Rambojun	F	President of Women Association of Pointe des Lascars			58277993	
GladyseFedel	F	Vice Secretary of Women Association of Pointe des Lascars			59149230	
RadhaBekla	F	Riviere du Rempart			59467756	ayushiBekl@yahoo.com



**Local Action to End GBV- Riviere du Rempart- Riviere du Rempart Youth Centre**

**Date: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SEX</b>	<b>ORGANISATION/ POSITION OIN ORGANISATION</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
BabeetaJeebun	F		4126015	
OuditSushma	F	Riviere du Rempart	59480866	ouditasha@gmail.com
ParimeetaTaukoorah	F	Teacher	57821010/59083461	Northern_association@yahoo.com
Catherine	F	Vice President		
SourekhaNundoolall	F		57888389	
SharonnePauvaday	F	Fleuriste	57365891	Sharonnep04@gmail.com
VanessaBonnefemme	F		57649099	
ManteeChinkoo	F		57126834	
SoormahNajeebun	F	L'Esperance Piton	57807046	
RiswanteeRamjunum	F	Poudre d'Or Village	57922727	
Lyllette Mamet	F	Poudre d'Or Village	2835786	
AnoushiaMahadeo	F	D.C Riviere du Rempart	2662095	
ReshmaMohun	F	President Young Women	59166872	





**Local Action to End GBV- Riviere du Rempart- Riviere du Rempart Youth Centre**

**Date: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SEX</b>	<b>ORGANISATION/ POSITION OIN ORGANISATION</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
NeerhaGanpat	F	Panchavati	57070895	
Santee Boojhawan	F	Vice President Roche Terre	59208669	
Suzy Desveaux	F	Social Worker Riviere du Rempart	57848218	
RadaSuffee	F	Support Officer Riviere du Rempart	57608550	
Sanjay Khemdha	M	President Riviere du Rempart Conseiller du Village de Poudre d' Or Hamlet	57919532	
D. Mangatha	M	Councillor D.C Riviere du Rempart	52568229	
AcharazeAarzeena	F	Amaury	58838586	aarzeenazna@gmail.com
AubaalBibiAzraKauser	F		59043521	azrahkause@gmail.com
MaoteeTacoorsing	F	Roche Noires	57698240	
Sybil Boudeuse	F	Plaine des Roches	57429775	
Melanie Vintour	F	Plaine des Roches	34911400	
CadressThumadoo	M	L' Amitie	57584995	



