



Partnerships for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls in Southern Africa

Partnerships - Action - Evidence

Confronting the Challenge

In Southern Africa, gender-based violence against women and girls (VAWG) is among the most severe and widespread human rights violations. The prevalence and acceptance of VAWG is high in international comparison. Between half and two-thirds of all women state that they have experienced violence at some point in their lives; violence by a male intimate partner is the most common form.

The VAWG epidemic poses a serious obstacle for efforts to achieve global, regional and national development goals. The elimination of VAWG is therefore firmly anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Equality (2016) stresses the importance of VAWG, which has led to a renewed dynamism at the level of SADC member states for addressing VAWG.

But while policies, legal frameworks and action plans are largely in place, there are several challenges in regard to ineffective coordination and implementation, especially of prevention interventions.

Building Partnerships

Considering the magnitude of VAWG in Southern Africa, a broad-based effort is required. The programme supports the formation of multi-stakeholder initiatives that leverage financial and technical contributions from governments, civil society organisations, private sector companies, the media and academia.



Project name	Partnerships for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls in Southern Africa (PFP)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisation	Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Project region	South Africa, Lesotho, Zambia
Lead executing agency	Department of Social Development (South Africa), Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation (Lesotho), Provincial Administration Southern Province (Zambia)
Duration	12/2017 – 11/2020
Financial volume	EUR 4.5 million

These initiatives serve to jointly implement flagship projects on the prevention of VAWG in South Africa, Lesotho and Zambia. The collaborative mode of implementation will enhance coordination and mutual understanding among stakeholders.

Taking Action

The flagship projects promote concrete, locally-adapted and innovative approaches aimed at preventing all forms of VAWG.

For example, in Lesotho a mobile phone app for women with information on their rights and services and an emergency



Photo left: School-based prevention, South Africa GIZ/Jessie Bohr

Photo right: School-based prevention, South Africa GIZ/Jessie Bohr



Dr. Alexander Erich
Programme Manager
alexander.erich@giz.de

Photo left: Users of Nokaneng App,
Lesotho GIZ/Dieneke ter Huurne

Photo right: Users of Nokaneng App,
Lesotho GIZ/Dieneke ter Huurne

function has been developed with contributions from civil society and the telecommunications sector. Other projects are: working with the police force in Zambia or engaging churches and traditional leaders in awareness raising campaigns. In South Africa, PfP works with the media and creative industry to improve gender-sensitive reporting.

The programme's primary target group is women and girls. Since patriarchal gender norms promote VAWG, the programme will also work with men and boys around masculinities. One flagship project in Lesotho will work with herd boys, a highly marginalized group of boys and young men, to empower them to claim their rights and respect the rights of women and girls.

Sharing Evidence

Despite progress over the past years, knowledge on the effectiveness of prevention interventions is still much needed to inform policy-making and programme development.

The flagship projects supported under the programme will be closely monitored to create robust evidence on what works in prevention and, importantly, under which conditions approaches could be replicated in other locations. Every flagship project will therefore be accompanied by practice-oriented operational research.

The findings and lessons learnt from the flagship projects will be documented and publicised so that they are shared among and used by policy makers and practitioners in Southern Africa (research uptake) and fed into the global research agenda.

The programme supports specific formats for regional exchange - such as conferences, communities of practice and exchange visits amongst flagship partners - to promote scaling-up.

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Registered office: Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn
Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

Author: Dr. Alexander Erich

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Addresses of the BMZ offices: BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn, Germany
T: +49 0 228 99 535-0

BMZ, Berlin
10963 Berlin, Germany
T +49 30 18 535-0

poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de