



Submission for the GIZ Gender Prize 2016

REACHING THE POPULATION WITH INFORMATION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

GIZ's Civil Society Participation Programme (CSPP) supports the dissemination of the Zambian Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act of 2011

Context

Violence against women is a persistent and universal problem occurring in every culture and social group. According to the 2014 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS), about 43% of all ever-married Zambian women aged 15-49 report having experienced physical, sexual, and/or emotional violence from their current or most recent husband or partner. Of all the forms of violence, spousal abuse or domestic violence was the most common form of abuse reported. 10% of women reported experiencing violence during pregnancy while 9% of Zambian women who have experienced violence have never sought help and never told anyone about the violence. Further, Zambia has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world, ranking globally number 10 among countries with child marriage prevalence¹. On average, two out of five girls are getting married before their 18th birthday².

The major challenges in the fight against gender-based violence in Zambia include the culture of silence, limited knowledge on the offences that constitute gender-based violence, lack of knowledge on evidence preservation and a multiplicity of harmful cultural practices and traditional beliefs that make women subordinate to men. Some of the root causes of the challenges that women are facing in Zambia are the duality of the legal system (statutory and customary law), the contradictory provisions in the legal framework and the non-implementation of existent progressive laws, and often inadequate resources. In addition, there is a fundamental lack of awareness on women's rights, especially among women themselves.

Initiative

GIZ's Civil Society Participation Programme (CSPP) in Zambia is working towards the improvement of preconditions for political participation and legal empowerment, especially as they relate to the marginalised members of society, such as women, girls and persons with disabilities. The programme collaborates with both, government institutions and civil society organisations to:

¹Report of the Committee on Sport, Youth and Child Affairs for the Fifth Session of the Tenth National Assembly Appointed on 22nd September 2010, Page 9.

²UNFPA Child Marriage Profile, Zambia Information Sheet.

- Stimulate improvements in framework conditions aimed at increasing political participation and paralegal services provided by civil society;
- Improve preconditions for paralegal services and mediation for vulnerable population groups;
- Increase awareness of selected political and civil rights, as well as possibilities to utilise paralegal services provided by civil society.

As part of the measures aimed at legal empowerment of vulnerable population groups, CSPP partnered with the Non-governmental Organisations Coordination Council (NGOCC) which heads the women's movement in Zambia. With CSPP's support, NGOCC was able to raise awareness on the availability and type of support services for victims of gender-based violence which the progressive Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act of 2011 (AGBV-Act) introduced.

To make the contents of the Act simple and comprehensible, a "What-to-Do"- Booklet was produced in English and translated into five local languages. The booklet highlights the different forms of gender-based violence, the reporting mechanisms, the support and remedies available to victims of gender-based violence and the organisations that offer help to victims.



Cooperation with stakeholders

Through the broad outreach of NGOCC's membership, the organisation is able to carry out various forms of awareness-raising in the provinces including road shows with local theatre groups, public

sensitisation marches, discussion fora on community radio stations and liaison meetings with traditional leaders and school teachers. The strong advocacy work of NGOCC successfully and continuously lobbies for gender sensitive improvements of the Zambian legal framework, as for example the inclusion of provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Responding to the increasing pressure from the women's movement, in 2007, the Zambian government started a consultative process to jointly draft the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act (AGBV-Act). NGOCC participated in the consultation meetings and contributed directly to the formulation of the Bill.

Through the support of the NGOCC network, CSPP can encompass reaching out from the community level up to decision-makers. Sustainability of this initiative is ensured through replication: to ensure continuity of the process, NGOCC trained its member organisations in the use of the booklet so that they continued sharing the information at community level.



1: NGOCC disseminates “What-to-Do”- Booklet in Zambia’s Western Province (Mbanyutu, Kalabo)

Gender - A Quality Feature of our Work

The awareness-raising activities on the AGBV-Act have been a great success and many organisations requested copies of the “What-to-Do”- Booklet for their sensitisation work. CSPP has emphasized gender mainstreaming in supported projects of partner CSOs, as well as in the partner organisations themselves. The importance of gender mainstreaming is institutionalised through the project development templates. For any supported project, the programme demands the partner to identify possibilities of participation for specific vulnerable groups and to consider the impact of the project on them. At planning and implementation stages partner organisations are asked to reflect on how challenges deriving from legislation, common practices or physical impairments can be addressed. The monitoring process demands to know the impact of the programme on gender equality in the organisation and among the beneficiaries. There has also been demand for support in gender policy formulation and gender strategy development among civil society partners.

As a result of the appreciation of CSPP’s gender work, NGOCC requested for an expert in gender and policy analysis. CSPP supports NGOCC through a staff member that provides technical support and capacity building in gender mainstreaming. The technical support to NGOCC has also been positively critical to the implementation of the anti-gender-based violence awareness project.



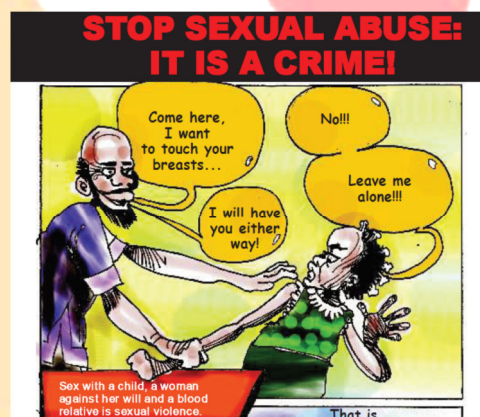
2: Road Show with "What-to-Do" - Booklet in Zambia's North-Western Province (Kasempa)

Gender Impact

Gender-based violence and gender inequalities are closely linked and, in Zambia, women and girls are significantly affected by GBV. In highlighting the importance of gender equality for a reduction of GBV-cases, NGOCC tailors information to address the role of men, women, boys and girls in the fight against gender-based violence. Awareness-raising on gender-based violence has therefore a significant impact on improving gender equality. With support from CSPP, NGOCC has increased its analysis of public policies and legislation from a gender perspective and improved its evidence-based advocacy for gender equality.

Due to recognition of their work on gender, CSPP and NGOCC have participated in various national dialogue platforms and consultative processes aimed at gender equality. One of the success stories is the fight for the improvement of women's rights in Zambia through the revision process of the National Gender Policy (NGP) in 2014. The National Gender Policy is a key policy document that lays the foundation for gender mainstreaming in all other policy documents of the country as well as national (budget) planning and the legal framework. It promotes the advancement of women's rights as a cross-cutting issue in all sectors and attributes the respective monitoring competencies to the Ministry of Gender and Child Development (MGCD) in partnership with renowned CSOs, such as NGOCC or YWCA.

CSPP further supported the women's movement led by NGOCC to make progressive submissions and recommendations on gender equality to the constitution review commission. As in the case of the AGBV-legislation, government experienced similar pressure from civil society and responded by initiating a consultative process on the constitution review. A number of women's rights organisations jointly worked with the technical committee in drafting the new constitution.



3: Details from the AGBV "What-to-Do" - Booklet

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