

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

Confronting the Challenge

In Southern Africa, gender-based violence against women and girls (VAWG) is among the **most severe and wide-spread 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.

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.

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)
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
Budget	€ 4.5m



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



Taking Action

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

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For example, in Lesotho a **mobile phone app** for women with information on their rights and services and an emergency 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 global investment and publications that demonstrate progress in the past years, **evidence on which approaches are effective in preventing VAWG** - in which context, under which conditions and by means of which processes - is still much needed to inform policy-making and programme development.

The PfP flagship projects will be accompanied by operational research to **create relevant and practice-oriented information** through different forms of evaluations as well as lessons learned-studies that document processes and results. This will help to better understand what works under which conditions and provide useful information on how to replicate interventions.

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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