



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

Contributing to evidence-informed programmes through accompanying research

Confronting the Challenge

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a severe human rights violation and a of epidemic nature. Its health, social and economic impacts extend to children, communities and society as a whole. VAWG is also an obstacle to global and national development goals.

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.

Collaborative Approach

The PfP programme supports the implementation of a mix of flagship projects across its selected partner countries. Interventions under the flagship projects are **designed and implemented by a range of local stakeholders** and cover different approaches for the prevention of VAWG, such as programmes in schools, with religious and traditional actors, the police and the media, amongst others. Flagship projects are selected using a set of criteria, including implementation through multi-stakeholder partnerships. They also need to be adapted to their context, innovative and have the potential to contribute to regional learning.

To expand the existing evidence base on prevention interventions, PfP supports **operational research** that accompanies the implementation of the flagship projects it supports. This serves to promote **regional learning** on lessons learnt and research findings to promote evidence-based

programming and policy design on the prevention of VAWG in Southern Africa.

PfP has commissioned an international consortium (GFA Consulting Group GmbH and the NGO Sonke Gender Justice) to implement the PfP **research programme**. The consortium collaborates with experts, civil society organisations and academic institutions in the region.

Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	South Africa, Lesotho, Zambia
Key stakeholders	Consortium GFA Consulting Group (lead) and Sonke Gender Justice; Individual researchers.
Duration	12/2017 – 11/2020



Key Principles

The PfP flagship projects are accompanied by operational research to **create relevant and practice-oriented information** through different forms of evaluations and 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.

To ensure that research designs are tailored to user needs and rooted in the local context, a strong **utility-focus** will be adopted. Accordingly, operational research designs are oriented on the **information need** (identified through stakeholder engagement) **and socio-cultural framework conditions** in the partner countries. Working with national experts and data collectors ensures the required **cultural appropriateness** when researching the sensitive topic of VAWG.

The research projects will draw on the **full spectrum of quantitative and qualitative methods** depending on the questions examined, however, selected against the background of available time and financial resources.

The sensitive nature of research on VAWG requires special **ethical and safety considerations**. Hence, the PfP research consortium adheres to international WHO ethical and safety recommendations for intervention research on VAWG (WHO, 2017) and seeks ethics approval from relevant independent review boards, where required.

Operational Research Projects

The PfP research agenda (status: November 2019) focuses on the topics that the flagship projects address, the flagships themselves, or one or several interventions implemented by partners within a flagship. This includes, amongst others, the following:

- Media Monitoring, South Africa (2019)
- Role of the production environment on gender sensitivity and stereotyping in storytelling, South Africa (Expected in 2020)
- Process evaluation of interventions to change attitudes towards VAWG, Lesotho (Expected in 2020)

- Review of a pilot to mainstream GBV in food security interventions, Lesotho (Expected in 2020)
- Mapping of Religious and Traditional Actors, Zambia (2019)
- Lessons Learnt from VAWG prevention with Religious and Traditional Actors, Zambia (Expected in 2020)
- Inventory of GBV-related communication strategies, Zambia (2019)
- Evaluation of VAWG training with police officers, Zambia (Expected in 2020)
- Lessons learnt on the implementation of the various flagship projects, using the most significant change methodology (Expected in 2020).

An overview of operational research reports and learning briefs can be found in the PfP resource hub:

www.partnershipsforprevention@giz.de

Sharing of Evidence

The findings and lessons learnt will be **documented and publicised** through different formats, shared with policy-makers and practitioners in Southern Africa (research uptake), and fed into the regional and global research agenda.

The PfP programme also 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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