

SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL CAUCUS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF WOMEN & GIRLS



REGIONAL CAUCUS REPORT

REGIONAL CAUCUS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA ON WOMEN & GIRLS HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HIVOS Southern Africa through the Regional SRHR Fund hosted the Southern Africa regional caucus at the 4th Women Deliver conference. The caucus meeting took place on May 19, 2016 at the Bella Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Introduction:

The purpose of the caucus was to provide an opportunity for a diversity of role players across the region - including civil society organizations, government, donors, policy makers and other knowledgeable people - to discuss the challenges and opportunities to improve the health and well-being of girls and women in Southern Africa within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and to collectively identify the most strategic actions to take to address specific issues in order to move the overall SDG agenda forward in relation to women and girls' health and well-being. Hivos undertook a survey prior to the caucus priority issues for the discussion were in Gender based violence, family planning/ contraception, adolescent and youth health, HIV/AIDS and social cultural norms. These key issues for discussion were selected based on results obtained from a virtual survey we conducted prior to the women deliver conference. The objectives of the survey were; to get an idea of how much knowledge people in region have on SDGs, challenges faced in the region in relation to women and girls health as well as to solicit input on the linkages to the SDGs.

The Hivos caucus was structured to be participatory. We therefore opted not to have any speakers but rather to give space for participants to discuss the issues and develop solutions to them. Participants were randomly placed in five different groups to discuss challenges, opportunities and solutions/actions to be taken for each issue. The anticipated outcomes of the breakaway sessions were: a list of key actions to be taken to address each issue in the region as well as establishing networks with the various stakeholders in attendance.

MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE CAUCUS

1. We created networks with the attendees and have received some expressions of interest to partner on future actions and ideas. This is particularly the case in relation to our plans to launch a Youth Forum on the regional SRHR web site; our plans to launch a campaign on safe abortion as well as our intention to engage people in discussions on what the SDGs mean to people in the region.
2. We identified of some key actions to take forward into the region including:
 - ❖ Development of a multi-stakeholder think tank that can serve as an information generation and sharing on violence against women.
 - ❖ Catalyzing youth movements.
 - ❖ Creating common convening platforms for young people.
 - ❖ Identifying ways to increase youth involvement and participation.
 - ❖ Engagement of influential leaders in programs of importance to women and girls.
 - ❖ Using campaigns such as the African Union campaign to end child marriage as well as the recent launch of the continental campaign to decriminalize abortion.
 - ❖ Governments should mainstream gender in all their budgets.
 - ❖ Undertake advocacy interventions at all levels.
 - ❖ Deconstruct cultural practices and norms that suppress women and girls.
 - ❖ Using role models whose lives are consistent publicly and privately.
 - ❖ Engagement of traditional and male leaders as role models for positive cultural practices and norms.
 - ❖ Documentation of culture within each nation to help decrease the knowledge gap.
 - ❖ Engagement of young boys in re-socialization to teach the importance of sharing power with women and girls instead of having power over them
 - ❖ Use modern culture like social media to send positive messages and images.
 - ❖ Integrating school curricula with culture to reduce the knowledge gap from a young age.
3. We gained insight into the challenges experienced in the region with regards to the five issues, this will serve as basis to inform our future actions and interventions.

Commitments made

Although commitments were not made by any of the officials present, the attendance and participation of officials including; Minister Susan Shabangu who is the Minister of Women in the Presidency in South Africa, Patricia Machawira from UNESCO, the South African Ambassador to Denmark and Yvonne Chaka Chaka a renowned South African musician, communicated their willingness to be address the issues under discussion and has opened up an opportunity for use to make contact with them in future.

Compelling quotes

This quote was from group two, which was looking at family planning, "Some practices that were used in the past helped Family Planning but have been abandoned, e.g. men were not

allowed to have sex with women during breast-feeding period. These practices should not be condemned but we have to learn from them.”

ADVOCACY LINKED TO REGIONAL AND CONTINENTAL CAMPAIGNS

In January 2016, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights launched a campaign for the decriminalization of abortion in Africa. Through the Sexrightsafrica.net web site, there are plans to launch discussions and possible campaigning to capitalize on this recent announcement. We also plan to identify other campaigns launched at the regional and continental level to initiate virtual discussions and to take action.

We also undertook a virtual survey to determine key youth issues. Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Youth-Friendly Services have been identified as the top priorities. We are therefore in the process of liaising with organizations including UNESCSO and local youth-related organizations to identify ways to develop a campaign to move the agenda forward. The upcoming International AIDS Conference will also be used as a way to launch campaigns via the web site in order to maintain momentum generated at the Women Deliver Meeting. We have also just launched a call for proposal for small-scale advocacy campaigns linked to the key issues that were discussed at the Women Deliver Regional Caucus for Southern Africa.

Caucus communications.

We have prepared a separate report that we plan to send out to conference participants as well as contacts identified to participate in the virtual survey that was conducted before the conference. The report identifies follow-up areas for action, many of which can be undertaken using the SRHR web site.

After-action plans

1. We are in the process of developing a virtual Youth Forum where youths in the region can engage and take action on various issues. The demand for such a platform further supports one of the ideas that HIVOS has been working in collaboration with Aids Foundation South Africa (AFSA) to develop a convening space for youth on the website called Sexrightsafrica.net, which we recently launched.
2. We also plan to begin some campaigns in collaboration with other organizations, these will focus on what the SDGs mean from a personal perspective so that they can be owned and contextualized into the Southern African region including determining how we can magnify the linkages between women and girls health and the SDGs.
3. We will also be sending follow-up points to all caucus participants to ask what role they can play to take the actions identified forward.

Annex materials:

- List of participants (name, country, organization) with VIPs highlighted
- Copy of final agenda

- List of caucus organizer staff
- Any relevant draft policy documents, calls to action, sign-on letters, commitments developed
- Situation analysis/landscaping findings on girl's and women's health and well-being.



AGENDA:
Regional Consensus Meeting on Women and Girls' Health and Well-Being in Southern Africa
Room C1-M1, Bella Conference Centre (near exhibition hall)

Meeting Objective:

To provide an opportunity for a diversity of role players across the region - including civil society organizations, government, donors, policy makers and other knowledgeable people - to discuss the challenges and opportunities to improve the health and well-being of girls and women in Southern Africa within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. Meeting participants will also collectively identify the most strategic actions to take to address specific issues in order to move the overall SDG agenda forward in relation to women and girls' health and well being.

Meeting Outcomes:

1. Identification of priority issues related to women and girls' health and well being and their connection to the SDGs (Session 1)
2. A list of the opportunities and constraints in addressing women and girls' health and well being in Southern Africa as well as possible actions to be taken to increase opportunities and to decrease constraints; (Session 2)
3. Collaborative action plans to be taken forward in the region to address some of the key issues in the region; (Session 3) and
4. A network of people in the region to participate in collective action to improve women and girls' health and well-being in Southern Africa (Session 3)

Session	Time	Agenda	Session Focus
1	Setting the Stage		
	10:30	Introduction of Participants	A short exercise to get to know a bit about each other
	10:35	Presentation Survey Results that identified key issues and opportunities in the region while making connections to the SDGs	Understanding the Context for Southern Africa and making the connection to the SDGs
	10:45	Q & A	
2	Understanding the Barriers and Needs of Women and Girls in Southern Africa		
	10:50	Small Group Work Discussion on Priority Issues:	Identifying the constraints to be reduced and the forces to be increased to improve women and girl's health and well being

		<p>FORCES: What are the forces that are working to improve women and girls health and well being? What can be done to increase those forces?</p> <p>CONSTRAINTS: What are the constraints women and girls face that prevent them from experiencing and accessing quality health and well being? What can be done to decrease those constraints?</p>	
	11:10	Walk about to review results and prioritise actions	Adding more input and ideas from the group
3	Planning for Action		
	11:20	Small Group Work: Develop an action plan to address specific issues	Preparing to take actions back to the region
	11:40	Presentation of 2 to 3 actions to be taken	Identifying priority actions to take forward
	11:50	SUMMARY OF NEXT STEPS AND MEETING CLOSURE	Agreeing upon some critical next steps that can be taken back to Southern Africa

Sex Rights Africa Network

sexrightsafrika.net



Campaigns/Discussion Forums on SRHR in Southern Africa - 2016

The [Sex Rights Africa Network](http://sexrightsafrika.net) website has been created as a space where individuals and organisations can

- share information;
- organise for collective action; and
- advocate for improvements in the delivery of SRH services;
- promote enjoyment of all SRH rights for all citizens in the region.

The Network provides a way for people to come together to collectively seek solutions to some of the greatest SRH challenges in Southern Africa. Enabling people to organise or participate in campaigns to address these challenges is a key function of the website. The website team is a small group of people who are there to assist you to develop and mobilise support for these campaigns. You can also download Guidelines on using the website to launch or promote campaigns.

To ensure the campaigns are effective, it is important for those who have the expertise and the passion to identify ways that they can use this virtual space to move key SRHR issues forward. We therefore invite you to consider playing a role in one or more of the campaigns currently being hosted on the website.

YOUTH FORUM: A SPACE TO ENGAGE on ADOLESCENT and YOUTH SRHR ISSUES

The Youth Forum has been created in response to a growing need in the region to address adolescent and youth SRHR issues and concerns by providing a space for people to engage in discussions, share information or organise campaigns. Prior to launching the Youth Forum, we conducted a survey which sought to gather views on the top priorities and the key interests and needs for a Youth Forum. Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Adolescent and Youth Friendly Services were identified as the two top priorities. Both of these are encapsulated under the ESA Commitment, which health and education ministers and representatives from 20 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa affirmed in December 2013 as a landmark commitment to support sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people.

You can use the website to engage in discussions around the ESA Commitment, including its current status and what more needs to be done to make it a reality throughout the region.

If you have other ideas and topics you would like to address, there are many ways you can do this. For example, write a blog or a short introduction to share your views, upload information to inform discussions – such as toolkits, reports and case studies – or put forward key questions or perspectives to stimulate discussion on a critical ASRHR issue that you think requires action in the region. We also encourage you to use SRA social media as part of the virtual campaign.

CAMPAIGN: PROMOTING SAFE ABORTION

Unsafe abortion is a key concern in Southern Africa. While most countries in the region allow abortions at least to save a woman's life, few have taken steps to ensure that there is a conducive environment, including privacy and confidentiality to enable women and girls to access the abortions to which they are entitled. Restrictive laws and policies contribute to high rates of mortality, morbidity and disability, particularly for girls and younger women.

Even in countries where there are few restrictions on abortion, barriers can include a lack of guidelines on conscientious objection, requirements for third-party approval and overall weak and overburdened health systems. There is also a lack of data on the number of unsafe abortions, including analysis of the personal and financial costs to the system of dealing with post-abortion care.

Gathering information and organising advocacy campaigns is at a critical juncture. In January 2016, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights launched a campaign to decriminalise abortion and in March 2016 a meeting was hosted by the SADC Parliamentary Forum to engage member states in discussions on the decriminalisation of public health issues including abortion. The Sex Rights Africa network is launching a virtual campaign to promote safe abortions in the region. We welcome creative ideas to address the many challenges with unsafe abortions in the region. We invite you to share experiences and research, prepare a short note highlighting issues of interest or concern to you or your organisation, or simply to join the discussion.

CAMPAIGN: RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT SRHR AND THE SDGS

On 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change. For Southern Africa, in particular, the SDGs are resonating with governments who are showing some interest in ensuring they are able to report against the global targets in 15 years' time. At the same time, feedback from individuals and members of civil society organisations suggests there is a general lack of awareness about the SDGs and their potential to be used as an advocacy tool to hold governments accountable to financial commitments aimed at alleviating poverty and reducing inequalities – particularly for girls and women – in the region. It is equally important to contextualise the goals to the Southern African reality while ensuring that these high-level goals speak to and have meaning for people living on the ground.

In contrast to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were initially silent on SRH, targets in two of the SDG goals directly reference sexual and reproductive health. SRH is clearly an issue of critical importance, especially to girls and women so the positioning of gender equality at the forefront of the goals is also important. There are multiple opportunities to build upon the inter-connectedness of the SDGs by linking SRH to other goals including education, gender equality, food security, access to water, urbanisation and climate change. The Network is launching an ongoing campaign to raise awareness about the SDGs and their potential use as an advocacy tool while also seeking to gather an understanding of how to make the SDGs meaningful and reflective of the lives of people in the region. You can participate by responding to surveys, uploading documents or leading discussions on the inter-connectedness of SRH and the SDGs, and their relevance to the region. Other ideas and approaches are also welcome.

Terms of use: The SexRightsAfrica.net platform is an open, moderated knowledge exchange portal. It is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit initiative. All material submitted is subject to review to ensure that it is in line with the website [Terms of Use](#). The moderators reserve the right to reject material that is in breach of those terms or is submitted by an individual or organisations whose aims or objectives are in conflict with the purpose of the Network. The Network is hosted by the AIDS Foundation of South Africa in association with the Regional SRHR Fund, supported by the Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka, Zambia, Hivos Southern Africa and the Ford Foundation. For more information e mail info@sexrightsafrica.net



NAME	ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY	POSITION HELD
BOTSWANA			
Changu Siwawa	International Working Group on Women and Sport	Botswana	Resource Mobilisation Manager
Chikumbudzo Clive Maluke	Francistown Network of Support Groups	Botswana	Programs Manager
Kelebogile Simula	A World at School	Botswana	Global Youth Ambassador
Rammekua Oudema	UPND	Botswana	
Unami Moatswi	SELF	Botswana	
LESOTHO			
Makananelo Ramoholi	Development and Leadership Centre	Lesotho	Director
Mathoka Khaile	Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation	Lesotho	Principal Gender Officer
MADAGASCAR			

Faneva Raharimanantsoa	SOS Children's Villages Madagascar	Madagascar	Head of fund development, communication and sponsorship
Joseph Yanalis	USAID Mikolo Projects	Madagascar	Director
Maminiaina Randrianirina	Girls Scout	Madagascar	
Patricia Norolalao	PSI	Madagascar	National Coordinator
RASOLOMAMPIONONA Kanto Ericka	Collective of Association of Fianarantsoa Women	Madagascar	
Sariaka nantenaina	NGO C-For-C	Madagascar	Executive Manager
MALAWI			
Ned Mukumba	Centre for Youth and Children	Malawi	
Pearson Malisua	CEGI	Malawi	Executive Director
Williot Joaquim Lumbe	Global Hope Mobilization	Malawi	Youth Programs Officer
MOZAMBIQUE			
Claudia Banze	Center for Mozambican and	Mozambique	Program Officer -

	International Studies (CEMO)		Gender and Human Rights
NAMIBIA			
Helena N Leonard	Ministry of Works	Namibia	Administrative Officer
SOUTH AFRICA			
Britt Wahlin	Ibis Reproduction Health	South Africa	
Dr David V Kolnick	GIMME 5 HOLISTIC EDUCATION	South Africa	Holistic Education. Leadership Training. Creation of Life Orientation Curricula.
Claire Mathonsi	International HIV/AIDS Alliance	South Africa	
Gaboilelwe Moroka Motshabi	Princess Gabo Foundation	South Africa	
Jonathan Gunthorp	Southern Africa AIDS Trust	South Africa	
Kyla Herrmansen	Health News service	South Africa	TV journalist
Lene Åverland	Orbis Africa	South Africa	CEO
Levi Singh	UNFPA	South Africa	National Focal Point
Maselotsha Mphahlele	Dignity Dreams	South Africa	Vodacom Change the world agent – Public relations and schools

Mvelenhle Yaka	The Banking Association	South Africa	
Nyeleti Nsovo Mayimele	JuPHASA	South Africa	President
Patricia Machawira	UNESCO	South Africa	
Pia Euler- Vestely		South Africa	
Portia Miller	Child Welfare South Africa (CWSA)	South Africa	National Director
Rodrigo Garay	AAI	South Africa	Chairman
Sandra Miller	Dignity Dreams	South Africa	Founder
Shakira Choonara	Centre for Health Policy, South Africa	South Africa	PhD Fellow
Minister Susan Shabangu	The Presidency	South Africa	Minister of Women in the Presidency
Vivian Onano	Africa 2.0 Foundation	South Africa	Community and Partnerships Manager
SWAZILAND			
Ncane Maziya	Swaziland Gender Links	Swaziland	Country Consultant
Simukeliswe Busika	US Peace Corps	Swaziland	Program manager and Gender POC
Zethu Matsebula	Youth Action Movement	Swaziland	Peer educator and mentor
ZAMBIA			

Ackim N. Hamweenda	Clinics for All	Zambia	Executive Director
Dany Hay	Concern	Zambia	
Lute Kazembe	Global Sojourns Giving Circle	Zambia	Program Director
Namakando Simamuna	Center for Reproductive Health and Education	Zambia	Gender programs officer
Vincent Nacidze	Centre for Reproductive Health and Education	Zambia	Programs Officer
ZIMBABWE			
Azazi Abemba		Zimbabwe	Executive Director
Florris Braat	Solimr MED	Zimbabwe	Manager
Loveness Mudzure	ROOTS	Zimbabwe	Advocate
Janneke Van Diju			
Tinashe Nyoni	Youth Initiative For Community Empowerment Trust (YICET)	Zimbabwe	Programs Manager
OTHER COUNTRIES			
Adetoun Olateju	Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon	United States of America	Country Program Manager
Alison Corbacio		United States of America	Program Assistant

Charlotte Hord Smith	IPAS	United States of America	Director of Policy
Cheptoek betty	National union of women with disabilities of uganda	Uganda	Youth representative and chairperson personnel NUWodu
Michele Grocss	EHG	Denmark	CEO
Rada Tzaneva	Amnesty International	UK	Gender Advisor
Samantha Spooner	Mail & Guardian Africa	Kenya	Research Editor