

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

## South Africa: Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention in Schools

### 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. According to Moulton et al (2014), South Africa is facing extremely high rates of gender-based violence perpetration and victimisation of young children and adolescents, with the following facts realised:

- Girls tend to be the victims of GBV in schools (e.g. rape, harassment and sexual assault), while boys tend to be victims of physical violence and bullying.
- Assault, rape and sexual violence are 'endemic' in South African schools. It impedes girls' path to learning and adversely impacts school attendance and school completion.
- LGBTI learners are facing physical and verbal violence at their schools. In 2016, 56% of South African LGBTQ youth (≤24 years) indicated that they had experienced discrimination based on their LGBTQ status at school.

The prevalence of GBV and other forms of violence within the schooling environment creates a barrier for learners to enjoy a conducive environment of learning, free from violence and crime, with young girls being more vulnerable to victimization.

Schools are recognized as an **important entry point** for the implementation of **GBV prevention** interventions, primarily focusing on prevention of violence such as sexual violence, sexual harassment, sexual abuse as well as bullying. These interventions can also have a positive influence on the community through teachers, learners and parents.

### Building Partnerships

"Power in collaboration": at the center of the project is the formation of a multi-stakeholder platform for GBV prevention in schools. The flagship engages government, civil society and research institutions in a multi-stakeholder process to jointly develop and implement GBV prevention interventions in selected schools.

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Flagship name                     | GBV Prevention in Schools   |
| Commissioned by                   | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  |
| Project region                    | Eastern Cape and Gauteng Province, South Africa   |
| Key stakeholders – Eastern Cape   | Provincial and District Departments of Education and Social Development, REVIVE, Masi-funde, Doxa, Nelson Mandela University, FAMSA, Alternatives to Violence |
| Key stakeholders Gauteng Province | Families South Africa (FAMSA), Sonke Gender Justice, People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA), Provincial and District Department of Education                      |
| Duration                          | 12/2017 – 11/2020   |

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



In Eastern Cape, the flagship builds on already existing platforms – the NMB Safer Schools NGO Forum and OASIS, a community of practice on after school and in-school activities. The District Departments of Education champion the flagship project.



Photos page one and two: Learners participating in "Stronger Together" intervention © GIZ



Joan Moeketsi  
Component Leader  
South Africa  
[joan.moeketsi@giz.de](mailto:joan.moeketsi@giz.de)

## Taking Action

The flagship project will be implemented in selected schools in Port Elizabeth (Eastern Cape) and Soshanguve and Mamelodi (Gauteng Province). The flagship will promote schools as safe environments; applying a whole society approach and therefore working with the broader school community (management, educators, parents, learners, community leaders) towards a culture of non-violence. In addition, it aims at introducing GBV prevention into education (curriculum/extra-curricular) by supporting local civil society organisations to improve their GBV prevention activities in schools.

In **Eastern Cape**, the flagship follows three complementary approaches:

### 1. GBV prevention in 10 High Schools

Learners will be capacitated on topics such as GBV, positive masculinity, alternatives to violence and personal growth. Then they will design and implement their own campaigns to prevent violence in their schools.

### 2. Creating a safe space for LGBTI learners

As part of a joint initiative with the GIZ Sector Programme “Human Rights”, PFP implements several activities to reduce discrimination of learners based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics by providing a supportive environment. Activities not only target learners, but also civil society organisations to strengthen their role in preventing GBV against and discrimination of LGBTI learners.

### 3. GBV awareness building in 20 Primary Schools

The “Strong Together: Stopping violence in its tracks”-methodology for GVB prevention in primary schools was adapted from the GIZ programme: “Combating Violence against Women in Latin America” and will be implemented with young learners.

In **Gauteng Province**, the flagship plans to do the following:

### 4. GBV prevention in 10 Schools

A narrative approach will be adopted to reflect on gender norms that build up the system of patriarchy and contribute to the high rate of GBV. This approach supports girls and boys to reauthor their stories.

## 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.

Findings and lessons learnt will be documented and shared amongst practitioners in Southern Africa (research uptake). Specific formats for **regional exchange** to promote replication in other regions or countries will also be supported.

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Registered office: Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5  
65760 Eschborn  
Germany  
T: 0049 61 96 -11 475  
F +49 61 96 79-11 1 15  
Author: Jessie Bohr, Ursula Gail  
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Addresses of the  
BMZ offices: BMZ Bonn  
Dahlmannstraße 4  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T: +49 0 228 99 535-0  
[poststelle@bmz.bund.de](mailto:poststelle@bmz.bund.de)  
[www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)  
BMZ, Berlin  
10963 Berlin, Germany  
T +49 30 18 535-0