In this issue, we share with you the results of the Network's external evaluation completed early this year. The evaluation was designed to assess the performance and perceived effectiveness of the Network. 212 Network members participated in the evaluation and provided very useful feedback around the Network's four core work areas, the Network's perceived impact in the region, and the Coordinating Office's effectiveness. Read a summary of the details and actions taken and planned in response by the Coordinating Office, in the main article. In this issue we also share our upcoming "reloaded" regional campaign for the 16 Days of Activism!

The next issue will be the sixth phase in Get Moving! the Network’s movement building initiative. It will explore intersectionality - or what it means to work across movements. The issue will focus on the theme of Identity and how they are linked to oppression and/or privilege, and how they are shaped by historical, social, and political contexts. It will help members uncover the links between injustice and discrimination experienced by women and other oppressed groups as well, as how we can and must join together to realize social justice for all.

Please contribute to this issue by contacting us at info@preventgbvfrica.org

AFCRA WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION
Network member WELDA Tanzania celebrated the year’s Fan African Women’s Day on 21st August, 2011 in Dar es Salaam. The event took place at Kameeji Hall, and brought together over 300 participants from civil society and Government. The key speaker was Honorable Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, UN Secretary who was a leader during the liege meeting of 1995. She shared her experience of African Women’s Leadership from independence to date. Ms. Anna Henga from the Legal and Human Rights Centre also presented a paper on the Maputo Protocol. Ms. Tabitha Siwale, former Minister and Chairperson of the task force on FGM, briefly discussed the rights of women.

ENCOURAGING BOYS AND MEN TO HAVE HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIPS
Rozaria Memorial Trust (RMT) is collaborating with Padale in an initiative that will engage young men and boys at the community level on how GBV impacts their lives, and explain how communicating in a non-abusive manner can foster healthier relationships and ultimately happier lives. Padale is a men’s forum fighting against GBV in Zimbabwe. The initiative is taking place in September at Masaya Primary School, Murewa. Zimbabwe directly reaching at least 200 young rural men and boys. It will be undertaken in nature as it will combine information sharing, music and sport.

ADDRESSING FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING IN WESTERN KENYA
Education Center for Advancement of Women (ECAW) Kenya uses positive champions in efforts to end female genital, cutting (FGC) in a serious violation of women’s rights and an act of violence against women. FGC is practiced in South Western Kenya on pre-pubescent girls from seven years and above. Once these girls are immediately married off to older men, thrice their age. Traditionally, FGC is the removal of the clitoris is believed to inhibit and promote promiscuity among young girls. ECAM Kenya is campaigning against FGC through use of positive champions - girls and women who have gone against this tradition and said NO! In FGC, men and boys who oppose FGC are also being mobilized as champions.

RAISING VOICES WINS 2011 COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AWARD!
Communication for Social Change (CSC) at the School of Journalism and Communication, at The University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia, it aims to recognize outstanding contributions made by individuals and organizations to the theory and practice of Communication for Social Change (CSC), specifically communication campaigns, as well as those that demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to using communication to transform and empower marginalized communities. Each year two awards are presented one to an individual, and one to an organization/institution. Congratulations Raising Voices!


**WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE EVALUATION?**

Many members, friends and strategic partners participated in the evaluation - thank you!

- 186 respondents completed the online survey form spending close to an hour filling in the form and sharing their opinions.
- 20 qualitative interviews were conducted with Network members.
- 6 interviews with selected strategic partners each spending a little over an hour very helpfully sharing their opinions about the Network and its effectiveness.

In total, 212 women and men participated in the evaluation; this indicates members’ passion and commitment to the Network. None of the survey respondent’s names were recorded to maintain confidentiality of the information collected so the views given were honest opinions.

**EVALUATION OBJECTIVES**

1. To assess the impact, relevance and effectiveness of the Network’s core activities (information sharing, movement building, skills building and activism campaigns).
2. To examine the perceptions of GBV Prevention Network members and key stakeholders about the quality of leadership provided by Raising Voices.
3. To examine the perceptions of Network members and stakeholders about the Network’s relevance, role and value added to local, regional and global GBV prevention efforts.
4. To make recommendations for strengthening the work of the GBV Prevention Network.

**WHAT DID PARTICIPANTS SAY?**

**Reasons for joining the Network**

The majority of respondents said they joined the Network in order to connect with other colleagues working in the field of GBV prevention (65.9%). Many also wanted to access regional and global resources on GBV prevention (54.3%) and strengthen their own or their organization’s practice of rights-based GBV prevention work (51.9%). All reasons and the frequency with which they were mentioned are detailed in Figure 2 below.

**“As a GBV [community-based organization] we wanted to have a stronger voice and learn from a larger network of practitioners. A GBV network helps to focus on the field and the many issues related to GBV. We also wanted to find out more about how GBV is related to HIV” Member, qualitative interview participant**

**PERCEPTION OF KEY ACTIVITIES**

**Information Discourse Activities:**

Most respondents visiting the website were satisfied with the content on the Network activities; access global resources and read the newsletter.

The website has met or exceeded 96.92% of respondents expectations, although some would like more current GBV information. Ninety percent of respondents read the e-bulletin and found it useful. Also 75% of the respondents reported not being aware of the difference between the e-bulletin and the tri-annual newsletter. Many respondents found the newsletter to be informative and of high quality. Some would like to receive it in an electronic copy rather than through the post. A majority also suggested the Network embrace new social media to strengthen the information discourse activities of the Network.

The website is very good! It is well-designed, informative and meets all of our needs as an organization. Member, survey respondent

There is not enough substance (on the website) for practitioners who already have extensive expertise in the area of violence prevention and want to read new, ground breaking publications. Member, survey respondent

**ACTIVISM AND CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES**

Participation in the Network’s regional 16 Days of Activism campaign has grown from 13.5% in 2004 to 76.4% in 2010. 45.6% of respondents ranked the quality of the Action and Advisory Kits as excellent, 44.4% as very good, 7.8% as good and 2.2% as poor. As an area for improvement, respondents recommended better evaluation of the campaign’s impact and more leadership and responsibility for members in developing the campaign and campaign materials.

**Movement Building Activities:**

53% of respondents that participated in the evaluation knew about the Get Moving! initiative. 21% of respondents had done the sessions with 91% describing them as very useful. The biggest strength about Get Moving! was that it encouraged personal reflection and provided ideas for how to weave feminist, rights-based approaches into existing GBV prevention efforts. Fortunately, 34.6% of respondents were not aware of this movement building initiative and expressed limited understanding about what it means to be a ‘movement’.

“Staff from our organization have all been involved with Get Moving! They have really looked at themselves and seen how they can be activists and bring activism to their everyday lives. The initiative moved beyond programming staff and brought the process to our community activists who build cohesion between the two (i.e., our staff and the community activists). Get Moving helps us question our own staff and look at society and how work is being used and presented and how they can then engage with other partners. We also were able to network with other members and see how they moved along and benefited… from Get Moving! and see how they transition their work to be more human-rights-based.” Member, survey respondent

**“We did understand the Get Moving! Initiative.” Two Members, survey respondents**

**Skills Building Activities:**

Through the Network’s Thematic Working Groups, the Network hosted four skills building events on “Strengthening Skills for GBV Research” and “Developing Effective Communication Materials.” 97-100% of members who attended these skills building events felt they were excellent or very good and 20% of members were very satisfied with their involvement in the Thematic Working Groups. Almost all respondents suggested a scale up in the skills building events and asked to take up more leadership and responsibility in these events.

“Participants who are involved in Thematic Working Groups should be more responsible for getting group activities of the ground. They should take more initiative for operating the groups on their own and not be linearly by the coordinating office.” Member, qualitative interview participant

**PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS OF RAISING VOICES COORDINATING THE NETWORK**

Ninety percent of respondents felt Raising Voices was effective in coordinating the Network’s multiple components, implementing relevant and useful activities and providing strategic guidance. Respondents indicated that Raising Voices’ biggest strength is communication and response to members and openness to feedback and suggestions. Many felt concerned with the small size of the coordinating office and recommended increased staff in most importantly members would like to have more ways to foster increased member participation and leadership within the Network.

**“We got the toolkits each year and always ask for more. They provide us with great materials to advocate for GBV issues and to share with our communities and partners. The materials are of high quality and they help unify our work in the region.” Member, qualitative interview participant**

**“It is important all members are involved in the planning of 16 Days so that the Kits and activities are appropriate.” Member, survey respondent**

*Adapted with the permission of Jennifer Wagner (Evaluation Consultant)*

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**The Network experienced tremendous growth since its inception in 2003 with the membership increasing from 30 members in 2003 to 380 members in 2011. After eight years of operation the Network Coordinating Office and the Advisory Committee felt it was necessary to conduct an evaluation to assess our success and progress as a Network, identify areas for improvement and ways to more efficiently work towards our goals and objectives. An external evaluator was hired to conduct the evaluation in the first quarter of 2011 and give us an objective view of the Network’s work.**

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**Figure 3. Levels of satisfaction with specific areas of the Newsletter (n=105)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Newsletter</th>
<th>Percentage of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Updated info on Network activities</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updated info on GBV prevention</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life in the experiences of members</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life in current events &amp; resources</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual links and organization</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas of newsletter</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Figure 5. Quality of the skills-building sessions (n=33)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two-week course on researching Communication materials training</th>
<th>Percentage of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Figure 2. Primary reasons given for joining the Network (n=133)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for joining the Network</th>
<th>Percentage of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To connect with others working on GBV prevention</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To access resources on GBV prevention</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To increase skills in GBV prevention</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To increase knowledge about GBV prevention</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To learn about current GBV prevention activities</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To participate in the 16 Days of Activism</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To belong to an organized network</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For funding opportunities</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To participate in the Get Moving! Initiative</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PERCEIVED IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

Major Accomplishments
Among the major Network accomplishments listed by members were access to resources on GBV prevention through the online library at www.preventfactors.org, building the capacity of members, especially in researching violence against women, building cohesion by connecting activists across the region through campaigns and other gatherings, creating visibility for VAW activists in the region, and building a positive and influential image in the region that provides an opportunity to inspire positive change in the region.

Shortcomings
The main shortcomings pointed out by respondents was the limited funding available for networks mainly because donors do not understand the value added of a Network and more specifically all the roles the GBV Prevention Network plays. Also pointed out was the need to strengthen a country-level presence, inclusion of men and boys, and outreach to community-based organizations. Finally, members also felt there should be more opportunities for face-to-face meetings of Network members to foster more exchange, learning, and solidarity.

From the evaluation exercise members made recommendations for improvement as did the evaluation consultant. In the table below are some of the suggestions for making our Network more effective.

Recommendations from Network Members and the Evaluation Consultant

**Evaluation Consultant**
- Conduct a follow-up inquiry about who would like to receive hard vs. electronic copies of the Newsletter.
- Raise awareness to increase members’ knowledge about the movement-building initiative.
- Host regular sub-regional and national-level meetings. Appointing Leaders at each level who are tasked with the responsibility of fostering communication between and planning among members within each country.
- Develop strategies to reach out to the least accessible and least active participants of the Network. Possibly through brainstorming sessions with and increased involvement of regional/national Network representatives.
- Revise the Network’s strategic plan by creating broad, long-term plans that are expanded into a sequence of short-term operations, projects, and budgets.
- Highlight the many different things the Network does as well as the broad range of expertise in the membership and the way in which different players complement each other’s work.
- Place more emphasis and importance on commitment to systematic evaluation of the Network’s impact in the region.

**Network Members**
- Website
  - Make the blog more user-friendly
  - Post, jobs and other opportunities
  - Organize member list by theme of GBV work
  - Post new groundbreaking publications for practitioners with experience
  - Incorporate new social media
- Newsletter
  - Conduct a survey to find out which of the members would like a hard copy or soft copy and what content is relevant
  - Increase level of awareness about this initiative among the membership
- Solidarity and Cohesion
  - Plan more in-country events
  - Put up country focal point coordination structures
- Thematic Working Groups
  - Participants invited to take more initiative in coordinating group activities
- 16 Days Campaign
  - Measure the impact of the campaign and provide data collection tools for members to collect impact information
  - Involve members in the planning and execution of the campaigns
- Raising Voices Coordination
  - Increase staffing at the Coordination Office
  - Further distinguish between Raising Voices and the Network by strengthening member leadership and advisory committees.

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**Figure 6. Perceptions about Raising Voices’ work with members (n=154)**

- Involving members in important decisions: 44%
- Being far to all members in the Network: 26%
- Soliciting member ideas: 37%
- Appreciating members’ varying needs and experience levels: 33%
- Communicating and responding to members: 35%
- Being open to members’ feedback and suggestions: 44%

**Figure 7. Perceived value-added of the GBV Prevention Network (n=123)**

- Participation in conferences/meetings: 39%
- Access to training and skills building: 53%
- Increased visibility of your work/your organization: 55%
- Networking with others doing GBV prevention work: 61%
- Access to quality materials: 67%
- Information and resources: 85%
Putting Suggestions into Action

### Issue: Participation
Members would like to be more involved in decision-making around various Network activities including the 16 Days of Activism regional campaign. Specifically for the 36 days campaign, members wanted to have more involvement in planning and coordination of the campaign.

**Actions Taken**
- A new online simple survey form for soliciting ideas. Participation and interest has already spiraled as a result! 177 members voted for the 2011 16 Days theme.
- Several other organizations will take part in materials development.

### Issue: Leadership
Members would like to take up leadership opportunities within the Network.

**Actions Taken**
- The Network is full of various exciting leadership opportunities in response to this issue we have started with the 2011 36 days of Activism Campaign. Ten organizations will take up leadership roles to keep the Network regional spirit alive during the campaigns.
- The ten selected organizations will also be responsible for some in country coordination to further strengthen solidarity during the campaign period.

### Issue: Practical Considerations
Newsletter: Our tri-annual newsletter Perspectives of Prevention is produced both in soft and hard copy. Some members have expressed preference for electronic copies rather than hard copies.

**Actions Taken**
- In our 10th edition mailing we included a form for members to indicate preference for soft copy or hard copy.
- Simple online survey form also asking members preference.
- Updating of Network database and e-bulletin mailing list.

### Issue: Website
Members expressed interest to have a larger range of more specialized GBV information provided as well as new ground breaking information on GBV.

**Actions Taken**
- Recruitment of web content developer who will source current information from members and beyond so the website can better respond to your needs.
- Development and Launch the Network’s very own Face book page coming soon!

### Issue: Increasing Awareness About Network Activities
Most members were unaware of the Network’s movement-building process Get Moving!

**Actions Taken**
- Recruitment of web content developer responsible for new website.
- Website is responsive and useful to members. In this section we highlight core issues raised by respondents, share our action taken and look forward to hearing additional ideas from you for remaining a vibrant and relevant space for members.

### Issue: Staffing at the Coordinating Office
Members expressed concern about the staff numbers at the Coordinating Office.

**Actions Taken**
- Simple online survey form also asking members preference.
- Recruitment of web content developer who will source current information from members and beyond so the website can better respond to your needs.
- Development and Launch the Network’s very own Face book page coming soon!

### Issue: Getting Moving!
Perspectives on Prevention is a newsletter for activists and practitioners committed to preventing gender-based violence in the Horn, East and Southern Africa. It is the newsletter of the GBV Prevention Network. The GBV Prevention Network aims to provide member organizations with regional and international resources on GBV; strengthen the discourse and practice of rights-based GBV prevention; increase skills in GBV prevention; and fostering in-country cohesion, content of materials produced, reaching out to organizations that are not urban based, member’s active involvement in planning and coordination of the campaign period.

**Actions Taken**
- Recruitment of web content developer who will source current information from members and beyond so the website can better respond to your needs.
- Development and Launch the Network’s very own Face book page coming soon!

### Issue: GBV in Emergencies
Perspectives on Prevention is a newsletter for activists and practitioners committed to preventing gender-based violence in the Horn, East and Southern Africa. It is the newsletter of the GBV Prevention Network. The GBV Prevention Network aims to provide member organizations with regional and international resources on GBV; strengthen the discourse and practice of rights-based GBV prevention; increase skills in GBV prevention; and fostering in-country cohesion, content of materials produced, reaching out to organizations that are not urban based, member’s active involvement in planning and coordination of the campaign period.

**Actions Taken**
- Recruitment of web content developer who will source current information from members and beyond so the website can better respond to your needs.
- Development and Launch the Network’s very own Face book page coming soon!

### Issue: More to Come
We want to continue growing stronger. This Network belongs to us all and we need everyone’s ideas, energy and time to flourish. Look out for e-campaigns, seeking your guidance and practical suggestions about members actively embracing leadership within the Network, fostering in-country cohesion, content of materials produced, reaching out to organizations that are not urban based, member’s active involvement in Network activities and more! Send us wild ideas, concrete suggestions, and practical recommendations for how you would like the Network to move forward.

### From Pg 1
**Action and Advocacy Kit October 2011**
1. Purple ribbons
2. Sickers
3. Posters
4. Introduction letter
5. Public media ideas
6. Dyes
7. Quickchat guides
8. Community conversation guides
9. T-shirt design
10. Text message ideas

### From Pg 2
**Action and Advocacy Kit January 2012**
1. Flyers
2. PowerPoint Presentation to share with policy makers
3. In Her Shoes Toolkit
4. Action booklets

There will be many ways to participate in this year’s campaign including an exciting essay competition that will be launched on November 20th on our Facebook page. Join us on Facebook during this period so that members and friends can share their activism during the Campaign and beyond!

The Network’s activities will give everyone a chance (and challenged) to reflect the different ways in which we can share their activism.

So don’t get left behind Get involved Write to us at info@preventgbvafrica.org to find out more and to let us know what you’re planning!