

➔ This issue's theme

The Network's
Evaluation

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!

➔ Next issue's theme

Intersectionality

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 explore identities 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@preventgbvafrica.org

MEMBER NEWS!



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EVERY ONE

prevent violence against women your way

EVERY Day

EVERY Way

Take Action!

November 25th is the 'International Day Against Violence Against Women' and December 10th the 'International Human Rights Day.' In between these dates are 'The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.' This campaign was began in 1991 by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL). The CWGL is a unit within Rutgers University in New Jersey that advances women's leadership for human rights worldwide. They remain at the forefront of coordinating the campaign.

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Since 1991, more than 3,000 organizations and activists across the world use this period as a tool to;

- mobilize around the issue of GBV as a human rights issue;
- strengthen advocacy around GBV;
- raise awareness on GBV nationally, regionally and internationally;
- demonstrate solidarity around the world by linking local and global activism; and
- pressure governments to honor commitments in national and international legal frameworks.

The Network's 16 Days Campaign

Each year since 2004, the GBV Prevention Network spearheads the 16 Days of Activism Campaign regionally. In 2010, the campaign challenged

religious leaders, communities of faith, and individual believers to think critically about how they are living their faith as all religions promote non-violence.

"Last year it was very inspirational! For the first time ever I saw all high level clerics join us at the vigil. They were all calling for one thing: 'Prevent violence against women. Respect, love, fairness and equity between men and women. One Reverend gave an experience of violence that his mother had gone through, that made men and women cry. It was so moving."

Tina Musuya, Executive Director CEDOVIP

"Last year was really good! Most of our activity was around drama with secondary school children. The most important thing is that we got a police escort. Once you have escort in Zimbabwe, it means you're important. So we had a march, but then we would stop outside bars and shops and people would come out to watch. If you can get a man to leave his drink in the bar and come outside, then it is successful!"

Munyradzi Tapiwa Chaumba Program Coordinator Caritas-Zimbabwe

Announcing the 2011 Campaign Theme: Everyone, Everyday, Everyway: Prevent Violence Against Women Your Way!

EVERY YEAR: the Coordinating Office creates a campaign theme in consultation with members. This year, our theme aims to introduce and maintain the idea that we all have a role to play in preventing violence against women.

EVERYONE: Calling on every member of society, young or old, male or female, doctors, lawyers, farmers, housewives, builders, the unemployed and the self-employed. Everyone can (and must!) take action in their own way to contribute to the prevention of violence against women.

EVERYDAY: Our campaign this year stresses that it is not just about 16 Days of Activism! Imagine women living free of violence all year round. Starting with these 104 days, we want members and communities to feel that one day at a time, we can do something to prevent violence against women.

EVERY WAY: Small actions can lead to big change! This year's campaign is a reminder that whether small or large, individual or community, all action can contribute to changing the power imbalance between women and men. The campaign will challenge all of us to find our own way of preventing violence against women.

New Extended Campaign!

This year we're doing something new! Instead of only 16 Days of Activism, we will be stretching our campaign from November 25th, 2011 to March 8th, 2012, International Women's Day, to keep the momentum up and the issue at the forefront of everyone's mind. 50 collaborating member organizations who have applied to the Coordinating Office will each receive two Action and Advocacy Kits, one in October 2011 and another in January 2012. The kits will be full of campaign ideas and tools to use throughout the campaign. A special group of 10 lead organizations will also receive two Action and Advocacy Kits plus more including materials for a large public event, a small grant, and the opportunity to participate in key Network processes throughout the campaign.

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AFRICA WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Network member WILDAF Tanzania celebrated this year's Pan African Women's Day on 2nd August, 2011 in Dar es Salaam. The Forum took place at Karimjee 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 Beijing meeting of 1995. She shared her experience of African Women's liberation 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 Inheritance presented an overview of efforts to lobby the government regarding Customary Law of Inheritance of 1963 which is discriminatory to women.

ENCOURAGING BOYS AND MEN TO HAVE HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIPS

Rozaria Memorial Trust (RMT) is collaborating with Padare 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. Padare is a men's forum fighting against GBV in Zimbabwe. The initiative is taking place in September at Magaya Primary School, Murewa, Zimbabwe directly reaching at least 200 young rural men and boys. It will be edutainment 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) is 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 cut, these girls are immediately married off to older men, thrice their age. Traditionally, FGC, which is the removal of the clitoris is believed to inhibit and prevent promiscuity among young girls. ECAW Kenya is campaigning against FGC through use of positive champions - girls and women who have gone against this tradition and said 'no' to FGC. Men and boys who oppose FGC are also being mobilized as champions.

RAISING VOICES WINS 2011 COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AWARD!

The Communication for Social Change Award was established in 2006 and is administered by the Centre for Communication and Social Change (CfCSC) 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 those that have demonstrated 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 verbally sharing their opinions about the Network and its effectiveness.

In total, 212 women and men participated in the evaluation; this indicates member’s passion and commitment for 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 areas (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 CBO (community-based organization) we wanted to have a stronger voice and learn from a larger network of people doing this work. Also to learn from others in 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 report visiting the website www.preventgbv africa.org to learn about Network activities, access global resources and read the newsletter. The website has met or exceeded 95-99% of respondents expectations, although some would like more current GBV information. Ninety percent of respondents read the e-bulletin and find it useful although 13-15% of the respondents reported not being aware of the difference between the e-bulletin and the tri-annual newsletter. Many respondents found

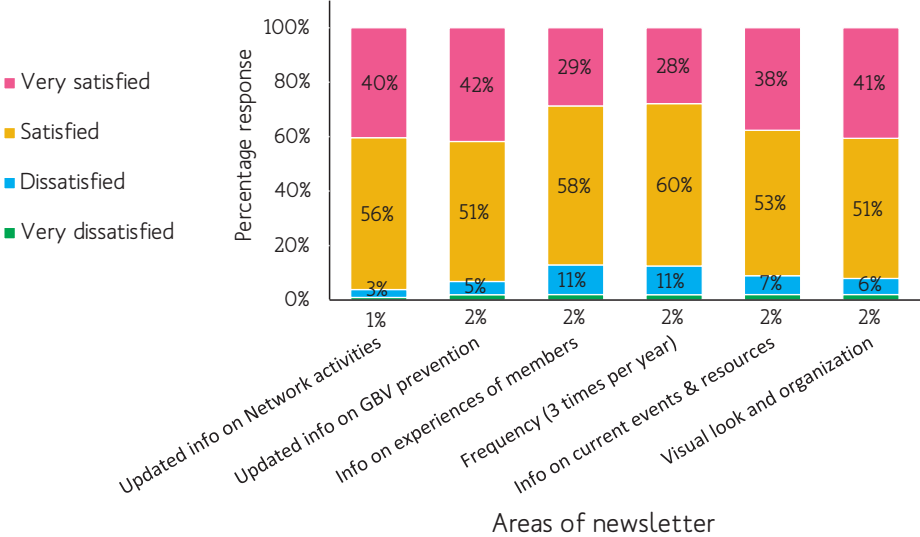
WHY ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR NETWORK?

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.

THE GBV PREVENT NETWORK EVAL

Adapted with the permission of Jennifer Wagman (Evaluation Consultant)

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



the newsletter to be informative and of high quality. Some would like to receive it in electronic copy rather than through the post. Respondents 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 Advocacy Kits as excellent, 44.4% as very good, 7.8% as good and 2.2% as fair. 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, 25% 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. Unfortunately 34.6% of respondents were not aware of this movement building initiative and expressed limited understanding about what it means to ‘build 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 built cohesion between the two (e.g. 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 benefitted....from Get Moving! and see how they transition their work to be more human-rights based.” Member, survey respondent

“I/we did not understand the Get Moving! Initiative.” Two Members, survey respondents

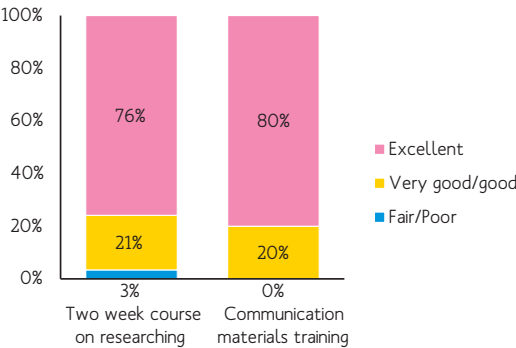
“We get the toolkits each year and always ask for more! They provide us with great materials to advocate for GBV issues and to share with our communities and partners. The materials are of high quality and they help unify our work in the region.” Member, qualitative interview participant

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

Skills Building Activities: Through the Network’s Thematic Working Groups, the Network hosted four skills building events on “Strengthening Skills for GBV Research” and one on “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 off the ground. They should take more initiative for operating the groups on their own and be less run by the coordinating office.” Member, qualitative interview participant

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



PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS OF RAISING VOICES COORDINATION OF 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 increase in staffing. Most importantly members would like to have more ways to foster increased member participation and leadership within the Network.

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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.preventgbvafrica.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 activism 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.

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

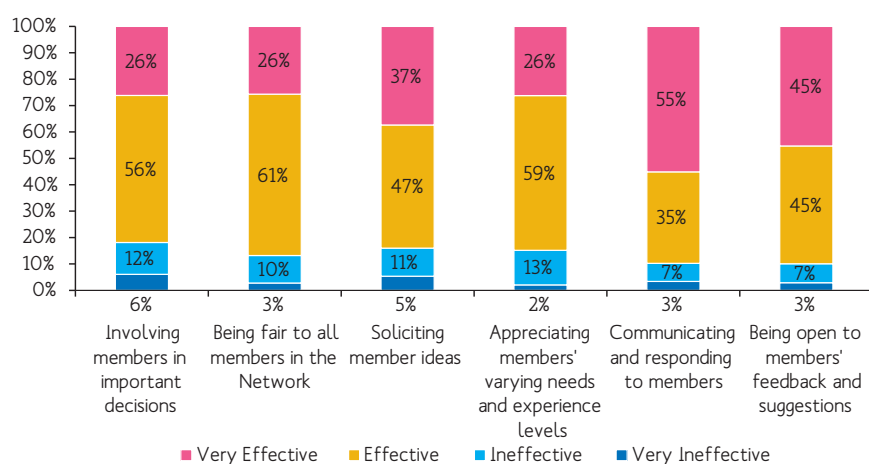


Figure 7. Perceived value-added of the GBV Prevention Network (n=123)



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

Get Moving!

- 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 involved 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 committee.

Network News

VAW COUNSELING SKILLS-BUILDING EVENT

22 participants from four countries led by member organization Nisaa of South Africa went through a feminist-based violence against women counseling training in Kampala from the 8th to 12th August. The training is part of the Network's Thematic Working Group's efforts to strengthen service delivery for survivors of violence in the region. Participants will conduct some follow up activities in their countries.



IN HER SHOES ADAPTATION

Our adaptation of the *In Her Shoes* Toolkit for Sub-Saharan Africa is right on course. Ten stories that were suggested in the March workshop where 28 activists from 22 countries participated, are complete. Pre-tests have been conducted in the region. The same activists will come to Kampala in October for a dissemination workshop. Plans are underway to have the toolkit translated into Swahili, French and Portuguese next year. This resource will be available for all Network members soon!

GBV IN EMERGENCIES THEMATIC WORKING GROUP

Our new Thematic Working Group is moving forward. The group has 29 members from 13 countries in the region. Members discussed their expectations and are planning their activities. Check out their page on the website for more information!

what's new on
www.preventgbv africa.org

A Systematic Review of African Studies on Intimate Partner Violence against Pregnant Women: Prevalence and Risk Factors, 2010 Simukai Shamu1, Naeemah Abrahams, Marleen Temmerman, Alfred Musekiwa, & Christina Zarowsky, Public Library of Science (PLOS ONE)

Exciting Journey to Outlaw Domestic Violence in Uganda: CEDOVIP's Experience (2011) Tina Musuya, Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention, Uganda

Masculinity and Gender Based Violence in Rwanda: experience and perceptions of men and women (2010) Rwanda Men's Resource Centre, Rwanda

The African Women's Journal, December 2010, FEMNET, Kenya.

MOVING FORWARD

Putting Suggestions into Action

In response to members' interests, the Coordinating Office is already putting learning into action. We take member feedback seriously and strive to create a Network that 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	Evaluation Findings	Actions Taken
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 16 days campaign, members wanted to have more involvement in planning and coordination of the campaign.	- 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.
Leadership	Members would like to take up leadership opportunities within the Network.	- The Network is full of various exciting leadership opportunities! In response to this issue we have started with the 2011 16 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.
Practical Considerations	Newsletter: Our tri-annual newsletter <i>Perspectives of Prevention</i> is produced both in soft and hard copy some members have expressed preference for electronic copies rather than hard copies.	- In our 16th 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
	Website: Members expressed interest to have a larger range of more specialized GBV information provided as well as new ground breaking information on GBV.	Recruitment of web content developer who will source current information from members and beyond so the website can better respond to your needs.
	Members would also like the Network to explore using new social media	Development and launch the Network's very own Face book page coming soon!
	Increasing Awareness about Network Activities: Most members were unaware of the Network's movement-building process <i>Get Moving!</i>	Host a regional meeting and strategize with <i>Get Moving!</i> partners on creating awareness about the process.
	Staffing at the Coordinating Office: Members expressed concern about the staff numbers at the Coordinating Office vs the Network's growth	- Recently recruited a Program Officer and a part-time Web Content Developer. - Two additional Raising Voices staff are providing a substantial amount of time to the activities of the Network.

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-bulletins 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. Stickers
3. Posters
4. Introduction letter
5. Public mural ideas
6. Flyers
7. Quickchat guides
8. Community conversation guides
9. T-shirt design
10. Text message ideas

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 25th 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 challenge!) to reflect the different ways in which they can share their activism.

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