

## Summary

This is the report of the lively presentations, and open discussions on ***Male involvement and community mobilization on Gender, Gender Based Violence, Reproduction health and Care.***

**21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE – 02 JULY 2010** - A total number of 60 participants of which 29 were women and 31 men, from the Makarvane and Mubise village on the outskirts of Katima Mulilo town in the Caprivi region participated in the workshop which was conducted by the White Ribbon Campaign Namibia. The White Ribbon Campaign Namibia has various programmes in place to inform and educate members of the society, with the main aim of enabling them to make informed choices and eventually reduce the number of preventable illness in the society. The workshop was meant to sensitize and share knowledge on Gender- Based Violence and RH and Care- giving amongst men and women in the region as well as to emphasize change in men's attitudes and roles linked to the process of empowerment of women.

From the workshop we established that the key to break the cycle of violence lies in the hands of men, Men continue to be the leaders and decision-makers in their households and communities, reports have proven that men are the main the perpetrators of violence against women and children. So, if all men could be sensitized, educated and encouraged to stand up against VAW, and be fully involved in RH and Care, such strengthened efforts and programs will have an impact not only on the men themselves but much more widely as well and could result into a caring, peaceful and healthy societies. Alcohol abuse, remains the leading contributing factor to domestic violence and the reason why majority of men are not committed to various community projects.

The Caprivi Region has a population of about 80,000 people which represent about four percent of Namibia's population. According to the National statistics on Gender Based Violence (GBV) 12,563 cases were reported to the Namibian police in 2007, of which grievous bodily harm recorded the highest with ten thousand, six hundreds and fifty-two(10,652) cases; followed by rape with one thousand, one hundred and eleven (1111), while murder is three hundred and twenty nine (329) cases. Indecent assault and attempted rape recorded three hundred (300) cases. The latest statistics (2009) has indicated that GBV cases decreased to 11611 reported cases. An indication that, GBV cases have slightly decreased or there was under reporting in the country.

Despite the apparent decrease in GBV cases in Namibia, many incidents of women killed by their husbands/boyfriends are on the increase in various regions in the country. Furthermore, there is a inadequate Public Education and Outreach Programs working with men and women on Gender, Gender Based Violence and Reproductive health, and Care-giving among men and women in various communities in the region, financial constraints was identified by community members from the region as the leading problems to implement projects in their villages. Participants from both villages Makarvane and Mubiza have agreed to consider and prioritize voluntary work in their community and to work together with women's groups in order to address the issues of Violence against women and to overcome poverty in their towns and villages.

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