

EMTHONJENI WOMEN'S FORUM



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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An introductory message from the Executive Director:



2021 marked the last year of our Strategic Plan and what a better way to end it with the Parliament of Zimbabwe approving our petition for the review of the Labour Act [Chapter 28:01] so that it comprehensively addresses sexual harassment.

The year 2021 was another year filled with action and learning for EWF. The continued challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the existing distresses of victims and survivors of gender-based violence. GBV is still recognised not as an essential service, leading to lack and inadequate GBV services during COVID 19 induced lockdown restrictions. With everyone confined to their local areas, reaching out to victims and survivors became increasingly difficult.

Furthermore, EWF staff members were directly affected by COVID 19 leading to temporary closure of our offices and we are grateful that we all survived the scare.

Despite these challenges, EWF team, exhibiting immense courage, was not only able to establish outreach programming but also provided relief through psychosocial support to victims of GBV. Our funding partners played a pivotal role in supporting us towards undertaking collective action and in adapting to programming during the COVID19 pandemic.

EWF team received training on a range of issues including training in capturing most significant stories of change, Mental health care for human rights defenders, safeguarding and taxation for NGOs in Zimbabwe. This enhanced the teams' skills and also enabled them to translate such learnings into impact through its response on the field. Two policies, HIV/AIDS and ICT Policies were also developed. Towards the end of the year EWF staff and board with guidance from a consultant reviewed its 2019-21 strategy as well as craft the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan.

This work would not have been possible without the support of EWF's funding partners, board of trustees, staff and our community structures. I am proud to say that EWF, through its perseverance and courage, continued its relentless efforts to advocate for the rights of women faced with gender-based violence.

EWF also congratulates Shirley and Modester, our two officers who were blessed with their bundles of joy in early 2021. More congratulations to Shirley and Plaxedes on their graduation with Master's Degree in Public Policy and Development Management.

"Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. And, it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace." Kofi Annan, Former Secretary General of the UN & Nobel Peace Prize Laureate"

Sikhathele Matambo

TRANSFORMING GENDER NORMS

The majority of the EWF grants seek to transform harmful gender norms towards gender equality and reduced gender-based violence.

1. “Promoting Access to Inclusive SRHR and SGBV Information and Services in Zimbabwe”

The Trocaire supported project ‘**Promoting Access to Inclusive SRHR and SGBV Information and Services in Zimbabwe**’ seeks to contribute to the improved well-being and sexual and reproductive health rights of all adolescents, including adolescents at high-risk of sexual and gender-based violence, including adolescents with disabilities in Zimbabwe. EWFs focus has been on adoption of norms and values that support non-violent and positive gender equitable relationships using the SASA! FAITH model. Year 2021 also marked the end of the 3- year intervention. During its implementation, the project has successfully employed the following strategies:

- **Community Mobilization** - EWF managed to effectively engage with faith space leaders, members and allies of their churches to prevent violence against women.
- **Strengthened Referral Pathway** – enabling Faith communities to be aware of where to report abuse cases. The referral pathway includes the Police Victim Friendly Unit, counselling, Shelter and health centres for medical treatment.
- **Male Engagement** - Men actively taking part in influencing positive change amongst other men at faith and community level. The Male Community Action Groups provided a platform for men to meet and discuss the benefits of balancing power using a benefits-based approach.
- **Engagement with Community Structures** – Community Activist and religious leaders have an appreciation of the importance of creating synergies with the community leaders in addressing GBV preventive and responsive measures.
- **Broader Community Engagement** -use of drama and radio story ideas and drama skits successfully conscientised the broader community on the need to continue supporting couples balance power in their relationships. The radio programmes amplified and demystified discussion on SGBV in the church and power dynamics that should be addressed both in the church and in the community.

Highlights

The project facilitated.

- The establishment of 6 gender desks in Mzilikazi Presbyterian Church, Entumbane Roman Catholic Church, Cowdray Park and Phumula United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, Lutheran Church in Tshabalala, Luveve Church of Christ, United Presbatarian Church of Southern Africa in Makokoba.
- 60 Community Activists graduating after acquiring skills on GBV prevention and response after 3 years of programme implementation.
- 60 Community Action Groups received basic Counselling Training as part of strengthening GBV work in their communities.
- Mothers’ unions and CAs have discussions on SRHR with girls’ fellowship groups, increasing

their knowledge levels and change in behaviour.

- Religious leaders now mainstream balancing of power in married couples and encouraging equitable relationships discussions. Rev Masuku of UCCSA Pumula North conducts men engagements sessions.

Challenges

- Incapacitation of community structures in engaging with people with disabilities (PWD) leading to EWF creating synergies with JF Kapnek for capacity building on the fundamentals of PWD.
- Covid-19 pandemic highly affected programming work plans due to lockdown restrictions that limited movement leading to suspension of activities and failure to engage in physical sessions. EWF resorted to virtual programming using WhatsApp and Zoom as well as adoption of accelerated work plans.

Lessons Learnt

- If EWF is prepared for any disaster it is better placed to respond. The COVID-19 pandemic led to EWF developing a Disaster Preparedness Strategy to ensure continuity and sustainability of initiatives in the event of emergencies.
- If communities are economically empowered, they are better placed to respond to gender-based violence, hence the need to integrate economic empowerment programming in our work.

2. Taking action now! Reducing GBV in Insiza

This project titled Taking action now! Reducing GBV in Insiza seeks to reduce gender-based violence through empowering women and working towards transforming gender norms at community level. The project envisages work on the individual, relationship and community levels of the ecological model including economic strengthening through Internal Savings and Lending (ISALs) and SASA! Faith to transform gender norms through faith structures in Insiza. At the society level, the project collaborates with other partners to conduct advocacy efforts to promote the rights of women in the targeted communities.

The outcomes of the project included

- Men and women exhibiting gender equitable attitudes and behaviours which has been realised through communities who have shown changes in behaviours and attitudes towards gender equality.
- Provision of women safe space to enable women to make informed decisions at household level as well as take leadership positions in the community.
- Women have improved ownership, management and utilisation of income contributing to increased decision making at household level.

- ISAL group members have been able to access loans which has led to financial freedoms, reduction of vulnerability to GBV and dependency. This is evidenced by women's ability to pay school fees and purchase productive assets such as ploughs and cattle.
- 100 women were trained on production of reusable pads which has increased their skills on income generating activities.

Lessons Learnt

- If men are engaged effectively, they are better able to engage other men and transform harmful norms that fuel violence against women.
- If EWF is better prepared for disasters it is better placed to continue programming even during lockdowns.
- If CAs are motivated they are better able to conduct their sessions effectively.



Thulani Dube from Ward 17 showing off stock cards for the cows they purchased in the year 2021.



Alima Tshuma from Ward 176 showing off her project of broiler chickens

3. Strengthening Women's Agency to fight GBV and claim their rights'

The Diakonia funded project titled 'Strengthening Women's Agency to fight GBV and claim their rights' seeks to contribute towards a gender just and gender based violence intolerant society through addressing social and structural drivers of violence against women. The program support focuses on EWF's strategy which hinges on three strategic pillars of Advocacy, Transforming gender norms and Economic Empowerment. The expected outcome is for the intervention to contribute to a GBV free society.

Major Achievements

- In 2021 through the support of Gender Based Violence Management Committees that are chaired by the Ministry of Women Affairs Small to Medium Enterprise Development, there has been an increased responsiveness by stakeholders in the GBV Management Committee especially government departments. This has been reflected by the commitment by government departments especially the Insiza District Development Coordinator's office, Social Services Department from Insiza Rural District Council among others towards refurbishing one of the homesteads in the resettlement areas to become a shelter noting the rise in incidences of violence and women who fail to access places of safety. In Umzingwane the District made a deliberate effort to bring stakeholders together and unpack the Multi-Sectoral Protocol and Management of sexual abuse and violence in Zimbabwe.
- Through supporting Community Based Counsellors (CBCs), EWF has observed a strengthened nexus and relationship between traditional leaders and CBCs. This is evidenced by testimonials given by traditional leaders concerning the good working relationship they have with the community cadres which has strengthened the referral pathway of addressing violence against women.
- There has been an increase in clients referred and accompanied by Community Based Counsellors for medical assistance from EWF. This reflects the increased confidence by community structures in accessing assistance from both CBCs, Male Champions and EWF. This strengthens women's confidence and agency to speak out and seek assistance in times of need.
- Women have established ISAL groups that have functional internal governance and financial management systems. These include updated Constitutions and books of accounts. The establishment of Women ISAL groups has been further compounded by financial literacy and business management skills which will go a long way in ensuring that women do not just purchase household utensils but invest in productive assets so as to grow their financial independence.
- The Male Involvement Strategy has strengthened community awareness on GBV. This has been done through the inclusion of men as community based counsellors as well as Male champions in both Insiza and Umzingwane districts, so far EWF has 33 male CBCs and 136 Male Champions have been trained. The male counsellors provided rehabilitative counselling services to 585 men, an increase of 137 from the 448 men that they managed to reach in 2020 in the districts of Insiza and Umzingwane. The 136 male champions are continuing with the engagement of other men in the communities on GBV and gender equality as well as refer survivors of GBV to Community Based Counsellors
- 676 (433 women and 243 young women) women were reached towards increasing their knowledge on women and human rights.
- A total of 1516 female clients were assisted with counselling and court support services by the EWF counsellor and community based counsellors.

Major Challenges

- The COVID-19 induced lockdowns led to the postponement of most of EWF's activities which delayed the implementation of programmes by six months. This made it harder for the organisation to timeously execute its pre-set objectives.

Lessons Learnt:

- If government and non-governmental actors in the GBV management sector are well coordinated, they are better able to compliment each other in supporting actions on the prevention and response to GBV. This is essential towards ensuring effective response to GBV.
- When communities become aware of community structures that provide support services, they are able to reach out to them for support. This is evidenced by the high volume of cases reported and referred by Community Based Counsellors and Male Champions.
- Empowering traditional leaders has gone a long way in ensuring that they respond appropriately to cases of GBV.
- Using Zoom and Virtual meetings assisted in bridging the gap of face-to-face community meetings, however it came at the cost of plummeting attendance numbers in online meetings as only a handful of community members had access to smartphones and at least 3G internet connectivity.

Members of Sibambene Isal group ward 14 Tsholotsho during the strengthening of Isals training meeting



4. Core fund grant on reducing gender-based violence:

The core fund grant from Sigrid Rausing Trust has contributed to the realisation of EWF's strategic plan especially considering the current COVID 19 context. Various preventive and responsive activities were successfully carried out. A GBV Management Committee was established in Tsholotsho district and Bulawayo Metropolitan. 53 Community based Counsellors were trained in Tsholotsho as a realisation of the need identified within the rural based community. Awareness raising programming to amplify work around violence against women was carried out in the form of 7 podcasts developed and shared to rural community members. Radio programmes on violence against women and COVID 19 awareness were also held to enable a wider reach. This form of information dissemination aided continuity of work during COVID 19 lockdown. Commemorations of calendar events in the form of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence and International Women's Day were held in Tsholotsho and Bulawayo respectively. Mental wellness for Bulawayo based civil society organisations was held targeting 50 women as a realisation of the need for mental health care to balance work, home and COVID 19 related pressures. All these activities contributed immensely to EWFs goal of empowering women and communities in preventing and responding to cases of GBV.



One of the participants shared how she has neglected herself over the years and eventually suffered mental breakdown. The program created a platform where both young and old women can share strategies on burnout and stress management- Mental Wellness Program, 26 April 2022.



Women from Insiza, Umzingwane, Tsholotsho and Bulawayo commemorated International Women's Day under the theme, ' Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'. The commemoration resulted in women gaining awareness of their rights and reflecting on the progress made so far on gender equality and women empowerment-IWD, 8 March 2022.

Outcomes:

Establishment of GBV Management Committees ..

- led to identification of the need for a district vehicle to transport survivors from harmful environments.
- led to identification of a building structure within the district hospital to be renovated and used as a shelter.
- Identification of GBV hotspots in the district and intervention strategies.
- Provision of counselling services at the local magistrates' courts.
- Enabled swift response of GBV cases.
- Strengthened cooperation between CSOs and government departments.

The development and sharing of podcasts resulted

- In women gaining increased knowledge on GBV and enabling them to take action.
- More women being aware of reporting mechanisms and available service providers.

Key take-aways for the mental wellness included:

- women who committed to take care of themselves
- disseminating information about issues of mental healthcare and how to manage stress to fellow colleagues and communities they work in.
- Creating and maintaining dedicated spaces for mental wellness at work and home.

ADVOCACY

EWF has carried out advocacy work around violence against women and gender equality and the highlight of our advocacy work has been our petition submission to Parliament of Zimbabwe on the need to amend the Labour Act to comprehensively address sexual harassment within the workplace.

1. Public hearings on sexual harassment within the workspace:



The support from Urgent Action Fund-Africa enabled EWF to continue with the advocacy work on the need to amend the Zimbabwe Labour Act [Chapter 28:01] to comprehensively address sexual harassment within the workspace. The petition led to public hearings throughout the country led by the Parliamentary portfolio of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. This also included advocacy on the need to ratify the International Labour Organisation's Convention 190 which speaks to the elimination of sexual harassment in the world of work. EWF also carried out awareness raising to bolster women's confidence towards participating in the public hearings from a more

informed standpoint and Strengthening women's agency to participate in public hearings and influencing the amendment of the Labour Act.

Outcomes:

- The parliament report recognised that:
- Cases of sexual harassment are very prevalent in workplaces, colleges, universities, churches, informal sector, public spaces such as bus termini, on-line platforms and social media.
- Invariably, women and girls constitute the majority victims of sexual harassment although men and the boy child at times experienced the same. Widows and women in politics were particularly identified as highly vulnerable to sexual harassment.
- Sexual harassment was deeply rooted in local cultural practices such as "chiramu" according to which it was permissible in some relationships such as between a wife and her husband's younger brother or a man and his wife's younger sister.
- Excessive poverty and the high unemployment rate in the country which increased vulnerability levels, particularly amongst women were put forward as key drivers of sexual harassment.

<https://parlzim.gov.zw/download/national-assembly-hansard-09-september-2021-vol-47-no-83/>

The report was further submitted to cabinet which further gave instruction for the need to ensure a comprehensive framework towards addressing sexual harassment in the world of work and the need to capture issues on ILO C190 (<https://www.chronicle.co.zw/cabinet-approves-labour-act-amendment-bill/>). Thus, the bill was amended and is awaiting debate and approval, and the following issues were captured:

- I. The Bill also takes care of emerging issues in the world of work such as Labour broking, violence and harassment at the workplace and emerging forms of employment relationships with a view to closing the lacuna in the existing legislation.
- II. The Bill has clauses that amends the Act by including the definitions of “gender-based violence and harassment. The addition of these definitions expands the protection given to employees from the actions of their employers or other employees.
- III. The Bill has clauses that prohibit violence and harassment at the workplace, including violence and harassment of a sexual based nature or gender-based nature.



The recognition of the Parliamentary report highlighting the need for the Labour Bill to capture issues of sexual harassment in the world of work and aspects in the ILO C 190 went a long way in influencing the factoring in of issues of sexual harassment in the current Labour bill that has been gazetted and ready for public consultations. Below is the link to the Labour Amendment Bill:

https://www.veritaszim.net/sites/veritas_d/files/H.B.%2014%2C%202021%20Labour%20Amendment%20Bill.pdf

2. Women Demanding Accountable Governance.

The ‘Women Demanding Accountable Governance’ project was implemented in Tsholotsho district, seeks to equip women with advocacy skills and to create a platform for women to engage in dialogue with state actors so that they provide rights-aligned services to the communities. These platforms led to communities, especially women engaging and fully participating in the development of their communities.

EFW collaborated with partners such as ZLHR, Victory Siyanqoba, BPRA and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community Development, Small to Medium Enterprises Development in carrying out the intervention.

OUTCOMES:

- The mock council trainings were the highlights of the intervention. Through these, women were able to take a leading role in setting the agenda for demanding increased transparency and accountability from their local authorities.
- Women in Tsholotsho actively participated in the crafting of the 2022 local authority budget. During budget consultation meetings women identified their priorities as well as views on how the council should execute the budget.
- The Ward Advocacy Committees in 6 wards of Tsholotsho were pivotal in leading other women to participate in the meetings and were also instrumental in taking the budget priorities to the respective ward councillors.
- Women in the Tsholotsho have played a pivotal role in claiming their Constitutional rights by advocating for better social service delivery. This change is evidenced by the public interface meetings that were conducted and convened by women to question relevant state actors on issues affecting them.

Lessons learnt

- Collaboration with the local governing bodies such as the local authority, traditional leaders and the District Development Co-Ordinator's office leads to mutual understanding and it aids in entrenching women's issues within the local authority.
- Establishing community structures is of importance when seeking to promote active participation of all community women
- It is important to adapt to changing times, in light of COVID-19 which threatened to affect normal programming.



ne of the women in ward 22, Tsholotsho, articulating their water challenges to duty bearers during the public interface meeting held in the ward-25 March 2021.



Ward 14 Councillor, Mr. C. Ncube, responding to the community members issues on poor service delivery in the ward during a public interface meeting held in the ward-24 March 2021

3. Women as strategic partners in peacebuilding.

The women as strategic partners in peacebuilding is a project that is being implemented in Matabeleland South in Insiza district covering wards 1 and 2. This project seeks to strengthen resilience, social cohesion and women's security in socio economic and political conflict as well as strengthen knowledge by local women and traditional leaders on the referral pathway of addressing GBV including strengthened stakeholder coordination in conflict mitigation, transformation and resolution.

Various strategies to carry out the following activities, Conflict Analysis and resilience Assessment, Capacity Building Workshops on Conflict Prevention, Mitigation and Transformation, Imithombo meetings on SGBV and Conflict Early Warning and Early Response System strengthening forums.

OUTCOMES

- Peace committees were established.
- Peace committees, traditional leaders and other members of the community were trained on conflict prevention, management and transformation. This has led to the summoning of perpetrators towards addressing violent tendencies.
- The peace committee has also been seen as instrumental in speaking out at community meetings on violence that is being perpetrated by young boys from within and outside the community.
- Reconciliation and trust-building between citizens and select state institutions is strengthened through engagement;
- Through the creation of much needed dialogue platforms for engagement between the Department of Social Development, the Police and the Ministry of Mines and community members.

Lessons learnt

- When platforms for dialogue are created, communities are better able to share their challenges and grievances which is essential for peace building and social cohesion.
- When government stakeholders become partners in mobilising and implementation of actions, mobilising traditional leaders becomes easier.
- Creating platforms for communities to interact with and dialogue with duty bearers in addressing conflict issues is essential towards demystifying some misconceptions on the provisions of the law and the rights of the communities.

CAPACITY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

As per norm EWF identifies areas that need strengthening and consequently carries our capacity strengthening development for staff members towards strengthening EWFs ability to fulfil its mission thereby enhancing the ability to have a positive impact on lives and communities we touch. Capacity building therefore is an investment in the effectiveness and future sustainability of EMTHONJENI WOMENS FORUM. We are eternally grateful to our funding partners for the support towards enhancing

EMTHONJENI WOMENS FORUM carried out the following capacity developments and trainings.

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|--|
| Strategic plan 2022-2024 |
| HIV/AIDS Policy |
| ICT Policy |
| Capturing and documenting of most significant change stories |
| Safeguarding and taxation for NGOs in Zimbabwe. |
| Mental health care for human rights defenders. |
| Digital tools Training |

SHARING OUR STORIES

Women Demanding Accountable Governance Tsholotsho District, Matabeleland North 2018-2021 Project Primrose Tshuma Ward 10



Figure 1 Primrose Tshuma

"I used to attend the meetings before but without contributing because our views as women were not being considered. Through training by Emthonjeni I have now assumed a leadership position in my village as the Village Agriculture Coordinator (VAC). I gained confidence and I am active now in community projects thanks to the Emthonjeni Women's Forum. I call for meetings and now people listen to me on issues related to agriculture. I work hand in hand with my traditional leaders. Emthonjeni Women's Forum has managed to break previous barriers at a community and personal level. We now understand how to engage with the DDF on issues of water for example fixing our boreholes. Previously we had no idea about what to do, or who to approach hence DDF did not attend to our water issues on time"

Ethel Dube WAC Chairperson Ward 22



Figure 2: Ethel Dube

Before EWF arrived, we were afraid to engage with the service providers and power bearers as we had been taught that such actions are done by men. This project has changed us a lot in terms of confidence and the ability to articulate our ideas. Our strategy has been to constantly engage with men and make them understand what women empowerment is all about. Whilst some men have been receptive and supportive, there are male community leaders who are still resistant. One of our encounters with men has been the issue of what priority issue should come first the clinic or a dip-tank? There were debates and we argued our case that human life comes first and it is us women who are greatly affected by lack of a clinic because we are forced to walk long distances to access health services including taking children to clinics. We won the case as we managed to convince men. We also fought hard as women to have a primary school developed at Madziba as children walk 10kms to access the nearest school. All these successes are because of this project as we are now aware of our constitutional rights and as women, we always mobilise ourselves to ways of dealing with problems that we face. I hope that it will continue and expand to target youths so that they continue from where we left in the future" *Taking action now! Reducing GBV in Insiza*

My name is Alima Ndebele I am a widow aged 38 from Ward 16 village 11 Insiza District My husband passed away in 2018. I had challenges on how to meet the immediate needs of my family. I had to depend on handouts. My husband was the sole provider hence his death meant that I had to start from nothing. My children and I would have one meal a day, which was not enough to feed all of us. I had to step up and provide for my family. My life has been difficult in making ends meet and providing for my family. We had limited access to money for school fees. This then posed challenges in sustaining the family.

I had joined an ISAL group with 5 other community members in 2015, however they were not as effective as in 2017 when we were supported by the Emthonjeni Women's Forum under the SASA! Faith project. With the training we received in 2017, I gained knowledge on the importance of ISAL group's management, how to draw up a Constitution, bookkeeping and business management. Due to COVID 19 and the eroding local currency, we resorted to using USD for our subscriptions.

In my 3 years of ISAL membership, I am now seeing a positive change in my life as I can afford to put food on the table. I was able to buy 5 goats, rehabilitate my home, buy a new plough and all my assets are registered under my name. EWF has taught me as a woman that I should be able to not only have access, and control but ownership of assets. I now have a stable chicken broiler business that I started with my sister, and it is doing very well because of the business skills strengthening received from EWF. The capital was from the loan that I got from my ISAL group. I am happy to have been part of the group members that was supported by EWF in ISALs. I am now able to build collateral required to access large amounts of loans to procure the much needed equipment to expand my broiler business.” Said Alima.

Insiza Ward 16 Community Members Advocate for the construction of a secondary school.

Community members in ward 16 Insiza are walking more than 60km to access the closest secondary school. The school children are forced to commute daily using public transport or alternatively secure temporary accommodation for their children, however this becomes expensive and unsustainable as they have to provide their own food. As the children stay away from their parents, it means they have no parental guidance and they are not safe from predators, especially young girls. As they walk long distances Filabusi Secondary School they are prone to sexual abuse along the way, a challenge that can possible increase early pregnancies within the ward if left unattended. More so travelling everyday using public transport poses a financial challenge to parents due to the volatility of taxi fares.

Emthonjeni Women's Forum built the capacity of Ward Advocacy Committees by training 24 women on advocacy skills in ward 16. This also involved the requisite skill to hold state actors to account. Through the training, women managed to link their Constitutional rights with the social service delivery and effectively engaged relevant duty bearers. During the training, women identified the right to access education as an immediate social service delivery issue that needed to be addressed. The Advocacy Committee was selected to mobilise community members, raise awareness on the concept of advocacy as well as lead the community in the advocacy campaign. The Ward Advocacy Committee engaged the local authority and the Department of

education to make them see the need to prioritize the construction of the school. Fortunately enough for them, there was a donor who came on board from Christian Care and had an interest in working together with the community in building the school. Currently resources to construct the school have been procured, two blocks have been erected and the school grounds are being built as well.

The Amazon village head, Mr. Jabulani Nkomo applauded the women for demonstrating leadership in pushing for the construction of a clinic. He pointed out that', *"we can hardly wait for the completion of our school, we look forward to children's brighter future as this will enhance their safety as well"*.

Reduction in violence against women and girls in the community

A group of young men, mainly school leavers were terrorising school children, taking away their satchels. The same young men were also terrorising members of the community. The same young men had been reported several times to the police, but each time were released.

Realising the intensity of the harassment of community members the peace committees convened a meeting with traditional leaders towards identifying potential solutions to the challenges they were encountering. It was hence agreed that parents should reprimand their children and any people harassing children and members of the community. The community also agreed that they would apprehend members of the community harassing children and hand them over to the police. This has also seen peace committee members taking turns to monitor children as they come from school (Tshazi Secondary)

The major influencers were the traditional leaders who were able to mobilise the community and create a platform for dialogue. They affirmed the decision made towards reprimanding the young men thus influencing the change

The peace committees reported that since the meeting was held and since the peace committee and community members and taking turns to watch the children, there has been no reported incidences of harassment or abuse.

Peace committees identifying their key successes in peace building and social cohesion



Emthonjeni Women's Forum 2021



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