

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-ZAF_D_1.1

Governance & Participation in Public Life (G&PPL)

The 2023 highlighted progress on young women socio-economic resilience building focusing on the work done in Botswana, in Mpumalanga South Africa and in Eswatini (Shiselweni and Lubombo). In Botswana in Ledumadumane, Metsimotlhabe, Tsolamosese districts young women continued the Young Women for Life Movement (YWFLM) dialogues, involving 293 AGYW. In Botswana these dialogues supported HIV/AIDS testing and treatment campaigns which saw 1268 men and women test with the help of mobile clinics from local health facilities and Botswana Family Welfare. Furthermore HIV/AIDS awareness and treatment campaigns reached respectively 628 and 578 men and women in the fourth quarter. This work is carried out in partnership with Mogoditshane District Gender office and the Village Development Committees operating in these districts to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives. In South Africa, the Young Women for Life Movement (YWFLM) continued the HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns in 5 provinces, these are Gauteng, Western Cape, Mpumalanga, North West and Eastern Cape. During this quarter the Mpumalanga Province young women have not only added to the farming to include more Ha of maize, butternut and ground nuts, they have also started poultry farming with 1000 broilers (chicken) which are being sold in the local supermarkets. They are in talks with Mpumalanga Agriculture MEC to identify areas they can support of this initiative. Namibia could not complete the Young Women socio-economic resilience in the fourth quarter as the last tranche of funding from Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) was not received and work was postponed to 2024. In Eswatini, YWFLM dialogues continued in Shiselweni and many success stories of resilience identified, from young women poultry farmers to piggery owners. Based on these results, the Lubombo chapter was opened in the 4th quarter, 30 young women were selected in partnership with NERCHA local and traditional leaders.

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Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)

During this period SAMCO supported the South African Government Presidency in developing a holistic conceptual framework on productive assets, named "The Gender Squeeze". The paper identifies key policy actions that can decrease costs borne by women and increase income earned by women. It calls for increasing investment in productive assets for women to strengthen women's economic and financial inclusion. The paper has been used for advocacy outputs, including high-level engagements between AU member states, the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights and during the UN General Assembly. The paper made the following key recommendations that are used to advocate for strengthening productive assets for women. Promote Financial Education in Schools – starting in primary school and through tertiary education and extending to the marketplaces of women entrepreneurs, saving and lending circles, and their communities. Provide Universal Health Care or interim measures that reduce healthcare costs and increase women's access to confidential, affordable health services. Provide Universal Health Care or interim measures that reduce healthcare costs and increase women's access to confidential, affordable health services. Support girls access to tertiary education. Ensure girls are safe in and travelling to and from school; encourage girls to enter traditionally male fields; and support girls in their employment-seeking post-graduation. Take steps to preserve the human rights of citizens while ensuring women are not denied the benefits afforded to be a documented citizen. Take steps

to preserve the human rights of citizens while ensuring women are not denied the benefits afforded to be a documented citizen.

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Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW)

SAMCO and WWOSA hosted an interfaith summit which launched the Interfaith statement of Commitment to end GBVF. The summit was attended by 175 participants from 8 diverse faith traditions (African Traditional Religion, Baha'í;, Bhudist, Brahma Kumaris, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim.

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Women Peace and Security (WPS)

The Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and its implementations contributes towards addressing key issues such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV), masculinities, and discrimination, and strengthening women's meaningful representation and participation in the security sector in Lesotho. The UNW and its partners enabled consultations with various government stakeholders and Civil Society Organisations and invited leaders from SADC Countries such as South Africa, Namibia to dialogue on the WPS Agenda and developing a National Action Plan. The consultations provided a foundation towards the development of Lesotho's NAP on WPS.