

**WOMEN'S VOICE AND LEADERSHIP – REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
AFRICA REGION
PROJECT NUMBER: P002781**



A mother and her children received a food parcel from Siyakhula community organisation in KZN to alleviate poverty during level 4 lockdown.
Photo: Siyakhula Community Organisation

**GENDER LINKS SEMI ANNUAL OPERATIONS REPORT
YEAR TWO**

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 APRIL 2020 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2020



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ABBREVIATIONS	
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CGE	Commission on Gender Equality
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GL	Gender Links
GSC	Grants Selection Committee
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, intersex and queer/questioning
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MY Core	Multi-Year Core Grants
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RR	Rapid Response
SA	South Africa
SAWID	South African Women in Dialogue
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMME	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WRO	Women's Right Organisations
WVL-SA	Women's Voice and Leadership South Africa
WVL	Women's Voice and Leadership

I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the first six months of Year Two (01 April 2020 – 30 September 2020). It builds on the Year One Outcomes Report that spilt over into this current reporting period due to the report date being extended to July in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The two reports should therefore best read together. The approved Year Two Annual Work Plan is attached at **Annex 1 and Progress on Outcomes at Annex 2**. The period starting 01 April 2020 marked the beginning of Grantee project activities under challenging hard lockdown conditions. Key achievements include:

Grant disbursement: The WVL-SA Project Team concluded on a total of 40 Contracts: eight Rapid Response; nine Gender and Covid-19 Rapid Response; 20 Multi Year Core Support (MY Core) and three Networking and Alliance Building Contracts. We worked with all Grantees to finalise Grantee Performance Management Frameworks, Work Plans and Budgets; convened briefing sessions for RR Grantees on monitoring and evaluation, SharePoint Document Management System, Finance Training; completed due diligence for MY Core and Networking Grantees; convened a project Inception Meeting for MY Core and Networking grantees; rolled capacity building and training on Monitoring and Evaluation, Visibility and Profiling, Finance and Governance for MY Core and Networking grantees. We convened two Dialogues, one on the South African electoral system and the second on Gender and COVID-19: Voices from the ground.

Programme implementation: All 17 Rapid Response Grantees are advanced in their project implementation and will complete this by January 2021. MY Core and Networking fund disbursements were finalised on 7 August 2020. Project implementation is in progress, assisted by the progressive move from Level 5 to Level 1 lockdown by 1 October. Comprehensive reporting on all programme activity will only be possible in the Year 2 Annual Outcomes Report (due in May 2020) as all grantees will have submitted reports at the end of January 2021.

Fund raising: GAC facilitated input by the WVL SA Project Team into the Donor Gender Working Group chaired by the European Union in September. GL as fund manager has secured resources through the Netherlands Embassy SDG 5 Fund over the next five years to complement GAC support.

Governance: The Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting held its annual meeting in September and approved the Year Two work plan.

Key challenges include:

- *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the lockdown health protocols and travel restrictions* delayed project implementation and in some case resulted in changes to original activities as these involved group meetings and travel. This is well covered in the Year One Annual Outcomes Report. Office evacuations for periods of between 10 - 14 days due to COVID-19 outbreaks and staff turnover also affected implementation.
- *Digital challenges* including limited internet access.
- *Quality of reports submitted by Grantees:* This resulted in a second wave of targeted on-the-job training covering Monitoring and Evaluation, Visibility and Profiling and Finance training. These demands stretched the capacity of the Team, leading to the recruitment of a Grants Finance Officer who now supports the Team on a fulltime basis.

LOGIC MODEL: WOMEN'S VOICE AND LEADERSHIP SOUTH AFRICA PROJECT

Ultimate outcome	1000. Increased enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and the advancement of gender equality in South Africa				
Intermediate outcomes	1100. Improved management and sustainability of local women's rights organisations. ¹		1200. Enhanced performance of women's rights organisations' programming and advocacy to advance gender equality and empower women and girls.		1300. Increased effectiveness of national and sub-national WR platforms, networks and Alliances to effect policy, legal and social change in South Africa.
Immediate outcomes	1110. Increased funding for WROs enabling them to deliver on their mandate and their strategies.	1120 Increased ability of WROs to create, monitor and improve organisational processes, systems and sustainability	1210 Strengthened ability of WROs to reach marginalised groups ² with high quality services and support to claim rights	1220 Strengthened ability of WROs to undertake policy and advocacy activities on a range of issues in their capacities of work	1310 Increased ability of platforms, networks, coalitions, alliances in policy and social advocacy.
Outcomes	1111 Transparent grant-making process developed and executed	1121 Institutional Capacity Building provided in areas such as: Finance and governance, Results for Changes, Communications for Social Change, Leadership and Diversity	1211 WROs received technical assistance to develop innovate programming and mobilise communities fulfilling women's and girls' rights	1221 WROs receive technical assistance to design and sustain policy, outreach, awareness and advocacy campaigns to enable women and girls to access a range of gender responsive services in 4 provinces	1311 Funding WROs networks and alliance is provided
Root causes	Patriarchal social norms (values, beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and practices) condone and perpetuate unequal power relations between women and men; undermining women's economic, social, legal and political rights; denying them voice, choice and control over their bodies; lives and livelihoods.				

¹ Refer to section on **Creating sustainability and capacity building for WROs which** mention involvement of the Men's Movement as key partners

² Marginalised groups include the LGBTIAQ+ community, survivors of gender based violence, rural women, and persons with disabilities.

II: CHANGES TO CONTEXT

The reporting period is characterised by the COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on women and children. At the Gender and COVID-19 – Voices from the ground Dialogue, held on 11 August 2020, Chief Director Ranji Reddy from the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) in the Office of the Presidency gave a detailed presentation on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women. In her introductory remarks she highlighted two key points being that i) the worst impact of COVID-19 is often felt by the most vulnerable, particularly women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and deprivation; and ii) the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the inequality and deprivation experienced by women and girls, increased poverty and unemployment in South Africa.

In order to ensure that Government's COVID-19 interventions deliberately and explicitly mitigate the negative impacts on women (51% of the population including the most vulnerable, elderly women, women with disabilities and those from poor household, informal settlements, rural areas, informal trader, domestic workers and so forth), DWYPD developed the following tools to assess the impact of COVID-19 on women, a Framework on COVID-19 and Women, a COVID-19 gender tracking system, undertook in-depth research on this subject, including strategies focusing on the youth and persons living with disabilities.

DWYPD rolled out a snapshot survey conducted with gender stakeholders on the impact of COVID-19 on women in April/ May 2020. The findings include the following;

- About 77.8% of respondents felt that the lives of women and girls had become slightly worse (42.0%) or much worse (35,8%) since the start of the pandemic.
- Respondents' biggest concerns were women's poverty concerning,
 - Reduced incomes (77.8%)
 - women's safety and security, including gender-based violence and femicide (71.6%)
 - a deterioration in women's economic inclusion (61.7%),
 - women's increased burden of care work in the household (61.7%)
 - women's health (60.5%)
- Respondents were mostly supportive of government's interventions with 90.1% rating these as excellent (21.0%), good (32.1%) or fair (37.0%)

In addition to the above other qualitative comments by respondents were that;

- Women are experiencing increasing levels of hunger including in their households, extreme food insecurity and growing poverty levels;
- Women were locked down in abusive environment and with abusive partners;
- NPOs also reported that the lockdown impacted negatively on their operations to support vulnerable women;
- This included limited access to counselling centers by GBV victims.

Reddy summarised the impact of COVID-19 on women in South Africa as;

- Social impacts: Extreme poverty, food insecurity, social protection, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, including MHM; education, and unpaid care work.
- Economic impacts: Impact on women in vulnerable sectors including informal traders, domestic workers, farm workers, women entrepreneurs, SMMEs, cooperatives and the services sector.

- Public Health impacts: mortality of women from COVID-19, access to health care, PPEs for women health workers, impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on other key health services for women, including maternal and child health and reproductive and health services
- Gender-responsive decision-making and participation: women's voice and agency, representation and participation in decision-making and leadership and gender-responsive planning, budgeting and monitoring in the response to the pandemic.

Reddy highlighted the interventions steps taken by government to address women's plights during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include;

Escalation of food parcels

- Government allocated resources for the emergency distribution of food parcels - value of R700 per household. R20m allocated from National Disaster Relief Fund and R23m from Solidary Fund
- Distribution of food parcels to poor households took place – since significantly up-scaled:
 - Provincial and **Community Nutrition Development Centres** (245) through knock and drop. By 29 April, Minister Zulu reported 58 000 households and close to 250 000 people receiving food parcels. A week later, over 280 000 food parcels had been distributed.
 - **Social Relief of Distress**: - included to homeless shelters - estimated 40 000 people reached
 - The **Solidarity Fund**: more than 250 000 vulnerable households in the first six weeks
 - A range of NGOs and CSOs have also been distributing food parcels in various communities
 - As at 20 May 2020, a total of 788 283 food parcels with an estimated reach of 3 153 132 people were distributed by government and its entities.

Social Protection Interventions

- Social grants, top-up of some grants and provision of Social Relief of Distress Grant grant is serving as a critical safety net - positive impact on women grant beneficiaries and those with no other source of income in this time.
- It was estimated that this amounts to a transfer of over R30 billion into the hands of the poorest citizens, including women.
- The increase in the Child Support Grant is expected to benefit over 6 million women and their households.
- Minister Zulu announced that R21.8 billion had been allocated towards households with children who receive the child support grant. In May 2020 alone, R20 billion would be paid to 11.3 million recipients, benefitting 18.6 million people including children.
- A proposal was to government that cognisance must be taken that women have access to applications for the new grants given the reliance on technology in this process and women's lack of access to such technology.

SRHR Interventions

- Inclusion of sanitary dignity products in food parcels by government and other stakeholders, including through the social relief of distress system
- Partnership by DWYPD, DSD, UNFPA and Water-Aid to ensure MHM is accessible to vulnerable women and girls, including those in treatment centres, Child and Youth Care Centres, GBV and homeless shelters, CNDs, Thuthuzela Care Centres and other relevant institutions

- Direct distribution of menstrual health products to girls in poor communities through Footprints Foundation, MIET and government
- Procurement and installation of water and hand-washing facilities to ensure women and girls have access to water and soap for hand washing
- Rollout of water tanks to over 3000 schools which currently lack access to water following the reopening of schools

Women with disabilities Interventions

- Sign Language Interpreters included in all COVID-19 Media briefings (Ongoing)
- Included disability rights mainstreaming into the amended regulations published 02 April 2020 to provide for safety and protection of persons with disabilities.
- Disability directions developed to mainstream disability in all COVID-19 responsive programmes
- Mainstreaming disability issues into the stimulus funding
- DWYPD hosted a Webinar for Persons with Disabilities to outline government's interventions and consult with the disability sector specifically on challenges affecting them during COVID-19. An action plan will be developed to fast track interventions on issues raised by the disability sector.

On the down side, Reddy highlighted that there were at the time (August 2020) no targeted interventions by government aimed at alleviating women's unpaid care work or raising awareness on the need to share unpaid care work.

For WVL-SA Project Team and Grantees, of significance has been the move from hard lockdown level 5 imposed on 27 March 2020 to level 4 lockdown on 1 May 2020, to level 3 lockdown on 1 June 2020, to level 2 lockdown on 18 August 2020, and to Alert level 1 from midnight Sunday 20 September 2020. With each easing of lockdown restrictions both WVL-SA Project Team and Grantees were able to advance with project implementation. Moving from total lockdown "stay home, stay safe" at level 5 to travel opening up and working meetings of 50 or less being allowed, to now meetings at a maximum of 50% holding capacity, and with all travel restrictions lifted, full project rollout is picking up in the remaining Year 2 period.

III: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS UPDATE

These sections highlight progress made during the first six months of WVL-SA Project Year Two across the **three pathways** to the **intermediate outcomes of WVL-SA**. Pathways include;

- Improved management and sustainability of WRO.
- Programming and advocacy for gender justice
- Networking and lobbying for gender justice

a) IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF WRO's

Intermediate outcome	1100. Improved management and sustainability of local women's rights organisations. ³	
Immediate outcomes	1110. Increased funding for WROs enabling them to deliver on their mandate and their strategies.	1120. Increased ability of WROs to create, monitor and improve organisational processes, systems and sustainability.
Outputs	1111. Resource mobilisation initiatives.	1121. Systems development to support grantees project implementation.
	1112. Transparent grant-making process developed and executed.	1122. Institutional Capacity Building provided in areas such as: Finance and governance, Results for Changes, Communications for Social Change, Climate Changes, Leadership and Diversity.
Indicators	1111. Amount of the additional funding secured to augment WVL funding.	1121. Number of additional systems developed to support project implementation.
	1112. Number of grants awarded.	1122. Number of grantee organisations staff trained per topic

Progress made: April – 30 September 2020

Outcome 1110: Increased funding for WROs enabling them to deliver on their mandate and their strategies.

1111. Resource mobilisation initiatives

Building up from a baseline of GBP50,000 raised during Year 1 in complementary resources from UKAID for the Rapid Response grants, the GL WVL-SA Team has continued to seek out strategic potential funding links. On 14 September 2020, the Team presented to Gender Officers from the SA French Embassy Gender Desk at their request. On 17 September 2020, GAC facilitated a presentation by WVL at the Monthly Round Table Gender Meeting of the EU Delegation to South Africa, its Members and other donors. Gender Links also included funds to augment GAC funds in its SDG 5 Funding Application (approximately Euro50,00 per annum for the next five years). GL will know the outcome of this application by December. GL is also partnering with one of the Networking Grantees SAWID (the only national WRO among the grantees) in an EU call for Enhancing Accountability in South Africa with a strong emphasis on gender equality and building the capacity of community-based organisations. The Concept Note for this opportunity is due on 8 December 2020. Gender Links and SAWID have had a strategy meeting and are now drafting the application.

³ Refer to section on **Creating sustainability and capacity building for WROs which** mention involvement of the Men's Movement as key partners

1112. Transparent grant-making process developed and executed

The target for Year 2 has been achieved across all the three grant types. A total of 40 GAC funded Grants received WVL-SA Grants during this period. 17 grants under Rapid Response funding, 20 grants under MY Core funding and 3 grants under Networking and Alliance Building. All Grantee Contracts were finalised and grantees are all busy with project implementation. RR Grantees submitted Final Project Reports end of October 2020, these are currently under review by the WVL-SA Project Team.

"I want to thank Global Affairs Canada for the WVL project, and the staff at Gender Links for the opportunity given to us by supporting our campaign financially which made our outreach so much more impactful. We thank you for believing with us that period poverty is a pandemic."
Chantelle Goliath, (*New Heritage Foundation, Western Cape*)

The next RR Grants Call will be circulated towards the end of Year 2 (February 2021) in preparation for roll-out during Year Three of the Project.

Outcome 1120: Increased ability of WROs to create, monitor and improve organisational processes, systems and sustainability.

1121. Systems development to support grantees project implementation.

During this period Grantee Reporting templates and systems for both Narrative Reporting and the Sage Pastel Financial Reporting were finalised and tested. Grantees are all using the online reporting templates for Narrative and Financial Reporting.

WVL-SA Grantees Inception Workshop

"I have never been on a project with so much support", *Betsy Hastings, eWatchdog, (Eastern Cape)*

WVL-SA convened an Inception Workshop that focused on capacity building and training in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, and Finance training. The workshop brought MY Core and Networking grantees. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and lockdown restrictions, grantees were given the option to participate virtually or on-site at the GL Cottages for the Gauteng, for Limpopo and KZN conferencing venues were used for accommodating and conferencing facilities. Grantees from the Western Cape Province participated virtually together with the Gauteng based organisations. Training for Gauteng, Limpopo and Western Cape provinces was held from 6 – 7 July 2020, and KZN province training was from 9 – 10 July 2020.

The purpose of the Inception and Training Workshop was to;

- Welcome, meet and greet the MY Core and Networking grantees selected for the WVL-SA project,
- Finalise Grantee Results Management Frameworks and Budgets,
- Orient Grantee M and E Officers on the platforms to be used for gathering M and E,
- Orient Grantee Finance Officers on the Sage Pastel Financial Reporting System, and/or agree on the platform they have and will use
- Share tools and resources on the WVL Help Desk Platform
- Build a shared understanding of the WVL Visibility and Profiling requirements

Thirteen representatives from Let Us Grow Organisation, One-in-Nine Campaign, Rise Up Against Gender Based Violence, Phola, Africa Women in Energy and Power NPC and Bellona Female Network attended the Gauteng on-site training. 7 delegates representing five

organisations, The Great People of South Africa, South African Women in Dialogue, Mamadi Advice Centre, Ebenezer Multi-Purpose Integrated Social Services and Mutale Victim Empowerment Programme participated virtually. Grantees from Limpopo convened in Louis Trichardt to dial into the Gauteng Inception Workshop, the group was supported on-site in Louis Trichardt by the WVL-SA Grants Finance Officer, Fikile Maviya. The KZN Inception and Training Workshop brought together 22 delegates representing 10 grantee organisations, Eshowe Child and Family Welfare Society, Amanzimtoti Trauma Unit t/a Turning Point Amanzimtoti, Incema, South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), Sasopsbiz Foundation, Agenda-Feminist Media, Epic Youth Matters, Justice and Women (JAW), Sisonke National Sex Worker Movement. Four members of the WVL-SA team travelled to KZN to facilitate the two days' workshop.

1122. Institutional Capacity Building provided in Results for Changes (MEL) and Finance and governance

To ensure optimal use of these systems, Grantees received multiple training, on site, off-site and ongoing on-call support; especially on the Finance Sage Pastel Reporting systems.

On the job Institutional Capacity Building



During September 2020, the WVL-SA team embarked on grantee on-the-job training in Finance, Governance compliance, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. This initiative was prompted by the quality of Progress Report that had been received in states that highlighted considerable capacity gaps and challenges in both M and E and Finance reporting. GL undertook a needs assessment and logistics plan before embarking on the visits.

Nomthandazo Moko, Grants Coordinator with Siyalungisa CEO, Bridget Dlamini & MEL officer Yolanda during the on-the-job support visit in KZN
Photo: Fikile Maviya

Grantees who received on-the-job training and capacity building

Grant type	Total Grantees	Gauteng	KZN	Limpopo	Western Cape	Total # Visited
RR Original	9	2		1		3
RR COVID-19	8		3	1		4
MY Core	20	3	4	3		10
Networking	3		1		2	3
Total	40	5	8	5	2	20

As illustrated in the table, of the 40 Grantees receiving WVL-SA Project funding, the WVL-SA Project Team visited 20 (or half) the Grantee organisations to provide on-the-job training. In Gauteng, GL visited five organisations; two Rapid Response, and three are MY Core Grantees. GL visited eight grantee organisations in KZN, three under the Gender and COVID-19 grants, four MY Core grantees, and one Networking and Alliance Building grantee; five organisations in Limpopo, two under Rapid Response funding, and three MY Core grantees, two Networking and Alliance Building grantees in the Western Cape. Further capacity building covered Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, Finance and Governance and Publicity and Communication.

Finance Training



Grants officer, Fikile Maviya showing Eshowe Child and Family Welfare finance officer, Darlene Norsworthy how to use the SharePoint online filing system.

Photo: Nomthandazo Moko

Review of Grantees Financial Reports revealed capacity challenges in optimal use of the Sage Pastel System, including sub-standard quality in finance supporting document like receipts. Concerns noted by the WVL-SA Project Finance team concerned;

- Finance supporting documentation: Receipts not adhering to the minimum acceptable standard, in some cases, receipts were from off-the-shelf generic receipt books without service provider stamps. Some receipts uploaded did not meet the audit standard of a receipt. In the case of SAWID, a Networking and Alliance Building Grantee, while the Invoices and Bank Statements were filed in SharePoint but, they were not signed, therefore unauthorised. In this instance, the Project Finance Team put in place a mechanism whereby the Grantee engages with the Finance Team for checking and approval before uploading any documents on to the SharePoint platform.
- Procurement processes flawed: In some instances, supporting documents uploaded were not authorised in line with procurement procedures. In the case of Let Us Grow, a MY Core Grantee, the Finance Officer was not able to produce all receipts. Grantee had exceeded the budget provision for Bank Charges due to ATM cash withdrawal charges. Procurement procedures were not followed, the Team had to begin the whole Finance Training from start, and also had to ask the Let Us Grow Finance Officer to physically come to the Gender Links Offices for on-going and continuous finance reporting training and capacity building.
- Cash Books not updated: In the case of We Will Speak Out, a MY Core Grantee, the Cash Book had not been update for several months. In this case, the WVL Team worked with the Grantee on-site to capture and update the Cash Book.
- Staff resignations: Finance staff who had been previously trained had since left those organisations. This was the case with Phola and Ebenezer Multipurpose Centre, both MY Core Grantees, the Finance Officers who had been previously trained, had since resigned

from these organisations. In such cases, the Team had to train the new persons who was taking over the finance portfolio.

- Non-Finance Officers responsible for Finance Management and Reporting: Due to the small size of some grantee organisations, the Team discovered that finance reporting was being done by programme staff, with zero or minimal finance training. In these cases, the Team had to take the Programme Officers through a finance crash-course, supporting with ongoing support and close monitoring.
- Budget line changes and budget adjustments: The South Africa Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) had need to change budget lines for activities. The Team on-site was able to explain the procedures required for budget reallocations. SADAG put their request in writing, and the matter was resolved in line with the finance processes required.

The Finance Team developed a list of grantee organisations that they support and monitor closely. Following this targeted training and capacity building drive, the Finance Team confirmed that Grantees have improved the general quality of their Finance Reports.

Governance

Compliance: Following the on the job support visits organisations like Incema and Eshowe Child Welfare have since addressed and rectified matters previously flagged. In the case Incema, the organisation has since registered for VAT. Eshowe has now drafted an Anti-Corruption Policy that will be presented to their Board at their AGM on 20 November 2020.

Good morning Tina
I hope you are well. This is to update you that Incema has now been registered for VAT with the following number: 4550292694
I don't remember if I gave you an update on our new website but our website is www.incema.org.za
We now have an active Instagram and twitter page both accessible in the following handle: @IncemaNPO.
Thenjiwe Ngcobo, Incema NPO, KZN

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

Through its MEL system GL picked up weaknesses in Grantee Reporting including failing to disaggregate beneficiary data by sex and minutes of meetings convened online not recorded. One MY Core Grantee, Voice of Disability, convened meetings via WhatsApp Group Calling, but failed to capture participation. During the on-site training and capacity building, the WVL Project Team demonstrated to the Grantee how to record the WhatsApp Meetings. Lungelo Women's Organisation was not uploading any project monitoring and evaluation statistics. During the on-site training, the WVL Team took the opportunity to re-train the project staff using actual M and E data. WVL-SA Team is currently responding to training and capacity building requests from We Will Speak Out South Africa, Epic Youth Matters and Let Us Grow, who despite having being trained, are still failing to meet the online reporting requirements; ongoing capacity building and mentorship of these grantees is underway. The on-the-job training, while effective, is labour intensive.

Visibility and Communications

In this digital era, this is a key area for grantee organisational profiling and branding. It is a key area that the WVL-SA Grants Coordinators monitors closely. During this period, through training and capacity building, Lesedi La Setjhaba Family and Community Centre an RR Grantee posted its first tweet on 21 September 2020.

Project staff at Incema NPO who received on the job training have now set up an active website (www.incema.org.za), they also now have presence on Instagram and twitter accounts accessible via @IncemaNPO. Positive feedback was received from Agenda Feminist Media and Lesedi La Setjhaba who reported that, through enhanced social media profiling, they are now reaching more beneficiaries, resulting in strengthened partnerships with local radio stations. The Great People of South Africa also reported increased demand on their Call Centre for counselling service. They attributed this increase to enhanced social media profiling.



b: PROGRAMMING AND ADVOCACY FOR GENDER JUSTICE

The second pathway to change concerns the content of the work undertaken by the WVL-SA grantees. These fall in two broad categories, service delivery as well as policy and advocacy work.

Intermediate outcome	1200. Enhanced performance of women's rights organisations' programming and advocacy to advance gender equality and empower women and girls.	
Immediate outcomes	1210. Strengthened ability of WROs to reach marginalised groups ⁴ with high quality services and support to claim rights.	1220. Strengthened ability of WROs to undertake policy and advocacy activities on a range of issues in their capacities of work.
Outputs	1211. WROs receive technical assistance to develop innovate programming and mobilise communities fulfilling women's and girls' rights	1221. WROs receive technical assistance to design and sustain policy, outreach, awareness and advocacy campaigns to enable women and girls to access a range of gender responsive services in 4 provinces
Indicators	1210. The different areas of service delivery undertaken by grantees	1221. The different areas of policy and advocacy work undertaken by grantees
	1210. Number of beneficiaries	1221. Number of policies / laws / regulations / practices are changed at local, provincial and national levels.
	Change in the lives of beneficiaries.	Extent to which these changes remove systemic barriers to GEWE (qualitative indicators).
	Changes in community attitudes	

⁴ Marginalised groups include the LGBTIAQ+ community, survivors of gender based violence, rural women, and persons with disabilities.

Progress: 01 April 2020 – 30 September 2020

Outcome: 1210 Strengthened ability of WROs to reach marginalised groups⁵ with high quality services and support to claim rights.

a) WVL-SA Grantees programme focus

As part of the flexible approach to feminist funding, the grant calls did not prescribe thematic areas of work. In the second RR call focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic, GL shared some of the ways in which the pandemic is likely to affect women. Otherwise grantees had a broad range of categories to choose from. They could also select from more than one category, given the cross-cutting nature of gender.

Grantee areas of service delivery

Grant Category	VAWG	Economic Empowerment	Food Security	SRHR	LGBTI	Social norms	Legal Rights	Disability	Media	Mental health
Rapid Response original	4					1				
Rapid Response COVID-19	2		3	1	3					
My Core	6	5		3	1	2	1	1	1	1
Networking	1	1		1						
TOTAL	13	6	3	5	4	3	1	1	1	1

As reflected in the table mapping one priority theme per organisation against the different areas of focus, the majority (13) work in the area of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG); followed by economic empowerment (6); food security (3); Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – SRHR (5); LGBTI (4); challenging social norms (3) and one each focusing on legal rights; disability; media and mental health. Included in SRHR is one organisation focusing on the rights of sex workers, Sonke National Sex Workers Union. The GSC and WVL-SA teams worked hard to ensure a diverse portfolio, geographically and thematically. Please refer to Year One Annual Outcomes Report for full detail of undertaken by the Gender and COVID-19 Rapid Response Grantees.

Gender and COVID-19 Grantees Interventions

This was reported in the Year One Annual Outcomes Report due to the overlap between the Year One Annual Report and Year Two project implementation. However, this concerns progress during Year Two Semi-Annual Report.

Progress made by a few MY Core Grantees in Project Implementation

Project implementation is at its early stages for the majority of the MY Core Grantees as they only finalised PFM, Work Plans and Budgets in July 2020, and only received first grants payment on 08 August 2020. However, some organisations have begun project activities, and the following examples were gathered by WVL-SA Project Team. MY Core Grantees will be

⁵ Marginalised groups include the LGBTIAQ+ community, survivors of gender based violence, rural women, and persons with disabilities.

submitting their first Semi-Annual Report at the end of January 2021. Grantee areas of work are in two main categories, these are policy level interventions and service delivery level interventions.

The Great People of South Africa, Western Cape Province; Project focus: Policy & Service delivery

The Great People of South Africa is a member of the GBV Warriors which is a collective group of 35 organisations dealing with GBV and Femicide concentrating in the Western Cape Province. In August they led a peaceful protest to Parliament Buildings to submit a Memorandum with a list of seven demands for addressing GBV.

One of their major areas of concern in the demands was the R1,6 Billion that the government promised will be disbursed to civil society organisations addressing GBV and to date no funds have been released. The other demand was a complaint against inefficient policing in communities like Khayelitsha, Inyanga, Gugulethu and Delf which are all GBV hotspots. In these communities, police hardly respond to GBV reports and if they do they are always late. During this march the leader for The Great People of SA had an interview with Newzroom405 commenting on the reaction of the police to the organisations hosting the protest.



Zintle Khobeni of The Great People of South Africa being interviewed by Newzroom Africa during the #EndGBV March held during Women's Month in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. Photo: The Great People of South Africa

They also had another interview with Newzroom405 to weigh in on 92 cases that the Criminal Justice Department struck off the court rolls during the period July to September 2020, citing insufficient evidence submitted by the police; resulting in many women and families who have reported GBV cases not receiving justice.

On the 28th of November during the 16 Days of Activism, the Great People of South Africa will be collaborating with other GBV organisations nationally in all the nine provinces to coordinate provincial marches to the Provincial Legislature buildings. Those marching will bear ribbons to hang on the gates of the Legislature in memory of all who died due to GBV.

The organisation also plans to undertake policy research involving community members on the changes they would like put in place regarding local community policing programmes. The policy change submission will be informed by contributions from the ground, which will be put together in a proposal submitted to the Department of Correctional Services can adopt.

One in Nine Campaign, Gauteng Province; Project focus: Service delivery

One in Nine Campaign aims to create a platform for women to come together and develop strategies that address challenges faced by women. Their work centres around feminist political education and highlighting the failures of the criminal justice system. The movement targets the South African government for its failure to protect the rights of women and holds government accountable so that they fulfil their mandates and responsibilities. One in Nine Campaign develops innovative strategies for organising and mobilising women across the country. They continue to apply pressure on various branches of the criminal justice system through

direct action and targeted advocacy to ensure that officials comply with existing laws and policies in dealing with survivors of sexual violence and gender based violence as a whole.



One in 9 Campaign is teaching organisations in the Vaal, South of Johannesburg on art activism and how to stage crime scenes that will draw media attention. Photo: 1 in 9 Campaign

One in Nine is currently hosting an Art Liberation Production Workshop. The main focus of the workshop is to train women in the Vaal and Everton communities on how to use art as an advocacy tool. They aim to empower these women with skills to be able to amplify their voices using media when they embark on campaigns against poor service delivery. Through these workshops, they aim to strengthen the local networks of organisations in the Vaal so they are able stand up and address issues affecting them without relying on other external organisations for support.

This workshop is being delivered to women from three partner organisation namely Posunga Vanenga, Serapeng Sabasadi and SMK. Posunga Vanenga works with survivors of GBV; Serapeng Sabasadi works with women in farming and SMK works with elderly women. The women in the Vaal and Everton communities respectively are being affected by poor service delivery, they have no access to clean running water, sewer water floods the streets and they have no electricity. There elderly women that live alone with on one to take care of them but have to travel long distances to access their grant money. In addition, there are survivors of gender based violence in the community whose cases have gone cold with no one in the criminal justice sector giving them a court date. With the skills gained at the training, community women will be equipped and empowered to roll out advocacy and campaigns against poor service delivery during the 16 Days of Activism period.



1 in 9 staff with the community of Vaal preparing the land for planting of crops to promote self-sustainability in the Vaal community. Photo: 1 in 9 Campaign

In December 2020, One in Nine Campaign plans to convene a feminist political education session in which they will educate women to broaden understanding on how patriarchy and capitalism affect them, and to empower the women with ideas on how to advocate and address these issues within their communities.

South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), Province: Kwa-Zulu Natal, Project focus: Service delivery

SADAG has put together a Mental Health and Gender Task Team; set up a research team to help with needs analysis, including the research proposal, which is the main focus of 2021. Their Refugee project began with an Introductory Workshop for both the women's sewing and youth groups. They had a workshop in October 2020 targeting the youth wherein they provided psycho-social support. They have also started a sewing project for which they bought three second hand sewing machines and also received as donations an additional two sewing machines. They plan to create an inter-sectoral provincial platform for gender and mental health; as well as creating community support groups in every district in KZN; as well as to improve access to psychosocial services for specific vulnerable groups with the objective of improving mental health literacy and advocacy in KZN province.

Mental health is often ignored as a central pivot for the advancement of a feminist agenda in South Africa. The organisation is planning for activities that will see the improvement of access to psychosocial care in disadvantaged and rural areas in KZN; they are planning programmes that increase awareness and knowledge of mental health and its impact on wellbeing. The organisation uses the provision in the SA Mental Health Policy Framework and Strategic Plan (2013-2020) to inspire advocacy and critical consciousness of mental health.

Sasopsbiz Foundation, Province: KZN, Project focus: Service delivery

Project implementation has started. Sasopsbiz Foundation established 4 HUGS (Hand Up Girls Squads). Two in the rural areas (Tafuleni and Sweetwaters), Greater Edendale (peri-urban) and one central (miscellaneous areas but mostly from townships). The HUGS have been very active and managed to establish sisterhood relationships. They convened a Women's Dialogue in August 2020 which was used as one of the sources of recruitment for HUGSs. The HUGS received training on personal development and business management. The resource centre is open to women; they are encouraged to apply for jobs at the centre.



Hand Up Girls Squads banner from Sasopsbiz foundation, KZN. Photo: Sasopsbiz



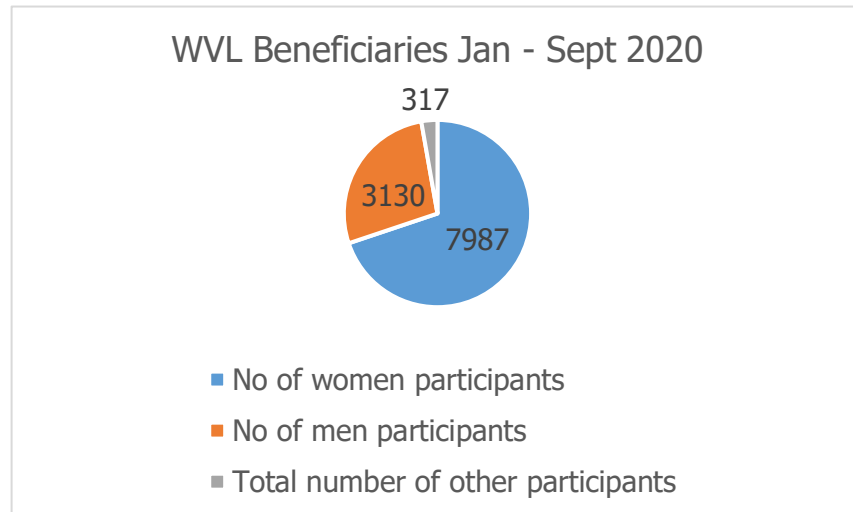
Ebenezer visit to IMPACT EDUCATION to conduct an awareness campaign on GBV
Photo: Ebenezer Multi-Purpose Integrated Social Services

Ebenezer Multi-Purpose Centre, Province: Limpopo

The organisation collaborated with the Department of Social Development (DSD), South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in the GBV programme that they are implementing. They are now reaching out to Thuthuzela Care Centre in Giyana. Since the return of Learners to school, the organisation has been distributing menstrual packs in schools as well as teaching Learners on GBV, social norms and other challenges that affect the youth.

b) Beneficiary Reach

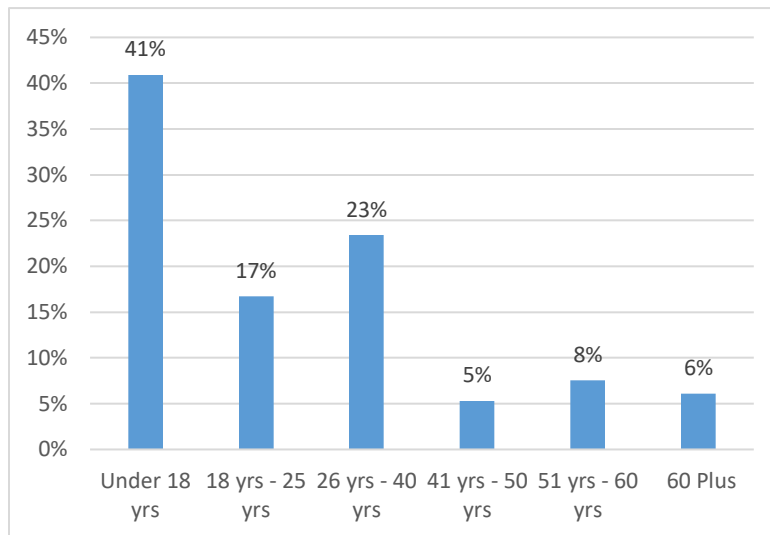
WVL SA grantees (mostly RR and Gender and COVID-19 Grantees) have held 76 events to date. These included GBV training, GBV campaigns, GBV psychosocial support and healing workshops, community based training and support in Social Grants applications processes,



Entrepreneurship Training, food parcel distribution drives targeting female, child and queer female headed households, community outreach programmes on LGBTQ+ rights. A total of 11,434 people participated in these events: 7987 women, 3130 men and 317 Gender Non-Conforming; that is 70% women, 28% men and 2% GNC. This is in keeping with the target group objectives of the WVL-SA

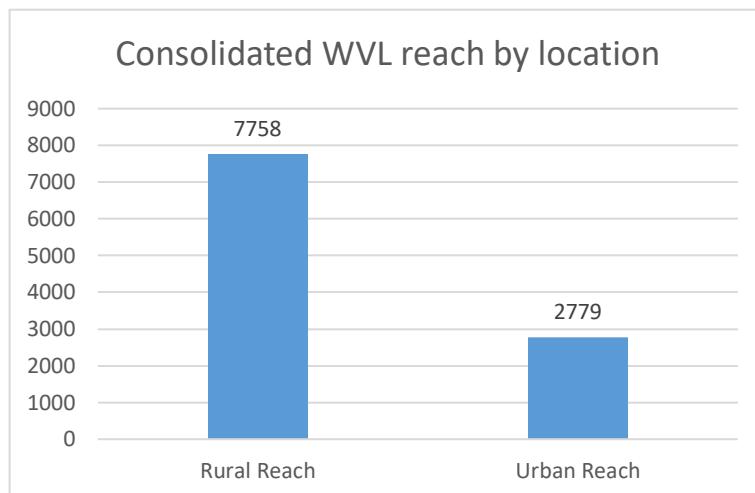
Project. While the emphasis is on women, grantee interventions also target men as change-agents and influencers especially on GBV prevention initiatives.

Consolidated Beneficiary Age Group Analysis



The age disaggregation of beneficiary data shows that youth constitute the highest proportion of those reached: 41% under 18; 17% 18-25 years and 23% 26 to 40 years old. This is due to the fact that many of the projects implemented by Rapid Response and Gender and COVID-19 Grantees, targeted schools providing face mask and hygiene kits for girls within community schools.

Beneficiary reach by location (Urban and Rural)



The WVL-SA Project also aims to reach grassroots organisations who ordinarily would struggle to access mainstream donor funding. Of the 10 537 who indicated their location, 7758 (74%) came from rural areas in Limpopo, KZN and Western Cape provinces. This is also in keeping with the WVL-SA objectives of reaching the most marginalised groups.

c) Changing Lives

Although it is still too early in the process to gauge the impact of programmes, GL is working with grantees to gather institutional and personal profiles that demonstrate the difference that the WVL-SA is making. Here we share two such examples, in the grantees own words.

Institutional case study

New Heritage Foundation⁶ fights period poverty



NEW HERITAGE FOUNDATION

When COVID-19 struck, we realised the burden this would place on many households in terms of food security. If a choice had to be made between buying sanitary pads and food, households would most certainly buy food. Girls would have to settle on using toilet paper during their menstrual cycles. This poses health threats, including infections.

With the assistance of the WVL grant, we were able to roll out a project that distributed hygiene packs to over 1500 young girls. We reached out through schools and various community centres, supporting local young women as well. Through these outreach initiatives, we have gained more insights into this pandemic and what 'period poverty' means to women, especially those that do not access sanitary wear on a monthly basis.

The journey was emotional, hearing that women will steal sanitary pads even if this means going to jail. Some women with disabilities do not even know that they go through menstruation, and when they do, they suffer from psychological trauma. Sadly, some young women said it is much better to be pregnant than to have to go through monthly periods.

We would have never been exposed to all of this had it not been for the financial support accessed through the WVL-SA Project. We have gained new insights although much work still needs to be done as we champion our drive to end 'period poverty'. Thank you WVL-SA Project Team for your support; you took us on a journey we will never forget. We have learned so much, and we are forever grateful for the opportunity.

Individual case study: Feminist leadership



I live in a community where women are regarded as powerless. Since I started working at Life Savers Foundation I am now regarded as 'someone' within my community. With the funding received from the Women's Voice and Leadership Rapid Response grants, I am now helping women in my community to fight against gender based violence. As Manager at Life Savers Foundation, and through my exposure to working with the community Social Workers supporting our project, I have also been trained and have acquired many skills through our work in the GBV Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP). With the funding received I have been trained in counselling skills and on how to support women experiencing gender based violence in their home. Community members now come to me for counselling and advice on their personal family problems even when I am off duty. I have the

advantage that I married into a Chiefs' family. In my work speaking up against gender based violence, community members listen to what I have to say.

Millicent Fhulufhelo Nelamvi, Manager at Life Savers Foundation, Ha-Makuya, Limpopo

⁶ Gender and COVID-19 Grantee; Western Cape

Outcome 1220: Strengthened ability of WROs to undertake policy and advocacy activities on a range of issues in their capacities of work.

WVL-SA aims to network Women's Rights Organisations to raise their collective voices on key policy issues. Two examples of this in the reporting period include:

Dialogue on Gender and COVID-19: Voices from the ground

On 11 August 2020 (Women's month in South Africa) WVL-SA convened a virtual meeting on Gender and COVID-19. Presenters and Guest Speakers included representatives from Lesedi La Setjhaba Family and Community Centre, Coastal Resources centre, Persona Doll Training SA, Mankweng Community Law Advice Centre, Queerwell NPC, other stakeholder who presented included the International Federation of the Red Cross in the Southern Africa Cluster Office, UKAID and Global Affairs Canada as well as the Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities.

This Dialogue marked the beginning of WVL-SA Project Team initiatives to fulfil its mandate to create and facilitate a platform that brings community based organisations to the fore in a safe space where they are enabled and have access to engage with the relevant government officials (being the key policy makers) and other stakeholders who are influencers to government policy making processes. The purpose of these policy issues dialogues is to n the issues they face daily within their communities, in a way that compels both government and policy makers to give attention to the higher level policy issues that need to be addressed.

During the session participants shared their personal experiences including those of beneficiaries who have been greatly affected by COVID-19. The key discussion was around cohesion and collaboration between NGOs, the availability of resources to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, access to GBV assistance services and youth projects with youth specific solutions and assistance during this Pandemic. Grantees shared on projects undertaken and these included the provision of food parcels, distribution of Menstrual Hygiene Kits consisting of re-usable / washable pads, educating the community against preventing the spread of COVID-19 amongst others.

Dr Bernice Hlagala said that, "It is important to continue with policy dialogues which will also encourage documenting of the work that is being done by the grantees either through policy briefs or opinion pieces to influence policy direction". She also noted that it is important to link grantees to policy makers in the different areas of their work especially those working in GBV as the department is currently in the process of reviewing the strategic Framework on GBVF

This Dialogue highlighted the ongoing need for community based organisations to collaborate and advocate for policy changes that improve the quality of life for women and girls. Following the Gender and COVID-19: Voices from the ground dialogue, WROs and the WVL-Team will be convening a follow up policy level dialogue with the CGE to develop a collective position paper on women's rights in the time of COVID-19. Focus will centre on cohesion and collaboration between NGOs, the availability of resources to mitigate the impact of COVID-19; access to GBV assistance and services during the COVID-19 pandemic and SRHR service provision. Through partnership with the GCE relevant government ministries including local government officials will

be invited to engage with community base organisation bring the reality of the ground and how poor or lack of service delivery impacts on women and girls. WROs with the support of WVL-SA Project Team in partnership with the CGE will lobby for policy reform based on a 'bottom-up' approach backed up by voices from the ground.

Policy Dialogue: Women's Political Participation and the Constitutional Court ruling on the Electoral System – 11 September

WVL-SA in partnership with networking grantee South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), and Commission on Gender Equality (CGE) convened this dialogue in response to the Constitutional Court ruling on 11 June requiring a review of the Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system. The ruling is in response to a challenge by a Xoisan woman to the PR system not allowing for independent candidates. On the other hand the PR system (together with the voluntary quota adopted by some political parties) has been key to women's increased political participation in South Africa.

Nomsa Masuku, IEC Commissioner spoke on the types of Electoral Systems; Pansy Tlakula led the discussion on 'Why the PR System for SA', Dr Sithembiso Nyoni shed insights on the Constitutional Court Ruling and its implications, SAWID, on 'Beyond Numbers', with Gender Links leading the discussion on Gender and Electoral systems – Lessons from South Africa and the SADC region.

Since the Dialogue, the partnership has drafted a Letter of Response to the President of the Congress of the People (COPE) Mosiuoa Lekota, who has introduced a private members motion on the issue. The letter states that the *Action Coalition of Women's Rights Organisations on the Electoral Laws Amendment* will canvas women in politics, academia, government, local government, civil society and special focus groups like the LGBTIQ plus community, and Women with Disabilities, to come forward with suggestions on strengthening the proposed Electoral Laws Amendment Bill to ensure women's equal access and representation.

c: NETWORKING AND LOBBYING FOR GENDER JUSTICE

The third pathway to change concerns the pivotal role played by networking and alliance building movements to effect policy, legal and social change within South Africa. This is effectively achieved through collective targeted lobbying and advocacy initiatives over time.

Intermediate outcome	1300. Increased effectiveness of national and sub-national WR platforms, networks and Alliances to effect policy, legal and social change in South Africa.
Immediate outcome	1310 Increased ability of platforms, networks, coalitions, alliances in policy and social advocacy.
Outputs	1310 Funding WROs networks and alliance is provided
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth in the reach of networks - Extent to which strong networks contribute to strengthening the women's movement (qualitative indicators)

1310 Increased ability of platforms, networks, coalitions, alliances in policy and social advocacy.

WVL-SA is committed to working with various stakeholders and partners as well as the grantees to influence policy affecting women's rights.

Work done by Networking and Alliance Building Grantees

We Will Speak Out South Africa has partnered with the KZN Network and the churches to respond to GBV by providing visible, audible and practical support from faith leaders. They have begun desktop research to create a database of service providers in the province that are relevant to SGBV. They recruited and established Community Rapid Response Team Leaders to assist Survivors of Gender Based Violence with proper referrals particularly to FCS units, TCCS, hospital and local clinics, social workers, shelters; psychosocial support services; safe transport services, faith support services and any other relevant services for their safety and security. We Will

Speak Out South Africa is in the process of setting up a Cloud Based Management Tool for Data Collection (also forms part of Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting monthly statistics on Sexual and Gender Based Violence incidents.



KZN COVID-19
CHURCHES
RESPOND
CONVENED BY KZN CHRISTIAN COUNCIL



Advocacy
on
Social &
Economic
vulnerability

Are you passionate about ending violence in the home during COVID19?
We're partnering with

WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA
FAITH COMMUNITIES ENDING SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Help churches to respond to GBV by providing visible, audible & practical support from faith leaders.
Not limited to experts. Training and support available.

To join, please contact Daniela on
☆ 084 581 0622
☆ coordinator@wwwsosa.org.za

Poster used by the KZN churches in the response to GBV and COVID-19. Photo: We Will Speak Out South Africa

South African Women in Dialogue has started to strengthen their governance through appointing staff for finance and programme implementation, new Trustees, finalising contracts and performance management systems. SAWID is also in the process of reviewing policies, convening of Commissions, the Annual AfWID Dialogue, Peace, Development, reviving Young SAWID and Older Persons dialogues. On 11 September 2020 in partnership with GL, the IEC, WVL-SA and the CGE the organisation convened a dialogue to deliberate on women's political representation and participation and electoral systems.



Sisonke KZN and friends take to the streets to make their voices against GBV heard.

Sisonke National Sex Worker Movement has started implementation of the project through organising Membership drives to increase their funding and using bulk messaging systems. Sisonke have hosted the National Sex Worker Dialogue titled, *Country Reflections on National Sex Work Programme: Where are we and Where to from here?* They have to date hosted Virtual Dialogues across six provinces in South Africa, with the physical meeting Johannesburg; hosted a closed circle discussion on how COVID-19 and the lockdown impacted on the work of the sex workers. On the 31st of August Sisonke KZN marched against GBV aimed at sex workers. Capacity building workshops in leadership and safety are being planned for 2021.

IV) OPERATIONS

Project Steering Committee

The PSC held its first Year Two Virtual Meeting on the 29 September 2020. The meeting brought together the full PSC comprising representatives from Global Affairs Canada (GAC), UN Women, Commission for Gender Equality (GCE), and the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Department of Women), Gender Links (GL) WVL-SA Project Team, as well as two South Africa based GL Board Members who serve as Observers to the PSC.

Areas of partner collaboration identified by WVL-SA Project Team included the following;

CGE: WVL-SA Project Team to follow up with the CGE on developing joint strategies on how to strengthen social media hash tags and twitter handles, and also how these can be shared between the two organisations. Joan De Klerk representing the CGE shared that CGE had conducted a research study on combating GBV in South Africa published in April 2020. Adding that Commissioner Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng was appointed as Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. It was agreed by CGE for WVL-SA Project team to collaborate with the CGE in convening a Dialogue on SRHR, bringing Dr Mofokeng on board to engage with WVL-SA Project grantees working on SRHR issues, and pave way for bringing issues raised into higher level policy discussion with the relevant authorities.

UN Women: Representative from UN Women shared on an on-going partnership that UN Women has with Facebook Africa. In this partnership, Facebook Africa trains women entrepreneurs on how to use Facebook for business development and marketing (e-commerce on Facebook). UN Women's role is to identify deserving women entrepreneurs, and links them up with Facebook Africa for the training. Gender Links would like to partner with UN Women on this initiative, and extend the training opportunity to My Core Grantees and Networking Grantees working to train and empower women entrepreneurs under WVL-SA Project funding.

DWYPD: The Ministry of Women gave its support to the PSC, and particularly to WVL-SA Project Team in the area of Policy Level Dialogues, stating that the DWYPD had the political muscle to bring the relevant policy makers and government departments to participate in these Dialogues.

Key outcomes of this meeting included adoption of WVL-SA Project Year Two Work Plan, securing the political will, buy-in and partnership by UN Women, CGE and Department of Women, commitment by GAC to facilitate an opportunity for GL Team to present the WVL-SA Project at one of the Donor Round Table Meetings held monthly.

WVL-SA Project Team tabled the matters of convening a South Africa Gender Summit that would include categories for WVL-SA Project Grantees to showcase their projects. All Members of the PSC endorsed the idea of a Gender Summit. However, a date could not be confirmed due to the uncertainties of travel and working meetings in light of lockdown restrictions, and also due to the busy period around 16 Days of Activism. It was suggested that this Summit, previously planned for November 2020, be moved to March 2021. WVL-SA Project Team will be organising this Summit in partnership with all PSC Members.

Grants Selection Committee

The [GSC](#), comprising five highly regarded South African experts (three women and one man) had an initial briefing meeting and three four virtual meetings to adjudicate the 114 grants applications across the three grant types that made it through to assessment. As decided by the PSC, the GSC had the final say on who received grants. For the MY Core and Networking grants, the GSC set aside a full day (8 May) for virtual presentations in addition to the written applications. This was a further step introduced to give the longer-term grantees an opportunity to express themselves verbally, in case they may have failed to do so adequately in writing. GAC WR consultant Marinda Weideman participated in all GSC meetings and reviewed all applications as part of QA – Quality Assurance. This was especially important for the RR COVID-19 applications, that has to be assessed by the WVL-SA Secretariat (with the consent of GAC), due to time and budget constraints.

GSC engagements during this reporting period

Date	Mtg	Venue	Purpose
24 April 2020	GSC	Virtual	Review of consolidate scoring and comments for RR, MY Core and Networking grant applications
8 May 2020	GSC	Virtual	Presentation by 2 MYCore Grantees and 3 Networking Grantees
25 June 2020	GSC	Virtual	Final selection of MY Core and Networking Feedback and briefing on progress/status with Rapid Response, COVI-19 Rapid Response and Networking grantees

The Grants Selection Committee delivered on its mandate during this reporting period.

Project Management

GL WVL-SA Project Team

During this reporting period two new staff members joined the team. Beginning of April 2020, Tinashe Chipwanya joined as WLV Grants Manager, following the resignation of then Senior Finance Officer – Grants, Chido Machakanja. Fikile Maviya joined on 1 July to support the Due Diligence processes and the financial training for grantees.

Grantee complaint concerning conduct of one WVL-SA Project Team Member

GL received a complaint from a grantee concerning the communication style of a member of the WVL-SA Project Team. The Grants Manager convened a hearing with the Grantee who lodged the complaint and the staff member who has since received a Warning Letter in terms of GL HR Policies. GL is heartened that the complaints mechanism is being used; this is very important for mutual accountability.

Weekly Meetings with GAC Representative

The GL Services manager has weekly briefings with Tsitsi Fungurani, GAC Senior Development Officer. These meetings are an opportunity to update GAC on key matter arising in the project management and/or grantee implementation, as well as receiving feedback from GAC and news of any developments that may affect the project. These are ongoing and are working well.

WVL-SA Project Visibility and Social Media Profiling

WVL-SA [Website](#) Traffic Report Overview

Month	Unique visits	Number of visits	Page visits	Page hits
April	1 776	2 204	14 635	107 598
May	3 158	3 948	38 339	253 530
June	1 394	1 831	24 932	108 903
July	1 779	2 465	29 718	129 614
August	1 962	2 645	15 111	133 039
September	1 533	2 070	12 800	94 634
Total	11 602	15 163	135 535	827 318

The number of people accessing the WVL-SA website has increased significantly since the last Year One Annual Outcome Report that reported 7923 unique visits (being people who visit the website for the first time). Over the past six months, this figure has increased to a total of 11 602 unique visitors. This brings the total of first time visitors to **19 525** from the time it was launched. 135 535 page visits have been reported for the 6-month period up by 91 396 from the previous report. The Page has had 827 318 page hits. This is attributed to the news posted on this website and grantee profiles that generate global interest.

WVL Social Media Highlights

Twitter

In March 2020 the @WVLSouthAfrica page had 125 followers, the page now has a total of 182 followers to date, up 57 new followers from the previous reporting period.

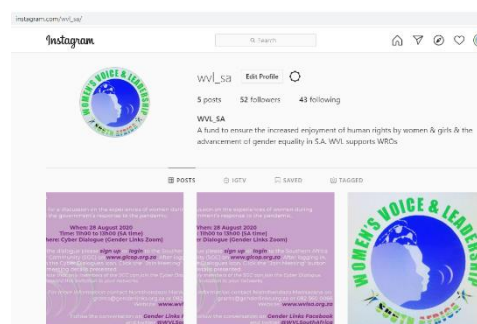
Month	Tweets	Tweet impressions	Profile visits	Mentions	New followers
April	1	1624	34	10	11
May	3	1664	59	15	6
June	29	7572	483	56	28
July	8	4587	182	22	22
August	21	12 200	217	99	20
September	6	2622	65	32	8
Total	68	30269	1040	234	95

The table above shows a summary of the number of tweets, tweet impressions/reach, profile visits, mentions by other users and new followers for the period 01 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. June 2020 records the most tweets, this is during the period that the WVL-SA team was on the ground conducting due diligence. This is followed by August 2020, being Women's Month in South Africa. August 2020 also records the highest tweet impressions; we believe that the virtual launch of the SADC Gender Protocol Barometer together with the Policy Dialogues convened contributed to this high figure.

Facebook and Instagram

Date report	Facebook		Instagram	
	March 2020	September 2020	Page established in July 2020	September 2020
No of followers	285	447	0	52
No of likes	276	393		

WVL Social Media presence is growing steadily, from a place of zero Followers on Instagram in July 2020 to a growth of 52 Followers as at 30 September 2020. Facebook Followers also increased by 162 new Followers between the March 2020 and 30 September 2020.



Risk and Analysis

No.	Description	Risk severity	Mitigation
EXTERNAL RISK FACTORS			
1	Lockdown Stage 1, travel restrictions and meeting/workshops ban on the WRO projects due to Coronavirus disease. Grantees could not implement projects	High risk	WVL-SA Project Team engaged with Grantees on their work plans to agree on activities that grantees could implement in light of the lockdown restrictions.
2	Grantees not reporting on finances and M and E on time	High risk	Targeted on the job training and capacity building was provided for grantees who were experiencing challenges in reporting.
3	Finance reporting-grantees that have not provided invoices	High risk	Second tranche payments were withheld and engagement with grantees was facilitated to provide the necessary support needed. This was in the form of training and mentorship.
4	WVL team personal & equipment safety whilst in the field. Incidence of the rented vehicle being car jammed and all the staff belongings stolen from the vehicle.	High risk	Engaged with GAC, airlines and other organisations on their travel policy provisions. Findings of this research will be presented to the Gender Links Board Meeting in December 2020, from which a Policy position will be determined and brought into the existing Travel Policy.
5	Equality & women empowerment: most of the organisations we will be working with are from rural areas where patriarchy is still very prevalent	Medium risk	Through community dialogue activities, we hope that the WROs and networks will be able to address these issues and champion behavioural change within communities.
INTERNAL RISK FACTORS			
1	Staff productivity – constant support to grantees impacts on the day to day reporting and other activities as staff spend more time providing support.	Medium risk	Block off time to respond to grantee queries on email, phone and WhatsApp on a daily basis and encourage them to familiarise themselves with the helpdesk.

No.	Description	Risk severity	Mitigation
2	Following the increased visibility of the project and donors having an interest in the project, human resource and capacity may need to added	Low risk	Grants Finance Officer was recruited.

Risk factors, both external and internal remain the same. Mitigation strategies employed have been updated in the Table above.

V: FINANCIAL REPORT

The period forecast and actual expenditure had some budget variations in the lines indicated below;

1.4 Grants Management System (-20%)

The grant management Systems were successfully implemented in time for the granting process. These included the Grants Management Information System (GMIS) and the Grants Financial Management System (GFMS). The variance resulted from the reallocation of budget to this line from travel lines savings resulting from savings due to travel restrictions that necessitated a shift in the due diligence and trainings approach that were conducted virtually instead of physical interviews. The reallocation was preapproved by GAC team allowing an overall 20% reallocation from the travel lines to Grants Management Systems.

1.4 Local Subcontractors (-19%)

Local subcontractors were mainly engaged in during the last half of the previous period in conducting grants award assessments. In the current period, there was only small amounts for the finalisation of the process. As per request submitted to GAC team, the other processes for grants assessments will be done internally with the help of GAC consultant due to the budget constraints. The overall over expenditure in the budget is only 1%.

1.6.4 Other Training Costs

Other training costs shows a 51% positive variance on forecast. This was due to the change in the training approach to virtual ones that did not require printing of training materials, hence the savings against forecast.

1.6.6 Goods, Assets and Supplies

The negative variance on forecast resulted from an unplanned purchase of computer equipment that was necessary for the project coordinator whose workstation had broken down. The cumulative expenditure against budget is however still positive with an amount of \$707 still remaining.

1.6.9 Other Direct Costs (Grants)

The period saw significant spending on this category of the budget as the granting process started. All categories of grants were disbursed. The Multi-year grants forecast was under forecasted by 23% which reflect as a negative variance. The Rapid Response and the

Networking were almost precise with less than 10% variances. The form provided for the grants listing is attached to provide the detailed analysis of grants.

1.9.1 Fixed or Negotiated rate

The variance of negative 11% largely contributed to by the variance in the Multi-year grants negative variance. This was over the forecast by \$7,411.

The overall Forecast variance was less than 10% which was an amount of \$62,235 for the period.

VI: CONCLUSION

Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic Grantees have worked hard to deliver emergency relief and put building blocks in place for project take off. Issues previously raised by WVL-SA Team during due diligence were address to make way for contracting and grants disbursement. The WVL-SA Project Team focused on rolling out capacity building and training programmes in Finance and Systems, Governance, and Monitoring and Evaluation. The remaining period has Rapid Response Grantees finalising all activities and submitting Project Close Out Report. MY Core and Networking Grantees, having now finalised project Performance Management Framework, including Work Plan and Budget alignment, focus now shifts to actual project implementation, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting. WVL-SA Project Team are in the process of reviewing Grantee Reports, alongside the day to day management responsibilities of Fund Management and Reporting.

With the lifting of all lockdown restrictions, implementation should move into full swing in the coming period. WVL-SA Project Team is planning a convening of all Grantees toward the end of Year Two (February/March 2021). The platform will be used for peer review, learning and sharing, as well proofing with WVL-SA Project Initiative to the donor community and the different government departments.

GL is honoured to have been approached by GAC in Ottawa to be a WVL Learning Co-facilitator for the Anglophone Africa programme. The partnership is based on the programme's feminist principles, and affirms GL's as a thought leader on feminist grant-making. During this period, GL has also successfully led a global consortium to bid for the Netherlands Government SDG 5 Fund. A large proportion of this portfolio is feminist grant making to community-based organisations that are often by-passed by mainstream funding. GL's learning from WVL will be applied in this new endeavour. We wish to express our appreciation to the GA teams in Pretoria and Ottawa for their support and encouragement through this challenging period.

Annex 1: *Gantt Chart of Activities for Year 2 of the Project.* High level Gantt Chart of WVL-SA activities throughout Year 2.

No	Core Activity	Cross Reference Document	2020										2021		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Governance															
1	Annual meeting of the Project Steering Committee	Project Implementation Plan (PIP)													
2	Grants Selection Committee Meetings/Briefings	PIP													
3	Weekly Briefing Sessions with GAC Team	Year 2 Work Plan (AWP)													
Resource Mobilisation – Briefings															
4	Donor Briefing on WVL-SA	AWP													
5	Private Sector & Philanthropists	AWP													
6	Online Crowd Funding	AWP													
Planning & Reporting															
7	WVL Weekly Planning Meetings	AWP													
8	Develop and submit Year 2 Work Plan	Contribution Agreement (CA)													
9	Develop and submit Year 1 Annual Report	CA													
10	Second budget forecast and requisition	CA													
11	Grants Management System: Finance customisation and integration development	PIP													
12	Testing Finance portal	AWP													
13	Grants Management System: Grantee Reports platform development	PIP													
14	Testing Grantee Reports Portal	PIP													
Project Implementation															
Rapid Response															
15	Rapid Response Grant Applications – assessments, due diligence and selection	AWP													
16	Contracts	AWP													
17	Briefing Batch 3 and Batch COVID 19 Rapid	AWP													

No	Core Activity	Cross Reference Document	2020										2021		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
	Response Grantees														
18	Payments to Grantees - Tranche 1	AWP													
19	Share Point – Grantee Folders set up and monthly maintenances	AWP													
20	Reporting: Mid Term Reports 1 of 2	AWP													
21	Payments to Grantees Trench 2	AWP													
22	Reporting: Close Out Project Reports 2 of 2	AWP													
23	Project Accounts Recons	AWP													
Multi Year Core Support Grants															
24	Due Diligence – Gauteng	AWP													
25	Due Diligence – Limpopo	AWP													
26	Due Diligence – KZN	AWP													
27	Due Diligence – WC	AWP													
28	MY Core DD Briefing and next steps	AWP													
29	MY Core Briefing with the Grants Selection Committee	AWP													
30	MY Core Contracts - design Contracts Template	AWP													
31	Payments to MY Core Grantees - Tranche 1	AWP													
32	Visibility: Share Point	AWP													
33	Reporting: Mid Term Reports 1 of 2	AWP													
34	Payments to Grantees Trench 2	AWP													
35	Project Accounts Recons	AWP													
36	Grants Manual	AWP													
Networking and Alliance Building Grants															
37	Due Diligence: Networking & Alliance Building DD	AWP													
38	Contract Template designed	AWP													
39	Contracts for Networking & Alliance Building Grantees	AWP													
40	Payments for Networking & Alliance Building Grantees	AWP													
41	Payments to Networking Grantees - Tranche 1	AWP													

No	Core Activity	Cross Reference Document	2020									2021		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
42	Reporting: Mid Term Reports 1 of 2	AWP												
43	Payments to Grantees Trench 2	AWP												
44	Project Accounts Recons	AWP												
45	Grants Manual	AWP												
Capacity Building and Training														
46	RR Grantees Briefing on SharePoint	AWP												
47	RR Grantees Briefing on SG Reports platform	AWP												
48	MY Core and Networking Training on Finance & Systems; Training on Log frames M&E	AWP												
49	MY Core and Networking Training on Communications for Social Change	AWP												
50	MY Core and Networking Training on Leadership and Diversity	AWP												
Visibility and Social Media Profiling (ongoing)														
51	Website: WVL-SA website presence	AWP												
52	Twitter: Tweets by WVL Team on project development and activities	AWP												
53	Instagram: WVL Grantee photos & videos	AWP												
54	Facebook WVL Grantee photos & videos	AWP												
55	SharePoint: WVL document storage and management, Grantees key documents storage and management	AWP												
Communications Strategy : COVID-19 & Gender Dialogues														
56	Comprehensive Sex Education	AWP												
57	Early Child Marriages	AWP												
58	GBV	AWP												
59	Teenage Pregnancy	AWP												
60	Gender, Governance & COVID-19	AWP												
61	Safe Abortion	AWP												
62	COVID-19 & Key Populations	AWP												
63	Maternal & Menstrual Health	AWP												

No	Core Activity	Cross Reference Document	2020									2021		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
64	Gender, COVID-19 & Climate Change	AWP												
65	Gender, Media & COVID-19	AWP												
66	HIV & AIDS	AWP												
67	Economic Justice	AWP												
Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning														
68	Monthly M&E Reports	AWP												
69	Monitoring Grantee activities and reporting	AWP												
	Rapid Response Grantee Reports													
	MY Core Grantee Reports (Mid Term Reports)													
	Networking and Alliance Building Grantee Report (Mid Term Reports)													
70	Programmatic Reporting: WVL-SA Mid Term Report	AWP												
71	Financial Reporting: WVL-SA Mid Term Report	AWP												
72	Summit: WVL-SA Grantees peer learning and sharing	AWP												

ANNEX 2: PROGRESS ON OUTCOMES AND FORECAST FOR REMAINING PERIOD

Logic Model : Immediate Outcomes	Milestone	Output for Year 2	Progress Update April - Sept 2020	Forecast: 01 October 2020 to 31 March 2021
1110: Increased funding for WROs enabling them to deliver on their mandate and their strategies	Finalise all Year 2 Contracts under Rapid Response and COVID-19 Rapid Response; Multi Year Core Support Grants; Networking & Alliance Building Grants	15 Rapid Response Contracts signed with work plans and budgets approved and agreed upon.	15 RR Contracts were finalised and implementation is underway.	Grantee Final Reports were received on 15 October 2010 and are currently under review by the WVL-SA Project Team. New Call for RR Grants will be circulated around February/March 2021.
		20 Multi Year Core Support Contracts signed with work plans and budgets approved and agreed upon.	20 MY Core Contracts were finalised and implementation is underway.	Grantees first Semi-Annual Report are due on 30 January 2021
		3 Networking and Alliance Building Grants.	3 Networking and Alliance Building Contracts were finalised and implementation is underway.	Grantees first Semi-Annual Reports are due on 30 January 2021.
1120: Increase ability of WROs to create, monitor and improve organisational processes, systems and sustainability	Set up all grant reporting platforms for narrative reports and finance reports	GMS Narrative Reporting Platform; Pastel Finance Reporting Platform.	GMS Narrative Reporting, and Pastel Finance Reporting platforms fully functional.	WVL-SA Project Team will continue to provide on-site and on-call support to Grantees on Narrative and Financial Reporting.
	Train all grantees on the SharePoint document management portal and the Narrative and Financial Reporting platforms	Training sessions with Grantees on SharePoint, Narrative Reporting and Financial Reporting	All Grantees received training on SharePoint Document Management Platform, GMS online Narrative Reporting system and the Pastel Finance Reporting system.	The Team will also review Reports submitted and provide Grantees with feedback on how to improve and strengthen programming. The Reports will also be used as tool through which capacity gaps will be identified and addressed.

Logic Model : Immediate Outcomes	Milestone	Output for Year 2	Progress Update April - Sept 2020	Forecast: 01 October 2020 to 31 March 2021
	Develop training materials and manual to support capacity building and training programmes	Training Manuals on Finance and Systems; Governance; Results for Changes; Communication for Social Changes; Leadership and Diversity.	<p>To date MEL forms were developed and workshopped with all Grantees during several training sessions held on SharePoint and Help Desk.</p> <p>These resources are housed on the Help Desk Portal, and all Grantees have access and are now using these resources to report and track project progress.</p> <p>M and E and Finance Training Manuals were developed to facilitate training and capacity building.</p>	<p>Develop Training Material and Manuals for the training sessions of Communications and Leadership and Diversity.</p> <p>Training on Communication for Social Changes and Leadership and Diversity are scheduled for the second half of Year 2 and planned for Jan/Feb 2021 period.</p>
1210 Strengthened ability of WROs to reach marginalised groups ⁷ with high quality services and support to claim rights	Support Grantees to develop innovative programmes that target and benefit marginalised groups within their respective communities	Programmes developed and implemented to support grantees to reach marginalised groups.	This outcome concerns MY Core and Networking and Alliance building grantees, and will be informed by limitations identified in grantee reports that only due on 30 January 2021.	Thorough rigorous review of grantee reports and engagement with Grantees, the WVL-SA Project team will collaborate with Grantees in developing programmes/strategies that strengthen Grantee reach and overall project implementation.
1220 Strengthened ability of WROs to undertake policy and advocacy activities on a range of issues in their capacities of work	Develop platform for hosting Dialogues; notify and invite WVL Grantees to participate in the Dialogues; Provide Grantees with training on how to register and log in	Dialogue platform. Virtual capacity building sessions.	<p>GL set up a platform that support virtual Dialogues hosted by Zoom with capacity to host multiple chat rooms running concurrently.</p> <p>To date, WVL-SA convened two Zoom Dialogues;</p> <p>i) Gender and COVID-19:</p>	<p>Future Dialogues scheduled include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV & Femicide; • Corruption in the distribution and coordination of food parcels and PPE materials;

⁷ Marginalised groups include the LGBTIAQ+ community, survivors of gender based violence, rural women, and persons with disabilities.

Logic Model : Immediate Outcomes	Milestone	Output for Year 2	Progress Update April - Sept 2020	Forecast: 01 October 2020 to 31 March 2021
1310 Increased ability of platforms, networks, coalitions, alliances in policy and social advocacy.	Peer learning and sharing achieved through engagement and participation in the Gender and COVID-19 Dialogues throughout the year.	<p>A series of 12 Gender and COVID-19 Dialogues throughout this Project Year.</p> <p>Reports on the Dialogues.</p>	<p>Voices from the ground. Presenters include some WVL-SA Grantee organisations, given the perspective from the community.</p> <p>ii) Women's Political Participation and the Constitutional Court ruling on the Electoral System This initiative was a partnership comprising WVL-SA Project Grantees, Gender Links, The Electoral Commission (IEC), The South African Commission on Gender Equality (GCE), and South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social grants, shelter services and disability; • LGBTIQ+; and • Access to basic medical services i.e. contraceptives and HIV medication.