

Strengthening GBV Prevention Capacity Across the SADC Region

From evidence to action for safer, more equal societies



REGION

Southern Africa (SADC Region)

FUNDING PARTNER

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

PARTNER

SADC Secretariat

DURATION

2022 - 2025

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Evidence & BEYOND worked with GIZ and the SADC Secretariat through a multi-year partnership to strengthen evidence-informed gender-based violence (GBV) prevention across the SADC region.

The journey began with the development of the SADC Handbook to Promote Effective GBV Prevention Initiatives, a practical resource that synthesises global and regional evidence and guides policymakers, programme planners and practitioners.

Building on the Handbook, Evidence & BEYOND supported SADC Member States through regional webinars, facilitated learning sessions and an in-person workshop. The programme created a shared foundation in GBV prevention and supported participants to adapt and implement prevention strategies in their own contexts.



PROJECT GOAL

To strengthen the capacity of SADC Member States to design and implement evidence-informed, gender-transformative and contextually relevant approaches to preventing GBV.

THE JOURNEY FROM EVIDENCE TO PRACTICE



01 BUILD THE EVIDENCE BASE

Create a practical regional GBV Prevention Handbook.



02 BUILD SHARED UNDERSTANDING

Build a common language through webinars and virtual learning.



03 DEEPEN PRACTICAL CAPABILITY

Apply concepts and tools in an in-person regional workshop.



04 SUPPORT REGIONAL LEARNING

Connect countries and strengthen peer exchange.

What we did

Evidence & BEYOND worked with GIZ and the SADC Secretariat to:



Evidence Synthesis & Practical Guidance

Developed the SADC GBV Prevention Handbook, translating research and practice evidence into accessible guidance on GBV risks and protective factors, effective prevention approaches, programme adaptation, scale-up and implementation.



Capacity Assessment & Learning Design

Engaged prevention focal points from across the SADC region to identify existing strengths and gaps. The assessment highlighted needs in technical prevention knowledge, programme design, monitoring systems and cross-sectoral coordination, and informed the tailored learning programme.



Virtual Learning & Regional Dialogue

Convened a regional webinar followed by three 90-minute facilitated virtual sessions introducing core GBV concepts, root causes and evidence-informed prevention strategies. Sessions combined technical input, case examples and peer exchange.



In-Person Capacity Strengthening

Facilitated a four-day regional workshop in Johannesburg with 37 GBV prevention focal points from 15 SADC Member States. Using participatory case analysis, participants applied the concepts and tools to their own contexts.

THE APPROACH

A phased learning approach that moved from evidence to application and regional exchange.

Evidence

Start with what is known about effective GBV prevention.

Understand

Build a common language and shared understanding.

Apply

Use evidence to interrogate real programmes and country contexts.

Exchange

Learn across countries and build a regional community.

KEY RESULTS AT A GLANCE

15

SADC Member States represented in the regional workshop

37

GBV prevention focal points participating

3

Facilitated virtual learning sessions

1

Regional GBV Prevention Handbook

1

Multi-year journey from evidence development to practical application

CONTRIBUTION TO POLICY AND PRACTICE

Building regional capability to use evidence

The programme helped move the SADC GBV prevention agenda from having evidence available to strengthening the capability to use that evidence in practice.

- Established a shared evidence-informed foundation across Member States
- Strengthened understanding of primary prevention and the drivers of GBV
- Equipped focal points to examine prevention design and implementation
- Created opportunities for cross-country peer learning
- Laid a foundation for continued regional capacity strengthening

"This programme has given us a shared language, practical tools and a stronger network across the region. We are better equipped to take evidence into action in our countries." - Workshop participant, SADC Member State