



Experience by LeMuSiCa

In Mozambique, Manica Province, Chimoio

Background: Women are victimised by inequalities, violence and exclusion caused by machismo in Mozambique. Gender based violence (GBV) is still a wide-spread issue and traditional gender roles are limiting women to unpaid care work and household chores. Thus, their voice is severely underrepresented.

The **solution** was to involve men and boys in the fight against gender-based violence. So LeMuSiCa's girls group like so many other activities also involve men and boys to sensitise them from an early age for gender equality and human rights. At the same time, they become aware of the fact that there is still a lot of discrimination against women.

Experience description



LeMuSiCa is a Women's Organisation for Women, Girls and Children with the aim of contributing to improving the living conditions of women, children and youth affected by violence, discrimination and HIV/AIDS as well as fighting for women's rights and combating GBV. LeMuSiCa first worked with women exclusively, but soon realised that change requires men's involvement. They experimented and came to realise that men are needed to achieve the goal of an equal society, where everybody has the same rights regardless of their gender, origin, race, religion, class etc.

Other characteristics



IMPACTS

- At community level people were more open to changing their behaviour.
- The dissemination of the Act covered more communities and significantly reduced the number of GBV.



CHALLENGES

- Due to strong cultural patriarchal traditions, behavioural as well as institutional structures are hard to de- and reconstruct
- It is also a challenge for many partners to break up a toxic relationship where they suffer from GBV.



LESSONS LEARNED

- To inform and sensitise men and boys from an early age in the fight against GBV for a more equal society.
- Involve all social classes, since GBV and discrimination can affect anyone. Awareness of women's rights and reporting violence can help.