



# Report of Network Evaluation Findings

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**Submitted to:**

The GBV Prevention Network  
PO Box 6770, Kampala, Uganda

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention Network is a supra-regional initiative that works to promote primary GBV violence prevention throughout the Horn, East and Southern Africa. The Network has approximately 380 members. It receives guidance from an advisory committee and is coordinated by Raising Voices, a non-profit organization based and registered in Kampala, Uganda.

The Network was established in 2003. In 2010, after 8 years of operation, the Network Coordinating Office and Advisory Committee felt decided an evaluation should be conducted to assess the Network's success and progress, and help identify areas for improvement and ways to more efficiently work toward goals and objectives. An external consultant was hired to conduct the evaluation. This report provides an overview of the Network and details the methods and findings of the evaluation study.

Of the ~380 Network members, approximately 200 participated in this evaluation study. A mixed-methods approach was used and consisted of an online survey with 186 respondents, qualitative interviews with 20 Network members and qualitative interviews with 6 of the Network's strategic partners. Data collection took place between 12 January and 4 February 2011. The evaluation assessed members' perceptions of how well the Network is doing to achieve its objectives and the effectiveness of Raising Voices' coordination of the Network; members' level of use and satisfaction with the GBV Prevention Network's website, e-bulletin and newsletter; participation in and perceived impact of the Network's campaigns, dialogues and skills building events and movement building initiatives; the value added of the Network and its perceived strengths and weaknesses.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FINDINGS INCLUDE:

#### **Network Dynamics and Reasons for Joining:**

- The Network has grown from approximately 30 members (2003) to 380 members (2011). Most members have been part of the Network for 2-3 years and 14% have been involved since 2003-04.
- Most of the Network (~60%) consists of organizational members and 40% are individual members. Approximately 25% of members have dual affiliations (individual and/or organizational member and/or strategic partner).
- The top 3 reasons for joining the Network were to connect with other colleagues working in the field of GBV prevention, access resources on GBV prevention and strengthen practices of rights-based GBV prevention work.

#### **Findings on Information Discourse Activities:**

- Most respondents frequently used the website and the top 3 reasons for visits were to learn about Network activities, access global resources, and read news or access the Newsletter. The website met or exceeded 95-99% of members' expectations.
- Most (90%) respondents read e-bulletins always or often and 95% felt it was useful or very useful. Some were not aware of the difference between the e-bulletin and the tri-annual newsletter.
- The newsletter was felt to be informative and of high quality. However, some indicated they would prefer only receiving it in electronic copy.
- Members were in favor of adding new social media (such as Facebook and Twitter) to the information discourse activities of the Network.

### **Findings on Movement Building Activities:**

- Half (53%) of respondents knew of the *Get Moving! Initiative* and 24.6% had done the sessions and described them as very (91%) or somewhat useful (9%).
- The biggest strength of *Get Moving!* was that it encouraged personal reflection and provided guidance on weaving feminist, rights-based approaches into existing GBV prevention efforts.
- Approximately one third (30%) had participated in a Network's event/meeting. Most described their involvement as very (77.3%) or somewhat useful (20.5%) to their work in GBV prevention.
- The Network should generate strategies for better involving the ~70% of members who are not actively participating in these events.

### **Findings on Skills-Building Activities:**

- The Network has held five focused training courses: Four on "Strengthening Skills for Research on GBV" and one on "Developing Effective Communication Materials."
- Approximately 30% of all respondents had participated in these trainings: 23% in a GBV research skills course and 6% in the communication materials training course. Almost all (97-100%) participants said the course they attended was excellent or very good.
- Twenty percent of respondents were members of one of the Thematic Working Groups and most were very satisfied with their involvement.

### **Findings on Activism and Campaigns:**

- Everyone was aware of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, 70% had participated in the campaign and participation increased from 13.5% in 2004 to 76.4% in 2010.
- Respondents ranked the quality of the Action and Advocacy Kits as excellent (45.6%), very good (44.4%), good (7.8%) and fair (2.2%).

### **Perceived Effectiveness of Raising Voices**

- Respondents had positive things to say about the work of Raising Voices. The biggest strength of the Coordinators was reported to be their communication with and response to members, as well as being open to feedback and suggestions. Most (90%) felt Raising Voices was effective in coordinating the Network's multiple components, implementing relevant and useful activities and providing strategic direction.
- It was recommended that Raising Voices consider how to increase the extent with which they involve members in important decisions and solicit members' ideas.
- Many were concerned with the small size of the Coordinating body and the large size of the Network. It was recommended that staffing be increased in the coordinating office and that the Network's focus be narrowed to place emphasis on reaching members who are less actively involved but would benefit from participation.
- Members and strategic partners felt leadership of the Network should be unique from that of Raising Voices and would, ideally, begin to take on an identity more of its own with time.

### **Value Added and Main Achievements**

- Participants felt the Network added value to their work in GBV prevention by increasing access to resources, as well as quality materials, and providing opportunity to make connections with others in the field of GBV prevention.
- Major achievements of the Network were felt to be the creation of an online library of resources on GBV prevention, the organization of information about what organizations are doing with respect to GBV prevention in the region.
- Members felt the Network created more visible activism and advocacy work on GBV prevention in member countries.

### **The Network's Impact: On Members' Work and at the National and Regional level**

- At the national level (in Uganda) the Network was felt to have an impact on the passing of the Domestic Violence Act in Kawempe.
- Nationally, participants in many countries reported seeing more visible activism and advocacy work which was attributed to the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.
- At the regional level, the Network was felt to have had great impact through its training of over 100 members on research methods through short courses supported by PATH.
- At the national AND regional levels, an increase in awareness about the connection between GBV and HIV/AIDS was attributed to the Network.

### **Achievement of the Network's Objectives**

- Respondents reported the Network provided their organizations with regional and international resources on GBV.
- Respondents reported the Network strengthen the discourse and practice of rights-based GBV prevention in the region.
- Respondents reported the Network helped them/their organization increase their skills in GBV prevention.
- Respondents reported the Network fostered cohesion, collaboration and increased activism within the region.

## THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK

### OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention Network represents a nexus of individuals and organizations working to build a primary violence prevention movement throughout the Horn, East and Southern Africa. The goal of the Network is to foster discourse, skills and solidarity among activists and practitioners working on GBV prevention in this region.

The GBV Prevention Network was established in 2003 by two groups, Raising Voices and the United Nations Habitat's Safer Cities Programme, as a result of a field review they conducted on regional violence prevention efforts. In this review, Raising Voices and UN-Habitat found that organizations working on GBV prevention overwhelmingly felt isolated in their work and without formal mechanisms to share their ideas, approaches and challenges with others. Organizations reported knowing little of other efforts underway across the region and often felt they lacked knowledge of or access to resources that would allow them to strengthen their programs. As a first step to building regional momentum around GBV prevention, Raising Voices and UN-Habitat hosted the first supra-regional dialogue on violence prevention in September 2003. The aim of the Dialogue was to share experiences and lessons learned in GBV prevention and to create relationships with others doing similar work in the regions.

Those who participated in the regional dialogue agreed that a network for the Horn, East and Southern Africa would increase exchange of information; connect activists, practitioners, donors, policy makers, and researchers working in the field of GBV prevention; and foster confidence that GBV prevention efforts are growing in strength throughout the region. As a result, the GBV Prevention Network was established. Raising Voices was asked to take responsibility for coordinating the Network.

### VALUES, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK

#### NETWORK BELIEFS AND VALUES

The GBV Prevention Network holds the following beliefs and values:

1. We believe everyone has a right to live free of violence.
2. We recognize that girls and women are most affected by GBV and therefore they are the core focus and priority in our work.
3. We believe that primary prevention of violence against girls and women is critical.
4. We hold a feminist analysis of GBV, meaning we recognize that VAW happens because of the imbalance of power in relationships. We are committed to programming that addresses this power inequity.
5. We believe that men have an important role to play in creating violence-free relationships, families and communities.
6. We recognize that in order for VAW to end, fundamental changes in long-held attitudes and beliefs about the value of women and the roles they are able to play need to change.
7. We strive to create a culture supportive of women's and girls' right to live free from violence.

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## NETWORK OBJECTIVES

The Network was established to create a space for innovative GBV prevention and provide activists opportunity to build GBV prevention skills, connect with one another and participate in events focused on preventing violence against women (VAW). The Network's objectives are:

1. To provide member organizations with regional and international resources on GBV.
2. To strengthen the discourse and practice of rights-based GBV prevention in the region.
3. To increase skills in GBV prevention within the region.
4. To foster cohesion, collaboration and increased activism within the region.

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## NETWORK ACTIVITIES

The Network conducts a broad range of activities which are organized under four main categories: (1) Information discourse; (2) Movement building; (3) Skills building; and (4) Activism and Campaigns. A summary of the Network's activities within each category are outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: Network Activities by Category, 2011**

Category	Activity
<b>Information Discourse</b>	Management of the Network's website: <a href="http://www.preventgbvafrica.org">http://www.preventgbvafrica.org</a> Distribution of a monthly e-bulletin to all members Publication of the tri-annual newsletter, Perspectives of Prevention Development of materials, resources and GBV prevention publications
<b>Movement Building</b>	The Get Moving! Initiative Events and Meetings <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Network Gatherings</li><li>2. Speaker Events</li><li>3. Member Meet-Ups</li><li>4. Member Meetings</li></ol>
<b>Skills Building</b>	Thematic Working Groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Group</li><li>2. Communication Materials Group</li></ol>
<b>Activism &amp; Campaigns</b>	Network Collaborations Regional Campaigns <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women Campaign</li><li>2. The Media Campaign</li></ol>

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## NETWORK LEADERSHIP: RAISING VOICES

The participants from the 2003 supra-regional dialogue on violence prevention asked Raising Voices, a non-profit organization based and registered in Kampala, Uganda, to coordinate the GBV Prevention Network. Raising Voices accepted this invitation and has been offering leadership and coordinating all aspects of the Network since 2003. Raising Voices provides staff, office space, equipment and supplies to the Network and has also been responsible for its fundraising. Under the leadership of Raising Voices, the GBV Prevention Network has grown from 30 to approximately 380 individual and organizational members throughout the region, placing an emphasis on national and community-based organizations.

From 2003 – 2007 the Network coordinating office worked closely with 13 focal non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which represented other member organizations at country level. Further, in 2007 a 5 member Leadership Committee was established to provide strategic guidance and support to the coordinating office. In a member's review in 2008, it was decided that this original structure of working with Focal NGOs should phased out to encourage more democratic and less centralized participation of Network members. In 2009 to bring more structured and systematic support to the Network, the Leadership Committee was replaced by a 6 member Advisory Committee. Since 2010, the leadership of the Network resides within the Advisory Committee, staff from the coordinating office at Raising Voices, and lead organizations of Thematic Working Groups (two currently active, discussed in more detail below). These various bodies currently shape the strategic directions of the GBV Prevention Network.

## THE EVALUATION STUDY: PURPOSE AND DESIGN

### STUDY PURPOSE

Since its inception in 2003 Raising Voices has been committed to monitoring and evaluating the work and progress of the Network throughout the region. Monitoring activities have been done to provide ongoing feedback on the progress of the Network, problems faced and the efficiency with which it is being implemented and facilitated. Various evaluation activities have also been conducted, such as measuring process indicators to keep track of outputs such as completed Network activities, number of participants at conferences or milestone occurrences. Finally, output indicators have been measured to evaluate immediate outputs such as number of participants involved in capacity strengthening events such as Thematic Working Group skills building sessions.

As the GBV Prevention Network has been in existence for 8 years, the Coordinating Office and the Advisory Committee felt a larger impact evaluation was warranted. An external consultant was hired to collect and analyze information that could be used to objectively assess how the various components of the Network are functioning and to make recommendations for strengthening the Network. .

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The aims of the evaluation study were to comprehensively assess the performance and impact of several areas of the Network and develop a plan for making improvements and changes to the Network operations in response to evaluation findings. The areas of impact identified for evaluation included: the relevance of core areas of the Network's work; the quality of leadership provided by Raising Voices; and the perceived impact of the Network to members' work on GBV prevention. Four specific objectives were established to meet the aims of the evaluation study. They are detailed below:

- Objective 1:** To assess the impact, relevance and effectiveness of the Network's core work areas (Information Sharing, Movement Building, Skills building, and Activism/Campaigns).
- Objective 2:** To examine the perceptions of GBV Prevention Network members and key stakeholders about the quality of leadership provided by Raising Voices.
- Objective 3:** To examine the perceptions of Network members and stakeholders about the Network's relevance, role and value added to local, regional and global GBV prevention efforts.
- Objective 4:** To make recommendations for strengthening the work of the GBV Prevention Network.

### EVALUATION METHODS

A mixed-methods design was used for this evaluation study and consisted of an online survey; qualitative interviews with Network members and qualitative interviews with strategic partners of the Network. Data collection took place between 12 January and 4 February 2011.

All research activities for this evaluation were conducted by an external consultant and assistant evaluator. An email account was set up for the GBV Prevention Network Evaluation Team, using Gmail. All evaluation-related communication to research participants and strategic partners was conducted using this Gmail account.

### ONLINE SURVEY AND SURVEY RESPONDENTS

An online survey was developed using Survey Monkey. The survey was written in English, contained 63 questions and aimed to investigate the following domains: 1) length of time in the Network and motivation for joining; 2) personal history of GBV prevention work; 3) type of GBV prevention work currently involved with; 4) perceived effectiveness of Raising Voices' coordination of the Network; 5) level of use and satisfaction with the GBV Prevention Network's website, e-bulletin and newsletter (Perspectives on Prevention); 6) participation in and perceived impact of the Network's campaigns, dialogues and skills building events and movement building initiatives; 7) the value the Network adds to ongoing prevention work; and the 8) perceived strengths and weaknesses of the Network.

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**BOX 1: A NOTE ON THE COORDINATING OFFICE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK EVALUATION STUDY**

*The Network's Coordinators (at Raising Voices) were not involved as research participants in this evaluation study. They did not complete the online survey and they were not qualitatively interviewed.*

*No systematic input was gathered from the Coordinating Office because this evaluation primarily aimed to assess the Network's impact on its members and strategic partners, to gather information on how these individuals and organizations perceived the overall strengths, weaknesses and accomplishments of the Network, and to solicit their recommendations for improving and strengthening future Network operations. Further, this evaluation sought to understand how members and strategic partners perceived the quality of the work being done by the Coordinating Office, thus including their input would have potentially biased the results.*

*Notwithstanding the importance of focusing this evaluation on input from members and strategic partners, a disadvantage of excluding the Coordinators is that they were not given opportunity to provide their own perspective or provide contextual information in instances where such would have enriched, explained or challenged some of the results. Therefore, to provide the most comprehensive assessment of the impact of the GBV Prevention Network, the Coordinators were asked to review the final evaluation study report and provide context or feedback where they felt their perspectives would strengthen the larger discussion of how the Network has operated since 2003 and how the members, strategic partners and Coordinators can work together to make improvements. This limited contextual input is provided throughout this report.*

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All GBV Prevention Network members, friends and strategic partners were invited to participate in the online survey through an email sent to the entire GBV Prevention Network listserv. The email invitation was sent as part of the GBV Prevention Network's regular e-bulletin. The invitation explained the purpose of the evaluation and provided directions on how to find the online, web-based link to the survey. The invitation highlighted the value of each person's input but emphasized participation was completely voluntary and deciding not to participate would have no effect on future involvement with the Network. Reminder emails were sent out, via the GBV Prevention Network listserv, every 3 to 4 days after the initial invitation for approximately 2 weeks.

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**QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS AND PARTICIPANTS**

Semi-structured qualitative guides for interviews with Network members and strategic partners were developed to elicit open-ended responses, encourage discussion, and enable probing. All guides were developed in English. The purpose of the qualitative interviews was to generate rich, in-depth data from members and strategic partners and to collect information that could expand on survey findings.

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**QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS WITH NETWORK MEMBERS**

Qualitative guides for interviews with Network members were developed to investigate each member's perception of the impact of the Network, the relevance of its core areas, the quality and effectiveness of Raising Voices' leadership and to gather recommendations for strengthening the Network.

Network members were purposively sampled from the pool of all members. Potential qualitative interview informants were chosen based on their perceived level of activity with the Network, their perceived willingness to participate in an interview and their perceived willingness to freely disclose their thoughts and opinions about the Network.

Sampled individuals were invited to participate in a qualitative interview through an evaluator-initiated telephone call or email message from the GBV Prevention Network's Gmail account. Like the survey invitation, participants were told about the evaluation study and the value of their participation but assured their participation was voluntary and that all responses would remain confidential. Member interviews were conducted by the assistant evaluator. Those individuals who agreed to participate in the qualitative study component were interviewed via Skype or over the telephone. Interview data were entered (by the interviewer) directly into a password protected online database that was accessible only to the evaluators. After each interview, participants were thanked for their participation and encouraged to complete the online survey if they had not already done so.

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## QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS OF THE NETWORK

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Qualitative guides (unique from those used with members) for interviews with strategic partners of the Network were developed to investigate how each strategic partner perceived her relationship to the Network, the quality of the Network's performance to date, the quality and effectiveness of Raising Voices' leadership and to gather recommendations for strengthening the Network.

Strategic partners were purposively sampled, based on their relationship to the Network, and invited to participate in an interview. All sampled strategic partners were sent an email by the evaluator who invited them to participate in a qualitative interview. Again, participants were told about the evaluation study and the value of their participation but assured their participation was voluntary. Strategic partner interviews were conducted by the lead consultant. Individuals who agreed to participate in the qualitative study component were interviewed via Skype or over the telephone. Interview data were recorded in written notes (and entered directly into Microsoft Word) by the interviewer during each data collection session.

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## DATA ANALYSIS

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### SURVEY DATA

Exploratory analysis was done to include frequencies (counts and proportions) for dichotomous and categorical variables. Continuous variables were assessed by means and medians. All analysis was done using Excel spreadsheet software.

### QUALITATIVE DATA

Qualitative interview data were analyzed through identification of recurrent patterns and themes following Crabtree and Miller's five steps in qualitative data analysis: (1) Describing, (2) Organizing, (3) Connecting, (4) Corroborating, and (5) Representing (Crabtree & Miller, 1999). These steps form part of an iterative process that is better seen as cyclical or spiral rather than linear. They start by re-examining the goals of the research and considering questions of reflexivity, then move towards ways of highlighting, arranging, and reducing texts to make connections through the identification of recurrent patterns and themes. Interview transcripts were read through to identify common themes, and codes were developed and applied to the text to identify segments of the interviews where these themes are

discussed. Coded text were extracted from each interview and organized using the computer software package NVivo v.7 (QSR International, 2006). The coded text was read to identify further themes or patterns that may emerge from the data in an iterative process. Matrices were created to compare codes by type of participant (member or strategic partner).

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#### INPUT FROM THE COORDINATING OFFICE

As noted in Box 1, the two Coordinators at the offices of Raising Voices were asked to review the final evaluation study report and provide context or feedback where they felt this background would strengthen the larger discussion of how the Network has operated since 2003 and how the members, strategic partners and Coordinators can work together to make improvements. Information was provided by the Coordinators in connection with specific research findings and specific areas of the report. This feedback was reviewed, interpreted and woven into the larger structure of the report. Input from the Coordinating Office is organized throughout the document in highlighted Boxes entitled, “Input from the Coordinating Office.”

#### EVALUATION PARTICIPANTS

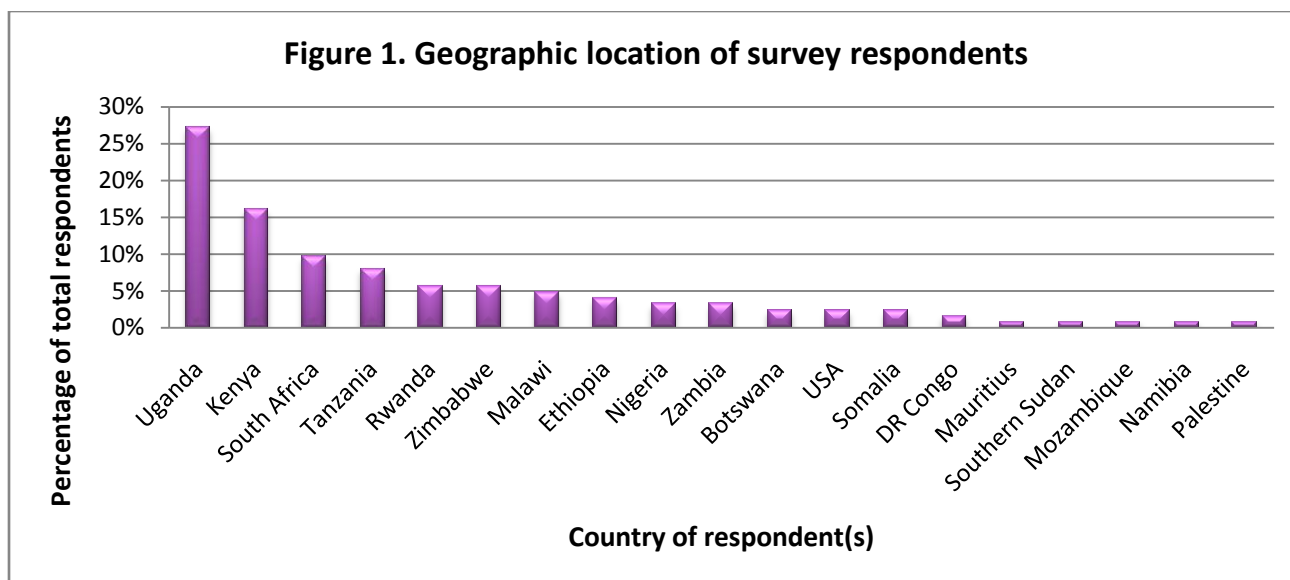
In total, 212 men and women participated in the GBV Prevention Network’s evaluation study. There were 186 survey respondents and 26 qualitative participants (20 members and 6 strategic partners). Characteristics of the evaluation participants are provided below.

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#### ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

All ~380 members, friends and strategic partners of the GBV Prevention Network were invited to complete the online survey. From this group, 186 self-selected to begin the survey and 53 did not finish. One hundred thirty three (133) individuals finished the online survey and all of the closed-and open-ended questions from these 133 respondents were considered in the analysis. For some questions, more than 133 responses were counted and used in the analysis. Average time to complete the online survey questionnaire was 42 min.

Demographic data were collected from survey respondents for gender, age, professional affiliation and geographic location. Survey respondents were predominantly women (70%), and most were between the ages of 26-35 years (48%), followed by those aged 36-50 years (38%), older than 50 years (9%) and 20-15 years (5%). Respondents were asked to indicate the category or categories that best described their professional work (they could choose more than one option). The most common responses were national-level non-governmental work (56%), human rights and/or social justice work (50%), community-based work (49%), research (26%) and development (25%). Other responses included government work, health care, education, faith-based work and emergency aid relief. Respondents were drawn from 19 countries with most from Uganda (27%), Kenya (16%) and South Africa (10%) as illustrated in Figure 1.



## QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

**Network Members:** Twenty Network members participated in qualitative interviews. Four of the members interviewed were also part of the Networks’ advisory committee. A list of approximately 25 Network members was created and drawn upon to recruit participants for in-depth qualitative interviews. Once 20 individuals had been enrolled and interviewed, recruitment ceased for the qualitative member interview component of the study. The average time to complete the interview with members was 40 minutes.

Demographic data were also collected from qualitative member participants for gender, professional affiliation and geographic location. Like survey respondents, qualitative member participants were mostly women (70%). Most participants had a hard time distinguishing one main area of professional focus. Instead, almost all (90%) described their work as community-based work with a human rights/social justice focus and many identified as health care workers (82%), researchers (72%) and primary or secondary level educators (64%). Qualitative member participants were drawn from 12 countries. Most were from Uganda (21%), South Africa (16%), Kenya (11%) and Zimbabwe (11%). Five percent of participants were drawn from each of the following member countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Botswana, and Namibia.

**Strategic Partners:** Six of the Network’s strategic partners participated in qualitative interviews. Seven strategic partners were invited to complete a qualitative interview but one was unavailable and therefore was not interviewed. Strategic partners were from agencies providing funding to the Network, the Network’s advisory committee, and from those professionals who provide technical support and advice to the Network and Raising Voices. The average time to complete the qualitative interview with strategic partners was 50 minutes. Strategic partners were located in Africa, the United States and Europe. Further demographic data are not provided for this group of participants so as to protect anonymity.

## THE RANGE OF PARTICIPANTS' WORK IN THE FIELD OF GBV PREVENTION

Most Network members interviewed (100% of qualitative participants and 95% of survey respondents) reported they actively do GBV prevention in their own professional fields of work. The majority of members (59%) indicated GBV prevention was one of many issues they (or their organization) worked on while 41% reported it as their core area of work. Survey respondents were asked to indicate all types of strategy-based and content-based GBV prevention work they do individually and/or with an organization. Responses are shown in Table 2 (responses are not mutually exclusive).

Table 2. Types of GBV Prevention work Reported by Network members

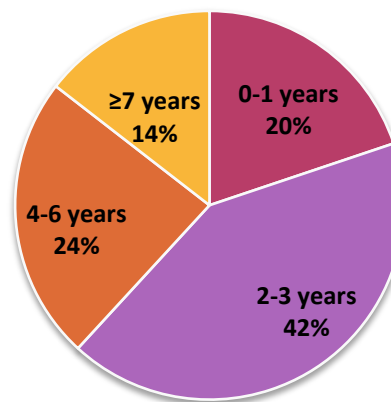
<i>Strategy-based GBV prevention work (n=133)</i>		<i>Content-based GBV prevention work (n=133)</i>	
Type of work	Proportion response	Type of work	Proportion response
Community mobilization	75.6%	Intimate partner violence	81.7%
Training	74.8%	Gender	80.9%
Policy and Advocacy	66.4%	Sexual violence	75.6%
Education and outreach	58.8%	HIV & AIDS	67.2%
Working with girls and youth	50.4%	Other harmful practices	41.2%
Working with men	46.6%	Conflict	29.0%
Media	43.5%		
Service delivery	35.9%		

Most respondents indicated they or their organization had done the reported type of GBV prevention work for 2-5 years (37%), 6-10 years (34%) or 11 or more years (25%). Less than 5% of respondents had been involved with GBV prevention work for a year or less.

## PARTICIPANTS' RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NETWORK

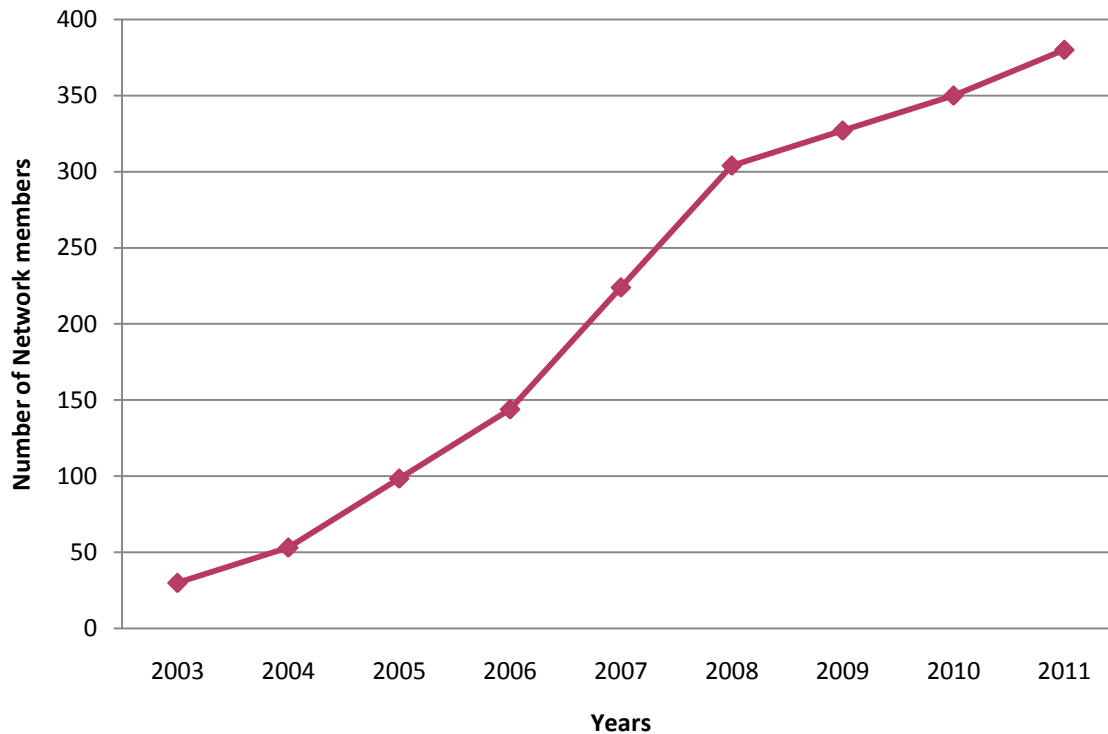
Organizational members comprised most of the survey (60%) and qualitative (81%) participants. Forty percent (40%) of survey and 14% of qualitative participants were individual members. Approximately 25% of the survey and qualitative participants belonged to more than one membership category (organizational member, individual member, friend and/or strategic partner). Most participants had been Network members for 2-3 (42%) or 4-6 (24%) years (Figure 2) and most (67%) considered themselves active Network members.

Figure 2. Reported Length of Network Membership (n=143)



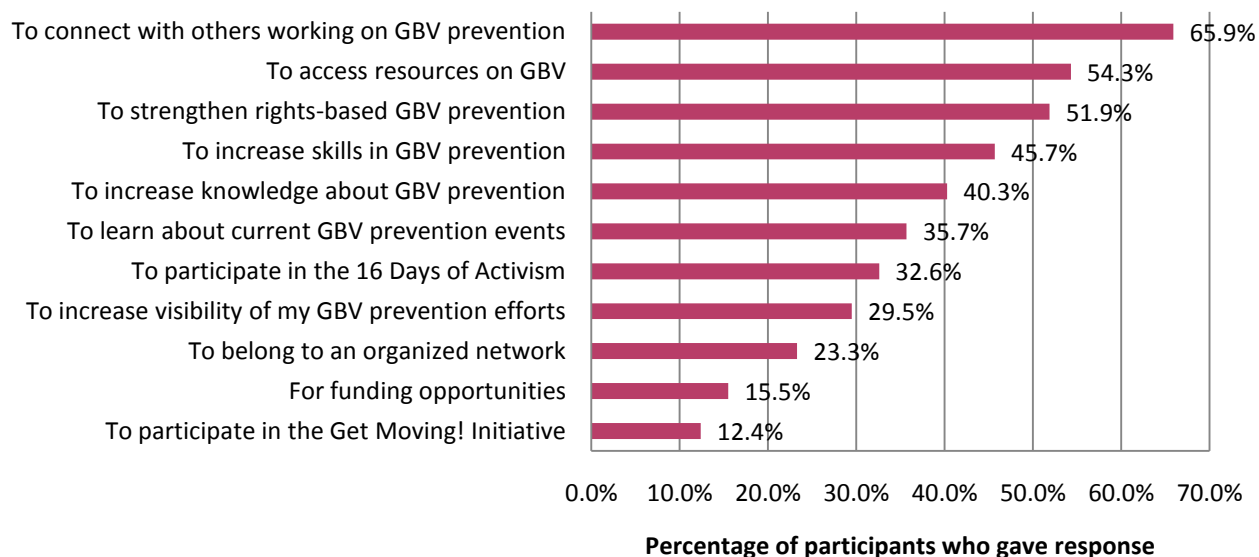
The increase in Network membership over the approximately 8 years of its existence has been dramatic. According to information from the Coordinating Office, when the Network began in 2003 it had approximately 30 members. As indicated above, the membership has increased exponentially. As of March 2011, there are approximately 380 Network members. Figure 3 uses data from the survey and qualitative interview data to provide an approximated chart of the Network's growth in membership from 2003 until 2011.

**Figure 3. Approximate growth of the Network's membership, 2003-2010**



Online survey respondents and qualitative participants indicated they learned about the Network through the Internet (35%) or their employer/organization (21%), from another member (15%), from a conference or meeting (13%), from a colleague (10%), from a publication (4%) or through Raising Voices (3%). The top three reasons for joining the Network were to connect with other colleagues working in the field of GBV prevention (65.9%), to access regional and global resources on GBV prevention (54.3%), and strengthen my (or my organization's) practice of rights-based GBV prevention work (51.9%). All reasons and the frequency with which they were mentioned are detailed in Figure 4.

**Figure 4. Primary reasons given for joining the Network (n=133)**



Qualitative interview participants expanded on these survey findings and described Network membership as an opportunity “for our organization to have a voice and be heard” and “to meet others doing GBV work in the region, highlight our work and give us an area for having our work appreciated.”

Qualitative participants also explained how joining the Network fostered their ability to learn from other organizations, increase GBV prevention capacity, help them feel part of a larger movement toward violence prevention and tap into a group of individuals and organizations focusing on primary prevention. Some organizations/individuals working in settings where violence prevention was still perceived as “controversial” and/or culturally inappropriate, the chance to work with colleagues in countries that were more advanced and more tolerant of publically addressing VAW from a feminist perspective.

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*“As a CBO (community-based organization) we wanted to have a stronger voice and learn from a larger network of people doing this work. Also to learn from others in the field and the many issues related to GBV. We also wanted to find out more about how GBV is related to HIV” Member, qualitative interview participant*

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*“South Sudan has very limited programming for GBV prevention so we wanted to establish more resources for ourselves and help the larger area access resources and materials.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

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## EVALUATION RESULTS

### PART I: MEMBERS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK

The first objective of this evaluation was to assess the impact, relevance and effectiveness of the Network's core work areas of work. Members who participated in the online survey as well as the qualitative interviews were asked questions about the GBV Prevention Network's 4 key activity areas: (1) information discourse, (2) movement building, (3) skills building, and (4) activism and campaigns. Participants were specifically prompted to discuss their involvement and satisfaction with the key activities, as well as their perceptions about the strengths and weaknesses of activities.

#### INFORMATION DISCOURSE ACTIVITIES

The impact of the Network's three main information discourse activities was evaluated: (1) The website (<http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/>); (2) Email and the monthly e-bulletins; and (3) The tri-annual newsletter, *Perspectives of Prevention*. Also discussed in this section are participants' thoughts on incorporating new social media into information discourse activities.

#### THE WEBSITE

The GBV Prevention Network's website ([www.preventgbvafrica.org](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org)), created in 2004 and re-designed and re-launched in 2009, is the most comprehensive source for GBV prevention resources in the region. The website hosts an extensive library of published and gray literature, communication materials, reports and other resources. The site has a variety of interactive features (such as a Members' Blog and a discussion forum) that encourage member organizations to write about their experiences, to learn from others approaches and challenges, to share common strategies and solutions.

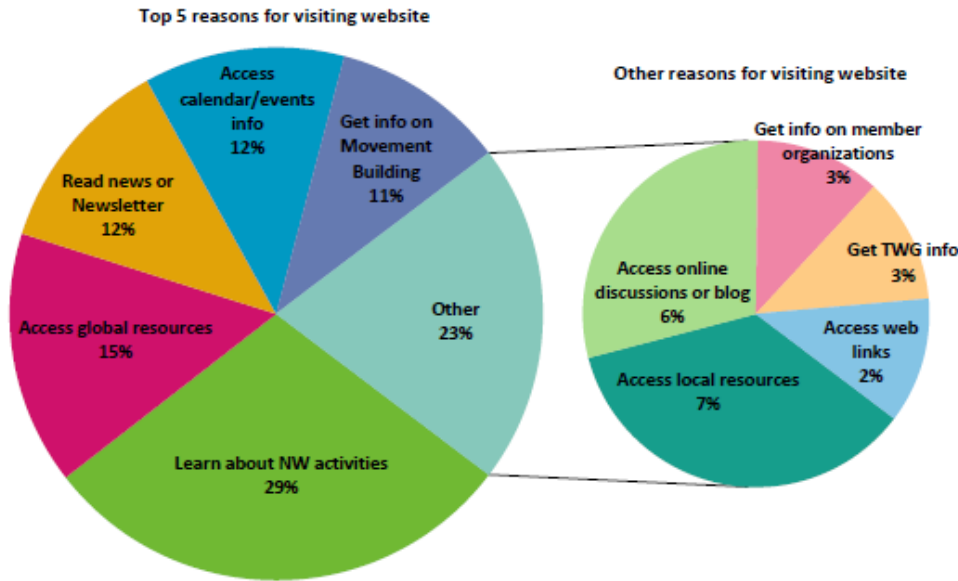
#### TRENDS IN USE OF THE WEBSITE

Most survey respondents indicated they were frequent users of the website. Less than 5% had never previously visited the website. Most members (39%) visited 2-3 times per month and the remaining respondents fell into the following groups: 22.8% visited every 2-3 months, 22.8% visited 1-2 times per week, 9.4% visited daily, and 1.6% visited multiple times per day.

The top 5 responses to the question, "What is the main reason you visit the GBV Prevention Network's website?" were to: learn about Network activities (29%), access global resources (15%); read news/announcements or access the Newsletter (12%); access the Network's calendar or information about events (12%) and get information on movement building (11%).

Other reasons members visited the Network's website were to: access local resources (7%); access online discussions or the members' blog (6%); get information on member organizations (3%); get information on Thematic Working Groups (3%); and access web links (2%). All responses are detailed in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Information that members seek from the Network's website (n=124)

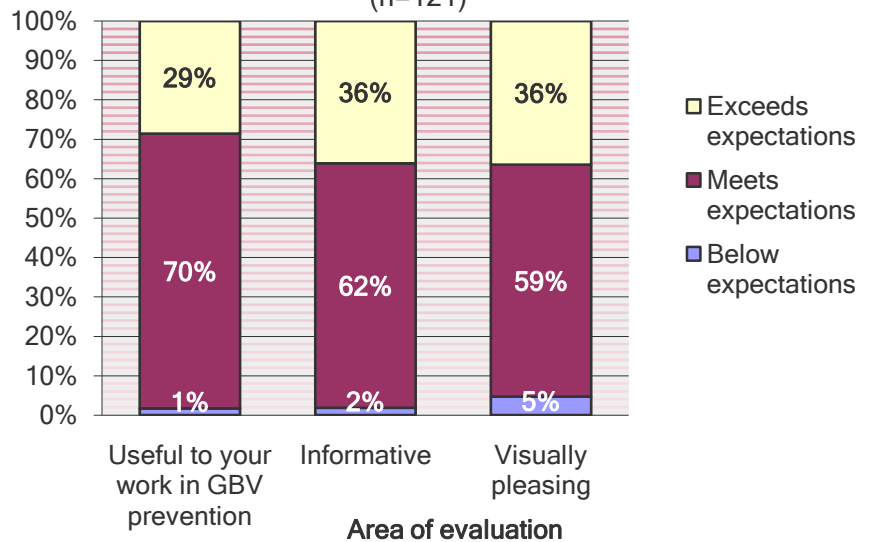


### SATISFACTION WITH THE WEBSITE

Most respondents were very satisfied with the website and felt it exceeded or met their expectations of being useful, informative and visually pleasing (Figure 6). Most people interviewed felt the website was very easy (35%) or easy (47%) to use and reported they found what they were looking for always (43%) or sometimes (56%).

Survey respondents and qualitative participants reported satisfaction with the breadth of information on the website, its vibrant colors, the use of photos depicting positive images of people from the region and the various applications provided.

Figure 6. Respondents' overall satisfaction with the website (n=121)



Two quotes related to members’ feelings about the Network’s website are provided below.

*“The website is very good! It is well-designed, informative and meets all of our needs as an organization.”  
Member, survey respondent*

*“I like how the website provides opportunity for members and non-members to upload their own documents to the site.” Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

Almost all (97%) survey respondents reported it was very likely or likely they would visit the website again in the future.

### PERCEIVED SHORTCOMINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE WEBSITE

Despite the predominantly positive feedback about the website, some respondents reported not always finding what they were looking for and, as indicated in Figure 5, approximately 5% felt the website was below expectation in certain areas. There were two open-ended questions asking respondents what information they had trouble locating and what they felt could be done to improve it. There were 31 responses to the first question about 38 responses to the second. Answers representative of overall responses for each question are listed in Table 3.

**Table 3. Selected Representative Responses—What Respondents Wanted To Find On The GBV Prevention Network’s Website But Could Not & Recommendations For Improving The Website.**

<i>Wanted but not found on website</i>	<i>Recommendations for improving the website</i>
Statistics on the trends of GBV by country	Many respondents wanted to use the Members’ Blog but did not like the way it is set up. It was felt to be “confusing” and “not user friendly.” Some did not know where comments should be posted and requested a more general site for blogging or clarification of how the separate sections are organized.
Country specific information on GBV prevention events, research, campaigns, member’ meetings, etc.	
Compendium of VAW indicators	Some information on the website seems outdated and/or inconsistent on different pages
Information on volunteer and internship opportunities	There are options for non-members to upload files but members were not sure if this option was available to them and would like this option or clarification on how they can post items.
More information about funding opportunities	It was recommended that a portion of the home page be designated for new announcements, opportunities and events.
Information on upcoming conferences and workshops	Many members like the idea of having information about GBV related job, internship and volunteer opportunities provided on the website.
Training materials for use in class room settings	It was suggested that an online database be created for members indicating who does what kind of GBV prevention work in the region so members who want to do specific topical research can locate others working in that area and make contact.
How to get involved with Get Moving!	

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## MONTHLY E-BULLETINS

### TRENDS IN USE OF THE NETWORK'S E-BULLETIN

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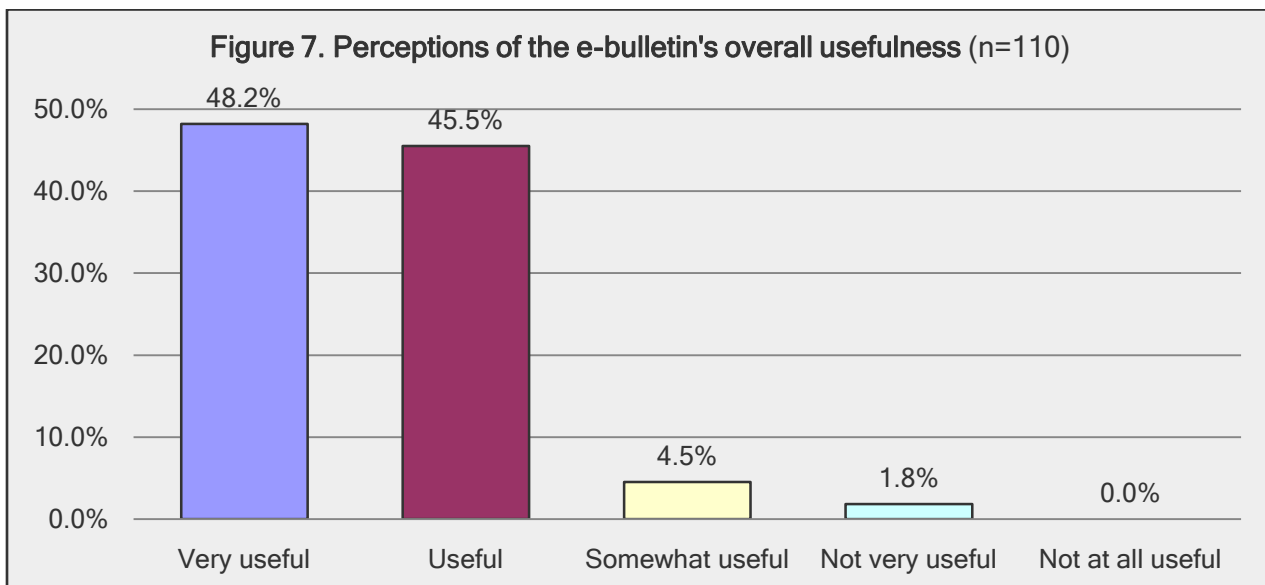
In addition to the website, the GBV Prevention Network distributes a monthly e-bulletin to all members. The e-bulletin provides announcements from the Network and member organizations, updated member information and links to relevant GBV Prevention websites.

The majority of respondents (81%) felt the e-bulletin came at an ideal frequency and most indicated they read it all of the time (54%) or often (36%). Among those who read the e-bulletin, most said they followed its links some of the time (48%). Less than 5% of respondents indicated rarely following links while the remainder followed links most of the time (38%) or all of the time (8%). Some participants requested that summaries of resources be provided below links because many members have poor Internet capacities and it would be helpful to know if the link(s) is (are) relevant to follow up on before taking time to wait for slow Internet connections. Respondents reported they shared information from the e-bulletin with friends or colleagues often (42.5%), sometimes (45.1%), rarely (9.7%), or never (2.7%).

### SATISFACTION WITH THE NETWORK'S E-BULLETIN

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Overall, most survey respondents were satisfied with the e-bulletin and felt it was very useful (48.2%) or useful (45.5%) to their GBV prevention work (see Figure 7).



Members liked reading the e-bulletin to find out what is going on in the field of violence prevention in the region. Several people said it was particularly beneficial to learn what is taking place in other countries and regional settings:

*"I find the e-bulletin useful because it gives a perspective on what is happening elsewhere. Plus, an eye-catching picture or phrase always nudges me to read on!" Member, survey respondent*

Members also felt the e-bulletin was beneficial to the Network in that it provided regular updates on upcoming events, funding opportunities, links to new publications and resources and space for publishing success stories related to GBV prevention:

*“The e-bulletin is great because it shares individual and organizational members’ success stories about violence prevention or stories about strategies shown to be successful in their day-to-day work. This is helpful to read and to get new ideas.” Member, survey respondent*

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## PERCEIVED SHORTCOMINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE E-BULLETIN

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Fifteen survey respondents provided feedback on why they rarely or never read the e-bulletin. By far the largest barrier to its use was confusion related to whether or not the member(s) received the bulletin. Eighty seven percent (13/15) of respondents who indicated not reading the e-bulletin also indicated they did not realize they received it or felt they had never received it despite being registered as a member of the GBV Prevention Network. Other reasons provided for not reading/following links on the e-bulletin were: already receive too many emails (33%), prefer hardcopy bulletins (20%), and poor Internet connection (20%).

Nineteen respondents answered an open-ended question about what could be done to improve the e-bulletin. The main responses were (1) to increase awareness about what the e-bulletin is and how it differs from the tri-annual newsletter (*Perspectives on Prevention*) and (2) how to sign up to receive it. One respondent suggested that a larger range of more specialized GBV prevention information be provided, narrating *“there is not enough substance for practitioners who already have extensive expertise in the area of violence prevention and want to read new, groundbreaking publications.”*

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## TRI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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### TRENDS IN USE OF THE NEWSLETTER

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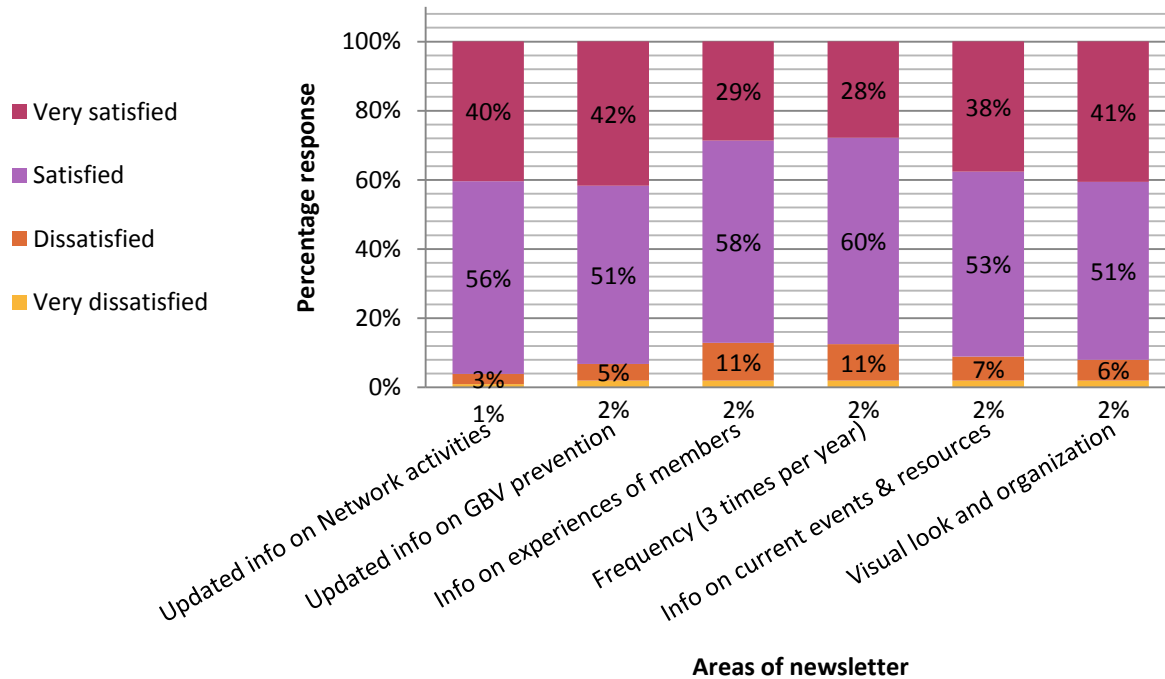
*Perspectives on Prevention* is a tri-annual newsletter designed to create discourse on critical prevention issues and dialogue among members. It is available in hard and soft copies and distributed to all members, friends and strategic partners of the Network. Each newsletter has a theme relevant to GBV prevention and includes a ‘take action!’ section which calls members to join other regional efforts in preventing GBV, members’ news and interviews with prominent activists in the region and vignettes of member organizations which highlight their work and experience relevant to the theme.

Survey respondents indicated they read *Perspectives on Prevention* at the following frequencies: always (29.4%), often (32.8%), sometimes (16%), rarely (9.2%), never (12.6%). Respondents who read the newsletter, reported they shared information from it with friends or colleagues often (43.5%), sometimes (37.4%), rarely (11.3%), or never (7.8%).

## SATISFACTION WITH THE NEWSLETTER

Overall, most survey respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with main components of the newsletter as indicated in Figure 8.

**Figure 8. Levels of satisfaction with specific areas of the Newsletter (n=105)**



Some participants felt the Newsletter was a nice complement to the monthly e-bulletin and those who had difficult Internet connections appreciated receiving the hard copy via postal mail. There were many positive comments about the high quality of the Newsletter:

*“The Newsletter is always very creatively constructed and, like the nice website, draws you in with its bright colors and interesting photos. I also like the font they use and always appreciate the way in which so much information is packed into a relatively slim mailing.” Member, survey respondent*

In addition to receiving the Newsletter in the mail, participants liked how recent posters and communications materials were included in posted packages. Receiving these materials helped members feel updated on new areas of focus for the Network and provided motivation to start working on new topics and using new learning tools. Some members liked to use the Newsletter for training purposes and information dissemination.

*“I always take the Newsletters to workshops and conferences. The material provided in these publications is very good for these types of events and people appreciate the high quality portrayal of GBV prevention work being done in the region.” Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

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## PERCEIVED SHORTCOMINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE NEWSLETTER

Building on the last quote above, participants from all research groups (online survey respondents, qualitative member participants and qualitative strategic partner participants) expressed concern about the hard copy publication of *Perspectives on Prevention*. While many admired the high quality print and paper and appreciated receiving real postal mail from the Network, there was an overwhelming expression of concern about the cost (both financially and to the environment) of sending hard copies of the newsletter to all members.

*“The newsletter is printed on full color, high gloss expensive paper that is bad for the environment. It should be printed, if at all, on recycled paper. Further, the content is of no benefit to very experienced members, leading one to discard the newsletter without bothering to open it. It is due to the newsletter that I completed this survey, since it has been bothering me and other colleagues as a waste of resources when so many women’s NGOs are suffering.”* Member, survey respondent

*“I know this evaluation is looking into what people think of the Newsletter but I think the Network should look more in-depth at how people (members) are using them to see if it is a cost effective strategy to send them to everyone or just to certain people who cannot access them online or who would like to use them for larger dissemination/training.”* Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant

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### **BOX 2: NOTE FROM THE COORDINATING OFFICE ON THE NEWSLETTER**

*Perspectives on Prevention started out as electronic newsletter in 2003. It was originally only emailed to members. However, at the request of many individuals and organizations, especially those based in rural communities where Internet connectivity was a problem, Raising Voices began to print the Newsletter in hard copy and mail it via the Post Office.*

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Other recommendations for improving the Newsletter and/or what members would like to see in future publications included:

- 1. Provide information from the region on violence prevention work targeted at specific at risk populations (e.g. same-sex relationships, pregnant adolescents and young men and women, both in and out of school);**

*“We would like to see more coverage of issues concerning marginalised women and lesbian or bisexual women.”* Member, survey participant

- 2. Provide more country specific information on GBV prevention news in violence prevention, upcoming events, funding opportunities, etc;**

*“I wish the Network would have country specific areas for network members to learn about local events and funding and to have country updates from members both at individual and country level.”* Member, survey participant

- 3. Include information about evidence-based “best practices” in the region with information on how people can contact those leading the projects and research that have been demonstrated successful.**

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## THOUGHTS ON INCORPORATING NEW SOCIAL MEDIA INTO INFORMATION DISCOURSE ACTIVITIES

The Network relies on its website, e-bulletins and newsletters to communicate with members. Qualitative member participants were asked to share their thoughts on how other social media outlets and cell phones might be put to use to service the Network. Responses included information about how participants would like to see new modes of social media incorporated into the Network's information discourse activities. Selected narratives that are representative of overall responses in support of and against social media are listed in Table 4.

<i>Type of social media</i>	<i>Supporting comments and quotes</i>
<b>Facebook</b>	Facebook is user-friendly and could be a good space for social networking  Facebook is easy and popular for conversation. Because it is informal it would be good for connecting members, discussing serious issues in brief, advertising events and planning further (more in-depth) discussions.
<b>Twitter</b>	Twitter would be good for information dissemination.  Like Facebook, Twitter is easy, popular and informal so good for networking, informal discussion, advertising and planning.  Facebook and Twitter are heavily used by young people. Some participants felt the applications have replaced email and printed items among the young generations and would therefore be an excellent way to reach out to young Network members as well as youth in the region and get them interested in GBV prevention and involved in the Network and its activities.
<b>SMS</b>	Short Message Service (SMS) via cell phone is very accessible, especially for updating people on what is happening and bringing people together for different types of GBV prevention advocacy work.

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## MOVEMENT BUILDING ACTIVITIES

The Network aims to build a strong primary GBV prevention movement throughout the Horn, East and Southern Africa. In order to reach this goal, three main activities are used by the Network: (1) The Get Moving! Initiative; (2) Member Meet-Ups and (3) Member Meetings. Each of these activities was addressed in the impact evaluation study and main findings are discussed in this section.

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### THE GET MOVING! INITIATIVE

The Get Moving! Initiative emerged out of a member meeting held after the AWID conference in Cape Africa in late 2008 to foster a feminist analysis of GBV and orient programs toward rights-based prevention and regional movement building among members. The Get Moving! initiative involves a 6 phased process to help organizations think about the ideas and values underpinning GBV prevention and what it would take to truly prevent GBV in the region. All member organizations were invited to get

involved in the Get Moving! Initiative and participate in annual meetings and receive support through phone and email-based assistance as well as password protected internet space for web-based connection.

#### TRENDS IN USE OF THE GET MOVING! INITIATIVE

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Since 2010 there have been nine member organizations partnering with the GBV Prevention Network in the Get Moving! process. The organizations include: (1) Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training in South Africa; (2) Centre for Rights Education & Awareness in Kenya; (3) Kivulini Women's Rights Organization in Tanzania; (4) Rwanda Men's Resource Center; (5) White Ribbon Campaign in Namibia; (6) Women's Legal Resources Centre in Malawi; (7) YWCA of Zambia; (8) Musasa Project in Zimbabwe and (9) IMAGE Project in South Africa.

Five Get Moving! booklets have been published, one for each stage of the process, and mailed to those members of the Network who are included on the Network's postal mailing list. All booklets are also available for download on the website.

Among survey respondents, 53% said they were aware of the Network's movement building initiative, 38% (n=49) indicated their organization had received some/all of the Get Moving! Initiative booklets and 24.6% (n=33) said their organization had done some/all of the structured sessions from the Get Moving! Initiative.

#### SATISFACTION WITH THE GET MOVING! INITIATIVE

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Members who were familiar with the movement and received booklets and/or participated in the sessions were extremely satisfied with the process. Almost all respondents who had used Get Moving! Initiative booklets (n=49) found them very (83.3%) or somewhat useful (14.6%). Among respondents who had done the structured Get Moving! sessions (n=33) 91% reported them very useful and 9% reported them somewhat useful.

Survey respondents were asked to report on what they thought were the most and least useful components of the Get Moving! Initiative. Of the 82 respondents who reported receiving booklets and/or doing structured sessions, 57 and 34 provided responses about the most and least useful components, respectively.

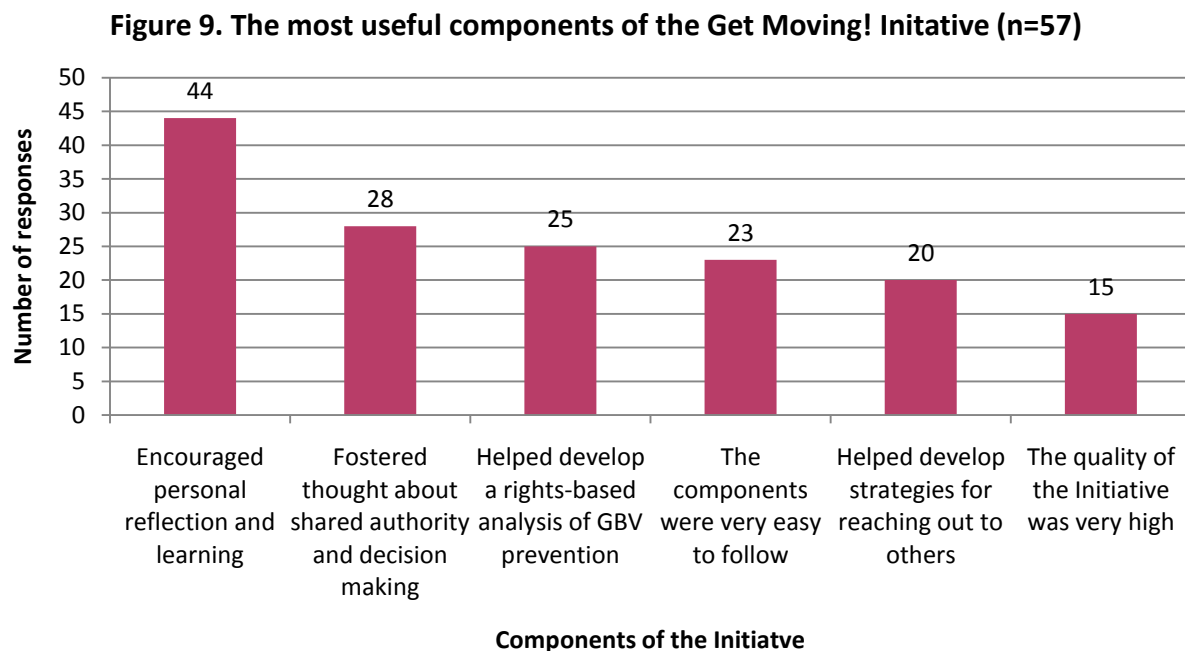
The most useful component of the Get Moving! Initiative was felt to be how it encouraged personal reflection and learning.

*"Staff from our organization have all been involved with Get Moving! They have really looked at themselves and seen how they can be activists and bring activism to their everyday lives. The initiative moved beyond programming staff and brought the process to our community activists who built cohesion between the two (e.g. our staff and the community activists). Get Moving! helps us question our own staff and look at society and how work is being used and presented and how they can then engage with other partners. We also were able to network with other members and see how they moved along and benefitted from Get Moving! and see how they transition their work to be more human-rights based." Member, survey respondent*

Members also appreciated how the movement building initiative provided guidance on creating strategies for weaving feminist, rights-based lessons and approaches into existing GBV prevention efforts in the region.

*“The sessions helped our organization incorporate feminist GBV messages in our health trainings and continuous medical education talks. We did not know how to effectively do this before we started participating in the Initiative.” Member, survey respondent*

Figure 9 provides an overview of what Initiative-participating members felt were the most useful components of Get Moving! Note that these responses are not mutually exclusive. Respondents were asked to indicate their 3 top choices. Counts (not proportions) are shown in the figure.



**PERCEIVED SHORTCOMINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE GET MOVING! INITIATIVE**

The most common problem with the Get Moving! Initiative, as reported by members who participated in the process, was lack of individual/organizational time to conduct the sessions. This response is clearly more of a barrier to participation than a shortcoming or weakness of the Initiative. Fourteen (22%) of the respondents who provided information on challenges experienced with Get Moving! reported “I/we did not have enough time to do the sessions.” Other than “lack of time” fewer than 5% of participating members reported any other complaints or problems with the process. Four respondents felt “the quality of the Initiative was poor”; three respondents reported “the components of the Get Moving! Initiative were too hard for us to do”; and two respondents reported “I/we did not understand the Get Moving! Initiative.”

The most noteworthy finding from this evaluation's assessment of Get Moving! relates to the trends of its use and level of awareness about the movement building initiative. Close to half of the respondents reported they were not familiar with (34.6%) or not sure if they had heard about (12.3%) this movement building initiative. Both survey respondents and qualitative interview participants narrated lack of knowledge about the movement being part of the Network and several people expressed limited understanding about what it meant to "build a movement." Some of the strategic partners also expressed concerns about how well the concepts of *movement building* and doing a *feminist analysis* were understood throughout the region.

*"The Network's movement building initiatives have a very good approach but I am afraid they might not be so well understood in the region. The use of feminist language, for example, is something I like but I am afraid that many organizations in the Network and who would benefit most from this type of initiative are not feminist." Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

Building on the quote above, several respondents expressed frustration that they were not selected to participate in certain opportunities and/or felt poorly informed about them and wondered if they were not told about/invited to certain events because of their approach to violence prevention.

*"Not all members get chances to participate in GBV events and the selection process does not feel transparent. We do not know why we're not chosen. Is it because of where we're located? Or because we don't have as much expertise in women's rights and GBV work?" Member, survey respondent*

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## EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION IN THE NETWORK'S EVENTS AND MEETINGS

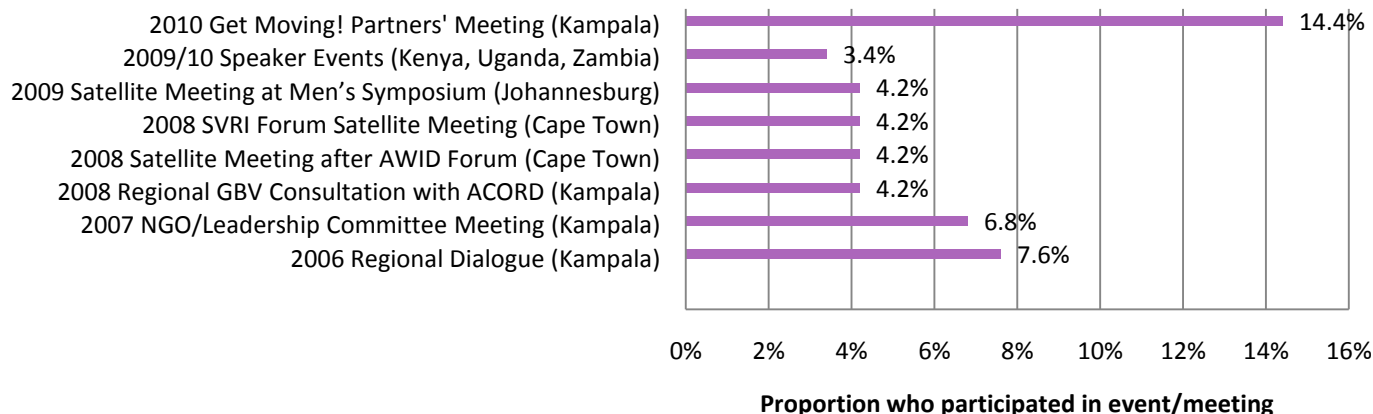
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The GBV Prevention Network and its members are involved in a wide range of GBV prevention events and meetings including: Network Gatherings, Speaker Events, Member Meet-Ups, and Member Meetings.

*Network Gatherings* are planned and facilitated by the Network each year to bring together the most active members to share, connect, learn and create. *Speaker Events* are an initiative of the Network started in 2009. Speaker events are hosted when a Network member is traveling in the region on other work and agrees to spend a half day or day with Network members in that locale, sharing their experiences, doing skill building or facilitating a learning process with other members. *Member Meet-Ups* are informal meetings where members get together at other events, for example conferences or trainings. *Member Meetings* are held once every two years and involve a larger meeting of up to 40 member organizations.

Approximately 30% of survey respondents reported they had participated in one or more of the Network's events and/or meetings. Figure 10 illustrates the distribution of members' participation in various regional dialogues/consultations, focused organizational meetings, speaker events, satellite meetings, movement building meetings.

**Figure 10. Participation in events and meetings hosted by the Network (n=118)**



### SATISFACTION WITH THE NETWORK'S EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Forty nine respondents reported on the usefulness of their participation in these events. The majority described their involvement as very useful (77.3%) or somewhat useful (20.5%) to their work in the field of GBV prevention. Only 1 respondent said the meeting/event that he/she attended was only a little useful. This member had attended the 2008 Satellite meeting after the AWID Forum.

Members who participated in qualitative interviews complemented the above findings by describing specific aspects of the events and meetings that were of most benefit to them, including increasing capacity building, building cohesion between members working in other countries as well as their own, coming up with new ideas for strategizing around violence prevention, learning how other members are approaching GBV prevention and coming up with ideas for how the same work can be done in your setting, and being able to talk through ideas that have been communicated in written format.

*"I personally have attended satellite meetings and colleagues from my organization have attended other Network meetings. We have all benefited from these events. These activities help us build our staff capacity in GBV prevention. It would be great to increase these types of meetings!" Member, survey respondent*

*"We have benefitted from the meetings. They help us with capacity building in our own organization and coaching other partner organizations. We also were involved in one workshop which helped us to see how organizations around the globe work with GBV." Member, survey respondent*

Despite that only 30% of online survey respondents indicated participation in Network events and meetings, members clearly gained a lot from them. In addition, strategic partners felt strongly about the benefit of these in-person meetings and recommended they be continued because as one strategic partner noted, *"the value of face-to-face meetings should not be underestimated."*

## PERCEIVED SHORTCOMINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Concern was expressed by strategic partners about the fact that most members do not participate in these events/meetings, as indicated by survey findings suggesting that 69.5% of respondents had not participated in any face-to-face meetings hosted by the Network. A few strategic partners narrated worried that those who might benefit most from the Network's events and meeting are not currently being involved. Several members reported they were unable to attend regional meetings/dialogues due to lack of funding and ability to travel.

Strategic partners recommended that focus be placed on figuring out how the Network can better involve the ~70% of members who are not actively participating in these events. One recommendation was for more in-country dialogues and events to be planned so people within each country would not be as constrained by funding limitations needed for travel.

### SKILLS BUILDING ACTIVITIES

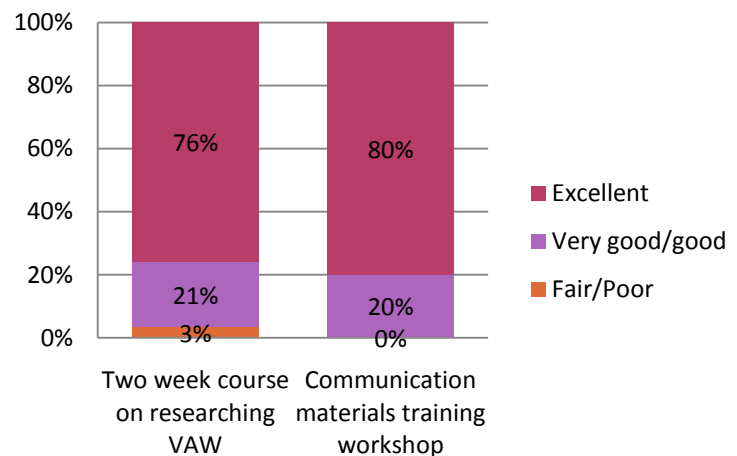
The aim of the Skills-Building Activities of the GBV Prevention Network is to increase quality and effectiveness of GBV prevention programming in the region. There are two main types of skills building activities: focused trainings and thematic working groups.

#### FOCUSED TRAININGS

To date, the Network has held five focused training courses: Four 2-week trainings on "Strengthening Skills for Research on GBV" (in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010); and one training in 2008 on "Developing Effective Communication Materials."

Twenty three percent of respondents participated in at least one of the courses on GBV research skills and 5.9% participated in the communication materials training. Nineteen percent of respondents reported that in addition to or instead of themselves, someone from their organization had participated in at least one of these training courses. Participants were very pleased with the quality of the focused training sessions as shown in Figure 11.

Figure 11. Quality of the skills-building sessions (n=33)



Qualitative member participants complemented these findings by giving details on how the skills building trainings were of use to them.

**On the GBV research strengthening course:**

*“The skills for research on GBV course strengthened our monitoring and evaluation system and enabled us to do better work. We did not previously realize our work needed monitoring and analysis and we were collecting no indicators of progress. This course helped us grow and improve how we plan our programs and interpret what we are doing.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

*“In the research training courses we learned many different things. They made us relook at our programming and the need for research before we do any programming.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

*“The skill building activities done in the research workshop have given us the tools to conduct research and the language that is appropriate for working with GBV issues.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

**On the communication materials course:**

*“We participated in the skill building activities on communication materials and it helped our staff learn to develop their own effective materials and bring these skills back to the organization to train others, building our entire staff’s capacity.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SKILLS-BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

Fifty two survey respondents provided open-ended responses to the question “what other skills-building events would you like to see from the GBV Prevention Network?” A selection of representative comments are shown in Table 5.

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Table 5. Selected Representative Responses— What other skills-building events would you like to see from the GBV Prevention Network? (in no particular order)

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1. Advocacy and community mobilization skills
  2. Empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming
  3. How to provide short term support to victims of GBV
  4. How to address the cross-cutting effects of violence against children
  5. Does GBV only refer to partner violence? More capacity building is needed to raise awareness and address the other forms of GBV that are prevalent in the region, such as trafficking of sex workers, female genital mutilation, forced abortions and anti-abortion practices/laws
  6. How to work with politicians/policy makers and advocate and lobby for community level violence prevention
  7. Proposal writing and how to achieve success in securing and managing grants from funders
  8. How to engage and work with men
  9. More advanced research skills
    - a. How to manage, analyze and publish data
    - b. How to partner with research organizations
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## THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

Network members can also strengthen their skills in specific areas of interest through the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) which are member initiated and led groups, comprised of individuals with shared topical interests pertaining to GBV prevention. TWGs are run by a lead member organization with technical support and coordination from Raising Voices. Activities include skills building for members, publications, adaptations of materials for use in our region, collaborative campaigns or advocacy. Currently, the Network has two TWGs: Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) and Communication Materials.

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## TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION AND SATISFACTION WITH THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

Approximately 20% (n=24) of survey respondents reported being a member of one of the TWGs. Among these TWG members, 16 (67%) were part of the Research, M & E Group and 8 (33%) were part of the Communication Materials Group.

Respondents involved in the TWGs narrated satisfaction with the opportunity to be involved in smaller member groups focused on research or communication materials. Participants reported that the largest benefits of involvement in TWGs included capacity building and increased awareness of important GBV prevention opportunities.

*“The Thematic Working Groups build our capacity to do the GBV prevention core to our organization. The group provides a space for members to improve themselves and their organization and provides opportunities such as events, fundraising and resources.” Member, survey participant*

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## PERCEIVED SHORTCOMINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

As with the movement building, several members expressed lack of accurate information about the working groups. Some thought there were still more than 2 TWGs. Others were confused about how to get involved.

Though it was felt that the two active TWGs have been very successful, some (strategic partners and members

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### **BOX 3: NOTE FROM THE COORDINATING OFFICE ON TWGs**

*The TWGs were developed to be autonomous (or semi-autonomous) groups that are run by members. Members of each group are charged with and responsible for: (1) developing the objectives and deciding on the activities of the TWG; (2) fundraising for the activities; and (3) identify who in the group will act as its leader.*

*The GBV Prevention Network is responsible for providing coordination support to all TWGs and, under special circumstances, supplementary funding for certain activities. Since the TWGs were started, the Coordinating Office has tried a variety of ways of encouraging member organizations to take up leadership of TWGs yet this leadership has not been forthcoming. Thus, the recommendations presented here suggest an important gap in the current operation and/or understanding of how the TWGs are to be run and warrant further discussion with members, as well as brainstorming sessions with the advisory committee and strategic partners to come up with strategies on how to improve the TWGs.*

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alike) posited that the failure of other working groups to get off the ground was due to the groups being too dependent on strategic partners and the coordinating office. For instance, it was suggested that a possible reason the Research, M&E group has been so successful is because of the heavy involvement of partner organizations as opposed to commitment on the part of group members. It was recommended that TWGs be fostered to have less dependence on the Coordinating Office.

*“Participants who are involved in TWGs should be more responsible for getting group activities off the ground. They should take more initiative for operating the groups on their own and be less run by the coordinating office.”*  
Member, qualitative interview participant

Strategic partners and members feel the TWGs should definitely be continued and even scaled up, if possible. Several recommendations were made for strengthening the operation of the working groups, including: (1) Create working groups that have clear and developed aims; (2) Link a strategic partner organization to each TWG; (3) Develop and seek funding for specific TWG budgets; (4) Identify one member or organizational member to act as the leader of each TWG so as to focus and improve each group’s leadership and governance.

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## ACTIVISM AND CAMPAIGNS

The Network activities under the category of Activism and Campaigns include network collaborations and regional campaigns.

Network collaborations are interaction and exchange visits between members of the regional GBV Prevention Network (in the Horn, East and Southern Africa) and members of GBV prevention networks in other countries. The objectives of these collaborations are to form partnerships between like-minded network members and visit and learn from each other.

The Network facilitates two regional campaigns: The Media Watch Campaign and the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women Campaign. The Media Watch Campaign was conducted in 2008 and prompted members to be media watch dogs in their communities by raising awareness about positive and negative coverage on GBV in the region. The 16 Days of Activism is a global campaign to address issues of VAW.

In this evaluation we measured people’s perceptions and feelings about the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and assessed its impact in the region.

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### 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CAMPAIGN

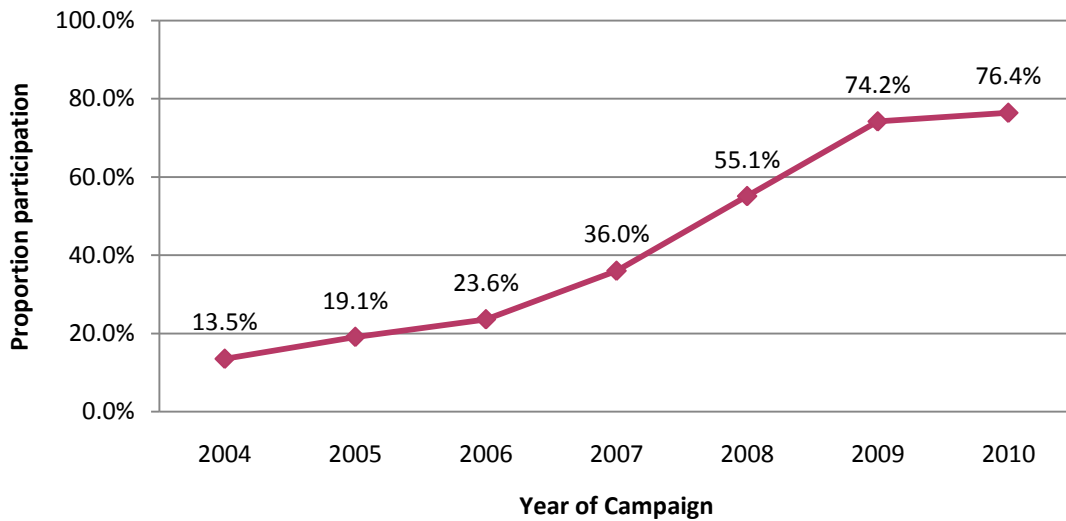
The GBV Prevention Network has facilitated the 16 Days of Activism Against VAW Campaign since 2004. Each year the campaign has had an original theme, derived from the international theme. During each Campaign, the Network collaborated with member organizations and provided those that express interest an Action and Advocacy Kit to facilitate their involvement in the campaign. Action and Advocacy Kits included posters, “Prevent Violence Against Women” purple ribbons, films with discussion guides (for some campaigns), ideas for developing public displays to prevent VAW, press releases related to the theme of the campaign, community dialogue or drama guides, talking points for

members, leaders and stakeholders, fact sheets, and strategizing session guides for staff to develop creative and grassroots methods of “unpacking” the 16 Days Kit for use in their own communities.

**TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION IN THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN**

All respondents and participants were aware of the 16 Days Campaign. Among respondents, 70% said their organization had participated in the 16 Days of Activism Campaign at least once by receiving an Action and Advocacy Kit. The increase in participation in the campaign has been dramatic. Since its first year (2004), the proportion of participating member organizations has increased almost fivefold. Figure 12 illustrates the upward trend of member participation, from 13.5% in 2004 to 76.4% in 2010. The list below Figure 12 provides the name of each year’s theme.

**Figure 12. Proportion of Network member participation in the 16 Days Campaign, 2004 - 2010 (n=129)**



**THEMES**

- 2004: Violence against women increases risk for HIV & AIDS**
- 2005: Men and Women Joining Hands to Prevent VAW and HIV & AIDS**
- 2006: Violence, HIV and Young Women's Vulnerability**
- 2007: I Commit to Preventing Violence against Women! Speak out! Reach out! Stand out!**
- 2008: Our Strength is the Solution: Communities can Prevent Sexual Violence**
- 2009: Happy and Healthy Relationships are Violence Free!**
- 2010: Engaging Faith-based Communities to Prevent Violence against Women**

**SATISFACTION WITH THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST VAW CAMPAIGN**

Members and strategic partners alike perceived the GBV Prevention Network’s facilitation of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to be an excellent promoter of violence prevention throughout the region. This Campaign was mentioned repeatedly as one of the greatest successes of the Network over the past 8 years. Members and strategic partners were impressed by the way Raising Voices has coordinated

each year's campaign, the production and distribution of high quality materials and resources, and the way in which the regional campaign has been tailored each year for use in the Horn, East and Southern Africa.

Respondents ranked the quality of the Action and Advocacy Kits as excellent (45.6%), very good (44.4%), good (7.8%) and fair (2.2%). The kits were reported to be useful to organizations' GBV prevention work in a variety of ways. More than half of the respondents interviewed said the kits simplified and increased the efficiency of their awareness raising activities (65%) and provided quality materials to use (56%). Qualitative participants elaborated on these findings, explaining that in addition to simplifying their advocacy efforts, they liked how the kits provided structure to their campaign approaches and ensured a certain level of consistency across the region. This (consistent approach) was felt to be important to gaining credibility in the GBV prevention movement advocated for by the Network.

*"The Network's 16 Days Campaign supports many GBV organizations (other than ours) in Tanzania. The Network helps us to coach these other organizations and the action and advocacy kits help us with the planning of how to approach the campaign. The kits help us conduct dialogues, and engage media and ensure that all organization in our country have a consistent approach." Member, qualitative interview participant*

Other benefits of using the kits were that they provided diverse ideas for activities and activism (reported by 47% of respondents) and provided strong and useful materials for distribution (40%).

*"We get the toolkits each year and always ask for more! They provide us with great materials to advocate for GBV issues and to share with our communities and partners. The materials are of high quality and they help unify our work in the region." Member, qualitative interview participant*

Many survey respondents and qualitative participants narrated how the "talking points" included in the toolkits were helpful for generating dialogue and discussion with groups/individuals perceived to be difficult to approach or have conversation with. For instance, members liked how the talking points made it easier to initiate conversation and debate with policy makers. Others referenced the 2010 campaign (Engaging Faith-based Communities to Prevent Violence against Women) and narrated how the press release (explaining how prevention of VAW is a tenet of all faiths) and talking points (for an interfaith sermon about preventing VAW) were instrumental to their efforts to reach out to religious leaders and initiate related conversations in the community.

Approximately one third (34%) of survey respondents also reported appreciation of how the kits used a theme that was relevant and important to GBV prevention work. Several qualitative participants felt the use of a tailored regional theme (derived from the international theme) greatly increased the quality and effectiveness of the 16 Days Campaign.

*"Indeed, we have always done the 16 Days Campaign. We enjoy the materials very much and the kits help us localize the global theme to be more relevant to our work and setting and applicable to the context of our constituency." Member, qualitative interview participant*

A few qualitative participants felt another benefit of the 16 Days Campaign was the way in which it unified members of the Network across the region. Several participants discussed feelings of

disconnectedness from fellow Network members, describing how they did not know the work of many Network members in other countries; and oftentimes did not know the other members in their own country. The 16 Days of Activism Campaign was felt to have an unmatched capacity for bridging the work of the members across the region, building a feeling of solidarity.

*“The 16 Days is an excellent initiative to bring us together in the region. Sometimes in South Sudan we feel alone and isolated and the campaign, and its kits to guide us, really helps to bring solidarity among us.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

Finally, many people felt that one of the largest benefits of participation in the 16 Days of Activism Campaign was the exposure it provided in their community to their work and their organization.

*“We have benefitted from 16 Days Campaign because it has enabled us to gain popularity and we are seen as a reference for gender activism. The Campaigns have helped our organization because they send out the message that many groups are working on GBV prevention and it is a priority issues that should be worked on throughout the region.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

*“We benefit greatly from the campaign because it links us with key partners and increases popularity of violence prevention in the community and we all learn from each other.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE ACTION AND ADVOCACY KITS

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Respondents were asked to provide their opinion on and recommendations for improving the Action and Advocacy Kits provided by the GBV Prevention Network.

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*“We understand this might not be possible, but we work with rural, semi-literate communities, and pamphlets and other materials in a local language would be ideal” Member, survey respondent*

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Forty nine survey respondents provided open-ended responses to the question “What would you like to see in the Action and Advocacy Kits that hasn’t been there?” The most common request was for materials to be developed in languages other than English.

Five additional comments on what some members indicated they would like to see provided in or done with the Action and Advocacy Kits are shown in Table 6.

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### **BOX 4: NOTE FROM THE COORDINATING OFFICE ON DEVELOPING MATERIALS IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES:**

*The Network operates in over 18 countries that have official languages including English, Swahili, French, and Portuguese and each country has over 20 local dialects. Recognizing the importance of using materials in languages that are understood by the community, the Network provides all participants in the 16 Days of Activism Campaign with print ready CDs so they can translate and print all materials into their language of choice.*

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**Table 6. Selected Representative Responses and Supporting Quotes — What would you like to see in the Action and Advocacy Kits that hasn't been there?**

Recommendations	Supporting Quotes
1. Send Action and Advocacy Kits to members further in advance from the start of the campaign.	<i>"It would be helpful if you could send the kits to members a month earlier to enable us to get familiar with the contents, train on how to use them and then use the kit to better meet the requirements of the campaign"</i> Member, survey respondent
2. T-shirts and other campaign related supplies/incentives (including red ribbons for World AIDS Day) were requested.	<i>"Scarves, ties, lapels, wrist bands, pens or pencil holders - something inexpensive that can be worn or used for a longer period of time – would be great. The ribbons are good but they tear and people forget and lose them often."</i>
3. Provide data collection tools such as interview guides (to collect data on opinions) and questionnaires to collect baseline and follow-up data on indicators to measure the impact of the campaign	<i>"Organizations are always asked to submit a report of their activities but some of us struggle to know how to keep track of the correct information."</i>
4. Provide guidance to members on how they can respond to and deal with legal issues that come up (related to GBV prevention) in their work	<i>"We would like it if referral pathways were made available for every country on how people can seek legal redress for experiences of GBV"</i>  <i>"We would like a kit on how we can work more on violence prevention laws in our country"</i>
5. Provide guidance on how to involve men and boys in the campaign	<i>"I'd like to see the 16 Days change to have more involvement of men, to focus on involving them in our activities and to help men learn how they can prevent GBV."</i>

## PERCEPTIONS OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN

Survey respondents (n=47), qualitative member participants (n=19) and strategic partners (n=6) were asked to provide open-ended responses to the question "What would you like to see done differently in the Network's 16 Days of Activism Campaign?" Comments and recommendations fell under the following 5 categories: (1) more evaluation of the campaign's impact, (2) more member involvement, leadership and national cohesion, (3) expanded financial resources for campaign activities, (4) expanded outreach to members who have not participated, and (4) more social and political change.

### RECOMMENDATION #1: MORE EVALUATION OF THE CAMPAIGN'S IMPACT

While participants believed 16 Days has resulted in positive impact at the local, national and regional level, many expressed concern that its impact has not been rigorously evaluated. Participating members submit annual activity reports but reported limited understanding of what national and regional impact the Campaign has on organizational practice and laws and policies related to GBV prevention. Participants believe they as members should begin reporting on what works well and what does not in different settings, and also share information on how they implement campaign-initiated activities beyond the 16 Days Campaign.

*"The 16 Days Campaign is doing well but I think we could do an evaluation annually on how people are using the materials: Are they difficult to use or not? Are people using the web forums?."* Member, survey respondent

## RECOMMENDATION #2: MORE MEMBER INVOLVEMENT, LEADERSHIP AND NATIONAL COHESION

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Many members indicated they would like to have more involvement in the planning and execution of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

*“It is important all members are involved in the planning of 16 Days so that the Kits and Activities are appropriate.”  
Member, survey respondent*

Although participants expressed satisfaction with Raising Voices’ work to coordinate the 16 Days Campaign, survey respondents and in-depth interview participants felt the size of the campaign has grown too large for it to be effective for all planning and guidance to come from the coordinating office. Both members and strategic partners felt that concentrated efforts need to be placed into creating better partnership between member organizations within each country. A general lack of communication seems to exist between members and organizations doing GBV prevention work in each country (in general, and also during the 16 days campaigns each year). Participants thought it would be much more powerful if members could campaign together and organize joint events at the local and national levels.

A suggestion was made to organize meetings before each year’s campaign begins so members who are taking part can plan together. What needs to be considered is whether these meetings would be best planned at the regional level or within each of the participating countries. It was suggested that for each year’s campaign a member or organization from each country could be appointed as the national campaign coordinator. In this role, the individual/organization would be responsible for fostering communication and cohesion between the participating member organizations in his/her country, liaising between the Network members in that country and the Coordinating Office at Raising Voices; planning country-level events that all participating organizations could take part in, and troubleshooting any problems that arise. It was also suggested that members with expertise of relevance to a given year’s theme could be called upon to help with the planning and execution of that year’s campaign.

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*“It would have been nice if the Network involved a large organization like ours (Church of Uganda) in the preparations and planning for the campaign so that we were in the know of what was happening from the start. This would give us the confidence to do more when the actual campaign starts.” Member, survey respondent*

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### **BOX 5: NOTE FROM THE COORDINATING OFFICE ON MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING 16 DAYS**

*Every year, members are asked (through the listserv and the e-bulletin) to provide input on the regional theme, materials and activities for the next 16 Days Campaign. The 2010 theme was designed from a member’s suggestion.*

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### RECOMMENDATION #3: EXPANDED FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

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A common request/wish expressed by participants was that financial resources be availed to members participating in the campaign so as to enhance their ability to fully conduct all activities.

*“If there is a way the Network could give a small grant program and support the organizations to really implement the programs it would really strengthen organizations’ ability to do GBV prevention work.” Member, survey respondent*

Recognizing that the Network itself might not in a position to offer member’s financial support, other respondents expressed interest in building their own capacity to seek funding opportunities, develop and submit successful grants and manage donor funds in an effective way. It was felt that the Network would be in an ideal position to organize and facilitate skills-building sessions for members to help them learn the art of grant writing, be guided on how to apply for their own funds to complement the support provided by the Action and Advocacy Kits and learn who their main stakeholders and strategic partners should be during this process.

### RECOMMENDATION #4: EXPANDED OUTREACH TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED

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One participant indicated she would like to see more Ethiopian members in the Network and more Ethiopia-based involvement in campaigns.

Other members and strategic partners expressed concern that some of the members who might benefit most from participation in the campaign, as well as use of the resources provided in the kits are not being involved or reached due to access problems. Many survey and qualitative participants indicated there are still many members who do not have very good Internet or email access and therefore remain unaware of many of the Network’s key activities, including this large campaign. Again it was recommended that more leadership roles be given to members at the national level so they can take on the roles of information sharing in their countries, as well as reaching out to the hardest to access to ensure they are aware of and involved with important activities.

### RECOMMENDATION #5: PROMOTE MORE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE

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Finally, evaluation participants shared very thoughtful perspectives on how they would like to see the 16 Days Campaign get “energized” and “revitalized” in order to foster more people thinking about the importance of violence prevention, how it affects them personally and what they can do to promote social and political change in their country and throughout the region.

Strategic partners and members believed that at the time the 16 Days Campaign was initiated in 2004, it was a very radical move in the region as its activities and objectives advocated for what was perceived to be a set of fundamental, even revolutionary, changes in (then) current attitudes, beliefs and practices related to the way men and women interacted in their own relationships and families and in society. Domestic (or intimate partner) violence was traditionally accepted throughout the region as a “private” or “family” matter. When large groups of organizations went out in public in 2004 as part of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and starting talking about the importance of preventing VAW and the links

between VAW and HIV, it might have raised eyebrows and even created some backlash, but people responded and took note. After 8 years, however, many Network members and strategic partners worry that people in the communities now simply accept the 16 Days' events as just another annual activity in the region. Despite that the theme of the campaign changes each year, there is concern that its activities are being met with an increasing level of complacency in the community. This in turn raises doubt about the extent with which the 16 Days is promoting transformative social change in the region toward less acceptance of GBV, more gender equitable attitudes, laws and policies and social and political movement toward revising current legislative and policy frameworks to protect women from subordination, discrimination and violence.

*"There is a weakness in the 16 Days in that it is not having the effect it should have. I think the Network could refresh and renew the activities of this campaign. I don't see the social and political change that the 16 days is promoting. My impression is that the campaign is more of the same every year and people get used to it. It is not really shaking or stirring ideas, norms or laws. It is not rattling the constitution related to GBV. 16 days is all over Africa but I wonder how much social change it is really promoting." Strategic partner, interview participant*

## HOW TO ACTUALIZE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE?

Members and strategic partners expressed great interest in brainstorming together to identify mechanisms to widen the "campaign visibility throughout the region and create more energy" (member, qualitative interview participant). One suggestion was the creation of "a think tank to identify how to foster energy and enthusiasm continual" (member, qualitative interview participant). Members also suggested that the 16 Days of Activism Campaign evolve with each year, moving from initial activities that aim to raise awareness into subsequent activities that promote change followed by activities that help people increase their skills to change and so on.

*"We need to move beyond just raising awareness. We have begun to do trainings with partners (like the police) on GBV issues. And we have begun to monitor our effects so we can see what else needs to be done. But these kinds of activities need to be woven into the larger objectives of the campaign so all members are doing more capacity building and partnership, not just information sharing." Member, qualitative interview participant*

Another suggestion for "refreshing" and "renewing" the 16 Days of Activism Campaign in the region was to introduce provocative topics - related to GBV, social justice, women's status and gender equity – that have not yet been significantly addressed by the Network.

*"When I think about what could be done ....a hard question! To me the question is "what hasn't been done before?" .... What I would like to see the Network do is connect with more daring topics. And I would like to see these daring topics be part of the 16 days. I would like to see the campaign be more political and for there to be more demand on politicians to get involved." Strategic partner, interview participant*

Several new and "daring" topics were suggested for incorporation into the 16 Days of Activism Campaign. First, it was recommended that the Campaign address the way in which anti-abortion violence is used as a political weapon against women's rights and associated with tolerance for VAW throughout the region. Second, the Network was encouraged to raise awareness about and advocate for the elimination of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) since it is widespread in certain populations in the region, and is recognized as a human rights violation and gross form of VAW. Third,

violence against sex workers and trafficking of women and girls for forced labor and sex was felt to be widespread in certain parts of the region, providing a good theme for the 16 Days Campaign.

*The network could be at the forefront of taking on new debates that are not currently included in the GBV programs. They could use their role and expertise as a leading network to do this. What comes to my mind is the upcoming issue of violence against sex workers. It is receiving more and more attention in African countries. Can this issue become a new theme in the prevention network? Can we promote a deepening of the debate on sexual violence? Perhaps the question would become a conceptual debate - is sexual violence a part of GBV? Is lack of access to safe abortions an issue that could be considered with GBV? The network could take a lead. Everyone might not agree but I think that is the interesting role and the challenge of promoting issues that are important and sensitive in Africa.” Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

Finally, the Network was commended for its comprehensive work on the link between VAW and HIV. Members liked how this connection has been highlighted in more than one of the 16 Days Campaigns. However, it was noted that VAW is also significantly associated with a broad range of sexual and reproductive health problems, extending well beyond sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS. For instance, VAW has been linked to unintended pregnancies, gynecological morbidity, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. It was suggested that the Network consider incorporating some of these themes into future campaigns.

Although some participants were hesitant to suggest the involvement of politicians in the campaign (fearing politicians might try to take advantage of the exposure it provided them), it was recommended that the Network be more proactive about getting the endorsement of key political figures in the region. Further, some felt politicians should be targeted through advocacy work and encouraged to commit to exercising due diligence to fulfill country-level obligations to promote women’s welfare and protect them from GBV. For instance, it was suggested that a regional campaign (i.e. the 16 Days Campaign) would provide an appropriate backdrop for addressing human rights treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Politicians could be called in at the national level to discuss and explain why some countries are party to CEDAW yet their governments do not fully respect, protect or fulfill its obligations to the convention. Politicians could be charged with spearheading efforts to move their country toward becoming party to CEDAW’s Optional Protocol which offers women direct means to seek redress at the international level for violations of their rights (Coalition of the Campaign, 2010) and/or to ratify the Maputo Protocol which calls for greater attention to women’s human rights (Assembly of the Union, 2003).

The second objective of this evaluation was to examine the perceptions of GBV Prevention Network members and strategic partners about the quality of leadership provided by Raising Voices. All survey respondents and qualitative participants were asked to describe their relationship with the coordinating office at Raising Voices (or quantify the frequency of their interactions) and describe how effective they found Raising Voices' coordination work to be. Qualitative participants (members and strategic partners) were asked to share their feelings on how well Raising Voices was doing in their role to provide strategic and policy guidance to the Network and to provide recommendations for how they can strengthen their work.

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#### MEMBERS' INTERACTIONS WITH RAISING VOICES & GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE COORDINATING BODY

Members indicated varying levels of communication with the coordinating office at Raising Voices in Kampala, Uganda. Most survey respondents communicated with the coordinators some times (38.2%), and the remainder were in touch frequently (28.2%), rarely (21.4%) or never (12.2%).

Despite the level of personal interaction with Raising Voices, members and strategic partners alike provided overwhelmingly positive comments on the work of the coordinating body. Raising Voices was commended for its commitment and dedication to violence prevention in the region and globally. Participants believed that the coordinators' unwavering loyalty to their work in the fields of GBV prevention and women's rights has led to the creation of an excellent resource for publications and materials on GBV and has also increased the profile of GBV as a human rights violation in the region.

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*"Thanks a lot to Raising Voices. I am so glad for the good work they are doing which is broadening very fast in Africa. The Network has impacted and broken the silence on GBV in many counties of Central and Western Equatorial States. Keep the good work up! Our organization will be fully with you!" Member, survey respondent*

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*"Raising Voices' coordinating efforts have made the Network what it is today. Their expertise and high standards for quality work have enabled the Network to create an incredible resource for international documents and publications on GBV. Because of Raising Voices' own skills in rights-based preventative approaches, they have guided the Network in its work which in turn has increased the profile of GBV as human rights violation in the region." Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

Participants appreciated how the coordinators support, as opposed to duplicate, activities being done in the region to promote rights and prevent violence. Raising Voices was commended for the extent with which they have and continue to encourage ownership of the Network by its members.

*"Raising Voices takes good leadership in the sense that they are visionary and do good research before they pick up new activities. I highly appreciate and am very respectful of them for doing that. Their work is very solid as a result. They have a good level of knowledge within their own organization which extends to the Network. They use resources well and realize others can contribute to capacity building of Raising Voices and members are what the Network is all about." Strategic partner, in-depth interview*

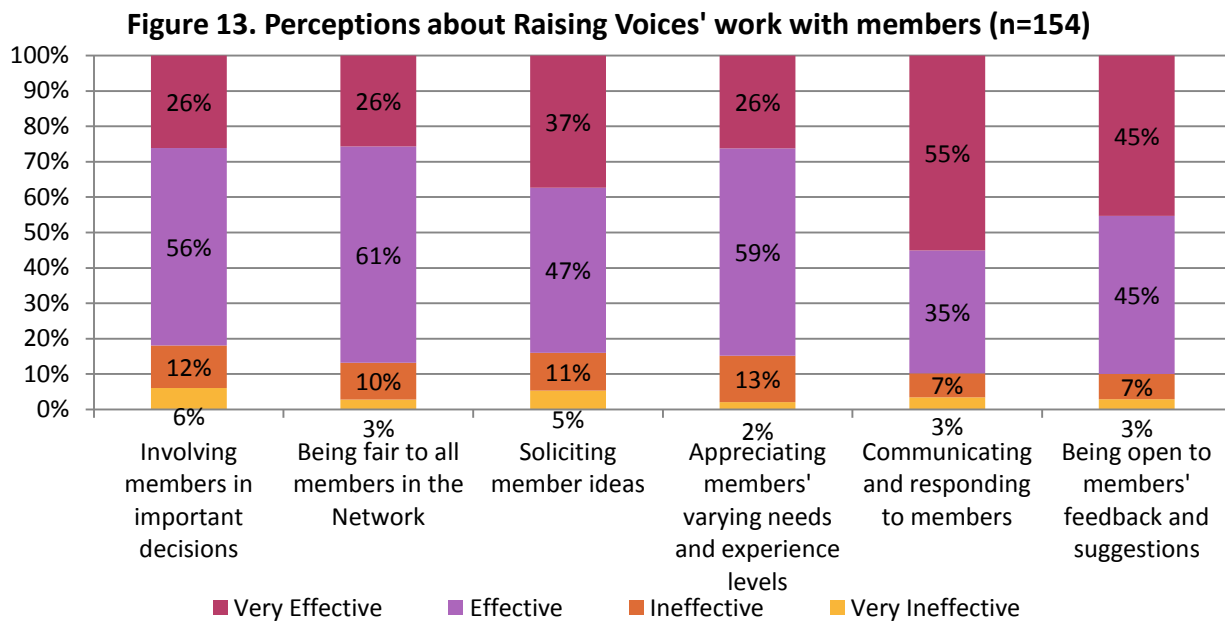
CAPACITY OF THE COORDINATING OFFICE

Research participants were asked to provide their feelings about Raising Voices’ capacity to coordinate the GBV prevention network. Both survey respondents and qualitative participants were prompted to evaluate the resources, knowledge, and processes employed by the Coordinating Office. Specifically, the following capacity-related topics were examined: Raising Voices’ partnership with Network members, strategic leadership, staffing, and the way in which the Network is linked with Raising Voices.

Findings on these topics are presented in this section.

PERCEPTIONS ABOUT RAISING VOICES’ WORK AND PARTNERSHIP WITH NETWORK MEMBERS

Survey respondents were asked to report how effectively they thought Raising Voices communicated with and involved members, treated and appreciated them, solicited their ideas and openly accepted feedback and suggestions. As illustrated in Figure 13, most respondents felt Raising Voices’ coordination work with members was either very effective or effective in all categories.



Members and strategic partners who participated in qualitative interviews were asked the open-ended question, “How do you feel Raising Voices is doing in terms of communicating with members and being responsive to member’s comments, suggestions and requests?” Complementing the survey findings (in Figure 13), in-depth interview participants confirmed that communication and responsiveness is one of the most appreciated aspects of Raising Voices’ work.

*“They are open to suggestions and responsive to issues of members. They are forthcoming with seeking clarity. These women make it what it is and really doing commendable work!” Member, survey respondent*

Survey findings were averaged to assess where members felt the coordinators were strongest and weakest with respect to their work with members. Data indicated that members thought Raising Voices was doing their best when communicating and responding to members, as well as being open to feedback and suggestions. Ninety percent of respondents reported feeling the coordinators were very effective or effective in these areas. Where the coordinators might consider focusing more attention is on involving members in important decisions and soliciting member ideas; 18% and 16% of respondents reported feeling the coordinators were ineffective or very ineffective in these two areas, respectively.

Qualitative participants posited that it might be getting increasingly difficult to involve members in decisions and idea-generation due to the exponential growth of the Network. Worries were expressed about communication in general between the coordinating office and members and some feared Raising Voices might not be able to sustain its intimate interactions with the Network because of its size:

*“Because the membership is now so broad I don’t think the original mechanisms for dialogue and feedback really work anymore. There was supposed to be a more flexible system of communication in place, one with a rotating leadership committee, but I don’t know if that is happening? I don’t hear about it but I think it’s a good idea and could enhance the level of communication that takes place between members.” (Member, in-depth interview)*

Others felt communication between all Network members and one central coordinating office was not feasible, nor was it working well. Participants mentioned in survey interviews as well as the qualitative discussions that they were unaware of many events and activities of the Network and only found out about them after they had been completed (when they received the e-bulletin or newsletter). This was frustrating to many and led to several suggestions for systems of communication to be better developed (with the help of the Network) at the level of each member country. Specific roles and responsibilities should be developed for members in each country and organizations or individuals could rotate as leaders of communication systems in their home countries. They would be in charge of information sharing with members in their own country, and would serve as a liaison between the coordinating office and their country’s membership.

*For more information on the Focal NGO structure that was used by the Network from 2003 – 2007 see page 4.*

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## PERCEPTIONS ABOUT RAISING VOICES’ PROVISION OF STRATEGIC DIRECTION TO THE NETWORK

Survey respondents were also asked to report how effectively they thought Raising Voices coordinated the multiple components of the Network, implementing relevant and useful activities and provided strategic direction. As illustrated in Figure 13, most respondents felt Raising Voices’ coordination work in these areas was again either very effective or effective.

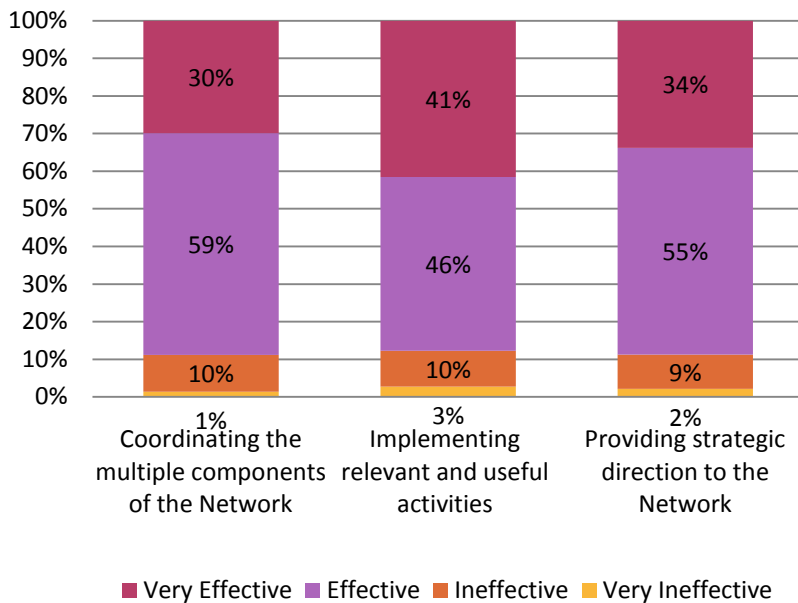
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*(On Raising Voices)*

*“Great job! They are really a driving force for the growth of the Network!”  
Member, survey respondent*

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**Figure 14. Perceptions about Raising Voices' coordination and strategic direction (n=154)**



Again, survey findings were averaged to assess where members felt the coordinators were strongest and weakest with respect to their coordination, implementation and strategic direction. Data indicated that the majority (approximately 90%) of respondents reported feeling the coordinators were very effective or effective in all areas (coordinating, implementing and providing strategic direction). There was no one where Raising Voices was felt to be more or less strong within these categories. All were generally ranked the same with only ~10% feeling the coordinators' work was ineffective in these areas.

## STAFFING AND OTHER RESOURCES AT THE COORDINATING OFFICE

Members and strategic partners expressed great confidence in Raising Voices' technical capacity for leading the Network. They were recognized over and over as experts in the field of GBV prevention and human rights, pioneers in preventative approaches and experienced and skilled program designers and development specialists. No concerns emerged in the evaluation about the resources (e.g. office space, supplies) provided by or available to Raising Voices' in their capacity as Network Coordinators. Many members and strategic partners did express concern, however, about the Coordinating Offices' ability to provide strategic direction and facilitate the network given that they are only two people doing all of the work.

*"I think the Network should have its own full time staff so as to really respond and provide more to its members. There is too much pressure on the 2 people trying to coordinate a network! It needs to grow its own capacity."*  
Member, survey respondent

It was repeatedly recommended that staffing be increased in the coordinating office at Raising Voices.

*"Raising Voices' strategic direction is great but they are challenged because they are only two people. I think they should continue to draw on the advisory group. It does not seem this is being done anymore. If it no longer exists I recommend they set up an advisory group again and include regional representatives."* Strategic partner, in-depth interview

The staffing issue often emerged in connection with the growing size of the Network and the interest of both members and strategic partners to ensure that the Network and its Coordinators continue to encourage member ownership and be familiar with everyone in the group.

*“I really question how they are going to manage the increase in membership? How will they continue to encourage ownership and continue to keep an intimate feel and continue to tap into the rural and regional links with people working on the ground?” Strategic partner, in-depth interview*

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## DISTINGUISHING RAISING VOICES FROM THE NETWORK

Some individuals from each group of evaluation participants (survey respondents, qualitative member participants and qualitative strategic partner participants) expressed concern that there was little distinction between the work of Raising Voices and the Network. Both members and strategic partners felt leadership of the Network should be unique from that of Raising Voices and would, ideally, begin to take on an identity more of its own with time. It was suggested that the Network strive to become a “members’ network” as opposed to a network of members run by a coordinating office.

*“The coordinating office is doing well, however they need to provide members more information about what their strategic operations are and how they are different or the same as the Network’s. It is difficult to differentiate between the Network and Raising Voices and sometimes it seems they (Raising Voices) might be using the space to put their own vision forth.” Member, in-depth interview*

It was felt this distinction could be best achieved if the Network were to increase the strength of its local leadership and transform the Network so it is run by the members as opposed to a coordinating body.

*“Raising Voices is doing a great job of coordination but I feel their role should be limited. The Network should be an entity on its own run by members and maybe we can make it really a members’ network in the future.” Member, survey respondent*

It was narrated in member interviews, strategic partner interview and survey responses that people feel the coordinators should delegate more responsibility to the advisory committee (referred to below as the secretariat).

*“The Network needs to work on sustainability and capacity and governance. Raising Voices has so much of their own excellent work going on and it feels they are often burdened by the responsibility of the Network too. They should probably be working on governance that would allow them to hand over the leadership to another group. It is completely legitimate that it be hosted by a different organization. I personally don’t think a network should have a super-structure of its own. It should be service oriented, can be hosted by an organization with capacity, but I ultimately believe they should focus on bolstering the secretariat.” Strategic partner, qualitative interview*

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## NARROWING THE FOCUS OF THE NETWORK

Also with relation to the increasing size of the Network and that the coordinating office is small in size, some participants expressed concern about the Network's ability to meet all members' needs.

*"I wonder how as such a large network can meet everyone's needs. Is everyone really being helped and who is prioritized if you cannot (help everyone)? Also what is our limit to members and if it continues to grow Raising Voices/the Network needs more staffing. Can one person really respond to all the needs? If we are to manage all the members, what happens when people are silent members and inactive? Do we concentrate on only active members and lessen silent members?" Member, survey respondent*

Some participants felt it might be to the benefit of the Network if its focus were narrowed.

*"Maybe now is the time to say 'ok, if we want to do everything we said we are going to do, we might need to rethink the role of the Network and possibly even narrow it. We need to ask ourselves, what can we do that others are not doing?" Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

It was further suggested that the Network consider narrowing its scope of work to primarily collaborate with those who are hardest to reach. Several members and strategic partners expressed concern that due to the way the Network is currently set up, it might end up being more beneficial to organizations that don't need it as much as others who are less involved. One strategic partner posed the question "Are we really reaching the audience we want to reach?" She challenged the Network coordinators and advisory board to consider making some of the smaller organizations a higher priority.

## PART III: THE PERCEIVED IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

The third evaluation objective was to examine the perceptions of Network members and key stakeholders about the Network's relevance, role, value added and impact on local, regional and global GBV prevention efforts.

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### THE NETWORK'S IMPACT AND VALUE ADDED

Three Networks' impact was assessed at three levels: On members' GBV prevention at the individual and/or organizational level; at the national level within each of the member countries; and at the regional level throughout the Horn, East and Southern Africa.

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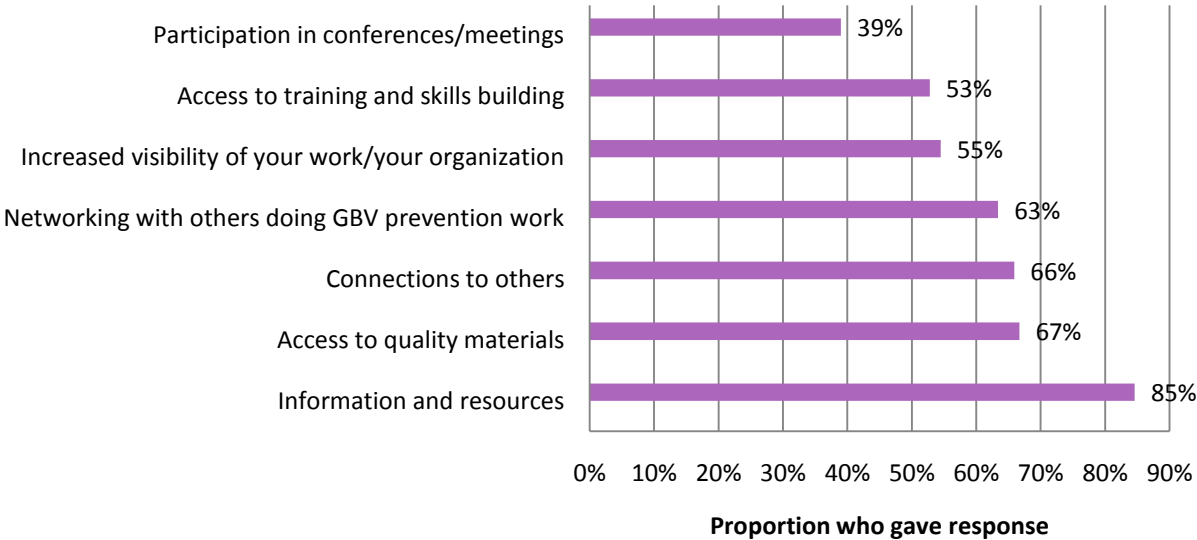
### THE NETWORK'S IMPACT ON AND VALUE ADDED TO MEMBERS' GBV PREVENTION WORK

As reported earlier in this report, the top 5 reasons members reported for initially joining the Network were to connect with other colleagues working in the field of GBV prevention, access resources on GBV prevention, to strengthen individual/organizational practice of rights-based GBV prevention work, to increase skills in GBV prevention and increase knowledge about GBV prevention.

Survey data indicate that members were overwhelmingly successful in having their original intentions for joining the Network met. Respondents were asked "What do you feel is the value added to you/your organization as members of the GBV Prevention Network?" The most commonly perceived "value

added” of participation in the Network was access to local and global information and resources on GBV prevention (reported by 85% of respondents), followed by access to quality materials (67%) and opportunity to make connections with others in the field of GBV prevention (66%). All responses are displayed in Figure 15.

**Figure 15. Perceived value added of the GBV Prevention Network (n=123)**



Qualitative participants were prompted to expand on these findings and specifically discuss how the skills they have acquired from the Network’s core activities impacted/improved on their organization’s operations and/or individual performance. The two most common responses were that acquired skills have helped organizations do GBV prevention work that is consistent with what others in the region are doing (30%) and increased their organizational capacity to do quality GBV prevention work (30%).

*“The Network creates a unified approach with consistent messages on GBV prevention throughout Uganda and the region.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

Twenty percent of the qualitative participants said their Network membership served to increase the confidence they have in their ability to do their own work, as well as their confidence in the quality of the work they are doing. Another 20% of participants reported the Network has improved their skills of analyzing the work they do from a feminist and human rights perspective.

*“Individually the skills I’ve gotten from the Network have made me much more confident as I have more information on GBV and related issues. Organizationally it has empowered us to analyze our own GBV programs and improve on our weaknesses and identify strengths.” Member, qualitative interview participant*

Another twenty percent of participants felt the Network improved visibility of GBV prevention work being done in the region, as well as improved cohesion between organizations, enhancing their collective ability to work together toward mitigation of GBV.

*“The Network has helped us reach out to smaller organizations and work with them on their GBV issues. We are able to link with others to give them (and allow us) opportunity to participate in more relevant activities. Also as we have established our group and our work with the Network, it has helped us to showcase what we do to others.”*  
Member, qualitative interview participant

Others indicated their involvement in the Network has increased individual and organizational understanding of the most important areas of GBV prevention, increased research and communication skills, and improved the quality of advocacy work being done. Some even felt the Network has helped them learn how to raise their own funds for violence prevention activities.

Qualitative participants also discussed whether or not they felt their original intentions for joining the Network were met. All members but one (n=19) reported their intentions had been met. The one member who did not say “yes” explained that it was too early to report on this because their organization had only been part of the Network for one year.

Below are several narratives from members who participated in qualitative interviews, explaining how their intentions have been met and how their participation in the Network has enhanced their efforts in the field of GBV prevention.

#### **Fulfilling the intention to access materials:**

*“Our original intentions for joining the Network have been completely fulfilled. The Network has been a key source of materials, information, and research for our work and we offer the highest collaboration and support to our partners.”*

*“We have definitely been able to meet our original intentions. We have benefitted from the materials and they have helped us with feminist movement building which we really like. The Get Moving! series has been very helpful.”*

#### **Fulfilling the intention to build capacity:**

*“Capacity development has really been the key to fulfilling our goals. Our organization has been through several trainings with the network and we have developed research concepts and skills to use in our own GBV prevention work.”*

*“Yes, our intentions have been fulfilled. We even established a research initiative within our own organization.”*

#### **Fulfilling the intention to connect with other activists:**

*Yes, to a large extent our intentions have been fulfilled. When it comes to activism we have been able to connect with other activists across borders, particularly during 16 Days Campaign -- we adapt from international and regional ideas to join hands. Also we are able to develop new communication materials and tools from the Network which has much added value to our organization. Also through the Network trainings, we have strengthened our capacity for working with VAW in the region.*

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## THE NETWORK'S IMPACT AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

The GBV Prevention Network was perceived to have had significant impact at the local, national and regional level. For example, at the regional level the Network was felt to have had impact by training over 100 members on research methods through the short courses supported by PATH.

*"Many members became more interested in the research issues related to their work. Many organizations feel they have really benefited from the research training. We developed really strong technical partnerships. --- The training is not continuous and may not be long term but we work together in a way. The credit goes to the network. They provided the funding and the leadership and organized everything." Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

At the national level (in several countries), participants reported seeing more visible activism and advocacy work within their countries. This was attributed to the Network because of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign which raised awareness and sparked interest among non-member organizations to get involved with GBV prevention work.

*"At the national level we have seen more visible campaigning for VAW prevention across the country, especially during the 16 Days Campaign. It is more coordinated and has enabled us to reach even government officials and have visibility in the country." Member, qualitative interview participant*

The Network was also seen as playing an instrumental role in the Domestic Violence Bill Coalition in Uganda. To be precise, this coalition was actually led by the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP). While CEDOVIP led this coalition, many survey respondents as well as members and strategic partners who participated in qualitative interviews perceived the Network to have taken a leading role in making this happen.

*"At the national level, with Raising Voices leading, coalitions have been very successful for lobbying and the passing of the Domestic Violence Act. They have been good to get organizations together to collectively work for advocacy. This should be done in other countries too." Member, qualitative interview participant*

At both the national and regional levels, an increase in awareness about the connection between GBV (IPV) and HIV/AIDS was attributed to the Network. The focus of multiple 16 Days of Activism Campaigns throughout the region has been on these linked outcomes and the development of SASA! (from the coordinating office) has provided members with yet another useful, high quality tool for creating sustainable impact.

### ***Access to Resources***

Participants narrated what they felt were the major achievements of the GBV Prevention Network. An agreed upon accomplishment was the excellent job the Network has done in creating an online library of local and international resources on GBV prevention. This is felt to have created one of the greatest resources for members throughout the region, as some of these individuals/groups might not otherwise be able to gain access to such a wealth of information.

*“It’s a one stop-shop for getting resources and it is helpful to get a wide range of expertise in one space. It helps members to do work more effectively and see others doing great work too.” Member, survey respondent*

### ***Forming Connections between Member Organizations***

It was also mentioned that the Network has impressively gathered and consolidated information about what organizations are doing with respect to GBV prevention work in the region. This has served to connect organizations and build cohesion.

### ***Achievement of the Network’s Objectives***

Perhaps the largest achievement of the Network was felt to be the success it has had in working toward and meeting its original objectives. The Network was initiated in 2003 to fill a gap that existed in the region. Activists, practitioners, researchers and others working in the field of GBV prevention in the Horn, East and Southern Africa felt they were working in isolation. There was little communication between men and women working to prevent violence and there was even less collaboration. The fact that the membership of the Network grew from 30 individuals (in 2003) to close to 400 (in 2011) is a testament to the level of interest and commitment among its members. In addition, several participants felt the Network has successfully managed to create a positive and influential image in the region, one which has the potential to influence positive change.

*“The Network has managed to create a civil society presence that has the “teeth” to move policy and the knowledge sharing it fosters is very useful to local countries around laws. I think we learn from each other and I think we will continue to grow.” Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

## ***Other Perceived Strengths of the Network***

In addition to the Network's achievements, members were asked to narrate (through the online survey as well as qualitative interviews) what they felt were additional strengths of the Network. Data were provided by 111 research participants and selected representative responses are listed in Table 7.

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**Table 7. Selected Representative Responses — Perceived Strengths of the Network**

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### ***Strengths of the Network***

- Networking and bringing together partners in GBV prevention
  - IEC materials for use in our own settings
  - Capacity building opportunities
  - Resources and publications
  - Excellent coordination
  - Bringing together such a large, diverse and global group of like-minded people
  - Committed members
  - Community mobilization and activism
  - The coordination of regional events (and participation in them)
  - The 16 Days of Activism Campaign
  - Network discussions and meetings (when people are invited to debate) are excellent
  - How the Network “piggy-backs” on other activities – an effective use of opportunity and resources
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## **THE CHALLENGES AND WEAKNESSES OF THE NETWORK**

Participants also talked about what they felt were major challenges of the GBV Prevention Network.

### ***Funding***

All of the strategic partners who were interviewed brought up the issue of funding. A main concern was the perception that there is a change in donor modality and funder ability and this could have a negative impact on the Network in the future because many donors don't understand what a Network is/does.

*Often donors don't want to fund a Network because it isn't “sexy.” However, I think if it was marketed differently it would be more appealing. I don't think donors realize the many different roles that the network plays. I think the Network should try to be “sold” in a way that highlights the many different things it does as well as the programmatic diversity of the membership.” Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

Strategic partners also felt funding was challenges limiting the Network's ability to achieve its objectives due to the fact that competition for support is strong and keeps growing.

## **Work with Men**

Some members and strategic partners felt the Network should place more focus on addressing how men and boys could be engaged in movement building, capacity strengthening and activism and campaigns related to GBV prevention. Some requested that this type of programming become more central to the Network's overall operations.

*"As a general comment I think what could be done to improve the GBV Prevention Network is to figure out how to involve men in violence prevention and involve more men-based organizations."  
Member, survey participant*

Male involvement in violence prevention was narrated to be too frequently positioned as a separate entity from GBV prevention.

*"GBV prevention should be handled as mixed work, not all about girls and women." Strategic partner, qualitative interview participant*

It was recommended that involvement of men and boys be better woven into GBV prevention in the region - overall and in specific relation to the design of movement building. Many members reported they would like to receive more guidance on how to involve men in campaigns and GBV prevention work in the region. It was also reported that some members would like to learn how to more effectively work with stakeholders so as to gain the support and endorsement of men in the community. This was brought up because some members felt that not working with men and not gaining male support and collaboration often presented challenges to the smooth running of their violence prevention efforts. While members expressed wishes that they did not have to work so hard to gain the backing of men in the community, patriarchy and suspicion of GBV work remains the reality in many settings.

*"Since we work with men they understand GBV as an issue. I am learning from others how to work with men and mobilize them to work to prevent GBV but most organizations in the Network are not doing this and it's stopping some of them from moving forward. This should be addressed by the coordinators." Member, survey participant*

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### **BOX 6: NOTE FROM THE COORDINATING OFFICE ON WORKING WITH MEN**

*In 2009 the Coordinators from Raising Voices and staff from Sonke Gender Justice discussed the idea of starting up a Thematic Working Group to focus on working with men in GBV prevention. The two groups felt member organization, Sonke Gender Justice, was in an ideal position to take leadership of this TWG. However, it was ultimately decided that establishing a male-focused TWG under the GBV Prevention Network might be redundant given that Sonke coordinates the MenEngage Network in Africa, a network working in the region (and beyond) to increase men's support for gender equality and human rights. The GBV Prevention Network and the MenEngage network share many of the same members. Thus, the GBV Prevention Network did not want to replicate efforts.*

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### ***Other Perceived Weaknesses of the Network***

Members were also asked to narrate (through the online survey as well as qualitative interviews) what they felt were additional weaknesses of the Network. Data were provided by 97 research participants and selected representative responses are listed in Table 8.

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**Table 8. Selected Representative Responses — Perceived Weaknesses of the Network**

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#### *Weaknesses of the Network*

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- A lot of the work is “urban based” and many of us are in rural areas. The work is not always tailored to us.
  - Inadequate/limited staffing of the coordinating office
  - Not enough opportunity for all members to meet and interact – more member interfacing is needed
  - Should be more participatory for members so we are more aware of the direction of the Network
  - The Network’s presence is weak in each country. The Network should develop and organize more in-country programs to bring them together
  - Network does not build capacity of organizations to mobilize resources and funding
  - TWGs should be more developed and implemented
  - The Network needs to be more involved with partners and in communities where members are working
  - More political activity and new laws should be promoted at each country level
  - Dialogue between Network and advisory committee should be improved
  - A strategic plan needs to be developed
  - IEC materials only in English
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## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

When the GBV Prevention Network began in 2003, the region was challenged by a lack of access to locally-developed resources and materials on GBV prevention. Further, individuals and organizations working in the fields of violence prevention and women's rights had limited opportunity to share related programs, approaches, strategies and ideas with one another. The growth of the Network over the past 8 years, from 30 members in 2003 to the current membership of approximately 380 individuals and organizations, provides testament to the significant regional interest in having a group that offers space for sharing new ideas, expertise, and experience on issues of GBV prevention. Further, the data from this evaluation study provide evidence that the Network has effectively achieved its goals of increasing regional exchange of resources and information and highlighting to activists, practitioners, donors, policy makers, and researchers in the region that GBV prevention efforts are growing in strength throughout the Horn, East and Southern Africa.

*The Network's first objective* is to provide member organizations with regional and international resources on GBV. Data from this study suggest this goal is clearly being met. One of the top reported reasons for visiting the website was to access resources on GBV. Members further reported that the e-bulletin was another excellent source of finding regional and/or international resources, either within the bulletin or by following its links. Accessing resources on GBV prevention was the second most commonly reported reason for joining the Network and it was perceived to provide the greatest value to survey respondents' work on GBV prevention in the region (reported by 85% of respondents). Members felt the way in which the Network has provided them access to resources is one of its single greatest strengths and achievements.

*The Network's second objective* is to strengthen the discourse and practice of rights-based GBV prevention in the region. Discussion about rights-based violence prevention is clearly taking place through the members' frequent participation in the multiple information discourse activities provided by the Network. Most survey respondents were frequent users of the Network's website (with 75% using it daily, weekly or monthly), 90% of those surveyed read the e-bulletin all of the time or often and 62% read the Newsletter often or always.

***Recommendation:*** *Some members would prefer receiving only electronic copies of the Newsletter. A follow up-inquiry should be conducted to find out who would like to receive hard vs. electronic copies of the Newsletter.*

Practice of rights-based GBV prevention work is greatly enhanced by the Network's movement building activities. Members appreciated *Get Moving!* and felt it provided guidance on creating strategies for weaving feminist, rights-based lessons and approaches into existing GBV prevention efforts. Among those who participated in one or more of the Network's events or meetings geared toward increasing

discussion and practice of GBV prevention work, most described their involvement as very useful (77.3%) or somewhat useful (20.5%) to their work in the field of GBV prevention.

*The Network's third objective* is to increase skills in GBV prevention within the region. Data indicate the Network has reached approximately half its members and helped them strengthen their capacity. Among survey respondents, 54% reported that access to skills-building opportunities has been one of the largest values of membership in the Network. This is corroborated by findings that 30% and 20% of

***Recommendation:*** *Close to half of the survey respondents were not familiar with the Get Moving! Initiative and approximately 70% had not participated in any meetings/events. It is recommended that awareness-raising be done to increase members' knowledge about the movement building initiative and that strategies be developed for involving the members who are not actively participating in events.*

respondents had participated in skills-building trainings and one of the Thematic Working Groups, respectively. Most participants of these sessions group were very satisfied with their involvement and felt the skills they walked away with had greatly enhanced their own work in GBV prevention.

Finally, *the Network's fourth objective* is to foster cohesion, collaboration and increased activism within the region. Again, data from this study suggest this goal is being met. Clearly the level of activism in the region is growing, as is reflected by the increasing interest in and growth of the Network. Further, two thirds of the respondents actually reported the Network added value to their work by enabling connections to others in the field of GBV prevention (66%) and allowing for networking with others doing similar work (63%). Qualitative participants narrated how the Network has helped to create more visible activism and advocacy work on GBV prevention in member countries.

The Network's success in increasing activism within the region and fostering an exponential growth in membership creates the single largest challenge (and source of recommendations) for the initiative. Because there are currently close to 400 Network members and only two coordinators at Raising Voices, it no longer seems possible for the Coordinating Office to maintain the close relationships and intimate interactions (it had at the beginning) with all of the individual and organizational members throughout the region. This has had an impact on the quality of communication between the coordinators and members, the efficiency of transferring information, and extent with which members feel they are being involved in decision-making and planning.

***Recommendation:*** *Regular sub-regional and national level meetings are suggested. Leaders should be appointed at each level and tasked with the responsibility of fostering communication between and planning among members within each country, monitoring Network related activities at the national level, liaising between the national membership and the Coordinating Office at Raising Voices, and attending sub-regional and regional meetings and events.*

Another challenge presented by the growing membership is great variability in members' level of expertise and participation in Network activities. It is possible (and was perceived as highly likely by some participants in this evaluation) that many of the members who are least active in the Network might actually stand to benefit most from involvement. Since there is increasing reliance on electronic technology, it is possible that those who are most active in the Network are those who have the best access to computers, Internet, telephones, and other modes of communication. This same group might also have the best access to information and opportunities in general while those with limited access are also receiving limited amounts of skills-building trainings, exposure to resources and materials and overall interaction with others doing GBV prevention work. In sum, it is possible the Network is not meeting the needs of all participants, particularly those who are most *in need*.

***Recommendation:*** *Develop strategies (in addition to organizing sub-regional and national activities and events) to reach out to the least accessible and least active participants of the Network. This could be done through brainstorming sessions with and increased involvement of regional/national Network representatives.*

Another issue brought up by Network members and strategic partners was the small (staffing) capacity of the Coordinating Office. Many participants expressed concern about the stress the Network might be placing on the coordinators and came up with several potential suggestions for dealing with this challenge. First, it was recommended that the number of personnel staffed at Raising Voices (to coordinate the Network) be increased. Recognizing this might not be a possibility, however, an alternative recommendation is for the Network and its coordinators to increase the roles and responsibilities of the advisory committee so they are charged with assuming more of the Network's tasks and taking on more decision-making power.

***Recommendation:*** *Develop or revise the Network's strategic plan. This should be an organized effort to strategize for the future of the Network by creating broad, long-term plans that are expanded into a sequence of short term operations, projects, and budgets. Included should be defined roles of members, strategic partners, regional representatives and advisory committee members so everyone involved knows what is expected of them, what their output should be and what is required of them to do.*

Finally, a few creative recommendations for how the Network might enhance their chances of future funding were provided by strategic partners and merit mention.

**Recommendation:** *The Network might be able to generate more funds if it were sold in a way that highlights the many different things it does as well as the programmatic diversity of the membership. For instance, share stories about how different organizations have come together as a result of the Network. Talk about the broad range of expertise in the membership and the way in which different players complement each others' work. Place more emphasis and importance on commitment to systematic evaluation of the Network's impact in the region, not just on information sharing and access to resources, but to the temporal effect the Network's operations have on prevalence of violence, attitudes about the acceptance of VAW, patriarchal gender norms, etc.*

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