

# Summary Report

## GBV Prevention Network Evaluation Findings

March 2011

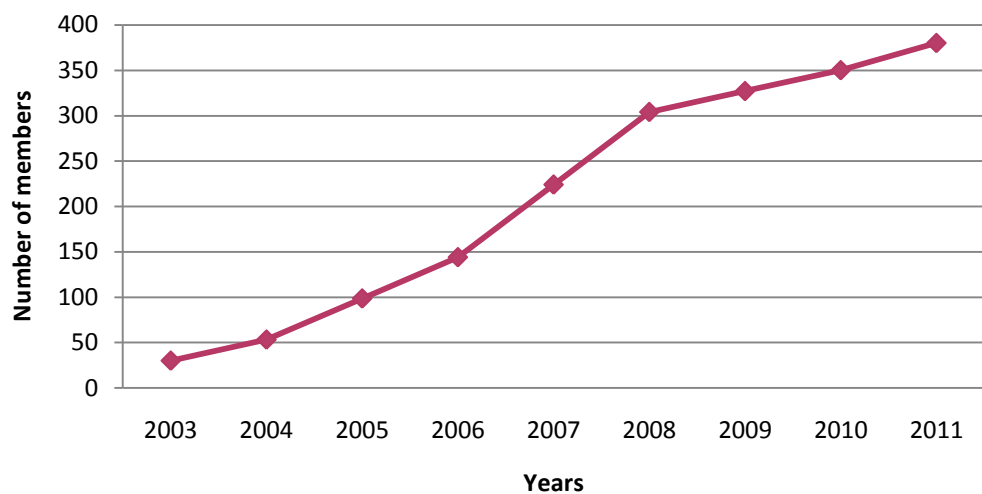
### THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK

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



The GBV Prevention Network was established in 2003 and has experienced dramatic growth since then. The membership has increased from approximately 30 members (2003) to 380 members (2011) as illustrated in Figure 1. Most members have been part of the Network for 2-3 years and 14% have been involved since 2003-04.

**Figure 1. Approximate growth of the Network's membership, 2003-2011**



### NETWORK ACTIVITIES

The Network conducts activities under four main categories: (1) Information discourse; (2) Movement building; (3) Skills building; and (4) Activism and Campaigns.

#### INFORMATION DISCOURSE ACTIVITIES

- The Network's website: [www.preventgbv africa.org](http://www.preventgbv africa.org)
- The monthly e-bulletin
- The tri-annual newsletter
- Materials, resources and publications

#### MOVEMENT BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- The Get Moving! Initiative
- Events and meetings (Network gatherings, speaker events, member meet-ups, and member meetings)

#### SKILLS-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

##### THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

1. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
2. Communication Materials

#### ACTIVISM AND CAMPAIGNS ACTIVITIES

- Network collaborations
- Regional campaigns
  1. The 16 Days of Activism Against VAW Campaign
  2. The Media Campaign

## THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK EVALUATION STUDY

In 2010, after 8 years of operation, the Network Coordinating Office and the Advisory Committee 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.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION STUDY

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 specific research objectives were:

- 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.

### SUMMARY OF EVALUATION STUDY DESIGN, METHODS AND RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

#### Study Design/Methods

A mixed-methods approach was used and consisted of an online survey, qualitative interviews Network members and qualitative interviews with Network strategic partners. The online survey was developed using Survey Monkey. All Network members, partners and friends were invited to participate on their own time. Qualitative interviews were conducted over the telephone or via Skype. Data collection took place between 12 January and 4 February 2011.

#### Research Participants

Approximately 200 individuals participated in this evaluation study; 186 respondents completed the online survey, 20 Network members and 6 of the Network's strategic partners participated in qualitative interviews.

Most Network members (~60%) are organizational members and 40% are individual members. Approximately 25% of members have dual affiliations (individual and/or organizational member and/or strategic partner). All of the 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.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVALUATION STUDY FINDINGS

### MEMBERS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK

To assess the impact, relevance and effectiveness of the Network's core work areas of work, all research participants 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.

#### INFORMATION DISCOURSE ACTIVITIES

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- 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.
- **RECOMMENDATION:** Take poll among members to see who would like to receive hard vs. electronic copy of newsletter

#### ACTIVISM AND CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

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- All knew of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, 70% had participated and participation grew from 13.5% (2004) to 76.4% (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%).
- **RECOMMENDATIONS:** Conduct better evaluation of campaign's impact, and members take up more leadership and responsibility.

#### MOVEMENT BUILDING ACTIVITIES

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- 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 event/meeting. Most described their involvement as very (77.3%) or somewhat useful (20.5%) to their work in GBV prevention.
- **RECOMMENDATION:** Generate strategies for better involving the ~70% of members who are not actively participating in these events.

#### SKILLS-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

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- There have been 4 trainings on "Strengthening Skills for GBV Research" and 1 on "Developing Effective Communication Materials."
- Approximately 23% of members have participated in a GBV research and 6% in the communication materials course and 97-100% said the course 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.
- **RECOMMENDATION:** Scale-up courses and TWGs and members take up more leadership and responsibility.

## PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS OF RAISING VOICES' COORDINATION OF THE NETWORK

To examine Network members' and strategic partners' perceptions about the quality of leadership provided by Raising Voices, survey respondents and qualitative participants were asked to describe how effective they found Raising Voices' coordination work to be.

### POSITIVE FEEDBACK

Raising Voices' biggest strength was perceived to be their communication with and response to members, and openness 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.

### STAFFING CONCERNS

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.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Members and Raising Voices should consider the barriers to increased member participation and leadership and ways to foster this. Further, members and strategic partners felt leadership of the Network should be unique from that of Raising Voices and should, ideally, begin to take on an identity more of its own with time.

## THE NETWORK'S IMPACT, ACHIEVEMENTS AND VALUE ADDED

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

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

- 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.
- At the national level (in all member countries) the success of and widespread participation in the annual 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

- At the national AND regional levels, an increase in awareness about the connection between GBV and HIV/AIDS was attributed to the Network.

### IMPACT & VALUE ADDED TO MEMBERS' WORK

- 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.
- Members felt the Network created more visible activism and advocacy work on GBV prevention in member countries.