

THE YWCA OF ZAMBIA

Kaumba, YWCA OF
ZAMBIA Ethiopian
presentation

Background

- Non governmental Faith based organisation
- Established in 1957
- Dedicated to the empowerment of women and children
- Supports groups as well as individuals in their effort to make positive changes in their lives
- Support is concentrated on the development of the whole person – body, mind, and spirit

Women's Human Rights programme components

- Drop in Centres
- Advocacy and outreach
- Shelter for battered women
- Child in Crisis Centres

Activities/Services

- Temporary protective shelter for women in physical, emotional or sexual abusive relationships
- Confidential and non-judgemental counselling
- Skills training and assertiveness
- Legal advise and referrals
- Support networks for continued care and monitoring
- Training counsellors
- Education on gender based violence

Networking

- YWCA and partners have formed a partnership to give a coordinated response to victims of abuse

Justification

- Most police officers have no training in SGBV and psychosocial counselling
- No private offices set aside for reporting SGBV cases safely and in confidence
- All cases have to be reported to the duty officer at the front desk
- Entry point to support services varies according to geographical location and resources available
- In cases of rape where a medical examination is needed, the victim may have to be referred to a health centre far from the police station
- SGBV partners needed to coordinate so as not to leave clients vulnerable
- Victims have to go through a repeated procedure to give information , further traumatising them

Coordinated response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Zambia

- One Stop Centre setting established
- Clients seen and counselled under one roof
- YWCA in charge of direct services

Objective

- Overall: *The rights of women and children in Zambia to live without fear of sexual and gender based violence are recognised and upheld with protection and support provided for victims and survivors*
- Specific: *mechanism to coordinate the direct services of key partners dealing with SGBV established*

Local partners

- Zambia Police (victim support unit)
- Young Women's Christian Association of Zambia (YWCA)
- Child Justice Forum
- Medical NGO ZASCPAN
- Women and Law in Southern Africa

Results

- Professional and volunteer counsellors able to provide a holistic and sensitive client focused service
- Client focused management system
- Improved access to services – counselling, medical care, legal support
- Enhanced understanding of the complexities and trends of SGBV

Way Forward

- Open more Drop in Centres, satellite centres
- More training needed for police, medical and legal officers

