



Ms. Begoña Castro Vázquez

Begoña is the Programme Manager of the regional project Partnerships for Prevention of gender-based violence in Southern Africa (PfP) implemented with its partners by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project is also co-funded by The Ford Foundation.

She is a Lawyer with Masters in International Cooperation and Postgraduate Studies in Gender, Society and Politics. Begoña has over 15 years of experience working in Europe, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Southern Africa, mainly on promoting women's rights. She has also worked in UNDP and UN Women.

Before starting her career in Development Cooperation, she worked in the Academia as a Researcher. In particular, she focused her work on Human Rights.

Ms. Elizabeth Dartnall

With 25+ years of expertise in health systems, mental health, and addressing violence against women and children, Liz is a renowned and experienced global health specialist. Her career encompasses roles in government, civil society and academia in a range of countries across the world. Liz possesses a profound grasp of the policy-making process and the pivotal role of research in shaping policy and practice.

Since 2006, she has overseen the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) and successfully transitioned it into an independent NGO with the backing of multiple partners. Committed to feminist, ethical, equitable, and partnership-based approaches, Liz continues to drive impactful research and policy-making initiatives that play a key role in building a violence-free world.





Dr. Lina Digolo- Nyagah

Dr. Lina Digolo is a pediatrician and clinical epidemiologist with over 17 years of experience as a technical expert in health system strengthening, research, policy development, and service delivery. She has a strong interest in bridging the gap between research evidence and practical implementation.

Lina possesses extensive expertise in assisting national governments, civil society organizations, bilateral and philanthropic donors, and UN agencies in utilizing evidence for policymaking and designing programs, primarily in the Global South. She has conducted several studies on violence against women and children in Kenya, most of which have been pivotal in shaping policy and service delivery guidelines in the region.

Lina has actively contributed to developing, reviewing, and disseminating various regional and international policies and guidelines related to the prevention of violence against children and women.



Prof. Olive Shisana

Prof. Shisana is the Social Policy Special Advisor to the President of South Africa engaging in many different areas including GBV, health, COVID-19, education, and social development.

She previously served as the first Director-General in the South African Department of Health, Principal Investigator in several national population-based HIV surveys, President of the International Social Science Council, and Chief Executive Officer of the Human Sciences Research Council. Prof. Shisana served as the co-chair of the Interim Steering Committee on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide in SA.

Prof. Shisana holds a Doctor of Science degree from the Johns Hopkins University and was awarded the highest national order, the South African Order of Baobab in Bronze offered by the President: "For her outstanding contribution to the field of science and community service, particularly her tireless work in researching solutions to the scourges of HIV and AIDS." She is an honorary professor at the University of Cape Town and was awarded the Doctor of Laws honoris causa degree by Monash University.



Ms. Chi-Chi Undie

Chi-Chi Undie is a Senior Associate and Technical Director with the Population Council's International Programs Division. Her research focuses primarily on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and girls' education. For a decade, she directed the 'Africa Regional SGBV Network'— an SGBV response, research, and research uptake initiative in the East, Horn, Great Lakes, and Southern regions of Africa. Her research and evidence-informed advocacy efforts have influenced policy and programming in the region.

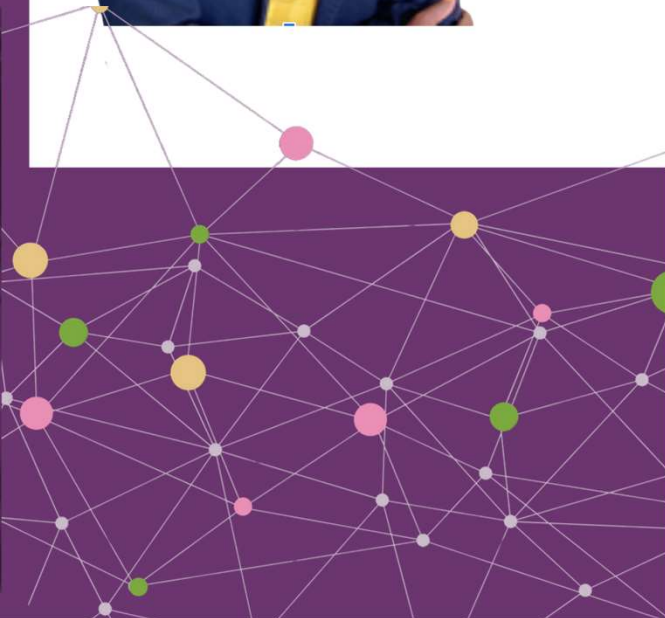
She is the inaugural Board Chair of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, and a Together for Girls Board Member. She currently directs two five-year, regional, FCDO-funded research consortia - one centered on SRHR in refugee settings, and the other on FGM/C.

Ms. Lusungu Kalanga

Lusungu is currently a GBV Principal Consultant for Social Development Direct, serves as the GBV Regional Advocacy Lead for Southern & Eastern Africa for the global „What Works to Prevent VAWG programme” and sits on various international women's rights initiatives & organisations' boards.

She is the Co-Founder of “Feministing While African”, an online community of over 260 African feminists, and co-founded the Malawi Feminists and Allies, a collective of Malawian feminists and organizations that advocates for women's rights and social justice. She is the co-creator and co-host of Feministing While Malawian podcast, named one of the best podcasts in Africa by The Guardian.

Lusungu has received various awards and recognition for her work; including being selected as one of the 25 outstanding young African women leaders by the Moremi Initiative for Leadership Empowerment and Development. She is an Obama Foundation leader in Africa (2019) and a Mandela Washington Fellow (2016).





Ms. Kealeboga Kelly Dambuza

Kelly is the Gender Based Violence Portfolio Manager at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat. She is currently leading the implementation of the SADC Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing GBV (2018-2030).

Having worked for SADC, the government and the United Nations, she has over 15 years of extensive experience in the area of Gender Based Violence, including addressing related sexual and reproductive health and HIV and AIDS issues. In Botswana she also led the implementation of the first ever national study on GBV and the development of the first National Strategy on addressing GBV.

Kelly is passionate about culturally relevant and acceptable strategies and gender-responsive and transformative approaches in development programmes. She has vested interest in public health and socio-economic empowerment programmes, including prevention of and response to gender-based violence as demonstrated in her current capacity in the SADC Gender Unit.

Dr. Lamboly Kumboneki



Dr. Kumboneki is the Head of the HIV Unit at the SADC Secretariat and a Koffi Annan Fellow. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and a PhD in Public Health. He has over fifteen years of experience working collaboratively with local, state and national health departments, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH), multilateral and bilateral donors and partners. He has extensive knowledge and experience in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating comprehensive strategies and policies and health systems strengthening projects across Africa.

Dr. Kumboneki has experience building strong and successful partnerships with donors and in-depth experience in strategic management, recruitment, budget management, fundraising, and technical proposal writing.



Ms. Nicky Le Roux



Nicky currently serves as the Senior Program Officer of the Gender, Race, and Ethnic Justice portfolio at the Ford Foundation's Office of Southern Africa. At the core of Nicky's mission is the creation of inclusive and empowering spaces for women and gender diverse communities. These spaces serve as catalysts for healing, cross-cultural learning, the nurturing of solidarity, and the cultivation of social movements. She is a very active supporter of the incorporation of healing within grant-making and addressing trauma within the civil society space. Her engagement extends across the African continent, where she delves into the complex interplay of women's identities and the myriad forms of violence they confront.

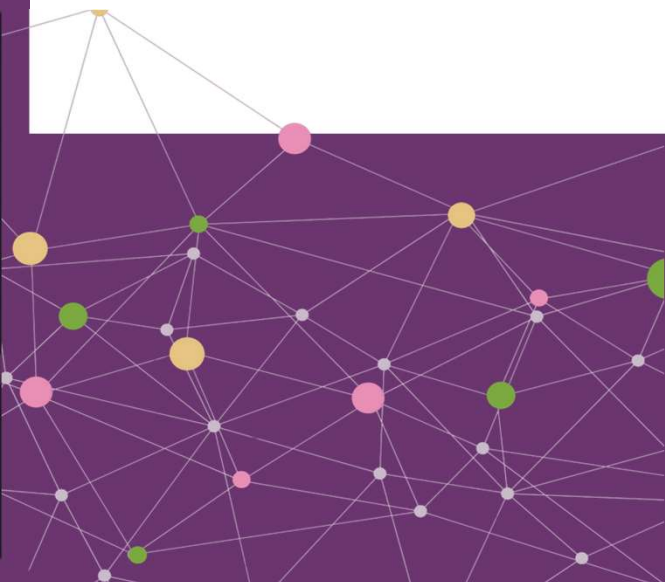
Through her extensive experience, she has gained a deep understanding of both the profound vulnerability and remarkable resilience exhibited by women throughout the continent.



Ms. Bwalya Malama

Bwalya is a seasoned professional with over 12 years of dedicated experience in gender transformation programming, social development, adolescent health including SRHR, and HIV advocacy. Currently she holds the role of Gender Transformation and Social Norms Change Advisor at GIZ.

Throughout her career, Bwalya has played instrumental roles in designing, implementing, and facilitating innovative programs aimed at addressing the complex challenges faced by marginalized communities, particularly focusing on gender-transformative approaches to empower individuals of all genders. Her work encompasses a wide range of initiatives, from grassroots community interventions to large-scale policy advocacy campaigns, all aimed at fostering a more equitable and just society.





Ms. Anna Auala

Anna is a multi-faceted Namibian professional with over 10 years of Technical Advisory and Management experience in International Development and Cooperation who is passionate about socio-economic development as an intrinsic human right for all and strives to work in environments that create this reality. In another life and time, Anna was a public prosecutor, and she believes that her legal foundation is truly the bedrock of her current work.

Her areas of expertise include Results-based and Impact- driven Project Management focused on sustainability, Development of Monitoring and Evaluation Systems and effective Execution thereof as well as Resource Mobilisation and Efficient Implementation with a focus on Value for Money.

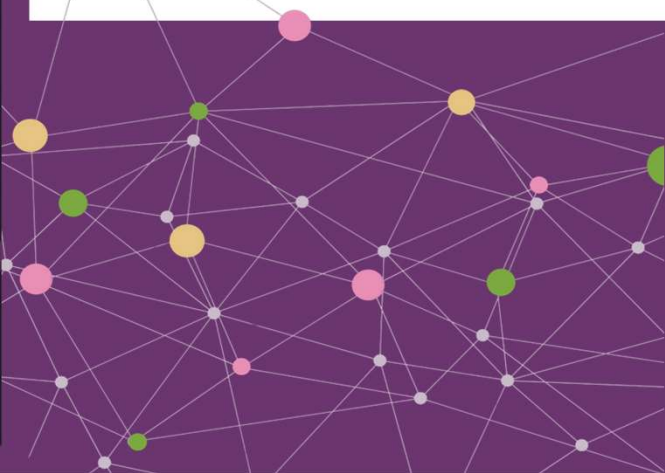
Anna currently serves as the Programme Manager for the GIZ Sustainable Development Goals Initiative, which supports the Namibian Government to strengthen the implementation modalities, sustainable financing and M&E framework for achievement of the Agenda 2030 targets.



Dr Thandi van Heyningen

Thandi van Heyningen is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, where she is a part of the Justice and Violence Prevention programme. Her main area of focus is on developing and implementing interventions aimed at preventing violence against women and children and disrupting intergenerational cycles of violence.

Before joining the ISS, Thandi was a researcher in public mental health at the University of Cape Town (UCT) where she focused on integrating mental health care for pregnant and postpartum women into primary level maternity services. She is a registered clinical psychologist with a PhD in public health from UCT, a Master's degree in clinical psychology from the University of KwaZulu Natal, and a Master's degree in international relations from Stellenbosch University.





Adv. Tarisai Mchuchu

Tarisai Mchuchu-MacMillan is an African-feminist, advocate, a crime and violence prevention programme practitioner and currently is the Executive Director of MOSAIC Training Services and Healing Centre for Women, an NGO that works to prevent and reduce gender-based violence, in particular domestic, sexual and intimate-partner violence. Prior to this she was the Deputy Programme Manager at Fight For Peace International, Deputy Director at Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN). Tarisai served as the Director of Young in Prison, South Africa, for seven years where she designed the Siyakhana- Building Each Other model that is now COPOSO and is used by Young in Prison.

Tarisai's expertise ranges in design of programmes and interventions in crime and violence prevention, gender-based violence, human and sex trafficking, community coordinated responses to violence prevention, access to justice including how to engage men and boys to prevent gender-based violence, children's rights, family law.