

ALIGHT BOTSWANA

Nothing about us Without us: Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in Research and Capacity Building on Disability and Violence in Botswana

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ALIGHT Project Aims

ALIGHT (2017-2019) aimed to increase the participation of women and girls with disabilities in programmes that address violence, including gender-based violence (GBV), in Botswana through the integration of GBV programmes with disability inclusive development. In order to do so the project aims to achieve the following sub-objectives:

Objective 1: Inception : Establishing a coalition/network for the project

Objective 2: Identifying risk factors of violence against women and girls with disabilities (qualitative study) and gaps in policy and practise (disability policy audit)

Objective 3: Adapting a disability inclusive framework SRHR/GBV programmes in Botswana

Objective 4: Building human capacity among NGOs and DPOs to increase participation of and reduce violence against women and girls with disabilities

Objective 5: Supporting implementation of learning into strategies for participation (at NGOs and DPOs)





Women with Disabilities were leading ALIGHT

- Women with disabilities were leading the research and project implementation in Botswana
- Doris Martin and Malebogo Molefhe presented at the Botswana International Disability Conference in Gaborone 2018
- Malebogo Molefhe presented at the ICPD conference from UNFPA in Gaborone 2019, at the SVRI conference in Cape Town and has been suggested for the upcoming UNFPA conference in Nigeria
- ALIGHT Botswana has been selected as a good practice in the UNAIDS report on implementing the ALIV[H]E framework





Women with Disabilities help to gather new Evidence on Disability and Violence

ALIGHT Botswana provided evidence on:

- 1) Risk factors of violence against women and girls with disabilities in Botswana
- 2) Preparedness of NGOs and DPOs to increase participation of women and girls with disabilities in programmes that address violence in Botswana
- 3) Gaps and opportunities to improve disability inclusion in GBV, HIV and SRHR policies and strategies

Publications so far:

Hanass-Hancock, J., et al., *ALIGHT Botswana. From understanding the context of violence against women and girls with disabilities to actions. Preliminary results.* 2018, SAMRC: Durban.

Hanass-Hancock, J., et al., *Preventing violence against women and girls with disabilities in Botswana. A situation analysis.* 2018, SAMRC: Durban.

Hanass-Hancock, J., et al., *Preparedness of Civil Society in Botswana to advance Disability Inclusion in Programmes addressing Gender-Based and other Forms of Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities.* African Journal of Disability, 2019. **accepted.**

Hanass-Hancock, J. and B. Carpenter, *Trends in Health and Disability in Botswana. An analysis of the Global Burden of Disease Study.* Disability & Rehabilitation, 2020. **submitted.**

SAMRC, BCD, and IDM, *ALIGHT Botswana: Addressing violence against women and girls with disabilities in Botswana. Issue Brief.* 2019. SAMRC, IDM and BCD: Gaborone and Durban.





Women with disabilities co-developed an evidence based framework and training approach

- A framework for increasing participation of women and girls with disabilities in programmes addressing violence was developed
- A training approach for NGOs and DPOs was developed and is now available for further use
- Leaders of 36 NGOs and DPOs were trained with the approach in Maun, Francistown and Gaborone





Women with disabilities trained the leadership of NGOs and DPOs



- The 36 organizations participating in the ALIGHT project developed evidence based strategies on how to drive participation of and address violence against women and girls with disabilities in their organizations
- Six of these organizations presented their project ideas and strategies at the last ALIGHT stakeholder meeting





Women with disabilities participated in policy consultations

- ALIGHT undertook a comprehensive Policy and Strategy review for Botswana (see situation analysis)
- ALIGHT participated in the UNFPA –OoP consultations in 2018 to develop Botswana's new disability strategy
- ALIGHT has developed an organisational disability audit (checklist) that prompts DPOs and NGOs to assess their level of inclusion and how they address the intersection of disability and violence





Women with disabilities gave birth to two New Advocacy Event and Tools

- ALIGHT gave birth to the Malebogo Max basketball tournament
- ALIGHT produced a new advocacy song JAAKA NNA LE WENA – JUST LIKE YOU AND ME



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What were our elements of success?

- **Safe and engaging research and project approach:** The project used the **PALAR** research approach (Participatory Action Learning and Action Research Approach) ensuring safe engagement and direct feedback
- **Evidence informed intervention development:** Evidence from Botswana on disability and violence was collected and analysed and directly informed the development of an framework to address violence against women and girls with disabilities and to develop the training intervention
- **Knowledge Translation:** Research results were translated into simplified versions and accessible formats
- **Enabling Participation:** The project practiced inclusion and created opportunities for women with disabilities to participate in all parts of the project
- **Upholding human rights related to disability:** Provision of universal design and reasonable accommodation to ensure researchers/staff with disabilities can function on an equal basis with other
- **Excellence in science:** The project team included a very experienced disability researcher ensuring that the project upholds to high ethical standards and is scientifically robust
- **Consistent M&E:** Effective planning and operational processes were used to monitor the progress of the project
- **Accountable role models:** Very motivated and adaptable team of women with disabilities





Thank You

All resources and information on the project are available at

<http://www.samrc.ac.za/intramural-research-units/alight-botswana>

