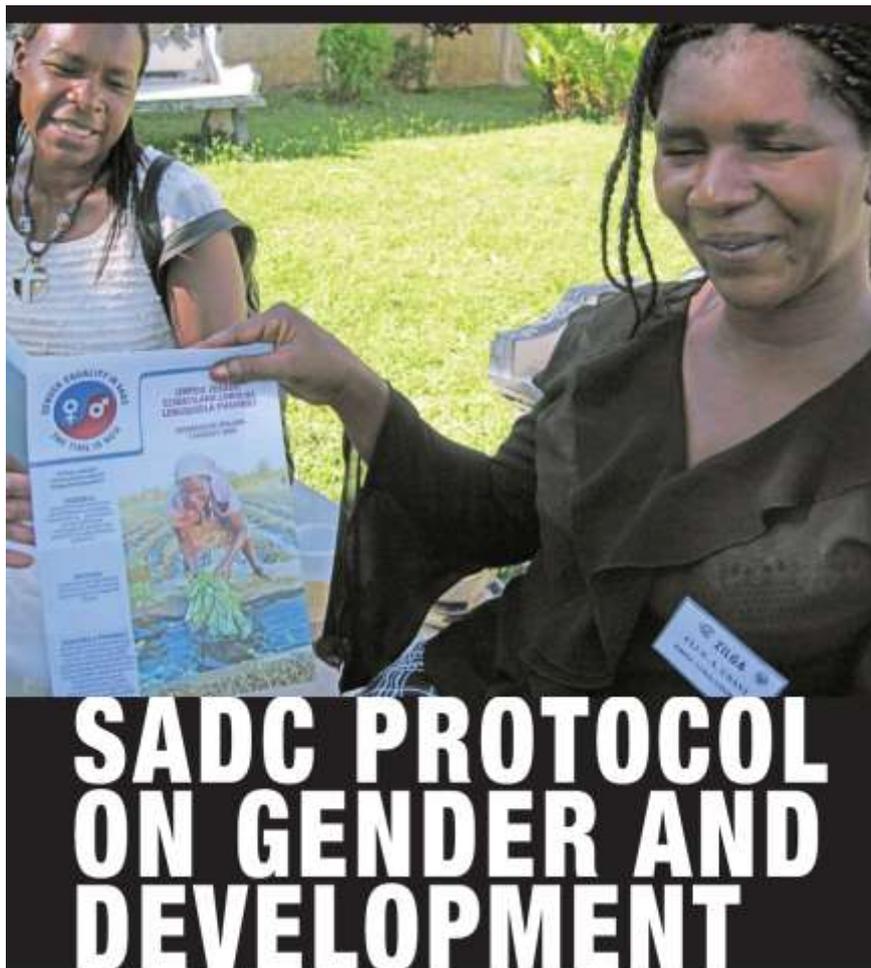


Empowering women to claim their rights

Village level workshops on the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development Report



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Synopsis

This report is a summary of the village level workshops conducted by Gender Links in collaboration with the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance partners and local government authorities in 13 countries between July 2010 and June 2011. It is the second report on the project – Empowering women to claim their rights supported by DFID.

Key activities

Table 1: Women and men reached during the village and community level workshops

Women	Men	Total
1547	1426	2973
52%	48%	Percentage

A total of 140 village meetings were held in 13 countries reaching a total of 2973 people. Of these 1547 (52%) were women and 1426 (48%) male. The breakdown of meetings per country is Botswana 14, DRC 1, Lesotho 14, Madagascar 15, Malawi 2, Mauritius 16, Mozambique 3, Namibia 17, South Africa 16, Swaziland 3, Tanzania 4, Zambia 19 and Zimbabwe 16.

These workshops were held across GL's main programme work. See Annex A for a sample of manual that was produced through the Centres of Excellence for Gender Mainstreaming for Local Government. Target groups differed.

Programme	Number of meetings	Partners	Target groups
Gender and governance	97	Local government associations, government departments,	Local councillors, local municipal officials, politicians, NGOs, government departments, Community Based Organisations and ordinary women and men from communities
Gender and media	34	GEMSA, Mauritius Broadcasting Cooperation, Zambia Institute of Mass Communication, University of Swaziland, National University of Science and Technology, ESSET,	Students, politicians, local government, educators, media houses, journalists and women and men from local communities.
SADC Gender Protocol (Alliance)	9	Institute of Security Studies (South Africa), Women's Coalition (Zimbabwe), NGO Gender Network (Malawi), Women in Networking (Mauritius), Botswana Council of NGOs, Women in Law Southern Africa, Tanzania Gender Networking	NGOs, Government Ministries, journalists, ordinary women and men, local government officials and councillors, ordinary women and men

Programme	Number of meetings	Partners	Target groups
		Programme, Women in Politics Support Unit (WiPSU)	

Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance

Gender Links in its capacity as the coordinator of the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance continues to drive the village level workshops across its programmes as reflected above.

The table shows that most meetings in the last year have been conducted through the governance programme as part of the Centres of Excellence in Gender Mainstreaming training for local government. As part of the training modules local councils working with GL hold community meetings where local Community Based Organisations and ordinary women and men are invited to learn more about the SADC Gender Protocol so that they can use the tool to claim their rights. From then on there is a multiplier effect where it is expected that those who attend initial meetings will train others on the same.

In addition to these specific meetings of the Gender Protocol, GL's programmes have mainstreamed provisions of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The Alliance partners have followed suit. See **Annex B** which shows an excerpt from a newsletter of the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance Governance cluster Leader Women in Politics Support Unit have centred their work on key provisions of the SADC Gender Protocol. See Malawi's 2010 report:

http://www.genderlinks.org.za/attachment.php?aa_id=11910

Key outcomes (per DFID definition)

- 2,973 citizens (52% women and 48% men) acquired knowledge on how to use the SADC Gender Protocol to claim their rights as citizens.
- Journalists gained knowledge on the provisions of the SADC Gender Protocol and how to use the instrument to hold governments accountable.
- Local and national governments became aware of the need to be more responsive to citizens based on the commitments contained in the SADC Gender Protocol.
- Aspiring women candidates became more confident through the creation of a conducive environment for election of women in forthcoming local and national government elections through advocacy and lobbying.
- Advocacy materials – a second print run was done of the 23 main indigenous language pamphlets produced for 15 SADC countries x 1000 each.

Knowledge and attitudes survey

Building on the pilot from 2010 on monitoring and evaluation to measure SADC citizen's knowledge of the SADC Gender Protocol on Gender and Development, GL has further developed the Knowledge Quiz to incorporate basic demographic data. The Quiz can be accessed on the following URL: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/page/protocolquiz>

However results are yet to be released as the data is still being analysed and will form part of the 2011 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer.

Annex A

SADC PROTOCOL ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT



Exercise one: What is the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development

Use the DVD provided on the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the pamphlet in the local language to assist participants in understanding the provisions in the Protocol.

After the DVD, discuss the following questions:

- What does SADC stand for?

- Has your country signed the Protocol yet? If not, why do you think this is the case?

- Are you aware of any other gender instruments that your country has ratified?

Group Work:

Group 1:

What work is already happening to achieve the targets in the Protocol?

Group 2:

Have a look at the pamphlet with all of the targets, which of these would you prioritise?

Group 3:

How can the targets in the Protocol be included in the work of your councils?

Group 4:

How can you begin to popularise the SADC protocol?

The signed Protocol on Gender and Development can be found on the **CD Rom**.

Trends and Challenges in Women's Political Participation Zimbabwe—Margaret Svinurayi

In Zimbabwe, statistics reveal, women's representation in Parliament has reached 9% at its lowest and 22% at its highest – a far cry from the 30% minimum set by the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development and even further from achievement of the 50% benchmark set by the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the Millennium Development Goal 3.

Regionally, Rwanda is the only country to have surpassed the 50% mark with 56.3% women in its current Parliament. South Africa follows close behind at 45% as at the 2009 elections. According to statistics from the Inter Parliamentary Union, given the Sub-Saharan Africa regional average of 17.8% women's representation in Parliaments, it will take some 2 years just to reach the a critical mass of 30% and another 25 years to reach 50%.

In WIPSU's experience, women face the following challenges in participating in politics:

- Lack of financial resources,
- Limited access to education and the same work opportunities as men,
- Negative stereotypes and social attitudes,
- The burden of domestic responsibilities,
- Violence
- Lack of access to information.