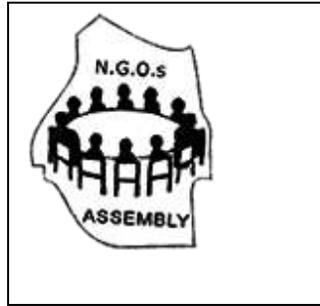


## REPORT FORM TWO: VILLAGE LEVEL WORKSHOP REPORT



### Village Level workshop report Place:Lugongolweni, Mbasheni, Ngwemphisi and Somntongo

Picture from one of the workshops

### Synopsis

This report is summary of the village level workshops conducted by members of the Gender Consortium in collaboration with Gender Links and Southern Africa Protocol Alliance partners in the four regions in Swaziland between October and November 2013.

## **Introduction**

The Gender Consortium through the support of the SADC Alliance on the Gender Protocol and Gender Links seeks to strengthen itself as consortia and also strengthen its collaborative efforts. In this regard a strengthening workshop was held wherein the SADC Protocol was presented and also there was a presentation on the country's status in regard to its implementation. As a continuation of this process four village levels (community based) dialogues were conducted to allow the consortium to go to communities together and have conversations with local groups of women on the protocol and other arising issues. At the consortium strengthening workshop possible lead organisations were identified to spearhead the process. The week of the 18<sup>th</sup> of November was set as possible dates for the dialogues. Possible lead organisations as identified in the last meeting were SYWON, WUS, Gone rural Bomake, SWAGAA, PSI, Lusweti, FHI 360 and World Vision. Members of the consortium participate in the dialogues to allow collaboration and strengthen working together as a consortium.

### **Objectives:**

To strengthen collaboration amongst the Gender Consortium members through popularisation of the SADC Protocol at community level

### **How:**

Using strengths of each organisation to lead discussions under the 9 clusters in the SADC Protocol and topical gender issues in Swaziland

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## **Dialogue Proceedings**

### **Lugongolweni LubombO Region**

#### **Opening Remarks**

Tjengisile Shabangu from World University and convener of the Lugongolweni Inkhundla dialogue, in her remarks also thanked the participants for attending and highlighted that it was important for them to understand the provisions of the SADC Protocol and also what is entailed in the Constitution of Swaziland. As a way of introducing the subject for the day she made an example of that only one woman in Swaziland won the elections and that calls for women in Swaziland to stand up and ensure that in the next elections more women are elected.

She then introduced Gender Links and the Gender Consortium and then requested the team to introduce themselves.

#### **Welcome Remarks:**

Indvuna Yenkhundla, Mr Simelane gave the welcome remarks and thanked the team for coming to Lugongolweni to enlighten them on gender issues. He mentioned that the participants were made up of Emahlombe, Rural Health Motivators, and community police. Participants had a mixture of women and men with women dominating.

#### **Summary of Presentation:**

Sizakele Hlatshwayo the facilitator then introduced the SADC Protocol stating that it was a document that was drafted at the SADC level in order to address the gender imbalances in the region that were hindering development. She mentioned that issue of gender and development are related as when a faction of society is lagging behind it is not possible to attain sustainable development as both women

and men contribute to the strengthening of a country's economy. The SADC Protocol came after realising that although there are other gender instruments however they had not been able to effectively address the gender disparities that there were new emerging issues which had not been covered in the SADC Declaration on gender and development for instance. The SADC protocol therefore is a binding instrument and every country that has ratified it is bound by it.

She then made a presentation on the 9 clusters making reference to the Swaziland Constitution and also mentioning progress on the same as provided in the Barometer to make sure that participants fully understood issues provided for in the SADC Protocol.

The following are the 9 clusters covered in the presentation:

### **Constitutional & Legal Rights & Governance:**

She stated that the Protocol calls for member states to ensure that their constitution provides for gender equality and also amend and change laws, policies, programs and practices to ensure that they are gender responsive. She then talked about the affirmative action, what it is and how it can be used in Swaziland as it is also included in the constitution. She went on to talk about governance issues and stated that the Protocol calls for participation of all in politics and positions of power and decision making. She also lamented the fact that the recent elections only gave produced one woman MP yet women are the majority when it comes to voting. She also highlighted the rights of men and women in marriage and upon dissolution of marriage including rights of the widows. She highlighted that the right to consent is critical in marriage such that the kuteka practice or culture contravenes the Protocol. Widows have a right to inherit from the estate and over children, degrading treatment on widows in against the spirit of the protocol. She also mentioned rights of the disabled, the boy and the girl child. The Protocol also calls for the removal of the minority status for women to allow them to be equal to men.

### **Gender Based Violence:**

On gender based violence the presenter stated that it was a serious issue facing Swaziland and the Protocol calls on every state that is a signatory to put in place laws and policies and programmes aimed at addressing gender based violence as it is a hindrance to development. She decried the fact that in Swaziland a Bill was passed and debated in Parliament and Senate but was still not out as there had not been the Royal ascent. The Bill included a number of progressive clauses to protect women and children on GBV.

### **Health**

It is critical for both men and women to be able to get services they need from health care centres. She highlighted that in most cases the challenge would be on issues of accessing gynaecologist for women since they are not so many in Swaziland. The Protocol calls for accessibility of nutritious food.

### **HIV and AIDS**

On HIV and AIDS there are numerous issues with an implication on gender including issues that women easily get infected from HIV as their body build renders them susceptible. Therefore impact of HIV highly affect women than men. Issue of remuneration for care work is essential. State parties are called upon to have programs, laws and policies to address the gender issues in HIV and AIDS.

## **Productive Resources & Economic empowerment**

Both men and women should have equal rights to productive resources. In Swaziland women married under civil rights in community of property were not able to register land in their names until recently where a court judgement has been passed interpreting the provision in the constitution in favour of women.

## **Education and Training**

The boy and the girl child should have right to accessing education from entry level to final levels, however the girl child in most cases drop out of school due to various reasons which differ from place to place. The Protocol calls for programs, plans and laws to ensure entry and retention in school for the girl and boy child including removal of practices that against young children going to school.

## **Media Information and Information**

Information is critical in development. ICT is a progressive way of making business for women in rural areas

## **Issues Raised:**

### **Knowledge and availability of the constitution:**

- Most participants stated that they did not know the constitution because they did not have copies
- They were urged to take it upon themselves to get copies of the constitution so that they know their rights because information is empowerment.

### **Consent to marriage:**

- Participants stated that this was still happening in their area and were divided as to whether there should be consent or not. They felt it was still the culture that a girl should not be told. However there were those who felt that even if they agree the parents should give their blessings such that an umgijimi should find out if parents have agreed.

## **Response**

Consent allows women to marry a person of their choice and at the right time. The constitution of Swaziland also provide for the consent to marriage. Parents should not decide who a girl would marry since it is an agreement of two people because that opens room for kwendziswa.

- At Lugongolweni forced marriage still exist
- According to Swazi tradition marriage should be a second proposal
- Kujuma is not cultural, a girl is supposed to visit her in-laws with a friend
- Should a widow leave her matrimonial home in order to have the right to marry again – this is related to administration of estate

## **Elections:**

Why are women not voting for other women:

- Because batabadvwalisa- when women are elected into position of power they become so pompous and proud , they then look down upon other women, yet men are considerate. They forget about other women once they are in higher positions.
- Women do not have money to campaign
- Women need to get permission form their husbands
- In Swaziland people are closely related and it weakens the votes as they spread out to their relatives.
- Culturally a man is the leader
- Intergenerational marriages
- Men are better

**Responses:**

- It is only in the mind of women that women are not better leaders because of socialisation
- Women need to start now preparing.

**Drop out of school by girls:**

- Girls drop out of school because of poverty
- Because of sugar daddies

**Land and economic empowerment issues:**

- Women farmer of the year is open to all women doing any kind of farming and is not only limited to growing maize – poultry, vegetables, piggery
- The inkhundla’s offices are open and ready to assist women interested in joining women farmer of the year
- The other year the women framer of the year came from Lugongolweni
- Indvuna yenkhundla stated that women need to take responsibility for their for them to qualify they need to state to the assessors that they are responsible for the project not to then say it is the husband who has worked on it because that then disqualifies them
- She also needs to attend the training which is offered by the ministry of agriculture to assist you throughout the year.

**Closing Remarks and next steps:**

Indvuna yenkhundla, Babe Simelane in his closing remarks appreciated the workshop that they had gained a lot but lamented that the time was short and did not allow them to comprehensively deliberate on the issues as they would have loved to. He then requested that more workshops should be organised for the different chiefdoms represented in the meeting as not everyone was able to get the information, however urged those in attendance to share the information with their counterparts.

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**Mbasheni Hhohho Region**

**Dialogue Proceedings**

### **Opening Remarks:**

Zanele Tsabedze from Swaziland Young Women Network (SYWON) and convener of the Mbasheni Inkhundla dialogue, in her remarks also thanked the participants for attending and highlighted that it was important for them to understand the provisions of the SADC Protocol in order for them to make informed decisions.

She then introduced Gender Links and the Gender Consortium and then requested the team to introduce themselves.

### **Welcome Remarks:**

The dialogue for Mbasheni was held at a community level not Inkhundla because Mbasheni is central yet the Inkhundla is awkward for people to reach. Babe Bucopho of Mbasheni community gave the welcome remarks and thanked the team for coming to Embasheni to enlighten them on gender issues. He stated that they normally do not receive such workshops and was grateful to SWYON for honouring them.

Of note is that the participants were made up of women coming from the Ntfontjeni Inkhundla from different chiefdoms and a number of young women were also present and therefore the discussions were addressed from elderly women and young women's perspective and a woman pastor from the Nazarene church was in attendance.

### **Summary of Presentation:**

Sizakele Hlatshwayo the facilitator then introduced the SADC Protocol stating that it was a document that was drafted at the SADC level in order to address the gender imbalances in the region that were hindering development. She mentioned that issue of gender and development are related as when a faction of society is lagging behind it is not possible to attain sustainable development as both women and men contribute to the strengthening of a country's economy. The SADC Protocol came after realising that although there are other gender instruments however they had not been able to effectively address the gender disparities that there were new emerging issues which had not been covered in the SADC Declaration on gender and development for instance. The SADC protocol therefore is a binding instrument and every country that has ratified it is bound by it.

She then made a presentation on the 9 clusters making reference to the Swaziland Constitution and also mentioning progress on the same as provided in the Barometer to make sure that participants fully understood issues provided for in the SADC Protocol.

The following are the 9 clusters covered in the presentation:

### **Constitutional & Legal Rights & Governance:**

She stated that the Protocol calls for member states to ensure that their constitution provides for gender equality and also amend and change laws, policies, programs and practices to ensure that they are gender responsive. She then talked about the affirmative action, what it is and how it can be used in Swaziland as it is also included in the constitution. She went on to talk about governance issues and stated that the Protocol calls for participation of all in politics and positions of power and decision making. She also lamented the fact that the recent elections only gave produced one woman MP yet women are the majority when it comes to voting. She also highlighted the rights of men and women in marriage and upon dissolution of marriage including rights of the widows. She highlighted that the right to consent is critical in marriage such that the kuteka practice or culture contravenes the Protocol. Widows have a right to inherit from the estate and over children, degrading treatment on widows in against the spirit of

the protocol. She also mentioned rights of the disabled, the boy and the girl child. The Protocol also calls for the removal of the minority status for women to allow them to be equal to men.

### **Gender Based Violence:**

On gender based violence the presenter stated that it was a serious issue facing Swaziland and the Protocol calls on every state that is a signatory to put in place laws and policies and programmes aimed at addressing gender based violence as it is a hindrance to development. She decried the fact that in Swaziland a Bill was passed and debated in Parliament and Senate but was still not out as there had not been the Royal ascent. The Bill included a number of progressive clauses to protect women and children on GBV.

### **Health**

It is critical for both men and women to be able to get services they need from health care centres. She highlighted that in most cases the challenge would be on issues of accessing gynaecologist for women since they are not so many in Swaziland. The Protocol calls for accessibility of nutritious food.

### **HIV and AIDS**

On HIV and AIDS there are numerous issues with an implication on gender including issues that women easily get infected from HIV as their body build renders them susceptible. Therefore impact of HIV highly affect women than men. Issue of remuneration for care work is essential. State parties are called upon to have programs, laws and policies to address the gender issues in HIV and AIDS.

### **Productive Resources & Economic empowerment**

Both men and women should have equal rights to productive resources. In Swaziland women married under civil rights in community of property were not able to register land in their names until recently where a court judgement has been passed interpreting the provision in the constitution in favour of women.

### **Education and Training**

The boy and the girl child should have right to accessing education from entry level to final levels, however the girl child in most cases drop out of school due to various reasons which differ from place to place. The Protocol calls for programs, plans and laws to ensure entry and retention in school for the girl and boy child including removal of practices that against young children going to school.

### **Media Information and Information**

Information is critical in development. ICT is a progressive way of making business for women in rural areas

### **Issues Raised:**

#### **Elections:**

- Embasheni is a small chiefdom and it is not easy to compete with candidates

- Most participants stated that they did not know the constitution because they did not have copies but there were those who showed interest of having constitutions.
- They were urged to take it upon themselves to get copies of the constitution so that they know their rights because information is empowerment.
- Women do not support each other banemona
- Women do not have money to compete against man who have money
- The Swaziness require women not to speak out but to even kneel when speaking at the chieftdom, they said that contribute to women not wanting to assert their rights and speaking, standing against men.
- One participant insisted that 'kukangwane lapha' women do not have a place
- Most women come from the same area- married in their own areas so it is difficult to stand for elections and win because of relationships- votes are split amongst the relatives.

### **Response**

women should start now preparing for 2018, they should have candidates to rally behind. They were also encouraged to nominate women even in Bandlancane.

Women are also leaders just like men bu society has taught us that women are not good leaders. Men on the other hand are able to put their grudges aside and support each other yet women focus on petty things and loose out on opportunities to work together.

### **Consent to marriage:**

Participants stated that at Embasheni things were changing, it was still happening but not so common, about two participants sated that in their homesteads before doing the teka they asked if the lady had consented to the marriage and a number of older women seconded that Embasheni had actually moved ahead and implementing the constitution to a certain extend.

- **Property grabbing:** However they raise serious concern with regard to administration of estate once the husband has died. They wanted to find out how they can protect themselves and their children from property grabbing.
- **Case scenario:** They gave an example of a case of a man whose wife died some time back and he married another wife and upon marriage she took over the estate of the deceased woman. Now the challenge is that the man has died and the children of the first wife are contesting saying the children form the younger wife should not inherit because the estate was built with their deceased estate.
- **Response:** They were informed that the case speaks to issues of administration of estate and needed more time to address but briefly explained that according to the law of inheritance in Swaziland the estate (the wife's share) is shared between the surviving spouse and the children equally. Which means the husband could do as he pleases with his other half after but the other half keep it for the children, so that if the husband used everything to build his life with younger wife then it was wrong because he needed to leave that for the children but was entitled to use his half and child's share as he pleases.

- It was also shared that according to Swazi law and custom, if a man takes another wife, that wife cannot come and take over from another wife's estate, he has to build a separate homestead and leave the one for the other wife for herself and her children.
- The participants requested that the topic be dealt with in another workshop soon.

### **Drop out of school by girls:**

- Girls drop out of school because of poverty
- Because of sugar daddies
- They were divided on whether girls should be allowed to stay at school- some felt it was going to pollute the other girls at school, other stated that they will be subjected to discrimination, but were agreed that girls need to be supported in continuing with their education.
- However they also cited that there was a school in the area where pupils were evicted from school because they cannot pay for the computer classes which cost E200 and is not funded by government grant for primary school pupils. One woman stated that she used her constitutional rights and asserted her rights and commanded the head teacher to take back her child. However she noted that not everyone was able to stand up for herself so children in the area were at home because of the E200 for private classes.
- The Bucopho committed himself to addressing the issue.

### **Land and economic empowerment issues:**

- The constitution allows for women to own land in their own name, a majority of women stated that their chieftdom was actually now allowing women to khonta without a husband or a son as it is provided in the constitution.
- This was lauded and encouraged women to take advantage of that and get land to advance themselves.

### **Closing Remarks and next steps:**

Bucopho Babe Dlamini in his closing remarks appreciated the workshop that they had gained a lot but lamented that the time was short and did not allow them to comprehensively deliberate on the issues as they would have loved to. He then requested that more workshops should be organised for the different chiefdoms represented in the meeting as not everyone was able to get the information, however urged those in attendance to share the information with their counterparts.

He also assured the participants that he was going to report the matter of the head-teacher who is abusing his position and depriving children their rights to education.

## **Dialogue Proceedings**

### **Somntogo Shiselweni Region**

#### **Opening Remarks:**

The world vision officer and convener Mr Mamba welcomed the participants into the workshop. He then allowed the team to introduce themselves and of note was the presence of the Swaziland Royal Police representatives.

Sizakele Hlatshwayo, the facilitator introduced Gender Links and the Gender Consortium and then went through the objectives of the meeting.

### **Welcome Remarks:**

Indvuna Yenkhundla, Babe Mtsetfwa gave the welcome remarks and thanked the team for coming to Ngwemphisana Inkhundla to enlighten them on gender issues as found in the SADC Protocol. He mentioned that the participants were made up of ordinary people and also those holding key positions in the Inkhundla such as Bucopho and community police from each chiefdom were present and the Inkhundla secretary. Participants were a mixture of women and men with women dominating and also to be noted was the presence of the young people, both boys and girls which is not common in community meetings.

### **Summary of Presentation:**

Sizakele Hlatshwayo the facilitator then introduced the SADC Protocol stating that it was a document that was drafted at the SADC level in order to address the gender imbalances in the region that were hindering development. She mentioned that issue of gender and development are related as when a faction of society is lagging behind it is not possible to attain sustainable development as both women and men contribute to the strengthening of a country's economy. The SADC Protocol came after realising that although there are other gender instruments however they had not been able to effectively address the gender disparities that there were new emerging issues which had not been covered in the SADC Declaration on gender and development for instance. The SADC protocol therefore is a binding instrument and every country that has ratified it is bound by it.

She then made a presentation on the 9 clusters making reference to the Swaziland Constitution and also mentioning progress on the same as provided in the Barometer to make sure that participants fully understood issues provided for in the SADC Protocol.

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### **Gender Based Violence:**

On gender based violence the presenter stated that it was a serious issue facing Swaziland and the Protocol calls on every state that is a signatory to put in place laws and policies and programmes aimed at addressing gender based violence as it is a hindrance to development. She decried the fact that in Swaziland a Bill was passed and debated in Parliament and Senate but was

still not out as there had not been the Royal ascent. The Bill included a number of progressive clauses to protect women and children on GBV.

### **Health**

It is critical for both men and women to be able to get services they need from health care centres. She highlighted that in most cases the challenge would be on issues of accessing gynaecologist for women since they are not so many in Swaziland. The Protocol calls for accessibility of nutritious food.

### **HIV and AIDS**

On HIV and AIDS there are numerous issues with an implication on gender including issues that women easily get infected from HIV as their body build renders them susceptible. Therefore impact of HIV highly affects women than men. Issue of remuneration for care work is essential. State parties are called upon to have programs, laws and policies to address the gender issues in HIV and AIDS.

### **Productive Resources & Economic empowerment**

Both men and women should have equal rights to productive resources. In Swaziland women married under civil rights in community of property were not able to register land in their names until recently where a court judgement has been passed interpreting the provision in the constitution in favour of women.

### **Education and Training**

The boy and the girl child should have right to accessing education from entry level to final levels, however the girl child in most cases drop out of school due to various reasons which differ from place to place. The Protocol calls for programs, plans and laws to ensure entry and retention in school for the girl and boy child including removal of practices that against young children going to school.

### **Media and Information**

Information is critical in development. ICT is a progressive way of making business for women in rural areas

### **Issues Rose:**

#### **Elections:**

- Why women do not vote for other women yet the number seemingly is higher than that of men wondered one male participant?
- Responses:
- The response from was that if women assume positions of power they become pompous
- Women do not support each other banemona
- Women do not have money to compete against man who have money
- The comment that the PM made that women in the previous cabinet and parliament did not handle themselves was quoted –
- Responses
- If the yard stick is that women have not handled themselves right, has the same yard-stick been used for men, actually men have time and again been involved in scandalous situations and yet no one has ever picked that but anything that a woman in power does, it is picked magnified.

#### **Response**

women should start now preparing for 2018, they should have candidates to rally behind. They were also encouraged to nominate women even in Bandlancane.

Bomakoti were encouraged to attend meetings at umphakatsi, be actively involved in your community so that people can know your leadership qualities.

Women are also leaders just like men, but society has taught us that women are not good leaders. Men on the other hand are able to put their grudges aside and support each other yet women focus on petty things and lose out on opportunities to work together.

- The issue of having women in leadership positions is just in the mind of Swazi people , they still believe men are better leaders even if they make gross mistakes
- Participants raised a concern that since women were strangers in this inkhundla they were bomakoti, no would support them because they do not know them.
- Participants said to prove that women are not good leaders – even those working in government offices they are so rude and pompous towards the general public that is why they are ignored during election
- Even nurses, male nurses are preferred because they are considerate than women
- However in response it was stated that such arguments do not hold water to justify marginalisation of women.
- The youth is also marginalised, the laws are set by elderly people and does not take into account the interest of the youth.

#### **Consent to marriage:**

At Somntongo the community is divided on the cultural practice of kutekwa, saying you cannot inform a woman that she will be tekwaed because she will run away.

- Lobola: an issue that was raised is that of lobola. They stated that it plays a big part in gender issues as men believe that they acquire all rights over the woman because of lobola and expect them to be submissive.
- Gender roles should be taught at a tender age
- Men and women, girls and boys should be accorded equal opportunities in the spheres of life.

#### **Drop out of school by girls:**

What contributes to girls dropping out of school is the following:

- Girls drop out of school because of poverty
- Because of sugar daddies
- Sexual abuse – it is not voluntary
- They were divided on whether girls should be allowed to stay at school- some felt it was going to pollute the other girls at school, other stated that they will be subjected to discrimination, but were agreed that girls need to be supported in continuing with their education.
- Girls are left alone after they are pregnant-no maintenance from the father of the child.
- Other young people in the group felt young girls should protect themselves by abstaining but others said they should use protective measures
- In Somntongo they have a challenge because they are poor their children used illegal border post to cross to south Africa where education is free, they said the challenge with that is that the kids who go to south Africa come back with bad habits and they pollute kids from the area and some end up not finishing school.

- In this area both girls and boys suffer from being drop outs
- Parents were urged to be responsible and speak to their children- lugotshwa lusemanti', about femininity and masculinity issues so that they appreciate good and bad behaviours from their parents. It is critical that children are brought up through proper guidance
- Others stated that men should also stand up and be counted and speak to the boys as well.
- The older people felt that girls are kicked out of school whilst the boy is allowed to continue and that that was unfair.
- They suggested that there should be laws that allow girls to continue to with school despite falling pregnant
- However highlighted that it might also have implications for other young girls.
- The current MP should push for the Bill on sexual offences to come out and be law as it was already debated in both houses.
- There should be stringent laws to deal with sexual offences in Swaziland – a death sentence was suggested by one man
- Participants were urged to move from 'tibi tendlu' when it came to sexual offences but such cases should be dealt with appropriately
- It leads to emotional abuse as well and that hinder development of the young girls

#### **Land and economic empowerment issues:**

The constitution allows for women to own land in their own name, a majority of women stated that their chiefdom was actually now allowing women to khonta without a husband or a son as it is provided in the constitution.

- This was lauded and encouraged women to take advantage of that and get land to advance them.

#### **Health and HIV and AIDS:**

- Access to health is a problem at somntongo as hospitals where there are doctors like gynaecologist are far away. Women painfully shared that they have to travel to Hlathikhulu if they want to see a doctor and in most cases they do not have money of going up and down if they are not successful in their first visit.
- Men are scared to go to clinics- participants stated that men from Somntongo Inkhundla 'bewusa ihhoshha' meaning they go to seek traditional doctors when they are sick than going to hospital.

#### **GBV**

Seemingly people from Somntongo have been educate don GBV as the Royal Swaziland Police is actively involved

#### **Media Information and ICT:**

- It was stated that ICT in particular plays a major role in development as internet can be used for marketing your business and also making your orders through internet. Women in particular

were encouraged to use wats-up for contacting each other for business as it is far cheaper than 80c for sms or more for calling.

- Women stated that they were scared of Satanism in the internet which they have heard about through media. However those fears were allayed and informed that they can log on their phones and make more profit than going to places physically.
- Participants stated that they sometimes miss out on Swazi news because they do not have electricity in the area and therefore do not have TV sets and also the radio station is not clear in their area.
- On newspapers they stated that they stay far away and do not get to read the paper every day; however some stated that they actually do not have money to buy the paper every day.
- However the importance of getting information was emphasized for development to be realised, for instance they need to get the constitution read it and know what rights are provided to them as citizens. They were encouraged to use their kids who know how to read to read the constitution for them so that they know it
- They were also urged to ask their MP pertinent questions when he has an audience.

### **Closing Remarks and next steps:**

The convener made the closing remarks and requested Indvuna yenkhundla to also speak in closing and he thanked the facilitators of the meeting for having taught them in the manner they did making them understand the gender issues as enshrined in the SADC Protocol. He also requested that another meeting should be organised to include even those people who were not part of the meeting that day. Later on, the MP also came to address the participants and having been empowered by the workshop they posed the questions there and then and the MP responded to them.

This was a sign that the participants had taken interest on the issues being discussed.

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## **Dialogue Proceedings**

### **Ngwemphisi**

#### **Opening Remarks:**

Ncane Maziya the convener of the Ngwemphisana dialogue and Gender Links Local Governmanet country manager in her remarks thanked the participants for attending and highlighted that it was important for them to understand the provisions of the SADC Protocol in order for them to make informed decisions.

She then introduced Gender Links and the Gender Consortium and then requested the team to introduce themselves.

#### **Welcome Remarks:**

Indvuna Yenkhundla, Babe Mtsetfwa gave the welcome remarks and thanked the team for coming to Ngwemphisana Inkhundla to enlighten them on gender issues as found in the SADC Protocol. He mentioned that the participants were made up of ordinary people and also those holding key positions

in the Inkhundla such as Bucopho and community police from each chiefdom were present and the Inkhundla secretary. Participants were a mixture of women and men with women dominating and also to be noted was the presence of the young people, both boys and girls which is not common in community meetings.

The youth was encouraged to attend such meetings to learn and know their rights. When asked why they normally shun away from such meetings they stated that they used to have their own meetings at the Inkhundla centre but then they stopped so they are not able to to meet as the youth and discuss their issues.

They were therefore encouraged to make their voices heard in particular girls because in most cases society does not have readily available spaces for them

### **Summary of Presentation:**

Sizakele Hlatshwayo the facilitator then introduced the SADC Protocol stating that it was a document that was drafted at the SADC level in order to address the gender imbalances in the region that were hindering development. She mentioned that issue of gender and development are related as when a faction of society is lagging behind it is not possible to attain sustainable development as both women and men contribute to the strengthening of a country's economy. The SADC Protocol came after realising that although there are other gender instruments however they had not been able to effectively address the gender disparities that there were new emerging issues which had not been covered in the SADC Declaration on gender and development for instance. The SADC protocol therefore is a binding instrument and every country that has ratified it is bound by it.

She then made a presentation on the 9 clusters making reference to the Swaziland Constitution and also mentioning progress on the same as provided in the Barometer to make sure that participants fully understood issues provided for in the SADC Protocol.

The following are the 9 clusters covered in the presentation:

### **Constitutional & Legal Rights & Governance:**

She stated that the Protocol calls for member states to ensure that their constitution provides for gender equality and also amend and change laws, policies, programs and practices to ensure that they are gender responsive. She then talked about the affirmative action, what it is and how it can be used in Swaziland as it is also included in the constitution. She went on to talk about governance issues and stated that the Protocol calls for participation of all in politics and positions of power and decision making. She also lamented the fact that the recent elections only gave produced one woman MP yet women are the majority when it comes to voting. She also highlighted the rights of men and women in marriage and upon dissolution of marriage including rights of the widows. She highlighted that the right to consent is critical in marriage such that the kuteka practice or culture contravenes the Protocol. Widows have a right to inherit from the estate and over children, degrading treatment on widows in against the spirit of the protocol. She also mentioned rights of the disabled, the boy and the girl child. The Protocol also calls for the removal of the minority status for women to allow them to be equal to men.

### **Gender Based Violence:**

On gender based violence the presenter stated that it was a serious issue facing Swaziland and the Protocol calls on every state that is a signatory to put in place laws and policies and programmes aimed at addressing gender based violence as it is a hindrance to development. She decried the fact that in Swaziland a Bill was passed and debated in Parliament and Senate but was

still not out as there had not been the Royal ascent. The Bill included a number of progressive clauses to protect women and children on GBV.

### **Health**

It is critical for both men and women to be able to get services they need from health care centres. She highlighted that in most cases the challenge would be on issues of accessing gynaecologist for women since they are not so many in Swaziland. The Protocol calls for accessibility of nutritious food.

### **HIV and AIDS**

On HIV and AIDS there are numerous issues with an implication on gender including issues that women easily get infected from HIV as their body build renders them susceptible. Therefore impact of HIV highly affect women than men. Issue of remuneration for care work is essential. State parties are called upon to have programs, laws and policies to address the gender issues in HIV and AIDS.

### **Productive Resources & Economic empowerment**

Both men and women should have equal rights to productive resources. In Swaziland women married under civil rights in community of property were not able to register land in their names until recently where a court judgement has been passed interpreting the provision in the constitution in favour of women.

### **Education and Training**

The boy and the girl child should have right to accessing education from entry level to final levels, however the girl child in most cases drop out of school due to various reasons which differ from place to place. The Protocol calls for programs, plans and laws to ensure entry and retention in school for the girl and boy child including removal of practices that against young children going to school.

### **Media Information and Information**

Information is critical in development. ICT is a progressive way of making business for women in rural areas

### **Issues Raised:**

#### **Elections:**

- Why women do not vote for other women yet the number seemingly is higher than that of men wondered one male participant?
- Responses:
- The response from was that if women assume positions of power they become pompous
- Women do not support each other banemona
- Women do not have money to compete against man who have money
- The comment that the PM made that women in the previous cabinet and parliament did not handle themselves was quoted –
- Responses
- If the yard stick is that women have not handled themselves right, has the same yard-stick been used for men, actually men have time and again been involved in scandalous situations and yet no one has ever picked that but anything that a woman in power does, it is picked magnified.

**Response:**

women should start now preparing for 2018, they should have candidates to rally behind. They were also encouraged to nominate women even in Bandlancane.

Bomakoti were encouraged to attend meetings at umphakatsi, be actively involved in your community so that people can know your leadership qualities.

Women are also leaders just like men, but society has taught us that women are not good leaders. Men on the other hand are able to put their grudges aside and support each other yet women focus on petty things and lose out on opportunities to work together.

- The issue of having women in leadership positions is just in the mind of Swazi people , they still believe men are better leaders even if they make gross mistakes
- Participants raised a concern that since women were strangers in this inkhundla they were bomakoti, no would support them because they do not know them.
- Participants said to prove that women are not good leaders – even those working in government offices they are so rude and pompous towards the general public that is why they are ignored during election
- Even nurses, male nurses are preferred because they are considerate than women
- However in response it was stated that such arguments do not hold water to justify marginalisation of women.
- The youth is also marginalised, the laws are set by elderly people and does not take into account the interest of the youth

**Consent to marriage:**

At Ngwemphisana seemingly, the issue of consent for kutekwa is practices as stated in the constitution.

- Lobola: an issue that was raised is that of lobola. They stated that it plays a big part in gender issues as men believe that they acquire all rights over the woman because of lobola and expect them to be submissive.
- Gender roles should be taught at a tender age
- Men and women, girls and boys should be accorded equal opportunities in the spheres of life.

**Drop out of school by girls:**

What contributes to girls dropping out of school is the following:

- Girls drop out of school because of poverty
- Because of sugar daddies
- Sexual abuse – it is not voluntary
- They were divided on whether girls should be allowed to stay at school- some felt it was going to pollute the other girls at school, other stated that they will be subjected to discrimination, but were agreed that girls need to be supported in continuing with their education.
- Girls are left alone after they are pregnant-no maintenance from the father of the child.
- Other young people in the group felt young girls should protect themselves by abstaining but others said they should use protective measures
- The older people felt that girls are kicked out of school whilst the boy is allowed to continue and that that was unfair.

- They suggested that there should be laws that allow girls to continue to with school despite falling pregnant
- However highlighted that it might also have implications for other young girls.
- The current MP should push for the Bill on sexual offences to come out and be law as it was already debated in both houses.
- There should be stringent laws to deal with sexual offences in Swaziland – a death sentence was suggested by one man
- Participants were urged to move from ‘tibi tendlu’ when it came to sexual offences but such cases should be dealt with appropriately
- It leads to emotional abuse as well and that hinder development of the young girls

#### Land and economic empowerment issues:

- The constitution allows for women to own land in their own name, a majority of women stated that their chieftdom was actually now allowing women to khonta without a husband or a son as it is provided in the constitution.
- This was lauded and encouraged women to take advantage of that and get land to advance them.

#### Closing Remarks and next steps:

Bucopho Babe Mtsetfwa in his closing remarks appreciated the workshop that they had gained a lot but lamented that the time was short and did not allow them to comprehensively deliberate on the issues as they would have loved to. He then requested that more workshops should be organised for the different chieftdoms represented in the meeting as not everyone was able to get the information, however urged those in attendance to share the information with their counterparts.

#### Participants

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

Women	Men	Total
Number	Number	Number
%	%	%

A total of four village meetings were held in the four regions of Swaziland reaching a total of \_\_\_\_\_ people .Of these \_\_\_\_\_ were women and \_\_\_\_\_ male. The breakdown of meetings per province/region is 56 people reached in Hhohho Region, 115 people reached in Shiselweni region,

Date	Locality	Males	Females	Total
22 November 2013	Lugongolweni			
21 November 2013	Mbasheni	2	54	56
18 November 2013	Somntongo	3	112	115
20 November 2013	Ngwemphisi	12	34	46
<b>TOTAL</b>				

The table shows that the meetings in the last two months that have been conducted by Gender Links through its SADC Gender Protocol Alliance country partners continues to drive the village level workshops across the SADC region. Ordinary men and women were 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 attended initial meetings will train others on the same.

### Key activities

## Women's Community Dialogues SADC Protocol on Gender and Development

### Objectives:

To strengthen collaboration amongst the Gender Consortium members through popularisation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development at community level

### How:

Using strengths of each organisation to lead discussions under the 9 clusters in the SADC Protocol and topical gender issues in Swaziland

### Programme for the Dialogues:

Time	Action	Who
8h15-8h30	Prayer & physical exercise	Facilitator
8h30-8h45	Welcome Remarks	Community Representative
8h45-9h30	Objectives	Facilitator
9.30 – 9.50	Introduction of the Gender Consortium	Gender Consortium
9.50 – 10.00	Administer the protocol Quiz	All
10.00 – 10.20	Introduction to the Protocol	Facilitator
10.20 -10.40	Constitutional & Legal Rights & Governance Gender Based Violence Health HIV and AIDS Productive Resources & Economic Education and Training Media Information and Information	Facilitator and Gender Consortium Members
12.15 – 12.30	Discussion , next steps and closure	All
	<b>Lunch and Departure</b>	

### Key outcomes

- Provisions of the SADC Protocol shared in communities in the Four Regions of Swaziland.
- Dialogues and discussions on current issues affecting women in Swaziland with women's groups at community level.
- Collaboration amongst the Gender Consortium

### Next steps

- Share report with members of the consortium

- Conduct SADC Protocol Barometer validation meeting