

Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance



A representative from the National Prosecuting Authority speaks about the need of gender equality during the Eastern Cape Women Demand Action Dialogue in 2013.

Photo: Nonthandazo Mankazana

FACT FILE

Programme	Alliance and Partnerships																
Sub programmes	5																
No of focal networks	Country	Ang	Bots	DRC	Les	Mada	Mal	Maur	Moz	Nam	SA	Sey	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	Total
	No	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15
No of events during the year	Country	Ang	Bots	DRC	Les	Mada	Mal	Maur	Moz	Nam	SA	Sey	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	Total
	No	4	8	5	11	1	8	3	3	6	1	25	4	7	6	6	98
No of participants	MALE					FEMALE					TOTAL						
	4510					1886					6396						
Outputs	Reports			Action plans			Books			DVDs			Pamphlets/posters				
	7			14			1			1200							
Outreach	Website hits		Contacts generated			Media mentions			Other events attended				No of MOUS with partners				
	261								27				25				
How rated by partners in evaluations - average scores	Content	Design	Documentation	Facilitation	Group work	Outputs	Outcomes	Learning	Networking	Admin	Overall						
	81	78	78	82	78	80	76	88	77	77	81						



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Lucia Makamure, Senior Programme Officer Alliance and Partnerships

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Synopsis



The Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance, or Alliance programme, forms an umbrella to all of GL's programmes connecting the dots from the local to the global level. It includes five projects: research through the annual barometers, the SADC Gender Protocol summits, institutional strengthening, costing and alignment of gender policies and action plans to the SADC Gender Protocol, and the post 2015 agenda.

SADC is the only region in the world with a legally binding omnibus instrument for achieving gender equality. Through pushing the boundaries of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and setting targets in such areas as Gender Based Violence and the media, the SADC region is at the forefront of going beyond minimum standards in the post 2015 agenda.

Through this Protocol, the region has made strides in gender mainstreaming in education, health and economic empowerment. The region has reviewed Constitutions and built capacity for gender responsive budgeting. However, this one-stop-shop for gender equality expires in 2015, posing the risk of stagnation just as the rest of the world moves forward to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“GL is a valued CIVICUS member. Most recently, we partnered with GL in the implementation of an event on women leadership in civil society at International Civil Society Week 2014, and facilitated the ECOSOC accreditation of GL representatives for the CSW in New York.” *Amy Taylor - CIVICUS Partnership Director*

2015 is a year to raise the bar for the region beyond minimalism to have a rights-based framework that will ensure voice, choice and control for each SADC citizen. It is a year to be game changers on how we conduct advocacy, research and presentation around it. However, it is also a year to look through the gaps so that no one is left behind in this new era. At a time when resources are dwindling and

development funds are channelled through governments and the private sector, it is critical for the Alliance network to maintain the web of influence in the region and beyond through innovation and joint ventures for gender equality.

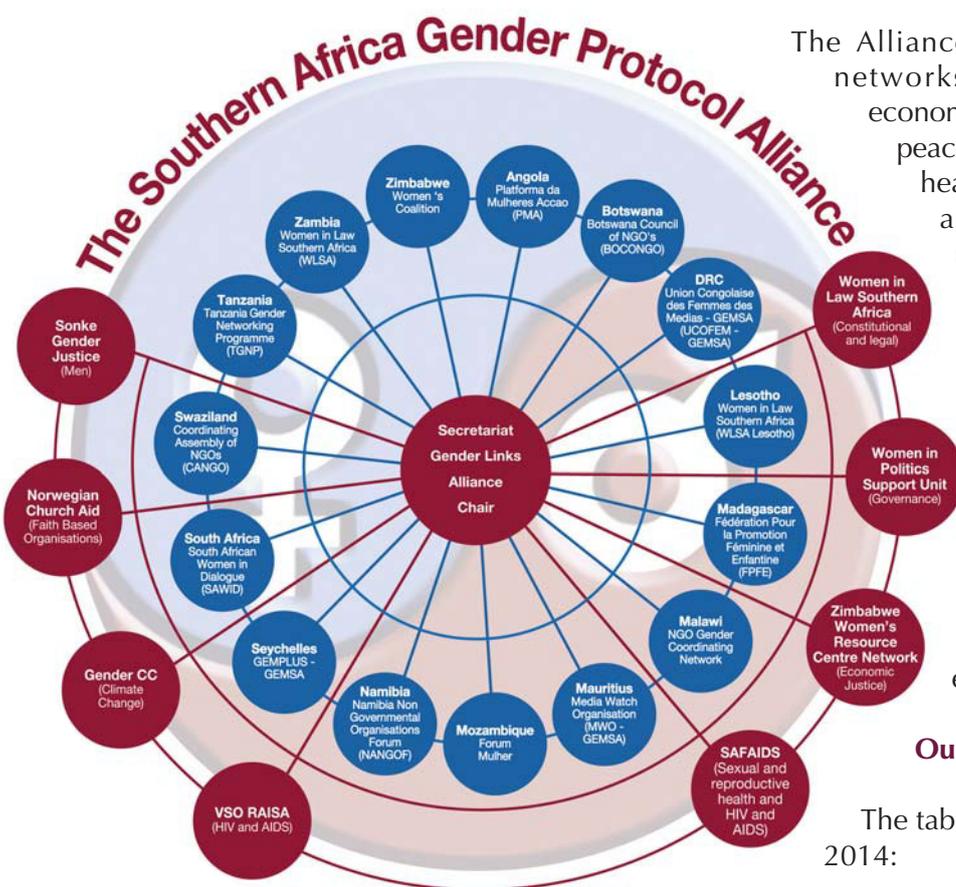
Objectives:

- Contribute to the attainment of the 28 targets of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and MDG3.
- Holding governments accountable through research, monitoring and evaluation to inform advocacy strategies.
- Lobby governments that have not signed and or ratified to do so with haste as 2015 deadline is near.
- Strengthen the national Alliance focal networks through identifying national level theme cluster lead organisations and champions of the 28 targets in each country; and supporting them in developing on the ground campaigns.
- Provide technical assistance to governments to accelerate implementation through integrating the 28 targets into government gender policies; planning and budgets. This will contribute to providing a clear roadmap for attaining the targets of the SADC Gender Protocol and MDG3.
- Coalition building at regional and national level through country focal networks and theme cluster networks.
- Knowledge creation and sharing of good practices through documenting the SADC Gender Protocol @work.
- Raising citizens' awareness, especially women, to claim their rights and make demands of their governments through the SADC Gender Protocol campaign.
- To contribute to the global dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda through advocacy efforts that would benefit the SADC region.
- To ensure that critical groups and areas such as climate justice and building movements including the faith based sectors are addressed beyond 2015.



Zanele Mbeki speaks about monitoring and evaluation tools at the South Africa Post-2015 roundtable discussion held in Johannesburg in 2014.

Photo: Nomthandazo Mankazana



The Alliance is a coalition of fifteen country networks, theme clusters (governance, economic justice, climate change, care work, peace and security, sexual and reproductive health and HIV and AIDS, constitutional and legal) as well as cross cutting networks (Faith Based Organisations, Climate Change and Men's Groups). Representatives of these groups constitute a 24 member steering committee. GL provides a secretariat for the Alliance, and is guided in its daily work by an Executive Committee led by a chairperson. As the SGPA efforts accelerate towards a strong post 2015 gender agenda, the country networks are implementing local actions to ensure gender equality.

Outputs

The table summarises key Alliance outputs in 2014:

Area	Target	Achievement
Research tracking progress on the implementation of the SGP in SADC	15 country and 1 regional barometer produced per year	13 country barometers produced, seven edited
Increased body of knowledge and implementation on the SGP	2400 case studies by 2016	1868 case studies gathered by the 2014 summits (cumulative)
Annual meetings for Alliance	3 Annual meetings	Three annual meeting held
Country level meetings	15 country level meetings per year	28 country level meetings held in 2014
Village level meetings	4 village level workshops per country	37 village level workshops held in 2014
Think tank telecons/meetings	1 call every 2 months	5 calls held with EXCO, 7 calls with Alliance chair
South Africa Alliance	Review MOU with SAWID, Plan provincial meetings, hold meetings and summit with SAWID	4 SA provincial meetings held, one country meeting held 7 costed Action plans
Costing	10 costed implementation plans	12200 sample size targeted for KAC
Knowledge and attitudes surveys, CSC	30000 participants by June 2014	surveys covering urban, rural, women and men in equal numbers. Improved working relations with the
Beneficiary feedback	Beneficiary feedback incorporated in annual reports and donor reports.	SADC CNGO and Alliance partners

Outreach

The Alliance programme ensures that there is a cascading effect in implementation of the programme through:

- **Media** - mobilising media at country level to cover Alliance events and ensuring media involvement in the annual SGP summits.
- **New Media** - The Alliance programme creates alerts on current affair issues and sends out to the Alliance list or social media. During meetings, the Alliance uses podcasts to record key messages for campaigns and advocacy.
- **Website** - the Alliance programme has webpages in the five project areas. The summit and post 2015 page are on the homepage of the website to create momentum about the issues.
- **Publications** - The Alliance programme produces barometer publications with the regional edition hard copy printed. The publications are available on the website and are strategically distributed to partners and beneficiaries.
- **Village meetings** - the Alliance programme popularises the SGP at the village level workshops held by country focal networks who are well represented across each country.
- **Working through and with partners** - The Alliance programme has endeavoured to compliment partner efforts through joint planning. The 2014 barometer launch was held jointly with the SADC CNGO civil society forum. The country level meetings have enriched the research at country level through the validation process and the post 2015 sessions. The Alliance networks produced 13 barometer for 2014. Partners have led specific campaign at country level and the SGPA has been a strong force in the advocacy for the post 2015 agenda.

“The DRC Government is honoured to being associated with this laudable initiative of alignment of the gender policy. It is important to integrate the Protocol of the SADC with the National Strategy on Gender of the DRC and the Costing of its implementation.” *Marie Lisika-Elekia, DRC Coordinating Director and Director for NGOs at the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children (GFC)*

With the SGP now in full force, pressure is mounting on Madagascar (the only remaining signatory not to have ratified the Protocol) to do so. The Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance (the Alliance) is supporting alliance focal networks in Botswana and Mauritius to lobby their governments to sign the Protocol ahead of the August 2015 SADC Heads of state summit in Botswana.

Coalition building: Overall, GL has achieved its target of building a strong coalition around the SADC Gender Protocol. The number of sector MOU's fell slightly short due to several regional NGOs scaling down. However, the Alliance has forged a strong relationship with the SADC Congress of NGOs (CNGO), the umbrella network for all NGOs in the region. The strengthening of country networks is creating multiplier effects as these take ownership. A good example is GL's partnership with South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), a voluntary network that spans the country. The Women Demand Change campaign with SAWID mobilised communities, provided venues and coordination support. The climate change

campaign demonstrates the importance of flexibility. In the long run it is more strategic for sustainable development to be embedded in the SGP, than to be an appendix.

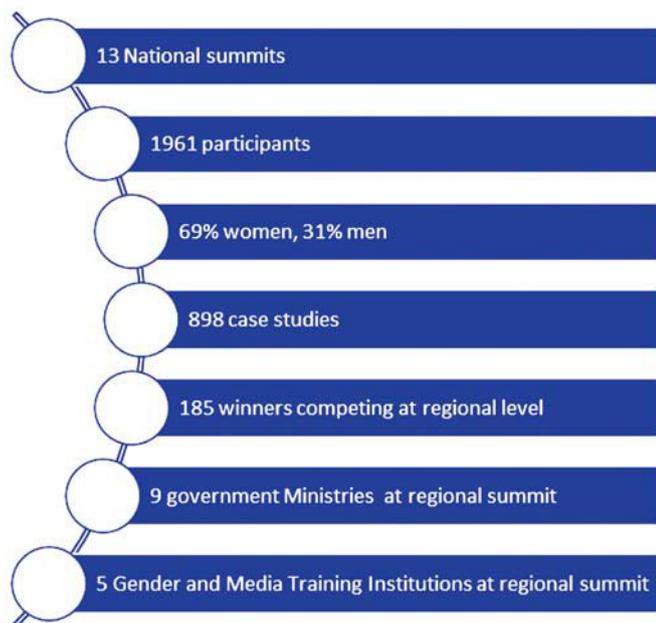
Implementation: Although working with governments on implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol is fraught with challenges “stepping back in order to step forward” has proved essential to ensure that the SADC GU and governments take the lead. Another commendable feature of the programme is the emphasis on learning and sharing among countries following the June 2014 workshop for countries that have completed the process to share with those now coming on board. Namibia, which pioneered the alignment exercise, and presented a case study at the 2014 SADC Protocol@Work summit, shows the positive benefits of this strategic initiative:

Outcomes

Ratification: The number of governments that have ratified the SADC Gender Protocol (SGP) increased to 12, Malawi ratified the protocol in August 2013.

The Namibia Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGE CW)ⁱⁱ has used the National Gender Policy and National Action Plan (NAP) to train and build the capacity of ministerial staff on gender mainstreaming, and is collaborating in the establishment of a Masters' Degree in gender at Namibia's two universities. Gender focal points have been trained and information on the gender policy and NAP disseminated. The Ministry has created thematic clusters across different government Ministries to champion each Protocol target to implement the costed National Action Plan. During bilateral meetings with partners at the SADC Protocol@Work summit, Namibia proposed that best performing government ministries be recognised at the 2015 Namibia SADC Protocol@Work summit.

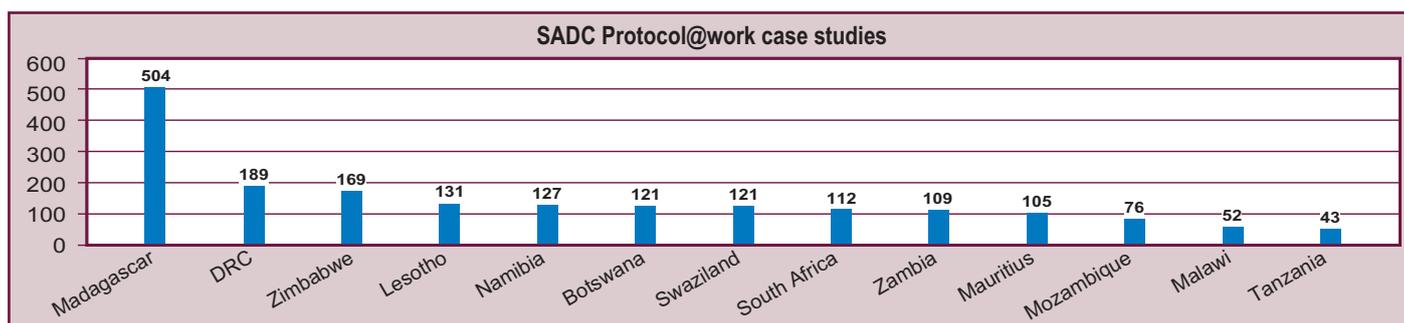
The SADC Protocol@Work summits 2014



The SADC Gender Protocol Summits and Awards aimed to:

- Take stock and turn up the pressure for implementation and accountability in the final countdown to 2015.
- Make use of the upcoming elections in the SADC region to demand women's equality.
- Lobby for a strong post 2015 SADC Gender Protocol that incorporates missing areas such as sustainable development, and strengthens the commitment to women's rights.
- Profile and affirm the work of media and local government Gender Centres of Excellence and create synergies between their efforts.
- Build linkages between the media and local government work on the ground as part of the broader objective of gender responsive governance and accountability, and developing a critical citizenry around the SADC Gender Protocol and the MDGs.
- Develop strategic partnerships and networking opportunities.
- Strengthen the gender movement from local to national to regional to international level.

SADC Protocol@work case studies



Unique features of the 2014 Summits included:

- Cascading for the first time to district level, for verification of the local government COE's, and entrepreneurship training.
- A stronger institutional and sustainability focus, with new categories for government ministries and the Alliance networks.
- Theme entries focusing on the implementation of the provisions of the SADC Gender Protocol and also how a post 2015 SADC Gender Protocol can be strengthened.
- A special category on the 50/50 campaign, to put the spotlight on SADC countries in the ten elections due to take place over the next two years, and turn up the pressure for delivery.
- A special category on gender and climate change, to increase pressure for strong provisions on gender and sustainable development in the post 2015 SGP.
- Greater visibility to Faith Based Organisations, a key cross-cutting Alliance partner.

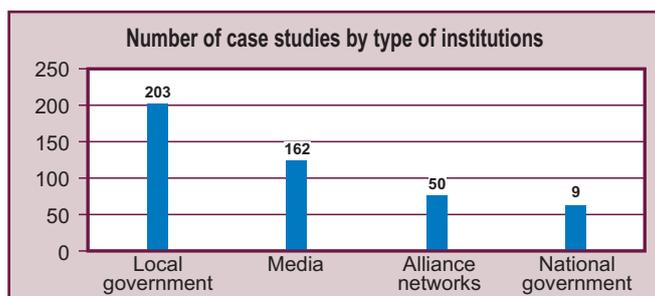
Former Mauritius Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare-Mireille Martin and former Lesotho Minister of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation-Chief Thesele John Maseribane, as well as South Africa's Commission for Gender Equality Chair Mfanozelwe Shoji attended the regional summit. Former Minister Maseribane highlighted the limited time left to achieve the 28 targets of the SGP while former Minister Mireille emphasised the need to involve faith based organisations in mobilising for gender equality. Mfanozelwe Shoji highlighted the need to continue holding governments accountable for commitments made on gender equality including supporting organisations that do the implementation on the ground.



Mpho Marathane, Mireille Martin and Rethabile Pholo at the 2014 Summit.

Photo: Thandokuhle Dlamini

The graph shows that the Alliance has so far collected 1859 case studies of the SADC Protocol@Work, with Madagascar (504) registering the highest number of case studies, followed by DRC (189) and Zimbabwe (169). The 2014 SADC Gender Protocol@Work summit yielded 868 of the 1859 case studies gathered at district and national level. A new summit category for government participation attracted nine case studies while the Gender in Media Education (GIME) institutions attracted five case studies. The case studies ranged from large projects with government and international donor funding to small income-generation activities that have grown beyond their immediate purpose, by creating sustainable livelihoods. Emerging entrepreneurs, another new category attracted 67 rich case studies from local government COE councils. The climate change category remained prominent attracting 45 case studies. Nine government ministries presented case studies while five media training institutes presented case studies.



The largest number of case studies (203) came from local government, followed by media (162), Alliance networks (50) and nine from government ministries. The figures do not include women's rights, GBV and the climate change categories. Implementation at local level is increasing with 360 councils now COEs. In 2014, a junior mayor, age 17, made history when she became the youngest SADC Protocol@Work participant to win an award, and fly to New York!

SADC, Gender and the post 2015 agenda

In July 2014 Gender Ministers from the 15 countries of SADC acknowledged the need to review the SADC Gender Protocol in light of the expiry of the targets, and in line with the post-2015 global agenda. The 2014 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer that measures progress in the attainment of gender equality in the region found that using both the empirical SADC Gender and Development Index and SADC Citizen Score Card, an "ordinary people" perception score, the region is only 66 to 67% of where it needs to be by this year.

However, reviewing the targets against the agreed 17 goals and 169 indicators of the SDG's, the Alliance found that the Protocol needs to be bolder and more specific in a number of areas. Target five of the SDG's on gender equality goes much further than its predecessor MDG 3. The global agenda includes GBV, has a number of economic indicators (including the unwaged work of women); goes beyond numbers in women's political participation through provisions for "effective" leadership and pushes some boundaries on reproductive health and rights.

On the other hand, the SDG's are thin on gender, media and ICT's, sparking an outcry by the Global Alliance on Media and Gender, chaired by Gender Links, that also hosts the Secretariat of the Alliance.

Globally, all eyes are now on the indicators that will accompany the SDG's that are expected to be adopted by Heads of State at the UN General Assembly in September. The Alliance and GAMAG have shared a potential 300 gender indicators with technical committees working on the global framework. Key Alliance demands include:

- Conduct a thorough and honest review of the last seven years, and use this to reposition for 2030.
- Ensure that all gender provisions of the SDG's are incorporated.
- Go further than the SDGs on gender, media and ICTs.
- Strengthen the sustainable development provisions of the SADC Gender Protocol.
- Strengthen the rights-based language in the SADC Gender Protocol.
- Remove contradictions and anomalies around custom, tradition and religion.
- Adopt an implementation framework with strong gender disaggregated indicators.

Challenges



Maparutsa with Malawian gender Minister Patricia Kaliati at the Malawi Permanent Mission in New York, where the Alliance worked on a zero draft of the SGP, March 2015.
Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna

The major challenge is that, in line with MDG 3 (gender equality), the deadline for the 28 targets of the SADC Gender Protocol is 2015. The Alliance has turned this threat into an opportunity through a dual strategy of mounting pressure for implementation in the count-down to 2015, as well as lobbying for a review of the unique sub-regional instrument that brings together all existing regional and international commitments on gender equality. The Alliance kicked off this campaign with a side event at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting in February 2014 hosted by Malawi, current chair of SADC.

As the Alliance works with the SADC GU on aligning national gender action plans to 2015 targets, there is a danger that these might be overtaken by the post 2015 agenda. The Alliance will need to work closely with the SADC GU to ensure that this is not used as an excuse for non-action.

“We cannot afford to be caught flatfooted. Globally, we are moving from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals. The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, aligned to the MDG's, needs to move apace.” - *Emma Kaliya, Chairperson of the Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance.*

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step



Kadoma junior council mayor, Rumbidzai Muparutsa.

Photo: Tapiwa Zvaraya

At 17, Rumbidzai Muparutsa was the youngest delegate at the SADC Gender Protocol Summit that brought together delegates from 14 countries in the region. She describes her participation at the summit as a defining moment as she will forever cherish the moment she represented her town, Kadoma City Council and walked away with the first prize on the Women's Rights category. Muparutsa went on to win the first prize at the regional summit and walked away with a ticket to New York to represent the SADC Gender Alliance at the Commission of the Status of Women.

Her first encounter with Gender Links was in March 2014 when she attended the District summit in Kadoma as the council's Junior Mayor. “I have always been intrigued by people making a difference in other people's lives and when I met Priscilla (Zimbabwe country office manager) and Tapiwa (Zimbabwe country Programme officer) it ignited a fire in me that I could do more,” she told Gender Links.

“The most important reason why I put much effort in gender issues is because I am being raised by a single mother who made sure I never lacked anything and its only now as a young adult that I am realising how much power one woman can possess”.

As part of her duties as the junior mayor she acts as the bridge between the council and school going youths in her constituency. Her leadership skills faced a litmus test early this year when a school in her ward had 24 pregnancy related dropouts. “I really felt devastated because in that instant I saw 24 girls having their futures destroyed right before my eyes”, said Muparutsa. For me that was a moment of weakness and I don't take well to being weak but instead of being defeated I saw that as an opportunity for growth”, she added. She said the incident was an eye opening experience as she realized that a lot of girls in her area lacked knowledge on sexual and reproductive issues and self-empowerment.

Muparutsa believes that every girl child is special yet most of the girls do not realise that fact and they end up engaging in risky behaviour. ‘Most of the girls were falling pregnant to gold panners and in most of the cases the sex was consensual’, she lamented. Muparutsa singled out poverty as the main driver in the pregnancy related dropouts. She said the gold panners lure the girls with cheap gifts and money and in some depressing cases the parents are actually marrying off their daughters for monetary gain.

Muparutsa says the social injustices that girls face like rape inspires her to work hard to ensure that all girls have access to resources and services. ‘My wish is that no girl ever goes through the trauma of rape and every chance I get I use my position to amplify the voices of the girls in my community. The Kadoma community has since started regular Awareness campaigns on gender based violence and boys from the local schools have held marches to end early marriages. The campaigns are also receiving a lot of support from Save the Children. “Change takes time but I am confident that our intervention will eventually pay off as recently there hasn't been any cases of dropouts. I wish everyone knew how special they are and how much wealth they have as individuals'. I wouldn't tolerate anyone violating my rights.”

Source: *Drivers of change 2014* by Lucia Makamure

Risks	Rate - High/Medium/Low	How these will be mitigated
SGP targets expiring	Medium	Advocacy efforts for review, zero draft SGP to be presented to Member States
Limited funding for implementation of programme across the 15 SADC countries	Medium	Joint events, application of value for money approach, collaboration with governments, accelerated fundraising
Changing personnel for Alliance country focal networks	Low	Up to date information access uploaded on country page in the website, regularised communication.
Lack of government buy in for some projects	Low	Continued lobbying - sharing case studies from other countries.
Sustaining the building of a body of knowledge in the form of summit case studies	Low	Frequent collection of case studies in the form of drivers of change; use of online tools.
Competing partner priorities	Low	Synergising programme deliverables with that of partners e.g. the Civil Society Forum and barometer launches.

Lessons learned

- The governments that have stayed with the process of alignment and costing their gender action plans have institutionalised gender mainstreaming into other line ministries - government commitment is critical.
- A civil society voice at the global level is critical for a strong post 2015 gender agenda - coalition building such as the Alliance brings power in numbers which links local actions to global frameworks.
- Working with governments and civil society is the best way to achieve gender equality - the political buy in is important.
- Strong systems can be emulated and used elsewhere; the alliance network sometimes uses our systems for implementation.
- Ownership at the local level for the programme is critical, with the country network leading from the front and secretariat providing guidance from the back.

- Documentation amplifies the voices of the vulnerable - the SADC Gender protocol case studies are voices from the ground reaching policy levels.

Next steps

- Accelerated advocacy efforts for a review of the SGP and to substantively influence the global gender agenda.
- Continued capacity building at national level to ensure a robust gender movement that can demand and implement a strong post 2015 gender agenda.
- 2015 research on the progress made to achieve the 28 targets of the SGP.
- National and regional summits to build a body of knowledge of the implementation of the SGP on the ground.
- Popularising the SGP and highlighting gaps that need to be covered beyond 2015 at community level.
- Resourcing activities for implementation of programme actions.

Matrine Chuulu: a sad farewell



The news of the untimely passing away of our sister Matrine Chuulu on 17 April reached us with shock and disbelief. As the SADC Gender Protocol Alliance, we have lost a driver of change for gender equality and a sister in the struggle.

Matrine carried herself with humility over the years and knew the ropes and buttons to pull and push to achieve gender equality. She has been loyal to the game of gender equality when many with similar credentials could have chosen an easier way out. Well known in the legal

fraternity in Zambia and across Southern Africa, Matrine was instrumental in advancing gender equality through landmark agreements such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. She led the constitutional and legal rights sector that saw the advocacy, drafting and adoption of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

As the regional coordinator of Women in Law Southern Africa (WLSA), Matrine rallied for gender equality causes such as the passing of the Zambia Access to Information Bill, the review of the Zambian Constitution and abolishing child marriages. Matrine was amongst gender activists rallying behind the Red Lights campaign which was against human trafficking in 2010.

ⁱ VFM tracking sheet and case study for the governance programme.

ⁱⁱ Namibia Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare summit case study 2014