



**AMPLIFYCHANGE**

**ACF Ltd: Strategic Renewals B2 Application**

X7CZ-JNQ5-DR

**Gender Links**

#VoiceandChoice amid #COVID-19: Youth led Policy and Advocacy in Southern Africa

# 1. Current Grant

## 1.1 Current grant title

Characters - Max: 250 characters | Used: 47 | Remain: 203

Voice and Choice: from Local to Regional Action

## 1.2 Current grant organisation

Please name the lead organisation who holds the contract with AmplifyChange if the current grant is to a consortium.

Characters - Max: 250 characters | Used: 12 | Remain: 238

Gender Links

## 1.3 If the current grant involves a consortium, please name the consortium.

Characters - Max: 250 characters | Used: 8 | Remain: 242

N/A

## 1.4 Date of current contract start

Characters - Max: 50 characters | Used: 14 | Remain: 36

2 August 2018

## 1.5 Current AmplifyChange grant overview summary

Please also add some detail about the current grants achievements in your response.

Max 3,000 characters | 3,037 used | 0 remain

In just two years, "Voice and Choice, from Local to Regional Action" has succeeded in galvanising the 15 networks of the Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance and 100 Centres of Excellence (COE) on Gender in Local Government on key SRHR concerns. Partnerships between health NGOs and Women's NGOs have been strengthened creating a strong #VoiceandChoice movement from local, to national, to regional and global level. Progress against the six objectives includes: 1) The SRHR cluster within the Alliance has been strengthened by a regional and 14 national strategy meetings that mapped 91 SRHR, 21 youth and 9 LGBTI partners for the cluster. These have mounted 40 national campaigns on menstrual and maternal health; CSE and teenage pregnancy; safe abortion; child marriages; GBV, HIV and AIDS as well as sexual diversity. Several countries have removed tax on menstrual products or are making them available in schools; six SADC countries have decriminalised homosexuality; political discourse on safe abortion has shifted dramatically in Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Zimbabwe; Tanzania has reversed its position on criminalising teenage pregnancy; and court rulings have upheld an end to child marriages in Tanzania, Mozambique and Mauritius. The Alliance networks have swung into action under the lockdowns imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. Pivoted grant funds provided zoom accounts for the networks to run virtual consultations. The Alliance partners have initiated radio talk shows on the "silent" SRHR and GBV pandemics being overshadowed by COVID-19. 2) The Alliance worked with the SADC Women's MP caucus, SAFAIDS and the Southern Africa Aids Trust to lobby for the SADC SRHR strategy 2019 to 2030 and host national consultations on its implementation. The parallel mapping of laws for the #VoiceandChoice Barometer provides a rich data base for developing model laws based on regional experience. 3) GL has connected the dots at local level through developing youth and gender aware policies, services and service directories in 100 COE's running 174 local-level campaigns. Following the COVID-19 lockdowns, GL conducted a rapid assessment of the effect of this on SRHR services. A strategy developed by Murehwa, Zimbabwe on sustaining such services attests to council ownership. 4) Junior councils and other youth formations in the COE have conducted community drama and a survey on Adolescent SRHR services in six countries. This shows that two fifths of young people are denied access to services because they are not accompanied by an adult. A Young Women's Alliance is leading the advocacy on ASRHR. 5) GL has created an Ap for its Community of Practice and is negotiating with zoom to provide the backend for webinars. 6) Partners shared 280 SRHR and GBV case studies at 11 SADC Protocol@Work summits. Four had to be postponed due to COVID-19. The regional summit, to be held part virtually will include Gender and COVID-19 Champions.

## 1.6 Please list mitigation measures (the Special Conditions in the grant agreement) that were specified in your grant contract, and report against how you have addressed those so far.

If this does not apply to you, please write "Not Applicable".

Max 5,000 characters | 16 used | 4,984 remain

Not applicable.

1.7 Please make us aware of any changes in your organisation from the details we currently hold in your AmplifyChange grant.

If this does not apply to you, please write "Not Applicable".

Max 3,000 characters | 3,182 used | 0 remain

- Registration of an office, and two new Board Members, Sarah Mistry and Alice Gough, in the UK. New Board Members in Botswana, Chigedze Chinyepe and Eswatini, Mbuso Simelane (<https://genderlinks.org.za/who-we-are/board-of-directors/>)
- The establishment of an Integrity and Compliance unit and Manager to oversee GL's Finance, Procurement, Whistle Blowing, Corruption, IT, Human Resource, Code of Conduct, Safeguarding, Transparency, COVID-19 and Pandemic Responses policies. (<https://genderlinks.org.za/who-we-are/integrity-policies/>)
- Drafting of our 2020 to 2025 strategy (<https://genderlinks.org.za/who-we-are/strategy-and-action-plan/>)
- Restructuring in line with our new strategy: The Alliance is now Policy and Movement Building; Gender and Media is now Communications for Social Change; Governance and Justice is now Local Action for Gender Justice.
- The former Governance and Justice Manager, Sifiso Dube, has been promoted to Head, Policy and Movement Building. Susan Tolmay, who previously served as Governance Manager, left to work for AWID then Amnesty International, is now manager of Local Action for Gender Justice. <https://genderlinks.org.za/who-we-are/staff2/>
- GL Services has expanded to include grant management of the Global Affairs Canada Women Voice and Leadership (WVL) fund in South Africa. GL engaged with Amplify Change (AC) on the possibility of using its grant management system. While this was not possible we borrowed many ideas from this portal and applied them to developing our own system. To date GL has administered 37 small COVID-19 Rapid Response grants, and 23 medium size Multi-Year Core and Networking grants. These are helping to revive the women's movement in South Africa.
- GL succeeded in the highly competitive global bid for a UN Trust Fund (UNTF) Spotlight grant for its "Sunrise Campaign: Economic Power to End Violence". The fund profiled the challenges faced by the emerging entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 lockdown. <https://genderlinks.org.za/what-we-do/justice/entrepreneurship/struggling-under-lockdown/>
- GL led the #FEMINISTPOWER consortium becoming one of three (out of seven) Southern led consortium to pre-qualify for the Dutch Governments SDG 5 fund.
- GL has been selected as one of the leads (Feminist Movement Building) of the UN Women Action Coalitions to drive the Beijing +25 #GenerationEquality campaign.
- GL's CEO went on sabbatical in late 2019 and wrote an essay on "Shaping donor agendas from the Global South" based on GL's experience. She also drafted a succession plan since refined and adopted by the Board. The CEO, who founded the organisation, will hand over to the Deputy CEO, who returned to the organisation after a five year absence by 2021. The CEO will serve for a period as special advisor supporting sustainability.
- AC permitted GL to pivot travel savings during COVID-19 to solar power for its offices now no longer affected by the frequent power cuts in Johannesburg.

## 2. Renewal Project

### 2.1 Please enter the details of your organisation

#### Gender Links

Grant Holder - ZA-CIP-2001/005850/08

Registered Address: 9 Derrick Avenue, Cyrildene, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 2198, South Africa

Postal Address: (As above)

### 2.2 Please enter the details of your partner organisation

#### Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance

Implementing Partner

Registered Address: 9 Derrick Avenue, Cyrildene, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 2198, South Africa

Postal Address: (As above)

### 2.3 Who is the contact person for this application?

Please ensure that you put down the contact details of a staff member who we can contact regarding this application. Please ensure that the email is valid and will be accessible for the foreseeable future.

Name	Kubi Rama
Email	advisor@genderlinks.org.za
Phone	+276165556
Skype	KubiRama

### 2.4 Title of your proposed project

Characters - Max: 100 characters | Used: 83 | Remain: 17

#VoiceandChoice amid #COVID-19: Youth led Policy and Advocacy in Southern Africa

## 2.5 Project description of your proposed renewal grant:

Max 3,000 characters | 3,040 used | 0 remain

The aim of this extension proposal is to amplify the Southern Africa #VoiceandChoice campaign in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic by casting the spotlight on Adolescent SRHR and three closely related themes: teenage pregnancies, child marriages and unsafe abortion. Emerging evidence suggests that all three of these are likely to increase as a result of the prolonged lockdowns in many countries. Specifically the project seeks to:

1. Engage with the Rapid Response Survey on ASRHR services in ten SADC countries conducted by junior councilors and youth groups. Preliminary results from six SADC countries (<https://bit.ly/2Z6357G>) raise concerns regarding access and costs before the lockdowns; these are likely to be even higher. The youth who conducted the research at Centre of Excellence (COE) "hubs" will present the research to local authorities, and disseminate the findings widely through mainstream and social media.
2. Review Council SRHR action plans to be more youth responsive: The findings for specific localities will be used to strengthen the youth responsiveness and sensitivity of local SRHR plans, as well as take corrective action at the health facilities. This forms part of a broader GL initiative to review the SRHR and Gender Action plans of the COEs in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic based on a survey and gender checklist.
3. Develop and popularise key model laws: At national level, GL will work with Alliance partners and the SADC Parliamentary Forum Women's Caucus to develop model laws on ASRHR and safe abortion using the mapping of SRHR policies and laws conducted for the Barometer and updated in 2020. GL and the Alliance will also popularise the SADC Model Law on Child Marriage and share examples of where this has been domesticated.
4. Mount concerted ASRHR, safe abortion and child marriage campaigns to counter the regressive tide of the COVID-19 pandemic: Ten out of 16 SADC countries do not have stand-alone ASRHR policies and some expire in 2020. The Alliance will seek to ensure that all SADC countries commit to progressive ASRHR policies. Six SADC countries still have different ages of marriage for girls and boys. The Alliance will seek to ensure 18 is the minimum age of marriage in all cases. Only two SADC countries have provision for abortion on demand. The Alliance will seek to ensure that at least four countries take steps to liberalise abortion laws.
5. Gather and share evidence of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2021 Barometer, to verify the projections made this year, and continuously monitor the trends. Now more than ever before the Alliance's annual flagship publication is a vital source of data, analysis, early warning and evidence to inform and modify campaigns.
6. Institutional strengthening – The project will further strengthen the Young Women's Alliance established over the last two years. The Alliance will identify a coordinating network in Comoros, for full SADC coverage.

## 2.6 Please choose, from the following, which AmplifyChange themes your proposed renewal project will address.

- Access to comprehensive reproductive health services
- Addressing the causes of unsafe abortion
- Sexual health of young people and girls
- Challenging stigma, discrimination, attitudes and laws

**2.7 Please tick the primary AmplifyChange priority theme that your proposed renewal project addresses.**

By 'primary', we mean the main priority theme your project will address. Please only tick one theme.

- Sexual health of young people and girls

**2.8 Please tick the secondary AmplifyChange priority theme that your proposed renewal project addresses, if applicable.**

By 'secondary', we mean the second most important priority theme your project will address. Please only tick one theme.

- Addressing the causes of unsafe abortion

**2.9 What country or countries will your proposed renewal project operate in?**

Please note, the Strategic grant needs to serve the purpose of the overall fund – to promote strengthening and financing of Southern-led movements working to advocate for SRHR. Therefore, all funds made available through this renewal grant can only be spent in OECD Development Assistance Committee classified official development assistance (ODA) recipient countries.

**Sub-Saharan Africa**

- Angola
- Botswana
- Comoros
- Congo, The Democratic Republic of the
- Eswatini
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Seychelles
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**2.10 If the location of implementation in the proposed renewal project is different than the current AmplifyChange project, please say so here and describe why the new location was chosen.**

Max 1,500 characters | 1,518 used | 0 remain

The location is still SADC but we have added a mission to Comoros, SADC's most recent member, to identify a women's rights network on the island to join the Alliance. This will be facilitated by GL's Francophone office in Madagascar. In our data collection for the 2020 Barometer, #VoiceandChoice in the time of COVID-19, we have included Comoros for the first time since the island formally became a member of SADC. Comoros' legal system is a mix of Islamic religious law, the 1975 French civil code and customary law. Comoros has ratified the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) but not yet the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. Strong matrilineal traditions coexist with a patrilineal system inherited from Islam. Men have the right to polygamy and to unilaterally divorce their wives among other privileges. According to the World Bank 70.6 percent of girls in Comoros are enrolled in primary schools, compared to 80.5 percent of boys. Women are mainly employed in the agriculture sector. Only 13.7% of women are in formal employment. While women are now more visible in politics, their influence is limited. There are 6.8 births per woman in the Comoros, compared to 6.4 births per woman for the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. Attitudes towards SRHR are conservative. The island's relative isolation and history of instability have inhibited feminist movement building. These are compelling reasons to engage with Comoros.

**2.11 Describe any sub-national districts or regional work.**

Max 1,500 characters | 1,500 used | 0 remain

The Alliance works through focal networks in 16 member countries (Comoros will be added) with continental and global linkages. At sub-national level, these link through the 100 COE for Gender in Local Government that have developed SRHR action plans and campaigns fanning across 40% of the provinces, regions and districts in ten SADC countries. Now in its tenth year, the COE model has evolved to one of stronger COE or "hubs" mentoring neighboring "spoke" councils. The "hub and spoke" model is operating in five SADC countries as follows: Eswatini: Hub: Mbabane; Spokes: Ezulwini; Hlatikulu; Hub:Manzini; Spokes:Matsapha; Mankayane; Hub:Piggs Peak; Spokes:Ngwenya; Malkerns; Hub:Siteki; Spokes: Lavumisa; Vuvulane; Lesotho: Hub: Mafeteng; Spokes: Mmantso; Tsana Talana; Hub: Berea Urban; Spokes: Senekane; Kanana; Hub: Botha Bothe; Spokes: Dikila; Tsalemoleka; Hub: Mohales Hoek; Spokes: Siloe; Thaba Mokela. Madagascar: Hub: Antananarivo; Spokes:Ambohitrimanjaka; Manjakandriana; Hub: Tamatave; Spokes: Mohomanga; Ambatondrazaka; Hub: Diego; Spokes: Joffeville; Jamena; Hub: Andoharanomamiantso; Spokes: Alakamisy; Sahambavy. Zambia: Hub: Lusaka; Spokes: Kafue; Rufunsa; Hub: Kitwe; Spokes: Luanshya; Chingola; Hub: Ndola; Spokes: Kabwe; Kapiri; Hubs: Chipata; Spokes: Petauke; Katete. Zimbabwe: Hub: Bulawayo; Spokes: Plumtree; Beitbridge; Hub: Kadoma ; Spokes: Chinhoyi; Norton; Hubs: Harare; Spokes: Epworth; Ruwa; Hub: Mvurwi; Spokes: Bindura; Marondera.



**2.12 What lessons have you learnt from the current AmplifyChange grant? And how are you adapting your proposed renewal project in light of these lessons?**

Max 3,000 characters | 3,023 used | 0 remain

- 1) The power of feminist movement building: The #VoiceandChoice campaign has re-energised the Alliance and made it relevant to current campaigns including #MeToo, #TimesUp, and (within Southern Africa) the #TotalShutdown campaign. Partner ownership of the campaign is underscored by pivoting to virtual campaigns during #COVID-19 lockdowns. New ways of working will be integrated into future programming to create multiplier effects, reduce cost and realise green savings.
- 2) Trusting youth leadership, and handing on the baton by the older generation have been key lessons in the first phase. The Young Women's Alliance, from local to regional level, has opened space for cross-generation learning. The concept of junior councils, strong in Namibia and Zimbabwe, is being adopted in other SADC countries, providing a structured forum for youth and gender responsive local governance. The renewal project will now focus specifically on Youth leadership and Adolescent SRHR.
- 3) Evidence gathering and participatory research: The 2019 #VoiceandChoice Barometer launched in the wings of the SADC Heads of State Summit and 11 countries, provided baseline data for campaigns. In 2020 this has pivoted to gathering evidence on the likely impact of COVID-19, with the active participation of youth groups. GL has conducted rapid response surveys on the impact of the pandemic on SRHR service delivery at local level, and is rolling out a survey on ASRHR, led by youth groups. <https://genderlinks.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BaroChap3-ASRHR-LR.mp4>. The renewal grant will support further tracking of SRHR in SADC post COVID, to sustain momentum and inform strategies. It will also support youth to engage with local authorities on the ASRHR findings.
- 4) The power of audits, learning and sharing between countries: The Mapping of SRHR SADC laws updated in 2020 and curated in an online data base is a rich repository of regional experience that will be drawn on to develop model ASRHR and safe abortion policies and checklist. It will also be used to share good practise on applying the SADC Model Law on Child Marriage.
- 5) Strategic engagement with IGOs delivers results: The partnership with the SADC PF Women's Caucus, with whom we held a day-long workshop with our regional strategic partner, SAFAIDS, is powerful. The Chair of the Caucus, Lesotho MP Mats'epo Molise-Ramakoae, wrote a foreword for the 2019 #VoiceandChoice Barometer pledging to work with the Alliance. Women MPs have since been vocal advocates of SRHR, including safe abortion, in several SADC countries. The Alliance will strengthen engagement through SADC PF in the coming period.
- 5) Local action works: Initial doubts regarding the competencies of local authorities on SRHR are being dispelled by councils like Murehwa that devised a strategy for sustaining SRHR services under lockdown. The Alliance will work through COE hubs to create multiplier effects in campaigns.

## 2.13 How has the environment in which you work changed and how are you adapting to these changes?

For example, the impacts of Covid-19 or other epidemics, political developments, changes to economy or security environment.

Max 3,000 characters | 3,015 used | 0 remain

The major unforeseen development is the COVID-19 pandemic that threatens fragile gains made on SRHR. UNESCO estimates that 70% of students in Southern Africa were out of school due to COVID-19 from February to May 2020. Announcing the partial re-opening of schools in June, South Africa's Minister of Education Angie Motshekga cited teenage pregnancies and child marriages as major concerns. UNFPA estimates that 47 million women across 114 low- and middle-income countries (in which all SADC countries fall) will not be able to access critical family planning services, resulting in increases in unwanted pregnancies. Emerging evidence shows that the COVID-19 pandemic will increase the need for abortions, reduce the provision of abortion services, restrict access to abortion and SRHR services, and reduce the opportunities for advocacy for legislative reform. Women constitute the majority of health workers on the frontline of the pandemic, but also the majority of those in care professions (such as domestic work, personal care and hospitality) whose jobs have been most affected. They are also the majority of those in the informal sector and the unemployed, two areas most affected by economies expected to shrink by 6 to 20 percent GDP this year. GL has adapted to these changes by: 1. Strengthening our IT infrastructure with support from AC (solar power to avoid power cuts; a bigger server for finance, M and E; mobile applications for our Community of Practise, engaging with zoom on powering webinars) 2. Pivoting internally to #WorkfromHome, offering virtual training and guidance to partners (such as the Alliance and Gender Focal Persons in councils) whom we have provided with zoom accounts so that they can further engage with beneficiaries 3. Conducting cyber dialogues on key SRHR themes; using the information to influence rules and policies. 4. Using our contacts with mainstream media to conduct radio talk shows on the need to sustain SRHR services 5. Conducting a rapid response survey on Gender, COVID-19 and local government; using the findings to develop a Gender, COVID-19 and Pandemic checklist for councils to refer to as they plan their responses. 6. Fund raising for small grants for the survivors of GBV whom we have trained as entrepreneurs to revive their enterprises that have been severely affected by the lockdown. 7. Gathering data and evidence in the 2020 Barometer on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on #VoiceandChoice in the SADC region. This publication, to be launched at the SADC Heads of State summit in August, will provide the first comprehensive analysis on how the pandemic is affecting SRHR, to help adapt campaigns. 8. Four SADCProtocol@Work country summits will now be held later in 2020 when domestic travel restrictions are lifted. The regional summit will be part virtual. 9. Managing 37 urgent action small grants to women's organisations across South Africa with the support of Global Affairs Canada and DFID.

**2.14 Is there a window of opportunity to advance SRHR that you wish to exploit during this renewal project?**

Please expand on what the window of opportunity in your specific country and/or region is, and how you will work within it on the proposed project.

Max 2,000 characters | 2,030 used | 0 remain

Globally, SADC's participation in ICPD25, Beijing +25 and the election of the Alliance to co-lead the Feminist Movement and Leadership Action Coalition of #GenerationEquality present powerful opportunities. ICPD25 resulted in renewed commitments from governments across Africa and the globe to the provision of SRHR to reach three overarching targets: zero maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices within the next decade. The conference firmly established that safe abortion services and treatment of complications from unsafe abortion represent one of nine essential elements of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) service. At the heart of UN Women's groundbreaking, multi-generational campaign are adolescent girls and young women. Young women (together with young men) are mobilizing and making their voices heard. One of the concrete actions in each Action Coalition will focus on the rights of adolescent girls as well as that of young women. This is an ideal moment for the Alliance to "step it up" for youth leadership. Regionally, the adoption of, and engagement with, the SADC SRHR strategy over the last two years, has opened the door for further engagement on ASRHR. Ten out of 16 SADC countries do not have stand-alone ASRHR policies. The rapid response survey conducted at community level by the youth (to be completed by November) is a powerful tool to advocate for change. Nationally, there are significant changes in political discourse that can be exploited. For example, in Namibia, ministers of gender and health have locked horns on safe abortion, with the first lady weighing in on the side of pro-choice. South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa made his strongest speech yet on GBV during lockdown prompting the #FemaleLivesMatter movement. Locally, the "each one teach one" COE model opens exciting possibilities for multiplier effects so essential amid COVID-19.

**2.15 Do you intend to work with other AmplifyChange grantees?**

Yes

**2.16 If so, please indicate which grantees you will be working with or your strategy for connecting with them.**

Max 1,000 characters | 977 used | 23 remain

At global level we partner with Global Health Strategies on the #MyBodyMyChoice campaign. At Africa level, GL is working with FEMNET and MIET Africa (Comprehensive Sexual Education). At SADC level, our partners are Women in Law Southern Africa (WLSA); SADC Lawyers Association (SLA); SAFAIDS and SAT. At national level: Youth Take Charge (Botswana), - Girls not Brides (Malawi); Sonke Gender Justice, Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre, RapeCrisis and Partners in Sexual Health (PSH) which is in an AC consortium to roll out a Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE). Through the mapping of NGOs and CSOs by Alliance country networks, we have identified 91 SRHR, 21 youth and 9 LGBTI partners across the 16 SADC countries. The community and faith organisations that work with the COE for Gender in Local Government that have developed SRHR policies partner through the COE process. The National Junior Associations (NSJ) Council, Zimbabwe is a key strategic partner.

## 2.17 How do you intend to work with the other grantees?

Max 1,500 characters | 1,494 used | 6 remain

- 1) Dissemination of research findings: GL worked with a reference group comprising SAFAIDS, SAT, MIET, NSJ and PSH to devise the Rapid Assessment of ASRHR in SADC. The study has been completed in six countries and will be extended to another four (including South Africa, with the largest sample) by November. Partners will be invited to join online platforms and seminars to debate and disseminate the findings.
- 2) Application of research findings: The junior Councillors and youth groups that undertook the research will lead meetings with councils to use research findings to strengthen local action plans against the anticipated COVID-19 roll back.
- 3) Model laws and policies: Legal partners, notably WLSA and the SADC Lawyers Association, will be engaged in the drafting of a model law on safe abortion. SAFAIDS, SAT, MIET, NSJ and PSH will be asked to join a reference group to develop model ASRHR policies that can be cascaded to local level.
- 4) ASRHR, safe abortion and child marriage campaigns: Alliance partners will link strategically at national, regional and global level on the key campaigns. SAFAIDS and Global Health Strategies are key partners in the safe abortion campaign. MIET, NSJ and PSH are key partners in the ASRHR policies campaign. GirlsNotBrides is a strategic partner in ending child marriages.
- 5) Data driven advocacy: GL is partnering with FEMNET to extend the #VoiceandChoice Barometer Africa wide, with in-depth profiles of four countries each year.

**2.18 Please name the other key southern-CSOs will you be supporting through this proposed renewal.**

Max 1,500 characters | 1,532 used | 0 remain

Angola Platform da Mulheres (PMA) Botswana Council of NGOs (BOCONGO) DRC Union Congolaise des Femmes des Medias (UCOFEM) Eswatini CANGO, Lesotho WLSA, Madagascar, Fédération Pour la Promotion Féminine et Enfantine (FPPE) Malawi, Gender Coordination Network (GCN) Mauritius Media Watch Organisation (MWO) Mozambique Forum Muhler, Seychelles GEM Plus, South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP); Zambia NGOCC, Zim WC

SMILE by AIMD Digital Ltd: 25th July 2017 AmplifyChange Application - W6VM-CUM3-PF

Strategic Grant Application - W6VM-CUM3-PF

represents men's networks in the Alliance. Policy and advocacy work at the national level is coordinated through focal networks of the Alliance including Botswana Council of NGOs; UCOFEM - DRC; WLSA Lesotho; FPPE Madagascar; Forum Muhler Mozambique; Media Watch Mauritius; NANGOF Namibia; GEM Plus Seychelles; CANGO Swaziland; NGOGCN Zambia; Women's Coalition Zimbabwe. GL has MOU's with local government associations in each country including the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA); Mozambique Association of Mayors; Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN), Swaziland Association of Local Authorities (SWALGA); South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Local Government Association of Zambia (LGAZ), Zimbabwe Local Government Association (ZILGA). GL is forging partnerships with networks of junior councils (where these exist, eg Zimbabwe and Namibia) in each country.

**2.19 What is your approach to strengthening the capacity and/or building southern-led movements for SRHR in your target contexts?**

Max 2,000 characters | 2,017 used | 0 remain

GL has a strong model of learning- by- doing that emphasises ownership, agency, strategy, documenting and communicating results. Key steps include:

- 1) Evidence gathering and participatory research: Alliance partners contribute to the Gender Responsive Assessment (peer review) of laws; case study collection, and analysis of campaigns. Youth conducted the Rapid Assessment of SRHR Services in Southern Africa. GL research has a strong emphasis on citizen engagement through scoring or assessing performance. Our motto is "making every voice count, and counting that it does."
- 2) Engaging with research findings: GL works with partners to develop multi-media products and messages from campaigns appropriate to each national context, including in local languages. These are disseminated at working meetings to apply the research (such as those proposed with councils to strengthen ASRHR policies); mainstream media and social media. Keeping issues in the public eye puts pressure on policy processes. GL also offers partners coaching on data literacy to empower them to speak authentically on research findings. Partners determine their own advocacy strategies based on the findings.
- 3) Developing policies and action plans: For example the preliminary findings from the ASRHR research will be used to probe why two fifth of all youth fail to access services as long as they are not accompanied by another adult; fees being charged and whether these are appropriate.
- 4) Peer learning and sharing: GL creates multiplier effects through facilitating sharing of good practise. The "each one teach one" models runs from the COEs at local level to the national networks. Audits of laws and policies are used to identify what works; these are turned into models and checklists. Alliance networks share successes daily on a whats ap group; this creates creative competition to do better.
- 5) Affirming good practice: The annual SADCProtocol@Work summits affirm good and improved practice.

**2.20 Does your project intend to work towards influencing intergovernmental institutions?**

Yes

**2.21 If so, please explain how you expect advocacy successes at the intergovernmental level will influence SRHR realities on the ground.**

Max 2,000 characters | 2,045 used | 0 remain

One of the strengths of working regionally is that there is a strong post-apartheid affiliation between countries in the sub-region. The Alliance campaigned for the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in 2008; its updating, alignment to the SDGs and inclusion of SRHR in 2015. The "push me pull you" approach in SADC has been a key factor in moving gender discourse forward. An example is women's political decision-making. The majority of SADC countries now have quotas to enhance women's representation adapted from neighbours. As we move into the more challenging areas of women's rights such as safe abortion, we can build on this model. Presently a staggering 24% of all pregnancies in Southern Africa end in unsafe abortions: a major contributor to maternal mortality, especially among young women. Two countries, South Africa and Mozambique have choice of termination of pregnancy legislation. No SADC country outlaws abortion altogether, but in most countries the laws are restrictive. Because this is primarily a legal matter, the Alliance has chosen to work through the Windhoek-based SADC PF Women's Caucus. The strategy is to help popularise SADC PF's (less controversial) Model Law on Child Marriages, while working with the Women's Caucus to develop a model law on safe abortion, drawing on existing legislation in the region. Asking the chair of the caucus to write the foreword of the 2019 #VoiceandChoice Barometer was a calculated move to profile the partnership. In her foreword Mats'epo Molise-Ramakoae stated that "examples from several countries show that an increasing number of SADC leaders have come out in favour of reform to the region's existing abortion laws." The 2020 Barometer documents a significant shift in political discourse on safe abortion in Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Botswana where the Minister of Health has called for a national debate. Changing the narrative and providing tools will help to change laws that limit choice and rights.

**2.22 Please describe the advocacy opportunities at the intergovernmental level that you anticipate that this renewal grant will contribute towards.**

Max 2,000 characters | 2,029 used | 0 remain

The three inter-linked campaigns we will focus on are ASRHR policies and services; child marriages and safe abortion. These arise from a narrowing of focus to matters of prime concern to young women in the time of COVID-19 with its potential negative effect on the #GenerationEquality momentum. At the sub-regional level, GL will launch the #VoiceandChoice Barometer in the time of #COVID-19 at the SADC Heads of State (HOS) summit in Mozambique in August (this date might be delayed due to the pandemic). The Alliance represents the gender sector in the SADC Council of NGOS (CNGO) that hosts a parallel "Peoples Summit" to the HOS. The Barometer is launched both at the official and civil society venues. Mozambique is unique in that in 2015 it undertook a comprehensive review of its penal code, decriminalising homosexuality and legalising abortion at the same time. GL has documented this little known best practice and will share it at the launch. GL will invite SADC PF to share the platform as the Young Women's Alliance announces a year of youth-led #VoiceandChoice campaigns against #COVID-19 roll back. GL will continue this advocacy with SADC parliamentarians during their annual meetings in September/ October, capitalising on dates such as 28 September (International Safe Abortion Day). In January 2021, GL and FEMNET will launch the #VoiceandChoice Africa initiative at the annual African Union (AU) summit. This will be an opportunity to show case the work being done in Southern Africa. GL will take the campaign to global level through its co-leadership of the Feminist Movements and Leadership Action Coalition of #GenerationEquality. Declaring the centrality of young women to the agenda, the guidelines state: "Throughout the UN Decade for Action to deliver the SDGs, the culmination of these actions will form a holistic agenda of change for adolescent girls and young women-placing their priorities, voices and rights at the center of inter-generational change."

2.23 Please outline your project's sustainability plan.

Max 1,500 characters | 1,553 used | 0 remain

(1) A core component of the second phase is building the capacity of young women. Succession planning is a key component of sustainability. Each leader of a country Alliance focal network is paired with a member of the Young Women's Alliance for mentorship and support. (2)Catalytic policy and service delivery work is designed to deliver long term results. GL's role is to help devise strategies and tools, such as the Gender, SRHR and COVID-19 checklist for local government, and model laws that can be used well into the future (3) Use of IT platforms: Virtual meeting platforms tested under lockdown will be used for smaller meetings to achieve Value for Money. Through the Community of Practice (COP), network members will be able to share resources, dialogue and learn beyond the project period. The COP includes a resource centre accessible to only Alliance members with all key graphics and production materials for networks to customise for their use. (4) Joint fund raising initiatives: GL will apply its experience in managing consortiums to explore further funding opportunities. GL is negotiating with the SDG 5 Fund to permit part of the grant to be use for regional advocacy work. (5) The "hub" and "spoke" model is a key sustainability strategy for gender-responsive local governance. GL is vesting ownership of the programme in the local authorities through online access to all training materials and tools. "Hubs" then mentor "spoke" councils. GL manages from behind.

2.24 How will you contribute to learning amongst the wider community of SRHR advocates through the project?

Max 1,500 characters | 1,532 used | 0 remain

1) The Rapid Response survey of ASRHR services at local level (almost 10,000 respondents at mid-point) will be shared widely on multi-media platforms. The process is as important as the product. Youth undertook the survey using tablets. This survey is a precursor to a "trip advisor" for SRHR services that could become a powerful citizen accountability tool. 2) The 2021 Barometer will follow through on the 2020 Barometer that paints likely scenarios of the impact of COVID-19 on SRHR. It will provide empirical evidence of losses and possible gains. This quick response, timely reporting, with quantitative and qualitative evidence, is a hallmark of the Barometer. A search on Google Scholar shows ten web pages of citations of the Barometer in scholarly work around the globe. The Alliance's flagship publication remains a key tool for sharing learning with SRHR advocates. 3) The deferred SADC Protocol@Work summits, especially the regional summit, provide a unique opportunity for learning and sharing. Partners are invited to sit as judges at the summit, a unique window to the work on the ground. GL is synthesising all the SRHR case studies shared into a book and video on #VoiceandChoice@Work in SADC. This learning will also be widely disseminated through online platforms. 4) The "hub" and "spoke" model at local level includes study visits as part of the design. As study visits involve small groups, some in localities not as heavily affected by COVID-19, this is a viable tool .

2.25 What are the key risks associated with your project and how will you mitigate against them?

Level	Risk descriptions
High	<p><b>Economic hardships as a result of COVID-19 divert resoures</b> Economies in the region are expected to shrink dramatically this year. All governments are preoccupied with this concern. Health, and ASRHR in particular, are taking a back seat with little regard for the long term consequences.</p> <p><b>Mitigations</b> GL's best mitigating tool is the facts, figures and anecdotes from the #VoiceandChoice Barometer. GL will need to make the case that short term thinking has long term consequences. For example an escalation in teenage pregnancies; school drop outs and early child marriages as well as unsafe abortions will undo the fragile gains that region had started to make for the girl child.</p>



<p>High</p>	<p><b>Strong SRHR opposition in policy advocacy spaces.</b>  The issue of Adolescent SRHR is sensitive and readily resisted by parents who fail to engage with their children; religious leaders and policy makers more interested in their re-election than the welfare of youth and young women in particular. Safe abortion remains especially sensitive.</p> <p><b>Mitigations</b>  The Alliance will use the SADC SRHR Strategy as an entry point, and work through health ministers who adopted this strategy. The Alliance will also work through the SADC Parliamentary Forum Women's Caucus as these are ultimately legislative matters to be decided by elected officials. Personal stories and statistics tell a powerful story even to the most conservative forces. Comparative experience of other SADC countries through the mapping of laws also helps to make the case. For example, it makes little sense that poor women in Lesotho die of abortion-related complications while those who can afford to do so go to South Africa for legal abortions.</p>
<p>Moderate</p>	<p><b>Funding for women's rights drying up</b>  Just as there were beginning to be some positive signs in funding for women's rights in the global south, there is a grave danger of a cut in development funding, with likely consequences for all CSOs, especially WRO. Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is based in most northern countries on 0.7 percent of GDP. As the economies of donor countries shrink, so will ODA. Only a tiny portion of ODA goes to CSOs, and an even smaller portion of this (AWID estimates less than 1%) goes to WRO. The law of diminishing returns will again be the norm; more applications; more time spent on applications; less funds at a time when they are most needed. Funders could also become reluctant to fund COVID-related institutional costs, preferring that these resources go directly to beneficiaries. Reduced institutional capacity could affect sustainability and the quality of work delivered.</p> <p><b>Mitigations</b>  GL will continue to work with FEMNET on the #FundHerAfrica campaign and through the FEMINISTPOWER consortium on making the case globally not to abandon WRO at this critical juncture. GL will also continue to navigate the funding landscape and be more bold in seeking out partnerships, including with Alliance partners, to position for funding opportunities.</p>
<p>Moderate</p>	<p><b>COVID-19 uncertainties and their impact on programming</b>  Currently the most significant risk is the uncertainty the organisation faces with regard to knowing when planned activities may go ahead. The pandemic is seriously undermining short to long term planning. Countries generally follow the model of South Africa now at level three of five levels.</p> <p><b>Mitigations</b>  To mitigate this uncertainty, GL is increasing its capacity to work virtually by strengthening Internet capacity and acquiring equipment to facilitate the process. The organisation will bring on short-term local consultants who can work individually and or in small teams to ensure that quality work is delivered timeously. GL has opted to implement the project in one year, given the urgency of the COVID pandemic, but as there is a two year allowance for the project GL could seek a no-cost extension if external forces result in us not being able to deliver timeously.</p>
<p>Moderate</p>	<p><b>Institutional buy-in for the hub and spoke model</b>  Although the model has been canvassed with ministries, local associations and council leadership, it is new and may meet some resistance. For example integrating gender into planning and budgets may lead to re-prioritisation. SRHR may not be seen as the most urgent priority in the midst of a pandemic.</p> <p><b>Mitigations</b>  GL country offices are constantly available to backstop and support Gender Focal Persons. If necessary, GL will appeal to town clerks, CEOs and or political leaders for support. GL will also engage with the local government associations and local government ministries in each country to seek their buy-in.</p>

Moderate

### Political instability

Zimbabwe is going through economic and political turmoil. There are threats of a coup in Lesotho although these have so far been contained. Madagascar has elections this year and has a history of instability. Swaziland's monarchy is unpopular.

### Mitigations

GL will strengthen partnerships with national, local and civil society partners to help navigate any political uncertainties. The organisation will also ensure political neutrality in all its actions.

## 2.26 Which AmplifyChange indicators within these outcomes do you propose achieving in your proposed project renewal?

If you are applying for an **Opportunity** renewal, please download [this template](#) and upload when complete.

If you are applying for a **Strengthening** renewal, please download [this template](#) and upload when complete.

If you are applying for a **Network** renewal, please download [this template](#) and upload when complete.

If you are applying for a **Strategic** renewal, please download [this template](#) and upload when complete.

If you wish to replace a file that you have already uploaded, please click "Update" next to the file and select a new one.

Please note there is a size limit of 25MB per file.

Name	Size	Last Updated
Aclstratgrantextesnsion Indicator And Milestone Selection Strategic Clm 072020	57 Kb	July 07, 2020
Gl Acf Strategic Renewals 12 Mnth Budget And Workplan Final Bnclmkr 06072020	160 Kb	July 07, 2020

## 2.27 Do you wish to remain anonymous for safety or security reasons?

If "yes" is selected and your project is approved, your project will not be displayed on the AmplifyChange website. Please consider this carefully.

No

## 2.28 What is the budget amount that you are requesting?

For **Network** renewals, this can be up to Euros 350000; for **Strengthening** renewals, this can be up to Euros 100000; for **Opportunity** renewals, this can be up to Euros 40000; for **Strategic** renewals, this can be up to Euros 500000. Applicants are not permitted to request more than the maximum amount for their grant type.

Please ensure that the budget amount entered here matches the amount stated in your budget and workplan.

Please **only** enter numbers - no punctuation (including full stops and commas)

500000

**2.29 Please fill in the attached template for the workplan and budget of your proposed renewal project**

Please download this [PDF](#) for more guidance on completing the AmplifyChange budget template, which you will need to upload with this application.

Please note all applications for funding must be made in Euros. Please read our Financial guidelines #3 on exchange rates at this [link](#).

If you wish to replace a file that you have already uploaded, please click "Update" next to the file and select a new one.

Please note there is a size limit of 25MB per file.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Last Updated</b>
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Acglstratgrantextesnsion Indicator And Milestone Selection Strategic Clm 072020	57 Kb	July 07, 2020

## 3. Summary

**3.1 This application is a renewal of the following grant:**

W6VM-CUM3-PF

**3.2 Do you propose to:**

- Expand the work of your current project, with the same objectives and activities, to a new project area (i.e. scaling up)

## 4. Finance

**4.1 Has your organisation ever received funding from donors outside of your country that is not an AmplifyChange grant?**

Yes