



## 2012 SADC GENDER PROTOCOL BAROMETER LAUNCHES REPORT



Colleen Lowe Morna (GL CEO), Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (Minister of Home Affairs), Scholastica Kimaryo (Former UNDP Resident Representative – South Africa and GL board member) and Emma Kaliya (Chair NGOGCN and Malawi Alliance Network) at the regional launch of the 2011 SADC Gender Barometer, 11 August 2011 Johannesburg. Photo: Lucia Makamure

## **Synopsis**

GL and Alliance partners launched the regional 2011 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer in Gender Protocol in nine Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. Four country launches - Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Seychelles and four regional launches: Angola ahead of the SADC Heads of State Summit; South Africa at the 7th Civil Society Forum and on the eve of the Alliance annual meeting and Zimbabwe at the Changing the River Flow on Sexual Reproductive Health and Cultural Practices. A total of 775 people attended the launches. Of the sex disaggregated data, 451 (58%) were female and 174 (22%) were male. The remainder 150 (19%) were not disaggregated by sex.

The SADC Gender Protocol Barometer is a key monitoring tool for the Alliance to gauge country performance against the 28 targets. A key feature of the 2011 report is the Southern Africa Gender and Development Index (SGDI), an empirical measure of 23 indicators based on six sectors. Read more about the SGDI: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/page/sadc-sgdi>.

In the respective countries where this took place at the same time as reference group meetings Alliance caucus meetings preceded the launches in order to contribute to the

## **Objectives**

The launches and reference group meetings aimed to:

- Share the key findings of the 2011 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer with special emphasis on the new innovation introduced in the 2011 report, the Southern Africa Gender and Development Index (SGDI).
- Provide an overview of the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance
- Review the 2011 SADC country barometer reports in preparation for the 2012 Barometer.
- Identify gender champions for the provisions of the Protocol and case studies of the SADC Gender Protocol@ work that can be collected for the 2012 report.
- Mobilise around the petition calling on SADC Governments to adopt an Addendum to the SADC Gender Protocol on Gender and Climate Change.

## **Background**

The Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance is a network of gender NGOs formed in 2005 to lobby for the adoption of the SADC Gender and Development Protocol. Between 2005 and 2008, the Alliance was involved in the drafting of the SADC Gender Protocol and lobbying for its adoption. The SADC Gender Protocol has 28 targets across ten broad themes namely constitutional and legal rights, governance, education and training, productive resources and employment, gender based violence, health, HIV and AIDS, peace building and conflict resolution, media, communications and information and implementation.

Heads of State adopted the SADC Gender Protocol at the August 2008 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. 13 countries have signed and 9 countries ratified to date meaning that the SADC Gender Protocol is technically in full force. South Africa however still needs to deposit its instruments of ratification.

Since the adoption of the Protocol, the Alliance has channelled efforts to popularising the provisions of the Protocol across the SADC region, lobbying for ratification in countries that have not done so. GL in its role as Secretariat to the Alliance has developed an implementation model that involves developing costed gender action plans and review of national gender policies aligned to the 28 targets. To read more about the model visit: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/gender-protocol-barometer-policy-gender-action-plan-gender-responsive-building-capacity-building-model-2012-05-29>

To this end, the SADC Gender and Development Protocol has been translated into a succinct simplified pamphlet, which was been translated into 23 indigenous languages, used to across the SADC region to bring clarity around the targets of the SADC Gender Protocol to ordinary women and men across the SADC region.

The 2011 Barometer is the third edition following the 2009 Baseline Barometer and subsequent 2010 edition. Case studies of the SADC Gender Protocol @ Work have become a key feature to demonstrate the practical application of the key targets. The Alliance will continue to produce the SADC Gender Protocol Barometers annually as the region marches towards 2015 deadline for meeting its targets.

### Activities

Annex A provides a brief summary of the launches in each country. The table below summarises the launch activities in each country.

Country	Date	Parallel event	Attendance		Unspecified	Total
			Male	Female		
<b>Regional launches</b>						
South Africa	8 August 2011 – launch of the SGDI and key findings	7 <sup>th</sup> Civil Society Forum organised by SADC CNGO			150	150
South Africa	11 August 2011	Alliance annual meeting	18	58		76
Angola	13 August 2011	SADC CNGO Advocacy theme group meeting with Angola civil society organised by Oxfam GB Angola office	17	54		71
Zimbabwe	2 November 2011	Changing The River Flow Summit – on Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Cultural practices	86	198		284
<b>Country launches</b>						
Seychelles	22 November 2011	Barometer reference group meeting	2	16		18
Malawi	13 March 2012	Media Literacy graduation ceremony	31	31		62
Mozambique	26 March 2012	Barometer reference group meeting	5	43		48
Lesotho	7 June 2012	5050 women in decision making seminar – Launch of Lesotho Local Government elections report	15	51		66
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>174</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>775</b>

## Annex A: Highlights from some of the launches



**Country:** South Africa

**Date:** 8 August and 13 August 2011

**Venue:** Gender Links Cottages, Parktonian Hotel - Johannesburg

**Key note and launch:** Hon. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, South Africa Minister of Home Affairs on 13 August; Loga Virahsawmy the GL Mauritius and Francophone Director launched key findings and SGDI at the 7<sup>th</sup> Civil Society Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> August

The Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance launched the regional SADC Gender Protocol on 13 August 2011 on the back of the Alliance Annual meeting in Johannesburg. Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma launched and gave the key note address at the event attended by the Alliance steering committee and key partners including the donor community.

“Without information, no matter how organised you are, you can't go very far,” said Dlamini Zuma. “And I'm very excited about what Gender Links is doing, because it's providing us with information we need to use, whether we go to (report to) SADC, or the UN, at least we have information.”

Colleen Lowe Morna, Chief Executive of Gender Links emphasised in her opening address that “if it's not counted, it doesn't count”. She emphasised while it is important to measure it is important to look beyond the numbers to ensure that the work leads to a change in mind-sets.

South Africa, host of the launch became the ninth country in the region to ratify the SADC Gender Protocol in August 2011 and is currently in the process of depositing their instruments of ratification with the SADC secretariat. The country came second in both the SGDI based on empirical data on 23 indicators across six sectors and the citizen score card that measures citizen's perceptions on the country's performance against the 28 targets

Dlamini-Zuma pointed out that, “When we talk about women in decision-making, it's not just about the numbers, it's about making sure that the agenda of the country, [and] the agenda of government is sensitive to women's development. If you have the numbers, but that is not done, then you might as well not have them.”



**Country:** Malawi

**Date:** 15 March

**Venue:** Malawi Sun Hotel, Blantyre

**Key note and launch:** Minister of Gender and Child Development Hon.Reen Kachere

The Alliance March launched the regional 2011 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer in Blantyre at the occasion of the Media Literacy graduation. The government of Malawi applauded the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance for its commendable efforts in producing the annual SADC Gender Barometer, an important measuring tool of the 28 targets of the SADC Gender Protocol. Malawi is one of the 13 countries that have signed the SADC Gender Development Protocol and gender activists in the country are currently lobbying for ratification.

Speaking at the national launch of the report the Minister of Gender and Child Development, Reen Kachere said the report is an important monitoring tool for use by all stakeholders in the gender equality campaign.

She saluted Gender Links and the Gender Coordinating Network (NGOGCN), for facilitating the production of the 2011 SADC Gender Barometer which will also act as an important monitoring tool for all other stakeholders advocating for gender equality in Malawi.

Kachere echoed Malawi government's commitment to attaining gender equality when she assured guests at the launch how the government is determined to attain the 28 targets of the SADC Gender Protocol considering a number of affirmative action policies that have been put in place. The changes are a clear indication of government's seriousness towards achieving gender equality and gender-violence free environment in the country.

Malawi's constitution upholds the principle of equal rights for men and women and prohibits any discrimination based on gender or marital status."

Also in attendance at the launch was the deputy minister of Gender and Child Development Nasrin Pillani, the Executive Director of Civil Liberties Committee, Emmie Chanika, the National Chairperson of the Malawi NGO Gender Coordinating Network and Malawi Alliance focal network, Emma Kaliya who is also authored the Malawi country Barometer.



**Country:** Seychelles

**Date:** 20 November 2011

**Venue:** International Conference Centre, Mahe

**Key note and launch:** Principal Secretary, Linda William - Gender Secretariat, Ministry of Social Development -

The Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance represented by the Gender Links in its role as Secretariat launched the regional SADC Gender Protocol Barometer in Seychelles on 20 November 2011. Members of GEM-PLUS Network which is the Alliance focal point in the country attended as well as representative government officials and civil society organisations.

The Principal Secretary Linda William congratulated the Alliance on the production of the Barometer as an important instrument to measure country progress. Seychelles came out number one in terms of the SGDI at 79% of where it needs to be by 2015 based on empirical data. However citizens scored government more harshly placing the country at number four at 61%.

William reiterated Seychelles' commitment to achieving the 28 targets. She said "As a signatory party to the SADC Gender and Development Protocol, Seychelles has the obligation to endeavour to achieve the 50/50 target of women in decision-making levels by 2015".