



"Isabella"

Anushka Virahsawmy



## CHAPTER 10

# Implementation

## Articles 32-36



Gidion Gwebu from the Gender Unit, making welcoming remarks during the Gender Responsive Budgeting and Planning inception meeting. *Photo: Thandokuhle Dlamini*

### KEY POINTS

- Swaziland signed the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.
- The country ratified and deposited its instruments of ratification.
- Swaziland joins Namibia and Seychelles to develop a costed gender action plan aligned to the SADC Gender Protocol targets. Zambia is also following a similar process. This provides a roadmap for accelerating implementation.

## Signing



*Article 39 provides that the Protocol shall be duly signed by the authorised representatives of Member States.*

Swaziland is among 13 out of the 15 SADC countries that have signed the SADC Gender Protocol. Botswana and Mauritius are the only two countries that are yet to do so.

## Ratification



*The Protocol states that it shall be ratified by the Signatory states in accordance with their Constitutional procedures and shall enter into force 30 days after the deposit of instruments of Ratification by two thirds of the Member States.*

Swaziland ratified and deposited its instruments of ratification in September 2012. To date 11 countries have ratified with two that should deposit their instruments of ratification. With only two years to go the country should intensify efforts to implement the SADC Gender Protocol.

## Implementation mechanisms and processes



*Article 35: Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation State Parties shall ensure the implementation of this Protocol at the national level: State Parties shall ensure that national action plans with measurable time frames are put in place, and that national and regional monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are developed and implemented. State Parties shall collect and analyze baseline data against which progress in achieving targets will be monitored.*

**Table 10.1: National gender machinery and processes**

Component	Yes/No	Comments
Gender ministry	No	Gender and Family Unit within the Deputy Prime Minister's Office.
National Gender Policy	Yes	National Gender policy was adopted in 2010 but through costing there is an opportunity to align it to the 28 targets.
National Gender Policy aligned to the SADC Protocol	Yes	The Policy is guided and influenced largely by various international and regional Covenants and Declarations including the Protocol itself. The vision of the Policy is a Swaziland where women, men, girls and boys have similar opportunities to participate freely as equal partners in all spheres of public life, including all decision-making processes and have fair access to and control over resources. It covers almost all the Protocol target areas. However, the Policy makes no mention of time lines for its objectives and respective strategies.
Gender focal points in all line departments	Yes	Gender focal points and are deployed in all ministries.
Gender action plan	Yes	Drafting one to accompany existing strategy.
Aligned to Protocol.	Yes	With technical support from GL the gender action plan be aligned to the SADC Gender Protocol targets set for 2015.

## Costing and gender budgeting



*Article 33: Financial Provisions: State Parties shall ensure gender sensitive budgets and planning, including designating the necessary resources towards initiatives aimed at empowering women and girls. State Parties shall mobilise and allocate the necessary human, technical and financial resources for the successful implementation of this Protocol.*

The SADC Gender Protocol underscores the importance of ensuring adequate resources to ensure implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol. Gender budgeting initiatives are taking root in Swaziland building on work begun by the Gender Consortium and UN agencies as discussed in Chapter 4 on Economy, productive resources and employment. The country has begun the process of costing implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol through developing a costed gender action plan. The Gender and Family Unit may soon review the 2010 gender policy to incorporate the 28 targets to be achieved by 2015.

The Gender Unit is undertaking the process with the backing of UN



Participants at the Gender Responsive Budgeting workshop in Matsapha, Swaziland - September 2012.  
Photo: Ncane Maziya

agencies, SADC Gender Unit and civil society including the local Alliance network led by CANGO and technical assistance from Gender Links.

At a glance, Figure 10.1 shows the key components of the model: The implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol building requires a multi-sectoral approach on existing work.

**Implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol:** is the broad objective

**Gathering baseline data:** This will entail using data from the national Central Statistical Offices and reports to the SADC Secretariat by government complemented by the SADC Gender Protocol Barometer produced by the Alliance as well as other national gender reports to various bodies. This will provide baselines against which progress will be measured.

**Training and capacity building** - The development of national gender policies and costed gender action plans require capacity building workshops with modules on gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and costing implementation of policy at national levels. Key line ministries' gender focal points and budgeting officers should ideally attend for sustainability of the process along with leading civil society leaders to support the relevant ministries over time.

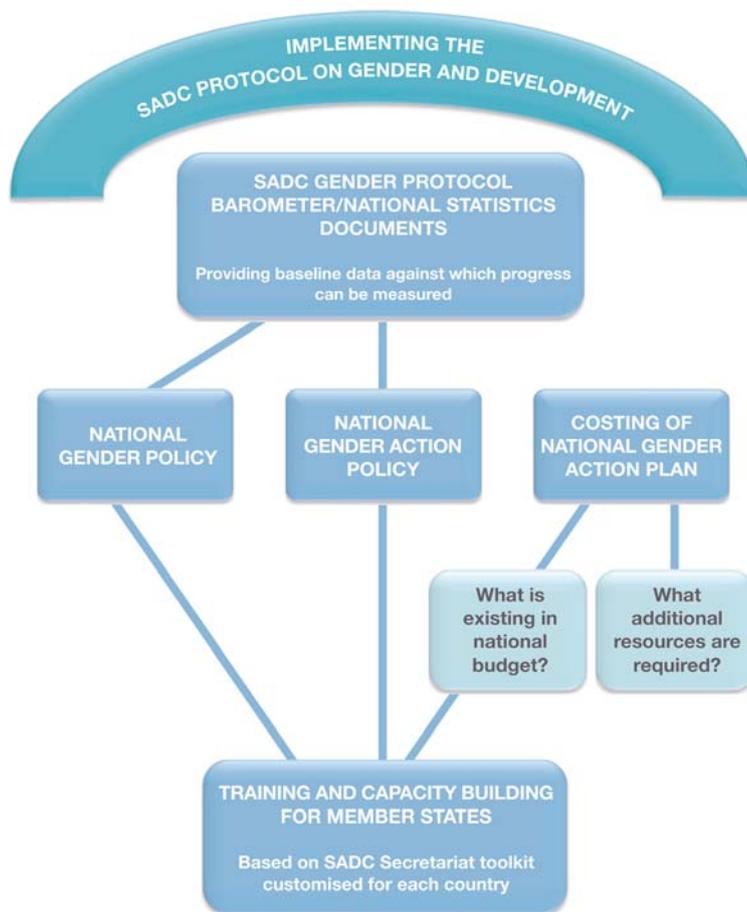
**Resource allocation for implementation of key provisions of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development:** In the process, it is important for the national gender machinery to lobby and ensure that there is allocation of resources for the implementation of the costed gender action plan. This should include looking at what are the existing resources within national budgets, what are the gender entry points and an assessment of additional resources required. This includes advocacy and lobbying by the national gender machinery to the national treasury.

### Gender focal points in line ministries

The line ministries have Gender Focal Point (GFPs) persons whose main responsibility is to enhance gender mainstreaming in all sectors. The GFPs are supposed to have a strong link with the MGCD on gender mainstreaming of the public sector. In some cases, some ministries have Gender-Sub-Committees tasked to facilitate and enhance gender based planning and costing.

There are Provincial and District Committees as well as other community level sub-committees to ensure that the planning and budgeting processes from the community levels are engendered. There is a need to strengthen the links between the planners, accountants

**Figure 10.1: Costing model developed by Gender Links**



and GFPs and MGCD. All these three require training in gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting. Many pieces of legislation can be enacted but without resources, not much can be achieved.

### Implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol at local government level

A sphere of governance closest to the people, local government structures especially councils have emerged as key allies in implementing the SADC Gender Protocol as well as taking it to local communities. This comes from the realisation that the only way to have a real impact at the local level is to work at council level.

Several research studies such as *"Ringling up the Changes, Gender in Politics in Southern Africa"* found that local government is a neglected area of the gender and governance discourse. Similar research conducted in ten Southern African countries in the series, *At the Coalface, Gender and Local Government*, made the same observations. This led to GL's launch of the Centres of Excellence in gender mainstreaming and local government process. It came from the realisation through the research studies that the only way to have

a real impact at the local level is to work at council level.

While policies and strategies at national level are important, these remain so many words if they are not translated into action on the ground. Similarly, it has become clear that the ambitious targets of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development need to be localised.

GL is working in at least 10 councils in 10 SADC countries to cascade the COE model and has formed strategic partnerships with local government associations, Ministries of Local Government, community based organisations and other role players to ensure that local

government is an avenue for promoting gender equality and equity.

Key targets of the local council gender-planning framework have been aligned to the SADC Protocol on Gender and development. Flagship projects include key targets of the SADC Gender Protocol to be achieved by 2015 such as training for women in politics aimed at contributing to the 5050 target and reducing by half the current levels of gender based violence.

10 COEs have signed on to the project in Swaziland and GL has developed a partnership with key local government associations to mainstream gender. There are many good practices of implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol coming up.

### Swaziland: Awareness-raising incorporates arts and edu-tainment

The Swaziland Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action on AIDS (AMICAALL) is using the Arts and Edutainment to conduct education and awareness around women and children's rights issues at the local level.

As part of its community mobilisation strategy AMICAALL conducts dialogues with community members (religious groups, local and traditional leaders, business people, in and out of school youth, among others) to raise public awareness on the SADC Gender Protocol provisions.

The major objective of the AMICAALL strategy is to disseminate information on the SADC Gender Protocol using IEC materials during training sessions for community members, local and traditional leaders.

A small budget has been set aside for implementation of the project. Though not adequate, it is a starting point. The project makes use of special dates such as the Day of the African Child, Women's Day, Fathers' Day, etc. to educate communities about their rights using the Provisions of the Protocol and other gender related instruments.

At first Piggs Peak did not have a gender programme but working with the Gender Links (GL) Swaziland Office, the council and AMICAALL received trainings and workshops on gender mainstreaming and formed a solid working long-term partnership. From there AMICAALL conducts village level workshops aimed at empowering women and men on their rights using the SADC Gender Protocol. This is now integral part of their work and GL does not have to attend the sessions.

The project aims to communicate key provisions of the Protocol and other instruments using drama and theatre

such as dramas on gender based violence (GBV) issues, HIV and AIDS. The idea is that authorities can use the Gender Protocol to set standards for achieving gender equality while citizens use the instrument to claim their rights.

AMICAALL also uses essay writing competitions with school going children to raise awareness on various topics on child abuse and GBV. Through the essay competition, children reflect on the issues around GBV and child abuse and to communicate and create awareness on the issues.

Information Education Communication (IEC) materials are disseminated to the different social groups and the general public. Most of the materials are for the literate those who read and write.

AMICAALL's objective also is promoting gender equality and women's rights amongst the Swazi promote because of the socialization of the Swazi community.

AMICAALL's strategy also focuses on ensuring access to sexual reproductive services thus the provision of services such as PMTCT, condoms, counselling, contraception, HIV and AIDS testing.



Bonsile Ntuli from AMICAAL in Piggs Peak shares information about the village level workshops at the Local Government and Gender Justice Summit in April 2012, Johannesburg. Photo: Trevor Davies

The strategy has met a number of challenges owing to the fact that change is painfully and a slow process, changing male attitudes towards gender equality issues remains a problem. Also still prevalent are serious misconceptions of the term gender that are informed by the strong patriarchal culture of the community and enforced by the chieftaincy.

Since April 2011, AMICAALL has been able to reach over a 1000 people every month. The data is gender disaggregated its showing an increase in men participating in the meetings even though overall more women and youth come compared to men.

The major outcome of the strategy has been the emergency of gender champions who motivate the continuation of the approach at village levels. One champion who has emerged from the process motivates sectors of the community that were difficult to reach out to such as the community police.

The programme has seen an increase in reported cases of GBV at the various police stations, a decrease in passionate killings, 'exposure of dirty linen' that is violence within the family now being reported such as father abusing a girl child showing a change in attitudes.

### Civil society

The Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance a "network of networks" started as a loose coalition in 2005 when the campaign for the adoption of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development began. As the SADC Gender Protocol campaign shifted from pushing for signing and ratification to lobbying for implementation, it became apparent that there is a need for the Network to reorganise to be effective in monitoring implementation by Member States.

In Swaziland SWAGAA coordinates the Alliance at national level in its role as national for network. In the

coming year the local network, backed by the regional secretariat will focus on strengthening institutional mechanisms to facilitate advocacy work on raising awareness of the SADC Gender Protocol for citizens as well as tracking implementation. There is a need to develop gender champions for each of the 28 targets in order to move forward in a coordinated way.

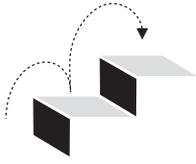
### Conclusion

Swaziland has only signed and ratified the 2008 SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. Moreover, although an array of Policies that have been enacted, most are not being fully implemented due to lack of resources.



Ntombi Nyoni, Legal officer for SWAGAA presenting on the SADC protocol on gender and development, Gender responsive Budgeting and Planning Inception Meeting - Mountain Inn, Swaziland.

Photo: Thandokuhle Dlamini



## Next steps

- As Swaziland develops a costed gender action plan the strategies and programmes developed should also be aligned to the articles and provisions of the SADC Gender Protocol. This alignment can yield a multi-sectoral and comprehensive gender equality and women's empowerment framework that addresses the intersectionality of factors that perpetuate gender inequalities and the violation of women's rights in Swaziland.
- It is important for the government to increase the allocation of financial resources to move laws and policies from paper into sustainable programmes, and strengthened institutions and systems for the delivery of affordable and accessible quality services and for ensuring women's access to justice.
- There is need for a stronger link between the research and available data on a variety of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment issues and policy development and programming in the public sector. Evidenced-based policy development and programming is essential for putting in place strategic measures to meet the targets of the MDGs and of the SADC Gender Protocol.
- Civil society organisations need to disseminate the protocol and create more awareness in the communities, particularly through mainstream media.
- Finalise costing of the SADC gender Protocol.



GL Swaziland board member Benedict Bennet delivers a speech at the 50/50 campaign launch – Ezulwini, October 2012.

*Photo: Thandokuhle Dlamini*