



**SADC Gender Protocol Barometer Validation and Coalition building meeting
report**

23rd September 2013

Fairground Holdings: Gaborone Botswana



Compiled by Wame Dhlokhlo

Synopsis

This report sets out building blocks for the Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance in Gaborone, Botswana led by the Alliance focal network Botswana (BOCONGO) in collaboration with Gender Links, the Alliance Secretariat (Please see structure of the Alliance in **Annex 1**). The strategy sought to use this period up to October 2013 to host national meetings to canvass the 2013 Barometer, develop fact sheets, enlist champions for the 28 targets of the SADC Gender Protocol and launch a campaign Countdown to 2015 that culminates in a high profile sustainable event until 2015. This campaign builds on a series of meetings leading up to the 2014 SADC Gender Protocol Summit. The meeting took place at Fairground Holdings in Gaborone on the 23rd of September 2013. Attached at **Annex A** is a list of participants. Attached at **Annex B** is a programme. Attached at **Annex C** is the matrix of champions who have agreed to take forward the work of the SADC Gender Protocol.

Objectives

The workshop aimed to:

- Validate/ launch the country Barometer/ regional Barometer.
- Create awareness around the SADC Gender Protocol.
- Set up theme clusters at national, to provincial to local levels.
- Collect Protocol@work case studies in preparation for the 2014 SADC Protocol@Work summit.

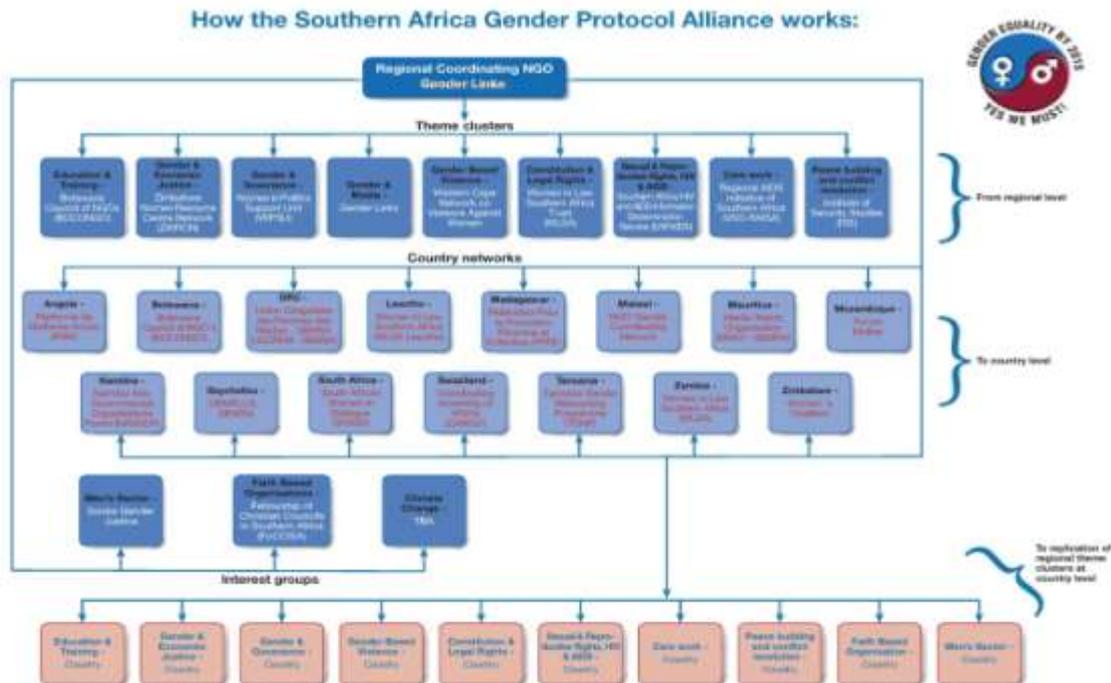
Background

The Protocol on Gender and Development is a unique sub-regional instrument that is now in force, adopted at the Heads of State Summit in Johannesburg in August 2008. This instrument brings together all existing international commitments to gender equality in one instrument, and enhances these through specific targets to be achieved by 2015.

Gender Links coordinates the Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance that brings together national coordinating networks; regional theme clusters and interest groups to lobby for the implementation of the Protocol, Southern Africa's roadmap for achieving MDG 3- Gender Equality.

How the Alliance works in Botswana

The Alliance falls under the Gender Sector in BOCONGO and all the Gender sector members are part of the Alliance. Below is a diagram of how the Alliance in Botswana fits into the Alliance in Southern Africa.



Participants

Sixteen (16) women and six (6) men attended the meeting (see Annex A). These covered the following sectors:

- Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
- Faith Based Organizations
- Education and Training
- Gender and Economic Justice
- Gender and Governance
- Gender Based Violence
- Sexual and Reproductive Rights, HIV & AIDS
- Care Work

Key activities

- The Alliance needs to get more stories from the field to help enhance the SADC Protocol on Gender Barometer of Botswana and aid in dating. A key ruling by Dingake in 2012 was cited.
- The Alliance was encouraged to visit Customary Courts of Botswana to get more updates on policies and laws more so that they are updated every 3 months to help with updating of case management.
- The Alliance needs to verify if the Legal Aid Bill has been passed as well as progress that surrounds it.

- The Alliance is to review the Gender and Climate change: Botswana Case study by Omari and Saving Botswana' tourist Industry from Climate Change documents from Ms Mafhoko Ditsa.
- The Alliance needs to lobby for the update of the entire Constitution of Botswana especially on issues of Gender found in Section 15 among others of the Constitution as other sections favour one gender instead of another while other contradict each other.
- The Alliance needs to facilitate the development of a quota system that will help monitor the progress of women's representation in politics.
- The Alliance needs to get documents from BALA (Botswana Association of Local Authorities) and Gender Affairs Department to help in the compilation of the Barometer.
- The Alliance needs to find out more about life skills programs that are being conducted by different organizations so as to make the public more aware.
- The Alliance needs to find out and lobby for the reviving of conferences like the one in 2004 on electoral systems facilitated by OSISA and Emang Basadi about electoral systems.
- The Alliance needs to find and make public names of organizations that have either been changed, organizations that have gone nonexistent or merged to help update the 2013 Barometer.
- The Alliance needs to find/ make the up to date list of women in power.
- The Alliance needs to make an inclusion in the 2013 Barometer to say that there is a human trafficking draft bill.
- Ms Nwokoro needs to be contacted at the Otse Police College with the help of Ms Motshubi from Gender Affairs Department to find out how Otse Police has been involved in gender issues.
- Protocol of Service Standards and Social Protection documents need to be sourced so as to make public their inclusions on GBV referral systems.
- The content of the introduction of the GBV module in the Barometer needs to be re-written because the content does not reflect the main message.
- Good case studies on Gender need to be written in the 2013 Barometer to include activities between BOCONGO and BDF as well as Ms Monageng being at the Human Rights Courts.
- The Alliance needs to make an inclusion in the 2013 Barometer to say that the Climate Change National Strategy and Policies are being developed.
- The Alliance needs to make an inclusion in the 2013 Barometer; in the Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development module key points to say that Climate change affects both men and women differently.
- The Alliance needs to consider the current MDG report when writing the 2013 Barometer.
- The Barometer is to be edited to remove aspects that single out individuals or organizations especially on issues of abuse.
- The Alliance needs to spread more awareness about the Barometer more so that only 3 individuals in this meeting came across the Barometer before this meeting.
- The Alliance needs to mention in the 2013 Barometer that the national gender analysis and mainstreaming training curriculum has been developed.

IMPORTANT QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

Africa's growth is real and sustainable; our economic drive in Botswana and structural transformation depends on the work we do here to ensure that there is gender parity, Bagaisi Mabilo-BOCONGO Executive Secretary.

Teachers, take a stand to ensure that Gender Education reaches all people. For you are the agents of change. A lesson taught by a teacher is a lifelong experience for any child-Faith Malemane, Gender Secretary (BOSETU)

In terms of health, more can be done to find out whether the condomize strategy is actually working for all women in terms of gender-based violence, coercion and intimidation in relationships. Condoms are excellent, we know this, however, if a woman can't negotiate its use during intercourse, it doesn't help. Maybe we could think of and promote additional strategies along with condomize."Erin Williams, OD and Gender Advisor, BOCONGO

Next Steps

Constitutional and Legal Rights

- The Adoption Act of needs to be updated because of the currently existing conflicting issues.
- The law of Botswana needs to legalize abortion as a choice.
- The awareness of legal aid needs to be increased; there are 3 offices in place dealing with legal aid but very few people know about them.
- Workplaces need to address sexual harassment; Recognition is only in the Public Service Act, even so, implementation is weak; NGO and Parastatals have the most prevalence of Sexual Harassment.
- There is need for the lawmakers in Botswana to do alignment of the customary and common laws.
- The Pension and Provident Funds Act needs to be changed or crafted.
- Implementation and education remains a challenge; there is need for costing and budgeting to implement gender and education related laws and policies. A strategy is in progress on how to respond to GBV cases by the Department of Child Protection.

Gender and Governance

- There is need to get all political parties to be involved in Gender mainstreaming.

- More debate is needed about abortion and advocacy to review of current legislation.
- There is need to revive the Caucus for Women in Politics in Botswana.
- There is need to promote Sexual Reproductive Health Rights.
- Advocacy for affirmative action is needed to increase women and marginalized group's representation in decision making positions in all spheres.
- There is need for revision of political parties' manifestos in Botswana to include gender equality.

Education and Training

- More research is needed to assess the extent and nature of all forms of violence in and out of schools in the country; efforts are needed to continue to make the community safer. This could include a nationwide campaign against violence in schools and out of school to target the community as a whole.
- The government needs to strive to make programs in Botswana by different organizations in place that address life skills like Youth Counselling on Air (www.yoca.org.bw) become more recognized and utilized especially by youth.
- The community should be involved in the development of school curricula.

Productive Resources and Employment, Economic Empowerment

- The government needs to conduct more research and give more support to men and women in the informal sector.
- There is need to review the paternal leave.
- Civil Society Organizations should strengthen their economic programmes to support the community to venture into non-traditional and economically viable businesses.

Gender Based Violence

- The police and other government departments as well as NGOs need to have a more coordinated approach to assist survivors of GBV, including offering extensive counselling.
- There is need to advocate for review of the Police, BDF and Prisons Acts because they have aspects that are discriminatory.
- We need to train more police officers including more female officers to have better experienced workforce especially on vulnerable and confidential issues.
- We need a specialized unit among the police on Gender Based Violence.
- The law of defilement needs to be aligned to the children's act.
- There is need for research on marital rape to see how it contributes to GBV.
- We need a GBV unit in Botswana coordinated by GeAD.

Health

- Civil Society Organizations should continue sexual reproductive health and rights initiatives to help address issues that are lagging behind.
- The government needs to continue to encourage men and boys to be more involved in sexual reproductive health and rights.
- There is need to lobby men into tubal ligation so as to help women not to become victims of different circumstances.

HIV and AIDS

- We need to look at the link between HIV awareness and cultural behaviour change.
- We need strategies that will address adolescence issues on HV/AIDS.
- The government, CSO's and churches need to increase support on the rising number of orphans, child headed households as well as vulnerable children.
- Information, Education and Communication material should be effectively mainstream gender concerns and people living with disability to empower girls and boys on the importance of negotiating and practicing safer sexual relations.
- HIV prevention needs to find innovative ways to address the gender issues that drive the pandemic.
- The government needs to promote men and boy's involvement in care work, so the burden does not fall on girls and women.
- We need to tackle emerging issues and ethical dilemmas. This entails developing strategies on ethical dilemmas that should be conceptualized and adopted by countries.
- There is need to amend and or review the health bill as it rules out the right to privacy of HIV/AIDS infected individuals.
- A strategy is needed to factor women into the Safe Male Circumcision Campaign.
- There is need to tackle the issue of discordant partners as well as people who spread HIV AIDS intentionally.

Peace Building and conflict resolution

- Review legislation related to police, defence and correctional services to ensure that the Acts are gender sensitive and provide for women's special needs e.g. child friendly facilities for women with children.

CONCLUSION

Organizations in Gaborone are doing fairly well when it comes to their endeavour to implement their commitments in gender equality through specific targets to be achieved by 2015. The Barometer has been validated, there is need to collect more case studies and/ success stories in preparation for the 2014 SADC Protocol@Work summit and most of all, more awareness needs to be made around the SADC Gender Protocol to different communities.