



# Gender News

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## Regional Women Economic Empowerment Workshop, 15-16 July 2009, Johannesburg.

The SADC Gender Unit organized a Regional Women's Economic Empowerment Workshop with the support of InWEnt and GTZ on the 15-16th July 2009. The Workshop was attended by three representatives from each Member State, two from the Women In Business Associations (WIBA) and one from the National Gender Machinery. The Objectives of the workshop were to brief the participants about the SADC Women's Empowerment Project; discuss the project roadmap and receive inputs from the MS and Women In Business. The workshop also discussed the outcome of the training needs assessment conducted prior to the workshop that will inform the capacity building programme under this project. The workshop was very crucial as it created the basis for re-strategizing for the regional programme with a view to strengthen its focus and impetus towards the empowerment of women in business.

Presentations made at the workshop included a thought-provoking presentation by the facilitator on the linkages of trade and gender, their impacts and the impacts of the trade agreements on women. Ms. Vonesai Hove, from TIFI shared lights on the Free Trade Area—and where the entry points are for women, with emphasis on the SADC Protocols governing trade giving specific information on how Women In Business can access SADC rules of origin; Non-Tariff Barriers, Monitoring and Eliminating Mechanisms for reporting all NTB's encountered during their day to day business transactions.

UNIFEM shared very rich findings on a research on Informal Cross Border Traders (ICBT) conducted in December 2008 in Swaziland and Zimbabwe. In total 709 respondents were interviewed with 250 in Swaziland (191 female and 59 Males) and 457(316 females 141males) in Zimbabwe. The Research indicates that informal cross border trade has implications for the larger national and global economy. ICBT is seen as a cushion to formal economy and trade failures and is largely driven by the need to improve welfare by the poor and it is a survival and wealth accumulation strategy. The participants shared experiences focusing on successes and challenges which they face as Women In Business.



Delegates at the workshop listening attentively to the very interesting and energizing presentation on "Is it Possible to Balance the Scales of Trade in Favour of Women? Macro and Micro linkages, by Dr. Liepollo Lebohng Pheko (facilitator)



Left: Dr. Liepollo Lebohng Pheko listening as Dr. Kala Gopalakrishnan (right) shares the experience of Asian Women in Business



Mrs. Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela (SADC Secretariat) and Mrs Inge Meier-Ewert (InWEnt-Germany) at the Regional Women's Economic Empowerment Workshop.

The presentation by Dr. Kala Gopalakrishnan on the Asian experience was an eye-opener for the business women to appreciate that their challenges and problems in SADC are not unique but are shared by their Asian sisters. In her presentation, Dr. Gopalakrishnan cited work that is being done by InWEnt, for business women in different countries in Asia. She expressed appreciation on the exchange programme between SADC Women In Business and South Asia Women in Business. The Gender Unit would like to take this opportunity to thank InWEnt and GTZ for their generous financial and technical support that made the Regional Women In Business Workshop a success, as expressed by many participants in their emails of appreciation to the Gender Unit. We look forward to a long term, successful and fruitful collaboration.

### **Gender Mainstreaming in Trade Workshop, 18-19th June 2009, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

On the 18-19 June 2009, representatives from the TIFI Directorate and Gender Unit attended a training workshop organized by the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), in collaboration with UNECA African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD). The workshop brought together trade and gender experts from three African Regional Economic Communities namely SADC, COMESA and EAC as well as trade experts from the different UN agencies within UNECA HQ and Sub Regional Offices. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance knowledge and understanding of trade and gender experts on the gender dimensions within trade and various trade agendas. Using a gender framework of analysis, the workshop examined the experiences of a broad range of women (producers, workers, consumers) and the current limitations they face in access to and impacts from trade liberalization processes. The delegates brainstormed on ways to enact more gender sensitive responses from trade policy and practitioners. The workshop examined to what extent current trade practices at global levels (WTO) impact on African women, both positively and negatively, and how these could be better addressed by trade negotiators. The training also identified specific tools & approaches, through macro-economic models and enhanced data collection methodologies and measurement tools that could be used by trade practitioners to better elicit data and analysis for more gender sensitized trade policy and practices. Furthermore, the workshop examined the current status of African regional integration efforts (free trade zones; customs unions and the impacts of regional Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA's) to identify more gender "entry points" in policies, processes and practices to sustain and improve the potential of African women in regional trade mechanisms.

**Defining the Term Care Economy:** The Care economy is composed of all work done mostly by women, though important, which are not paid for; invisible, unvalued and not accounted for in the Systems of National Accounts. Hence, this contribution is not reflected as part of the country's Gross Domestic Production (GDP).

For submission of comments, suggestions or articles please contact us online at [gender@sadc.int](mailto:gender@sadc.int)

### **Gender Statistics Workshop, 29th June—3rd July 2009, Lusaka Zambia.**

Representatives from the Gender and Statistics Units attended this workshop which was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The workshop was attended by participants from Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as representatives from the African Centre for Statistics and African Development Bank. The objectives of the meeting were to: disseminate the tools and methodologies developed by UNECA for the collection, production and dissemination of gender statistics; provide a platform for exchange of experiences and advocating for the generating and usage of gender statistics. The workshop highlighted the fact that gender statistics are needed at all levels of development i.e. micro, meso and macro, as at all levels there is need to assess the socio-economic situation of each group, their differences and similarities as well as existing inequalities in terms of sex, age, relationships, roles, access to resources; participation and vulnerabilities. It was however highlighted that the major challenges concerning producing gender statistics lies with difficulty in conceptualization and in the parameters of how to measure the gender dimensions as well as non-availability of more specific data and the decision to measure which is hampered by many competing needs. The workshop highlighted ways and means of how gender could be incorporated into the traditional way of data collection such as Population Census; Income and Expenditure Households Surveys etc. All Member States in attendance developed National Action Plans towards the integration of gender into their systems of data collection.

### **Consensus Building Workshop on the Draft Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for Open and Distance Learning, 20-21st July 2009, Livingstone, Zambia.**

The Directorate of Social, Human Development and Special Programmes organized this workshop under the Capacity Building in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Project. The workshop was aimed at disseminating the findings of the Situational Analysis of Gender Mainstreaming in the Education sector with special reference to ODL and to build consensus on the draft Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for ODL. The workshop was attended by participants from Lesotho (3); Malawi (4); Mozambique (5); United Republic of Tanzania (5); Zambia (4) and Zimbabwe (5) as per the African Development Fund (ADF) beneficiaries. The findings revealed that although some SADC Member States are on course in terms of attaining parity in Primary enrollment, this varies between countries.

For example, while Angola records a low Primary Completion Rate (PCR) of 43% Mauritius' PCR stands at 100%, while at the regional level only 68% of primary aged children reach the final primary grade. This gap widens as you progress to the higher levels of education i.e. secondary and tertiary education, with the exception of Botswana and Lesotho where female literacy levels are higher than that of male. These disparities make gender mainstreaming in ODL very crucial as it is expected to absorb the large number of girls/women that drop out of school as you progress to the upper levels of education. Thus the situational analysis is very important to assess the gender sensitivity of ODL to absorb the large number of girls/women who drop out of formal schooling.

However the analysis found that there are gender related challenges in Educa-

tion in general which, to a large extent, manifest in ODL. These challenges include but not limited to: harmful and negative cultural practices; early marriages and teenage pregnancy; gender based violence including sexual harassment; socialization and societal expectation of the girl child and

patriarchy; long distance to learning centres; timing of tutorials in evening when women/girl learners are pre-occupied with household chores and lack of facilities to support women with reproductive roles during residential sessions.

To enhance access to education for disadvantaged groups including girl children, the study highlights some good practices such as: mobile schools and lowering the tertiary entry points for the pastoral nomadic San and Ovahimba people in Namibia; while in Zambia the mobile schools target farming communities who move to farming areas during the growing seasons. School-feeding programmes in Namibia and Malawi for the disadvantaged children and interestingly in Malawi there is a cash transfer scheme that gives cash and food incentives to parents of girl children to encourage them to remain in school. Mozambique has introduced literacy education for single mothers; adult women and pregnant teenagers

The United Republic of Tanzania has embarked on targeted sensitization of women to enroll in ODL and Lesotho has targeted herd boys with ODL programmes in an effort to increase access to the disadvantaged groups. The Strategy has identified key gender issues in ODL i.e. inadequate capacity for Gender Mainstreaming; lack of systems for coordination and collaboration between the key role players and lack of gender sensitivity in the monitoring and evaluation systems with specific reference to the collection and utilization of gender disaggregated data.



**Participants at the ODL Gender Mainstreaming Workshop, listening to a presentation.**