



# Gender News

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## Gender Unit 2008/09: Achievements and Challenges

Annual year 2008/9 came and passed!! It is the time to reflect on achievements as well as challenges faced in the implementation of the Gender Unit Annual Business Plan. The Gender Unit planned to implement activities in the following Intervention areas as approved by Council of Ministers in 2007: Policy development and Harmonization, Gender Mainstreaming, Women's Empowerment, Information Communications and Networking as well as Monitoring and Evaluation.

On policy development and harmonization the main achievement was the signing of the Protocol on Gender and Development in Sandton, South Africa in August 2008. On Gender Mainstreaming, the Gender Unit has accomplished the development and finalization of SADC Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit as well as the SADC Gender Workplace Policy. Both documents are awaiting submission to Council of Ministers in August 2009 for approval.



Furthermore, the Gender Unit has successfully implemented the planned SADC Round Table held on the 8-10 December, 2009 to develop a strategy for achieving the 50% target on women's representation in political and decision making positions. The strategy serves as a framework for implementation at Member States level. On Information, Communications and Networking; the Gender Unit has been able to produce a newsletter quarterly, with a view to sensitize staff and partners on gender issues and updates on the Gender Unit's Program and activities. The Gender Unit has also hosted a successful commemoration of International Women's Day 2008 at SADC House.

Finally on Monitoring and Evaluation, the Gender Unit, with the support of UNECA Regional office in Lusaka, Zambia, is developing a Monitoring Tool for Gender and Development. This tool shall capture all the critical indicators on gender with a view to facilitate standard reporting from SADC Member States.

Activities that the Gender Unit was not able to implement will be rolled to Annual year 2009/10. These are: capacity building on gender mainstreaming for Directorates, and Facilitation of training of women parliamentarians on leadership and gender skills. The major challenges faced by the Gender Unit include limited staffing, and inadequate resources.

### This Month's Gender Unit Business

**Gender Unit Retreat**  
Mar.17-20, 2009  
Rustenburg, South Africa

**Regional Workshop on Human Trafficking**  
Mar. 16, 2009  
Pretoria, South Africa,

**SADC International Women's Day Celebrations**  
Mar. 13, 2009  
Gaborone, Botswana

## Defining the Terms

### CARE-GIVER

Means any person who provides emotional, psychological, physical, economic, spiritual or social care and support services to another.

– Article 1 of the SADC Gender Protocol

## Gender and Daily Bread

An estimated 700,000 to 2 million women are trafficked across international borders each year. When considering domestic trafficking, the figure jumps as high as 4 million women.

UNFPA  
<http://www.unfpa.org/gender/violence1.htm>

## Check it out

Trafficking in Women, Girls and Boys: Key Issues for Population and Development Programmes  
UNFPA, 2003

[http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib\\_public\\_file/266\\_filename\\_Trafficking.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_public_file/266_filename_Trafficking.pdf)





## Introducing Women in Business to the SADC FTA

"I would very much want to move to a higher level in my business but cannot due to financial constraints," Mutale a Zambian trader said. "I depend on my business friends to loan me money. I cannot approach any financial lending institutions because I do not have assets or any valuables to use as collateral."<sup>1</sup>

Inadequate and financial resources are but one of the many constraints hindering the full participation of women in regional economic integration specifically in the area of trade. However, SADC Member states have put in place or are putting in place various financial packages and other resources that women in business can access at national level to enhance their participation in regional trade.

The SADC Free Trade Area (FTA), which came into effect in August 2008, precedes a Customs Union planned for 2010, a Common Market by 2015, Monetary Union by 2016, and a single currency by 2018. The Free Trade Area is supposed to lead to a more profound economic integration of the 12 participating Member States, making goods cheaper, stimulating greater production as well as consumption for regionally produced goods and services. The FTA provides

greater business opportunities for goods that meet the rules of origin criteria. Women entrepreneurs are urged to produce goods and services that meet international standards in order to enjoy the benefits of the SADC Free Trade Area. It is envisaged that the FTA would allow labour, goods and services produced within the region to flow freely across political borders without artificial constraints and hold-ups.

Women in their positions as workers, consumers, producers and caregivers, find themselves strategically poised to exploit the economic and social gains derived from the FTA through their active involvement in cross border trade, manufacturing for both exports and domestic markets and provision of services such as tourism, consultancy, etc. With at least 85% of goods traded originating in the SADC region attracting zero duties, the FTA ushers in a competitive business environment for women in business as all raw materials sourced from the region would be obtained at competitive prices thereby making the price of finished goods competitive also.

**A special thank you** to Vonesai Hove and Jabulani Mthethwa from the TIFI Directorate for contributing to this issue.

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.worldywca.info/index.php/ywca/women\\_s\\_news/articles/what\\_will\\_sadc\\_free\\_trade\\_mean\\_for\\_women](http://www.worldywca.info/index.php/ywca/women_s_news/articles/what_will_sadc_free_trade_mean_for_women), published August 26, 2008.

## PROJECT CHANCE: SADC Women's Economic Empowerment Project

SADC Secretariat, Gender Unit participated in a Planning Meeting for the CHANCE Project in Berlin, 3 – 5 February 2009. The 4-year CHANCE project will be implemented by InWent together with a network of partners in South Asia and Southern Africa. Other attendees included South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) and its Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs Council, InWent, South Africa Chambers of Commerce, NEPAD Business Foundation, and Enablis.

The project is designed to support the economic empowerment of women in both South Asia and SADC regions through the strengthening of Women Entrepreneurship Associations (WEA) and supporting agencies. The programme consists of three pillars: (a) **Training and capacity building**; (b) **Fostering regional network-building and exchange of experiences between WEAs through regional co-operation**; and (c) **Inception of an international network**. This project shall augment and strengthen the efforts of women in business to contribute more into the economies of SADC Member States.



## Bon Voyage Lisa!

The Gender Unit would like to extend its thanks and best wishes to Ms. Lisa Faye, Technical Advisor on Gender. Many of you know Lisa and have witnessed how she has worked tirelessly in the Gender Unit. Ms. Faye has contributed to the successful implementation of the Gender Programme for the past two and a half years, but has unfortunately for us returned to Canada to pursue an opportunity with Oxfam. She will be dearly missed in all the corridors of the SADC Secretariat and we hope to see her and her baby Laila back in Botswana soon!



### GU CONTACT INFO

Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela  
Head, Gender Unit  
SADC Secretariat  
Private Bag 0095

Gaborone, Botswana  
Tel. +267 395 1863  
Fax: +267 392 4099  
Email: [gender@sadc.int](mailto:gender@sadc.int)

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