



## Gender Mainstreaming in the Water Sector



### Project Preparation and Financing

### Concept Note

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## **Mainstreaming Gender in the SADC Water Sector**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Water Sector has made significant progress in mainstreaming gender in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). IWRM is an approach that promotes better water resources management and development, and is defined by Global Water Partnership as “a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems”. IWRM highlights women’s central place in water governance and use for economic efficacy, and with this comes the need to mainstream gender in water sector policies, programs, actions and investments.

Gender mainstreaming (GM) in the SADC Water Sector is realized through instruments such as the Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses, the SADC Regional Water Policy, the SADC Regional Water Strategy and the Southern African Vision for Water, Life and Environment in the 21st Century. The SADC Regional Water Policy and Regional Water Strategy have been developed and implemented through the Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management (RSAP), which is currently in its fourth cycle, i.e. RSAP IV (2016-2020). Efforts to implement the gender mainstreaming policy pronouncements have been articulated in the RSAPs, specifically RSAP III through the implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming in Transboundary Water Management (TWM) program.

RSAP IV builds on the progress achieved during RSAP III, through the implementation of a work program on gender mainstreaming. In implementing RSAP IV, SADC employs the principle of subsidiarity, i.e., to use institutions with comparative advantage for implementing specific interventions. In this regard, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP SA), as an implementing partner of SADC, has been tasked to support the implementation of stakeholder engagement activities. These activities include gender integration as part of the SADC Transboundary Water Management program implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with delegated authority from Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), Germany, and Department for International Development (DFID), UK, on behalf of the SADC Secretariat.

In line with the SADC’s commitment of ensuring gender integration in the water sector, a systematic capacity building program has been conducted through a series of workshops and knowledge sharing events from 2017, as illustrated in figure 1. The workshops have primarily targeted Gender Focal Points (GFPs) within the SADC water ministries and representatives of the gender ministries, with the aim of equipping them with the understanding, skills and tools for encompassing gender considerations into the design and delivery of water projects. The workshops aligned with key SADC and RBO





dialogues, ensuring GFPs participated both in targeted gender-focused knowledge sharing events and wider regional discussions.

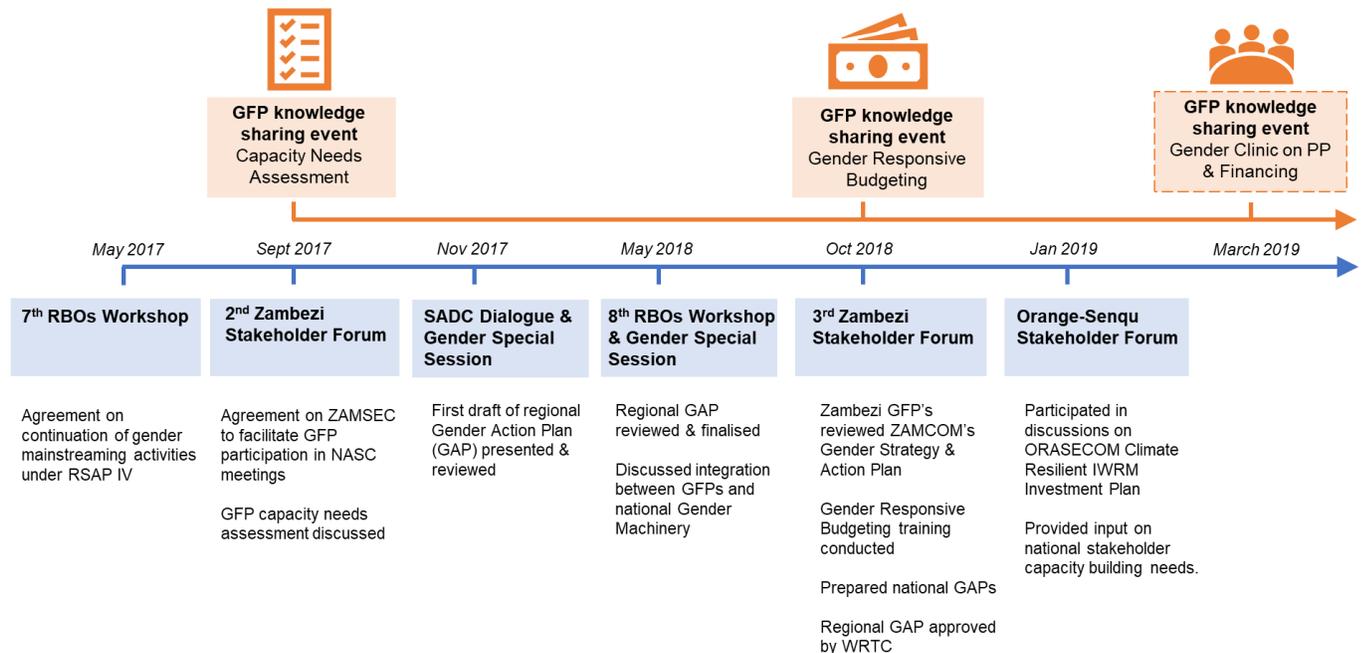


Figure 1 Timeline of the previous gender knowledge sharing and RBO stakeholder events

### Gender and Financial Resource Mobilisation in the Water Sector

As indicated in the above infographic, the most recent Knowledge Sharing Event focused on **Gender Responsive Budgeting** (GRB) and also included an overview of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, Gender Management System, and review of the status of implementation of the Gender Action Plan for the water sector. The GRB training objectives were to:

- Enhance the analytical and practical skills of GRB practitioners (Gender Focal Points), in the application of GRB analysis and understanding of the gender dimension in each step of respective national policy budget cycle.
- To enhance the necessary skills to identify entry points to introduce GRB into the budget cycle and to be able to plan strategic initiatives for GRB work.

The workshop helped GFPs and gender machinery understand modalities to motivate for, and secure, internal public sector funds for gender mainstreaming activities.

The upcoming **Project Preparation and Financing Clinic** marks the final workshop under the SADC Transboundary Water Management programme support to RSAP IV and will be convened on 25 March 2019 in Johannesburg. It builds on the skills and knowledge





acquired by the GFPs and the gender machinery on Gender Responsive Budgeting, focusing on gender and social inclusion, equality empowerment and assessment approaches for project preparation and mobilisation of finance. This is all aimed at improving project designs and securing investments that meet the needs of different sections of the population especially women and vulnerable groups.

### **Project Preparation and Financing**

Project Preparation (PP) is defined as the activities required to progress projects through its development stages up to bankability. Project Preparation consists of all the social, environmental, technical and financial work necessary to ensure that a proposed project is feasible and appropriate so that it can be successfully implemented and sustained by the end-users/owners/beneficiaries. The process ensures the identification and elimination of key risks at the earliest possible time and maximises development opportunities by ensuring that projects are well conceptualised. This includes identifying gender and social inclusion considerations that could have an impact on the ability for equal access and benefit of the proposed project.

The preparatory phases of an investment project essentially set the stage for project implementation and are crucial steps toward shaping the project's likelihood of attracting finance for implementation and ultimately achieving the expected results.

Systematic and effective Project Preparation is important for a range of reasons including:

- Project risks are managed and controlled.
- Scarce implementation resources (e.g. capital funding) are optimally utilized and are only allocated to viable projects.
- Projects are well conceptualized and planned.
- Development is appropriately tailored to local needs, including the gender-related dynamics within a beneficiary community
- Projects are supported by the key stakeholders (including the community, municipality, funders and implementation partners).
- Government and other funders can predict and therefore manage their cash flows by enhancing the predictability of project outcomes and timeframes for implementation.

Project Preparation needs to be properly managed and coordinated and should be regarded as a project management function. Often government departments, municipalities or other funding agencies do not have the in-house personnel to undertake all the activities required for project preparation and typically the assistance of outside specialists is required. It is therefore usually necessary that preparation funds are available, a budget compiled and maintained, specialists identified and adequately briefed, and quality control performed. It is also necessary that this process is effectively





managed, with a view to ensuring the final project design meets the requirements of financiers who have been earmarked for implementation funding.

Increasingly donors and financiers are requiring robust analyses and actions plans that address gender equality, women's empowerment and social inclusion issues in funding applications. The objective of the Clinic is therefore to create a platform for financiers, project developers/promoters and project implementers to discuss practical issues with regards to gender analysis and integration during project preparation and mobilising financing processes. This is based on the SADC Gender Handbook for the Water Sector. The high-level aims are to:

- To share experiences on approaches for addressing gender considerations in water projects: challenges and lessons learned.
- To collectively find solutions to better prepare gender sensitive water projects.
- To identify relevant tools for embedding gender throughout the project development cycle.

### **Proposed Programme**

The main items in the programme include the following:

- Overview of Project Preparation and Financing processes,
- Gender assessment and mainstreaming Tools for Project Preparation and Financing,
- Presentation of case studies and practical examples,
- Group discussions amongst the delegates and funding Partners to explore opportunities and approaches for preparing, financing and implementing gender sensitive water projects

### **Expected outcomes of the Workshop**

The expected outcomes of the workshop include the following.

- Knowledge product on the workshop learnings, approaches and solutions regarding project preparation and gender integration, including quotes from participants
- Clear understanding on the use and resource requirements of gender assessment and mainstreaming tools in project preparation
- Awareness of the available funding opportunities for gender sensitive water projects.

### **Some recommended readings**

GWP (2014), GWP Gender Strategy





SADC (2015), SADC Handbook on Mainstreaming Gender in the Water Sector

SADC (2016), Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Development Management Phase IV – (2016 – 2020)

