



Gender Focal Points in the Water Sector in SADC Member States



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Introduction

In 2014 SADC Member States nominated Gender Focal Points (GFPs) in their Water Ministries in response to a joint initiative of the SADC Gender Unit, SADC Water Division and the Gender Mainstreaming in TWM project (GM project).

The GM project supported the GFPs with induction and training. The project also trained specialised gender trainers (ToT) in each of the SADC Member States, and provided advice in the formulation of national action plans. With the GM project coming to an end in July 2015, the SADC Gender Unit and Water Division will continue to provide support in the form of facilitation, advice and communication, and provision of relevant GM materials.

Aim, Roles and Functions of GFPs

The main function of the GFPs is to promote awareness, knowledge, and communication about gender mainstreaming in water management in their respective Member States. They can also cooperate with, and give valuable input to the Water Sector in SADC, including about mainstreaming of gender in the implementation of IWRM plans of river basin organisations (RBOs).

The roles and functions of GFPs may vary according to the needs and priorities in each Member State, but most important are the following:

- Acting as technical advisor and coordinate gender (mainstreaming) approaches
- Raising awareness, advocate gender topics and act as change agent
- Undertaking or organising training and capacity building
- Providing support in the development of gender sensitive documents
- Introducing and supporting gender sensitive reporting, monitoring and evaluation
- Identifying and documenting success stories
- Communicating, sharing information and networking.

Support and Materials

For further support and coordination, the GFPs can contact the SADC Gender Unit and receive following materials:

- A handbook on Gender Mainstreaming in the water sector and branded USB stick of the handbook
- A guideline for RBOs on gender mainstreaming
- A pocket brief on GM in Transboundary Water Management for policy makers
- A Gender and Social Inclusion Report on GM in RBOs, that includes lessons learned recommendations and an accompanying Data Set Package for each RBO
- Eye-opening stories and GM experiences in IWRM pilot projects
- Modules about GM in the water sector in the context of different target groups.

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