

# SADC HIV FINANCING



## BULLETIN



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# It's all systems go

## in SADC HIV Fund Round Two

### Staff Writer

Sub-implementers from participating countries under the SADC HIV Fund Round Two project and representatives of collaborating partners that include the SADC Parliamentary Forum, HEARD of University of KwaZulu Natal and USAID met on the 16th of December, 2014 in Johannesburg, South Africa to plan for implementation.



**SERIOUS:** Dr. Tapuwa Magure (left), the Executive Director of the Zimbabwe AIDS Council and other delegates at a SADC HIV Fund sub-implementers' meeting in South Africa.

SADC Member States are working towards aligning their National HIV and AIDS priorities to the SADC Regional Commitments on HIV and AIDS Financing and Sustainability in line with SADC's priority Area 4 focusing on intensifying resource mobilisation. The key objective of the two-year USD500 000

project is to enhance the technical capacity of relevant Parliamentary Portfolio committees to competently mobilize political leadership for increased domestic resource mobilisation for accelerated action and scaling up of national responses on HIV and AIDS.

The project will be implemented by SADC Member States' National Parliaments with technical support from the National AIDS Authorities and local stakeholders.

The broad objectives of the meeting were to

enable stakeholders to strategize and help National AIDS Committees to review activities that were identified when the project was conceptualised and enable stakeholders to provide technical validation of

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# Zimbabwe introduces

## AIDS Levy

### Staff Writer

The Republic of Zimbabwe has introduced an AIDS levy as the country moves to generate and use local financial resources to respond to HIV and AIDS.

Dr. Tapuwa Magure, the Executive Director of the Zimbabwe AIDS Council, said Zimbabwe had also set up a Health Portfolio Committee and HIV Portfolio Committees that were doing a lot of work related to HIV counselling and testing.



Dr. Magure said Zimbabwe was vigorously promoting voluntary male circumcision and that more

than 100 Members of Parliament had been circumcised. He said recently President Robert Mugabe

launched the Zimbabwe Parliament Against HIV/

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planned activities while engendering collective ownership of project in supporting implementation in individual Member States. It sought, also, to create a common understanding around how the project would be implemented by National AIDS Committees (NACs) and National Parliaments.

Other objectives were to help sub-implementers to identify relevant in-country stakeholders and to agree on the final process of imple-

mentation, given the limited budget (USD 500 000) and how it would be allocated, to clarify the roles of NACs in supporting the process; and to clarify how the project would be monitored and evaluated.

The participants agreed on a reporting mechanism in which the SADC PF would be the implementer on behalf of SADC Parliaments. It was noted that SADC PF would disburse funds for implementation of agreed activities. The SADC PF would also develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

It would also support the project through its Public Relations wing to give it high visibility through various channels including the media. It was further noted that the SADC PF, through its Human Social Development and Special Programmes was planning to organise training and introduce a SADC-wide media award as an incentive to the region's journalists to report on selected themes including Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, HIV and AIDS financing, child marriage and the LGBT community. Additionally, the SADC PF would commission journalists to write in-depth

articles for use on its website and distribution to regional and global media.

The partners agreed, also, on the need to form national working groups that would oversee the implementation of the project. They fine-tuned the indicators on the project's logical framework. Finally, they agreed on the need to capture and disseminate lessons learned during implementation. For example, it was noted that Zimbabwe was working towards popularising a home-grown AIDS levy and AIDS insurance, a progressive step in an era of over-reliance on external funds in HIV and AIDS mitigation.

# New Swaziland Parliament

## committed to HIV and AIDS response



**SHARING:** An official from Swaziland talks about Swaziland's response to HIV and AIDS during a SADC HIV Fund sub-implementers' meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa.

### Staff Writer

The Parliament of the kingdom of Swaziland is working closely with the country's National AIDS Commission (NAC) as the country implements a multisectoral response to HIV and AIDS, an official has said.

The official told a sub-implementers' meeting of the SADC HIV Fund late last year that

stakeholders in Swaziland had agreed upon a stakeholder mapping initiative to ensure greater involvement of stakeholders.

Sustainable financing of HIV responses was under review by the World Bank and a Fiscal Space Analysis had been done. It showed that Swaziland could not fund its HIV and AIDS responses using domestic resources

alone.

The official revealed that Swaziland had launched a new HIV strategy that includes an investment approach. The Swaziland Investment Case was already in draft form and aligned to the HIV strategy. It prioritises five key interventions that include male circumcision, treatment, Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT),

Young girls and the use of condoms.

Under the SADC HIV Fund project, the official said Swaziland would focus on capacity building for MPs, the role of portfolio committees in analysing the national budget, the role of the NAC in supporting activities at community level and setting up a wellness programme for Parliament.

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AIDS (ZIPA), proof that in Zimbabwe, there was political will at the highest level to respond to HIV

and AIDS.

The NAC was working closely with the Parliament of Zimbabwe to ensure that Parliamentarians had access to current and relevant information on

HIV and AIDS.

Expectations were that money collected through the AIDS levy would increase as the levy was introduced in more sectors of the country's economy. There has been increas-

ing pressure on Africa's governments to generate and use domestic resources to respond to HIV and AIDS rather than rely on external donors.

# SADC delegation calls on SADC PF Secretary General



**WELCOME:** SADC Secretary General Dr. Esau Chiviya (left) welcomes Dr Ambrose Mulumba and Mr Matenge Matenge to SADC PF Headquarters in Windhoek, Namibia recently.

## Staff Writer

A delegation from the SADC Secretariat recently paid a courtesy call on the Secretary General of the SADC PF, Dr. Esau Chiviya.

Recalling that SADC Member States set up a fund to respond to HIV and AIDS, head of delegation, Dr. Alfonse Mulumba, said preparations were underway for the implementation of the second phase of the SADC HIV Fund.

Given that SADC PF would be implementing the project, Dr. Mulumba said the visit to SADC PF was meant to ensure that the project would be implemented as planned.

"We wanted to see if the

SADC PF team was ready to implement the programme," he told the SG.

Dr. Mulumba conveyed the gratitude of the Executive Secretary of SADC Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax to Dr. Chiviya for agreeing that SADC PF becomes be part of the project.

"The project will be implemented in seven countries. From our meeting with your team we were very surprised to see that everything is in place. We saw technical people dedicated for this project as well as finance experts," he said, adding that the level of preparedness on the part of the Forum was unique.

"We did not see this (level of preparedness) in other countries. The presentation by the Director of Finance made us very comfortable. We are

convinced that everything will be done according to procedures," an evidently elated Dr Mulumba said.

Stressing that money that had been allocated was available, Dr Mulumba said all that remained was to ensure that the project was implemented on schedule.

On his part, Dr. Chiviya said the SADC PF was excited by the fact that SADC Secretariat had seen it fit to collaborate with the SADC PF in this important project.

"The HIV and AIDS programme is one of our long-standing programmes. We have even developed a Model Law on HIV and AIDS. This collaboration shows us that we are making a contribution to the fight against HIV and AIDS."

Considered a "Soft Law",

the Model Law on HIV and AIDS has become a popular point of reference and a useful sounding board for countries as they develop or reform their own HIV-related laws. Dr. Chiviya said the fact that SADC PF deals with elected representatives of the people makes it an ideal partner for anyone bent at reaching grassroots people.

"MPs can give us concrete information from their constituencies," he said.

Dr. Chiviya said he was excited that a MoU signed by SADC Secretariat and SADC PF recently which promotes working together was bearing fruit.

"I am so excited by this collaboration. We are also embarking on a project on climate change with SADC," he told the visitors.

# SADC PF ready for SADC

## HIV Fund Round Two

### Staff Writer

The SADC Parliamentary Forum has put in place strong finance, accounting and other systems as it prepares to implement the SADC HIV Fund Two.

Recently, Dr. Alfonse Mulumba, the Director of the Social and Human Development and Special Programmes at the SADC Secretariat and Mr. Matenge Matenge, also from SADC Secretariat, visited the SADC PF Secretariat in Windhoek, Namibia.

The purpose of the visit, which lasted two days, was to assess the preparedness of the SADC PF to implement the project.

The SADC PF has assembled a team that includes a Director of Programmes, a Director of Finance, a Project Accountant, a Monitoring and Evaluation Manager and a Public Relations Officer to support the implementation of the usd500 000 project which will run for two years.

Speaking to the SADC PF team, Dr. Mulumba said he and his colleague had been impressed by the way SADC PF had prepared to implement the project.

“We have a good impression. Looking at the team here, I notice that all the people that we would like to see are there. This is very important,” he said.

He added: “Most importantly, we have in this team a communications specialist. Sometimes people forget that

role that communication plays. For you and what you are doing to be known, communication specialists need to be there.”

He said funders of projects were keen to see their money put to use and to see the results.

“It is, therefore, important that we not only spend but justify that our spending is in accordance with (objectives). This is why it is important to have, also,

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**IMPRESSED:** SADC Secretariat’s Dr Alfonse Mulumba (left) and Mr Matenge Matenge smile during a meeting with SADC PF staff members (out of picture) ahead of the implementation on the second phase of the SADC HIV Fund.



**DETERMINED:** Mr Mahendrasing Khooblall (left) the Director of Finance at SADC PF explains the Forum's financial systems and policy while Mr David Heita, a project accountant listens in during a meeting with visiting SADC Secretariat staff.

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monitoring and evaluation experts to ensure tangible results," he said.

Dr. Mulumba also commended SADC PF for dedicating finance people to support the project. He provided an overview of the SADC HIV Fund, which Heads of State and Government set up to demonstrate their commitment in combating HIV and AIDS.

Member States had to develop a framework to define how the funds should be used. It was decided that it should be used on small projects. Currently all Member States are contributing to this fund every year according to their GDPs (Gross Domestic

Products)."  
He said a portion of that fund had been set aside for HIV and AIDS mitigation. A steering committee had been set up to manage the funds.

"The steering committee oversees implementation. Permanent Secretaries of Member States are also part of the steering committee. We are now on the second phase of the fund."

Ten projects have been approved for implementation during the second phase. To be considered for funding, the projects must contribute to what is already in place and should respond to the national HIV strategic framework of a Member State over two years. Additionally, the projects should be sustainable and simple to replicate in other Members States.

Dr Mulumba said that money not disbursed or used should be returned to the SADC Secretariat. During the first round some implementers were unable to use up the money that had been allocated to them, probably due to over budgeting.

The visit to the SADC PF Secretariat also enabled Mr. Matenge Matenge to clarify what SADC expected from the SADC PF finance department in terms of reporting procurement, and disbursement.

The SADC PF's Finance Department has indicated that it has sufficient numbers of highly qualified and experienced staff members to professionally support implementation of the second phase of the SADC HIV Fund.

Mr. Mahendrasing Khooblall, SADC PF's

Director of Finance, told a visiting two-men delegation from the SADC Secretariat that SADC PF had put in place a project accountant with extensive experience in working on many donor-funded projects.

Additionally, the Forum's Director of Human Resources and Administration was a chartered accountant and "very helpful."

Mr. Khooblall explained that members of the finance team had three main responsibilities: management of financial resources, preparation of reports and ensuring integrity and objectivity.

The Forum has an accounting policy and procedure approved by the Plenary Assembly of

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# Huge interest in HIV and AIDS financing

## Staff Writer

Many countries in the SADC Region expressed interest in participating in the HIV and AIDS financing project when it was introduced but only a few could be accommodated due to limited funds.

An official with SADC

PF revealed this during a sub-implementers' meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The official explained that following consultations with the SADC Secretariat seven countries were selected to participate in the project. A decision was taken, also, to support

Mauritius and the Seychelles to set up HIV and AIDS or Health Committees.

It emerged that some countries were already conducting assessments on sustainable HIV and AIDS financing and it was agreed that their lessons in so doing needed to be captured and shared.

The SADC PF had developed a monitoring and evaluation system to support the project, while the Forum's public relations arm would also support the project.

Additionally, staff of National Parliaments, National AIDS Committees (NACs) and SADC PF Desk Officers would support the project.



**PLANNING:** Ms Faith Mumba of USAID makes a point during a SADC HIV Fund sub-implementers' meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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the SADC PF. It follows the rules and regulations of donor agencies and subscribes to an international financial

reporting standard.

The staff members are subjected to regular training to enable them to remain abreast of current accounting and financial management

trends.

Additionally, the Forum has a computerised accounting system which is very robust. The system has an audit trail. Recommenda-

tions from the Forum's external auditors also help to strengthen the system. The Forum produces several financial reports, some of which are mandatory.



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