

## Background

The Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII), supported by the Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA) and the Church of Sweden, hosted a SADC WIDE Basic Income Grant Coalition Campaign Workshop on 18- 19 November 2013. The Campaign workshop brought together 25 civil society organisations including community based organisations representing 10 Southern African countries. The meeting was held in Johannesburg at the Sunnyside Park Hotel.

The overall objectives of the SADC WIDE BIG Campaign Workshop were to:

- Finalise the draft Campaign Strategy which will serve as a background document on the overall SADC Wide BIG Campaign and also get endorsement of the campaign from regional civil society partners
- Secondly, the workshop was aimed at presenting the research conducted by the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) on testing the feasibility of the SADC Wide Basic Income Grant costing and affordability of the BIG through different econometric scenarios on how the BIG can be institutionalised in the SADC region.
- Lastly, the workshop sought to nominate SADC BIG Campaign national steering committee who will be responsible for overseeing the adoption of the campaign in SADC Member states.

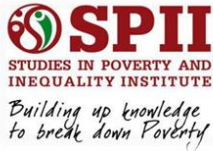
This report reflects the inputs and discussions from the workshop. A copy of the Agenda and the list of participants are annexed to the report, as is the Campaign Platform.

## Discussions Day One:

***Continental Scoping of Social Protection Policies in Africa:*** Despite a wealth of social

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protection programmes adopted by African Countries and also despite the fact that there are various regional and continental frameworks on social protection on the African continent, there is a lot to be desired in terms of implementation and roll-out of social protection policies and programs on the ground. There are various number of challenges associated with lack of implementation for social programmes, which include;

- Lack of integration of social protection programmes into national plans, as a result social protection is not broad based to target all areas of vulnerability.
- Planning constraints which lead to a lack of a comprehensive plan on the implementation of social protection programmes
- Poor inter-sectoral communication and collaboration within civil society organisations
- Poor budget allocations to social protection programmes and poor mobilisation of resources with the result that funding of social protection programmes is not adequate for scaling up.

In conclusion therefore, African States should adopt and implement broad-based social protection policies to mitigate and counteract all the sources of vulnerability including chronic crop failures, health epidemics, environmental disasters and other external shocks. Social protection should be aligned to family policy on education, health, housing and food security by applying basic income grants. Secondly, African States should collect reliable data that can be used to develop and monitor policies on social protection. Lastly, African States should develop sustainable source of funding for social protection.

***Modelling the SADC Wide Basic Income Grant: Cost and Affordability.*** The overall objective of the project research was to build a case based on empirically derived economic models and the development of a campaign strategy to introduce and institutionalise a SADC-Wide Basic Income Grant (SADC BIG) that is funded through the extractive industries to promote economic justice and reduce poverty and inequality in the region.

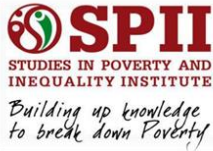
Five scenarios were analysed to establish both the individual countries' affordability for a BIG as well as that of the region region – SADC. These scenarios were pegged from 33% to 200% of the ILO US\$ 1/ day extreme poverty line. The range is equivalent to between about US\$10 – US\$60 per individual per month. The rationale for this range was to demonstrate cost levels as a proportion to GDP that countries' governments would be more likely to agree to finance such a scheme, bearing in mind the total resources required for such an undertaking.

In terms of the overall research findings:

- A monthly basic income of USD 15 (based on 2013 economic modelling calculations) paid to all citizens residing in SADC (total population estimate of 297 million people) would have a net cost of USD 54.12 billion annually. This translates to about 5.2% of SADC GDP (PPP).
- Concerns about rapid extraction that causes environmental damage; hence Campaign not only to call for a BIG but should be linked to other environmental justice movements;
- Tapping into the wealth of information that exists on extractives; tax justice and other socio-economic justice is crucial and for the campaign to package it for use

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In conclusion therefore, commitment of fiscal resources would be required to finance a SADC BIG, with its estimated net cost. Given this financial resource requirements, we strongly believe that through a well-managed programme the SADC BIG is affordable and SADC's mineral wealth has the potential to finance the entire cost of the programme without recourse to deficit spending.

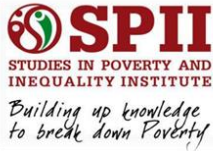
**SADC Wide Basic Income Grant Campaign Strategy.** The Southern African Development Community member states are characterised by high levels of poverty and some of the highest levels of income inequality globally, albeit that the region is also endowed with high levels of mineral resources. It is against this background that the SADC BIG Network is calling for the introduction of a SADC – wide universal cash transfer in the form of a Basic Income Grant (BIG) that will be funded by a tax on extractives and also other funding options.

The rationale for such a scheme is based on the notion of economic justice of broadening access to the proceeds of such activities beyond the current narrow circle of national and international beneficiaries and shareholders of the mining companies, and aligned elites, to each and every resident of the SADC sub-region. Furthermore, the rationale behind this campaign is to call for the broadening of social welfare schemes that already exist in most SADC member states through the SADC BIG as current programs exclude a majority of young unemployed people and unemployed working age population.

The campaign builds on the formation of the SADC Wide BIG Coalition which will be responsible for galvanising support and mobilising other civil society partners and communities around the institutionalisation of the basic income grant within their own countries. The campaign will be driven by the SADC WIDE BIG Steering Committee made up of elected organisations from the SADC WIDE BIG Coalition which will be responsible for conducting monitoring and evaluation of the campaign to determine whether the campaign is generating the expected impact and debates in the region.

## Summary of Discussions:

- **Campaign Goal:** To advocate and push for SADC governments to adopt a policy both at the national and regional level to facilitate for the roll-out of a universal SADC BIG to all SADC residents by 2020
- **Critical Paths towards the realisation of the Campaign Goal:**
  - Broad-based coalition of action groups (SADC BIG Coalition)" established and working successfully together to advocate for the introduction of social protection schemes in SADC in the form of a universal basic income grant;
  - The SADC BIG Coalition develop; endorse; and adapt a Campaign Strategy to be used as a tool for advocacy for the support of a SADC BIG.
  - SADC BIG Coalition including invited key stakeholders organise a massive well-coordinated and publicised SADC BIG event and launch the SADC BIG campaign.
  - SADC BIG Coalition linking and working with social groups/ movements constantly contribute to regular nationwide and regional media publications, debates and life stories that present positive news stories in newspapers, magazines, radio and social media platforms.
  - SADC BIG Coalition engage with policy makers and other private individuals whose spheres of influence are critical for the introduction of a SADC BIG.
  - SADC BIG Coalition in their advocacy initiatives and programmes inform and educate people



about their socio-economic right to social protection and urge them to demand their socio-economic right.

- Grassroots participation in the importance of a SADC BIG makes people aware of their socio-economic rights to a BIG and demand it through their constituency representatives.
- Demand for a BIG from the grassroots push national governments to introduce and pass legislation for universal basic income grant.
- At the regional level, the SADC BIG coalition engages with the respective SADC Social Protection and Human Rights Committees to push Heads of State to deliberate the establishment of and ratification of the Protocol on Social Protection that makes provision of a SADC BIG.
- National governments harmonise national legislation to conform to the Protocol.

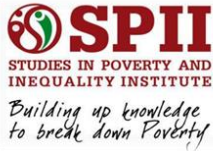
## Day 2: 19 November 2013

***Lessons from the South Africa BIG Campaign:*** The South African Basic Income Grant Coalition was established in 2001 and composed of trade unions, church organisations and various NGOs/CSOs/social movements. The South African BIG campaign called for R100.00 per person per month. The BIG was also supported by findings of the the Taylor Committee, a Ministerial appointed committee to conduct research and to advise government on a social security policy reform process.

The campaign was successful in that the Department of Social Development extended the Child Support Grant (CSG) social cash transfer coverage to children from 7 years to 18 years (so it is effectively available to all poor children under the age of 18). Since then the extension of the CSG has led to improved nutritional rates for children and also led to an increase in school enrolment rates. There a number of lessons which the SADC BIG Coalition and Campaign could draw from the South African BIG Campaign:

- The SADC BIG Campaign should stand on concrete analysis of existing social policy/programmes
- The success of such a call is essentially political and hence the Campaign needs to build both a strong research component and a strong civil society Coalition
- Even a small amount of the basic income could make a difference, as was demonstrated with the Namibian BIG pilot project and evaluation of Child Support Grant in South Africa. However, it should not be considered to be a magic bullet and should be considered in the broader social protection context.

***Lessons from the Namibian Basic Income Grant Pilot Project:*** The proposal for a Basic Income Grant in Namibia was made in 2002 by the Namibian Tax Consortium (NAMTAX), a government appointed commission. The consortium made the proposal for a Basic Income Grant in light of the high poverty levels and the unequal distribution of income inequality in Namibia. The BIG pilot project was designed and implemented by the Namibian Basic Income Grant Coalition and was the first universal cash transfer pilot project in the world. The BIG Coalition consisted of four big umbrella bodies in Namibia, namely, Council of Churches (CCN), the Namibian Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW), the Namibian NGO Forum (NANGOF) and the Namibian Network of AIDS Service Organisations (NANASO). Funds to start the pilot project were raised through voluntary contributions



from supporters of the idea from all sections of Namibia's society and by support from people, churches, organisations and donors from other countries.

Despite the successful implementation of the BIG Pilot project and worldwide media coverage of the success of the BIG pilot project, the Namibian government continued to reject the support of the BIG or even consider taking over and expanding the BIG to other impoverished communities.

In terms of lessons that could be learned for the SADC BIG Coalition:

- Aim at triggering alternative economies and new social contracts
- 'Policy matters', but the distance between policy and implementation matters today significantly more
- Campaign and action: we understand, now we need to change
- Commitment, beyond the ruling class position (experts, politicians, trade union leaders, wealthy)
- Commitment with the social base and focus on ground work

Key successes of the Namibian pilot of the Basic Income Grant demonstrated that:

- The percentage of those falling below the food poverty line dropped from 76% to 37%.
- The percentage of those being able to get a job or become successfully self-employed has increased from 44 to 55%.
- The number of underweight children has dropped from 42 to 10%. School attendance has gone up, and teachers report that the children are better able to concentrate.
- Average household debt fell from N\$ 1,215 to N\$ 772

### ***Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the SADC BIG Campaign:***

This session aimed to:

- Define campaign desired impact
- Outline the outcomes that the campaign will need to achieve to bring about the impact
- Conduct a Power Analysis on the key issues addressed by the campaign e.g. who are the allies, blockers, 'swingers' etc. and how can they be influenced?
- Based on this, determine effective strategies to achieve outcomes and any 'intermediate outcomes' along the way.
- Pull together a 'theory of change' or logic model diagram illustrating the campaign's impact, outcomes, and strategies.

### **Measures of Success**

#### **Reach**

- How many people do we reach through media, social media, events, allies & influential "multipliers"? How many "actions" are people taking?
- Number of press articles and whether they are 'pro', 'anti' or neutral to campaign messages
- The number and type of organizations in a campaign coalition

#### **Access**



- Are SPII & allies “at the table,” shaping policy debates?
- Formal involvement of civil society organisations in policy processes

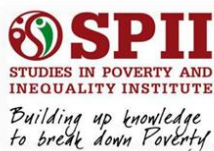
### **Influence**

- Are we changing people’s minds? Are we shaping policy debates? Are we informing draft policies and helping get them passed and implemented?
- Changes in the public rhetoric of campaign targets



### **Way Forward and Cross Cutting Emerging Issues from the Workshop**

- Framing the campaign message is critical to guarantee success of contribution
- Distinguish between social policy and social protection and conduct analysis of social policies in Southern Africa
- Participating organisations to conduct an analysis of the state of social protection in Southern Africa and send it through to the secretariat
- There needs to be link with tax base, current super rich and government tax revenue collection in the econometric study
- The campaign needs to emphasis on 'universality' of the BIG as this tackles the stigmatisation issue of beneficiaries
- Need to emphasise that BIG is not going to substitute other social protection programmes
- Cautious that BIG should be 'hijacked' for political ends
- The campaign should also link social protection programmes to people's lived experiences
- Launch public awareness campaigns around the BIG in respective countries
- Evidence based campaigning key to strengthening the campaign: Make very clear in the strategy that coalition partners will share research with rest of the Coalition partners



## Annexure 1. Campaign Platform



**Vision: To ensure the roll-out of a universal SADC BIG to all SADC citizens including refugees, economic migrants and asylum seekers by 2020**

The SADC BIG Coalition shares a common vision to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality in SADC. Key to the achievement of this vision is the need for a universal SADC BIG which is accessed by all SADC residents; further to ensure that residents share in the natural resources of the region. We the organisations in the SADC BIG Coalition, call for the introduction of a universal Basic Income Grant as a key intervention to combat poverty and to improve the lives of the majority of SADC citizens and garner solidarity to include social cohesion within the sub-region. At least 43.6% people in SADC--well over half the population--live in poverty. On average, they survive on less than USD1.25 per person per month. A Basic Income Grant would provide rapid and sustained relief to all SADC citizens by:

- providing everyone with a minimum level of income;
- enabling the nation's poorest households to better meet their basic needs;
- stimulating equitable economic development;
- promoting family and community stability; and
- affirming and supporting the inherent dignity of all.

The Basic Income Grant should be founded on the following fundamental principles:

- **Universal Coverage:** It should be available to everyone, from cradle to grave, and should not be subject to a means test.
- **Relationship to existing grants:** It should expand the social security net. No individual should receive less in social and assistance grants than before the introduction of the Basic Income Grant.
- **Amount:** The grant should be no less than US\$15.00 per person per month on introduction and should be inflation indexed.
- **Delivery Mechanisms:** Payments should be facilitated through Public Institutions. Using community Post Banks would have the additional benefit of enhancing community access to much-needed banking services and promote financial inclusion
- **Financing:** A substantial portion of the cost of the grant should be funded through a tax on extractives. Other funding options include progressive recovery through the tax system above the income tax threshold. This would demonstrate solidarity by all SADC citizens in efforts to eliminate poverty. The remaining cost should be borne by the fiscus. A range of new measures should be





introduced to increase revenue so that the additional cost can be accommodated without squeezing out other social expenditure.

The SADC BIG Coalition Partners commit ourselves to working together with all stakeholders to make the Basic Income Grant a reality in Southern Africa. We invite and call upon all stakeholders to join our effort and to become a member of this coalition.

### **Coalition Partners**

**Unemployment People's Movement**

**Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII)**

**Benchmarks Foundation**

**Lesotho Coalition for Social Protection**

**Zimbabwe Council of Churches**

**World Vision South Africa**

**LifeLine Southern Africa**

**Conselho Cristao de Mozambique**

**Southern Africa Green Revolutionary Council**

**Malawi Centre for Social Concern**

**Zambia Centre for Trade Policy and Development**

**Women's Legal Aid Centre**

**Mozambique Civil Society Platform for Social Protection**

**Zimbabwe Council of Trade Unions**

**Economic Justice Network**

**Zambia Platform for Social Protection**

**Southern African Trade Union and Coordination Council**

**Africa Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa**

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**Annexure 2: Workshop Agenda**

**Day 1: 18 November 2013**

<b>09.30-09.45</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
<b>09.45 – 10.00</b>	<b>Opening and Welcome Remarks</b>	
	Introduction to participants and expectations	Thabileng Mothabi (SPII)
<b>SESSION 1</b>		
<b>10.00-10.30</b>	Continental Scoping of Social Protection Policies and coverage in Africa	Mr. Chaka Ntsane (Board Member Africa Platform for Social Protection)
<b>10.30 – 11.00</b>	Reflections on the Founding Principles of the Coalition	Taku Fundira (Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute)
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	SADC BIG Coalition: Strengths, Highlights and Challenges	Thabileng Mothabi (Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute)
<b>11.30-11.45</b>	Open Discussion	All Participants
<b>11.45-12.15</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
<b>12.00-13.00</b>	Group Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principles of the SADC BIG Coalition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financing Sources for the Campaign</li> <li>- Interaction between national and regional social protection policies</li> <li>- Amount of the SADC WIDE Basic Income Grant</li> <li>- Use of the Sovereign Wealth Fund</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	All Participants
<b>13.00-13.45</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
<b>SESSION 2</b>		
<b>13.45-14.15</b>	Modelling the SADC BIG: Cost and Affordability of the BIG	Taku Fundira (Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute)

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<b>14.15.-14.45</b>	Open Discussion	All Participants
<b>14.45-15.30</b>	Participants Presentations: Data sources and Availability in making a quantitative case for the SADC BIG	All Participants
<b>SESSION 3</b>		
<b>15.30-16.15</b>	Plenary Discussion: - National and Regional Models to be developed in the next Two Years	All Participants
<b>16.15-16.30</b>	Closure	

**Day 2: 19 November 2013**

**BIG in Namibia  
and contemporary debates in current  
socio-economic contexts, from the social  
justice perspective.**

<b>SESSION 1</b>		
<b>9.00-9.15</b>	Reflections Day One	Taku Fundira (Studies In Poverty and Inequality Institute)
<b>9.15-9.45</b>	Basic Income Grant in Namibia and Contemporary debates in current socio-economic contexts from social justice perspectives	Guillermo Delgado (Labour Resource and Research Institute, Namibia))
<b>9.45-10.15</b>	Successes and Weaknesses of the South Africa BIG Campaign	Ms. Kumiko Makino-Yamashita
<b>10.15-10.45</b>	Developing SADC BIG Campaign M&E Indicators	Ms. Destilia Ngwenya (Independent Consultant)
<b>10.45-11.15</b>	Plenary Discussions	All Participants
<b>11.15-11.30</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
<b>SESSION 2</b>		

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<b>11.30-12.00</b>	Group Discussions on SADC BIG Campaign Strategy	All Participants
<b>12.00-12.30</b>	Plenary Discussions: Finalising SADC BIG Campaign	All Participants
<b>12.30-13.00</b>	Plenary Session: Power Map Analysis by Participants	All Participants
<b>13.00-14.00</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
<b>SESSION 3</b>		
<b>14.00-15.00</b>	<b>Plenary Session: SADC BIG Coalition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nominations for Steering Committee of the SADC BIG Coalition</li> <li>- Way Forward</li> </ul>	All Participants
<b>15.00</b>	<b>Closure</b>	

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**Annexure 3: List of Participants**

Name of Participant	Organisation	Email Address	Country
Mr. Kenwilliams Mhango	Africa Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect	<a href="mailto:anppcanmalawichapter@gmail.com">anppcanmalawichapter@gmail.com</a>	Malawi
Mrs. Getrude Witikani	LifeLine Malawi	<a href="mailto:lifelinemalawi@gmail.com">lifelinemalawi@gmail.com</a>	Malawi
Mr. Brown Motsau	Benchmarks Foundation	<a href="mailto:Brown@benchmarks.org.za">Brown@benchmarks.org.za</a>	South Africa
Mr. Edward Ngoma	Centre for Trade Policy and Development	<a href="mailto:edwardgoma@ctpd.org.zm">edwardgoma@ctpd.org.zm</a>	Zambia
Ms. Michelle Pressend	Economic Justice Network	<a href="mailto:mpressend@gmail.com">mpressend@gmail.com</a>	South Africa
Mr. Simon Vilakazi	Economic Justice Network	<a href="mailto:simonv@ejn.org.za">simonv@ejn.org.za</a>	South Africa
Mr. Chaka Ntsane	Lesotho Coalition for Social Protection	<a href="mailto:chaka@tmail.co.ls">chaka@tmail.co.ls</a>	Lesotho
Mr. Gabriel Manyangadze	Zimbabwe Council of Churches	<a href="mailto:gabriel@zcc.co.zw">gabriel@zcc.co.zw</a>	Zimbabwe
Mr. Ayanda Kota	Unemployed Peoples' Forum	<a href="mailto:ayandakota@gmail.com">ayandakota@gmail.com</a>	South Africa
Mrs. Gertrude Chanda	World Vision	<a href="mailto:gertrude_chanda@wvi.org">gertrude_chanda@wvi.org</a>	South Africa
Mr. Sergio Falange	Mozambique Platform for Social Protection	<a href="mailto:sfalange@gmail.com">sfalange@gmail.com</a>	Mozambique
Mr. Higino Filimone	Mozambique Council of Churches	<a href="mailto:higino.filimone@gmail.com">higino.filimone@gmail.com</a>	Mozambique
Mr. Shepherd Ngadu	Zimbabwe Council of Trade Unions	<a href="mailto:shepherd.ngandu@yahoo.com">shepherd.ngandu@yahoo.com</a>	Zimbabwe
Mr. Guillermo Delgado	Labour Resource and Research Organisation	<a href="mailto:delgado@larri-namibia.org">delgado@larri-namibia.org</a>	Namibia
Mr. Galera Shaba	Southern African Trade Union and Coordination Council	<a href="mailto:galerashaba@yahoo.com">galerashaba@yahoo.com</a>	Zimbabwe
Mr. Mathias Burton	Malawi Centre for Social Concern	<a href="mailto:mathiasburton@cfscmalawi.org">mathiasburton@cfscmalawi.org</a>	Malawi

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Ms Roshan Dadoo	Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa	<a href="mailto:roshan@cormsa.org.za">roshan@cormsa.org.za</a>	South Africa
Ms. Sarah Mambea	Women's Legal Aid Centre	<a href="mailto:sarahmambea@yahoo.com">sarahmambea@yahoo.com</a>	Tanzania
Mrs. Susan Chiwenda	Zambia Platform for Social Protection	susanpspz@gmail.com	Zambia
Mr. Matthews Hlabane	Southern African Revolutionary Council	<a href="mailto:mnyeva@gmail.com">mnyeva@gmail.com</a>	South Africa
Mrs. Gladys Ndebele	International Alliance on Resources in Africa	<a href="mailto:gladysndebele@gmail.com">gladysndebele@gmail.com</a>	South Africa
Ms. Isobel Frye	Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute	<a href="mailto:isobel@spii.org.za">isobel@spii.org.za</a>	South Africa
Mr. Taku Fundira	Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute	<a href="mailto:taku@spii.org.za">taku@spii.org.za</a>	South Africa
Mr. Thabileng Mothabi	Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute	<a href="mailto:thabileng@spii.org.za">thabileng@spii.org.za</a>	South Africa
Mr. Peter Svensson	Church of Sweden	peter.k.svensson@svenskakyrkan.se	Sweden
Mr. Rob Cunningham	Christian Aid	RCunningham@christian-aid.org>	United Kingdom
Mr. Ngoni Manyika	Department of Social Services	ngony@sdf.org.zw	Zimbabwe

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