



Monitoring The Maputo Plan of Action

An assessment of
Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights
Responses & Reporting
in Africa

MPOA Scorecard

BRIEF

Elements 10-12: Reporting, Policy Environment and Overall Performance

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Holding leaders accountable



Introduction

The MPOA Scorecard provides data and an analysis of statistics provided by African governments to the African Union Commission in the Maputo Plan of Action (MPOA) reporting. This report first briefly introduces the various concepts that inform sexual and reproductive health and rights on the continent, how the Maputo Plan of Action commitment evolved as a government solution, and how accountability and data can be used to improve Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). In the second section of the report the data is presented and analysed in an easy-to-read manner and a way forward provides recommendations in the final closing section. [Read the full report here](#)



Element 10: Reporting

Of the 53 countries on the African continent at the time of the first round of the MPOA reporting, 33 submitted reports, demonstrating a 60 per cent response rate. This is a good result for the first round considering that in other reporting tools such as UNGASS, the first rounds solicited much lower response rates. It does however leave space for improvement and does not speak to the quality of the reporting itself. In the SADC region, which the MPOA Scorecard focusses on, 12 of the 15 countries submitted reports. Swaziland, Seychelles and Mozambique did not submit a report to the knowledge of the AAI.

Percentage of numerical responses in PAT

| A | B | C | D | E |
|---|--|---------------|--------|-------|
| 81-100% | 61-80% | 41-60% | 21-40% | 1-20% |
| Madagascar (92%) Tanzania (90%) DRC (89%) Malawi (89%) Zambia (89%) | Botswana (73%) Namibia (80%) South Africa (80%) Mauritius (79%) | Lesotho (59%) | | |

The report submitted by Angola only dealt with issues as related to people with disabilities and as such is not comparable to other countries. The Zimbabwean report has not been included in this analysis because the copy of the report that was made available to the AAI is illegible, and in order to avoid guess work a decision was taken to eliminate the report from this scorecard analysis.

Madagascar has the most complete report with 85 per cent of the possible total of 61 numerical indicators having data completed in the submitted report, whilst Lesotho was at the lowest completion rate at 59 per cent. The average overall for SADC was 83 per cent, also a commendable figure considering it was the first round and very little capacity support was able to be offered at country level in terms of the “how to” of completing the PAT.

Element 11: Policy Environment

This section is a brief analysis of how many of the possible 37 policies, plans and protocols that governments already have in place. Botswana comes out as the leader as the country that has completed the most of its policy work. Botswana reported that 87 per cent of their policies were in place, whereas Lesotho reported only having as little as 37 per cent. The average overall for SADC was 61 per cent, which demonstrates a need for this part of the process to still be completed.

Percentage of policies in place

| A | B | C | D | E |
|----------------|--|---|---------------|-------|
| 81-100% | 61-80% | 41-60% | 21-40% | 1-20% |
| Botswana (87%) | Tanzania (73%) Namibia (70%) Malawi (67%) Mauritius (67%) | DRC (60%) South Africa (60%) Zambia (50%) Madagascar (43%) | Lesotho (37%) | |

Incredibly, many countries begin developing and writing their own policies from a blank slate as opposed to using templates or examples from neighbouring countries, without referring to best practice and lessons learnt in the region, and do not sufficiently draw on the expertise of regional experts. This need to improve the sharing of knowledge is referred to in a variety of the PAT reports in the recommendations sections and highlights how improvements are being held up at this point of the process. Funds need to be made available for the greater sharing of

experiences between countries with regard to developing policy, getting stakeholder buy-in, and moving the SRHR agenda forward.

Moreover, policies always need to reflect government commitments to addressing SRHR issues, and so those pushing for equitable and safe access to termination of pregnancy, reduction in maternal mortality, and access to family planning need to be prioritised and completed and implementation begun as a matter of urgency.

Element 12: Performance

The Performance Element analyses 13 percentile coverage indicators that reflect performance or implementation. This is necessary to measure what governments have done post creating the policy. It is designed to be an overall and general score of how well a country is performing on implementation.

The 13 indicators used were:

1. Proportion of SDPs providing PAC Services %
2. Proportion of EmONC sites with access to adequate supply of safe blood %
3. Proportion of HIV positive mothers who have delivered and are receiving ARVs %
4. No. of midwives per population %
5. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
6. Antenatal care coverage (one visit)
7. Antenatal care coverage (four visits)
8. Contraceptive prevalence rate (any method)
9. Contraceptive prevalence rate (modern method)
10. Immunization Rate
11. Insecticide Treated bed-Nets(ITN) coverage (under five)
12. Insecticide Treated bed-Nets(ITN) coverage (pregnant women)
13. Intermittent Presumptive Treatment (IPT) of malaria in pregnancy coverage

All of the 13 indicators were equally weighed and only those data points that had values reported were included for each country. A percentage was then generated thus hoping to reflect a countries performance in one quick snap shot. It is only one measure of a country's performance yet seems to accurately reflect many of the other findings of this report in other more detailed elements.

Mauritius comes out the clear winner at 77 per cent, although still only in the B category, reflecting that the best that countries are actually achieving overall is 77% of what is needed. DRC ranks lowest at 29 per cent which is not an unexpected finding considering the discussions and numbers reflected in earlier elements of this report.

What is however interesting is that Lesotho, which ranks in the lowest group of the policy element, ranks in the highest group in the performance element. Moreover Botswana, who ranks highly in the policy environment, ranks at only 55 per cent in the performance group.

However if the statistics relating to malaria are removed, Botswana reaches a performance of 63 per cent, which may reflect the contradictory evidence around malaria in Botswana (14 000 cases with the Ministry of Health reporting only 2 deaths from malaria in recent years.) This needs to be further examined local experts in their use of this tool.

Performance

| A | B | C | D | E |
|----------------|--|---|---------------|--------------|
| 81-100% | 61-80% | 41-60% | 21-40% | 1-20% |
| | Mauritius (77%) South Africa (68%) Lesotho (65%) | Malawi (58%) Zambia (58%) Botswana (55%) Namibia (54%) Madagascar (51%) Tanzania (48%) | DRC (29%) | |

Lesotho on the other hand gains from this methodology as a country where abortion remains illegal, yet performs in the highest performing group, it may reflect that efforts at policy may be better spent at implementing basic training and commodities supply rather than working and re-working documents that take time to implement. This too needs further investigation.

What is however apparent, across all countries is that these performance indicators should all be in the upper nineties, all data should be available and not just a few of the indicators and that governments should have more information on which to base their decisions if they hope at all to respond accurately.

Civil society in these countries needs to be aware of why these figures are so low, and what can be done to most efficiently and effectively improve the performance of governments in their countries. There would seem to be enormous political will to improve SRHR in the region, with massive strides already being taken, but it remains obvious that much work has still to be done.

Feedback

Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report but the author and AAI welcome any feedback, comments, and/or corrections on the content.

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