

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

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June 2009

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING (GRB):

- What makes a budget
- What is GRB : Definitions – Principles - Purpose
- Gender budget analysis tools
- GRB initiatives
 - Modes of operation
 - Entry points
- Key challenges
- Enabling conditions
- Conclusions

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING (GRB):

- What makes a budget

The budget as a fiscal policy instrument

The main policies of economic management

Fiscal Policy

Fiscal policy involves the use of government spending, taxation and borrowing to influence both the pattern of economic activity and also the level and growth of aggregate demand, output and employment.

Monetary Policy

Monetary policy involves the use of interest rates to control the level and rate of growth of aggregate demand in the economy.

Government budget

Revenues	Expenses
-tax - trade revenue Grants ODA (0-60%) -General budget support -Deficit stabilizers -Sectoral and programme aid -Non government aid Borrowing—at home and abroad Asset sales Printing money	Government spending -Government administration -Public services - investments -Transfer payments/benefits -Defense/war Debt repayment

Roots of GRB in public finance discourse

Governments withdraw resources from society in the form of taxation, and contribute resources back into society in the form of expenditures.

But are the burdens of taxation and the benefits of government expenditures distributed equally throughout society.

Questions of equity in benefit incidence and impact on welfare are introduced by fiscal incidence

Challenges to fiscal policy

The realities of the political economy of developing countries (small revenue base, heavy debt burdens, unfavorable trade systems, fragile governments, inadequate ODA)

Fiscal policies technical deficiencies

Fiscal policies political nature (interest and voice)

Invisibility of realities of women: informal sector, unpaid work, care work, access to assets and land, Violence, intra household biases, targeting sub groups of women

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING (GRB):

- What makes a budget
- What is GRB : Definitions – Principles - Purpose

What is GRB : DEFINITIONS

The budget is the *most important policy tool of government* because, without money, government cannot implement any other policy successfully.

A gender responsive budget ensures that the needs and interests of individuals from different social groups (sex, age, race, ethnicity, location) are addressed in expenditure and revenue policies.

GRB DEFINITIONS

Gender responsive budgets are not separate budgets for women or men.

Instead, they bring gender awareness into the policies, plans, programmes and budgets of all government agencies.

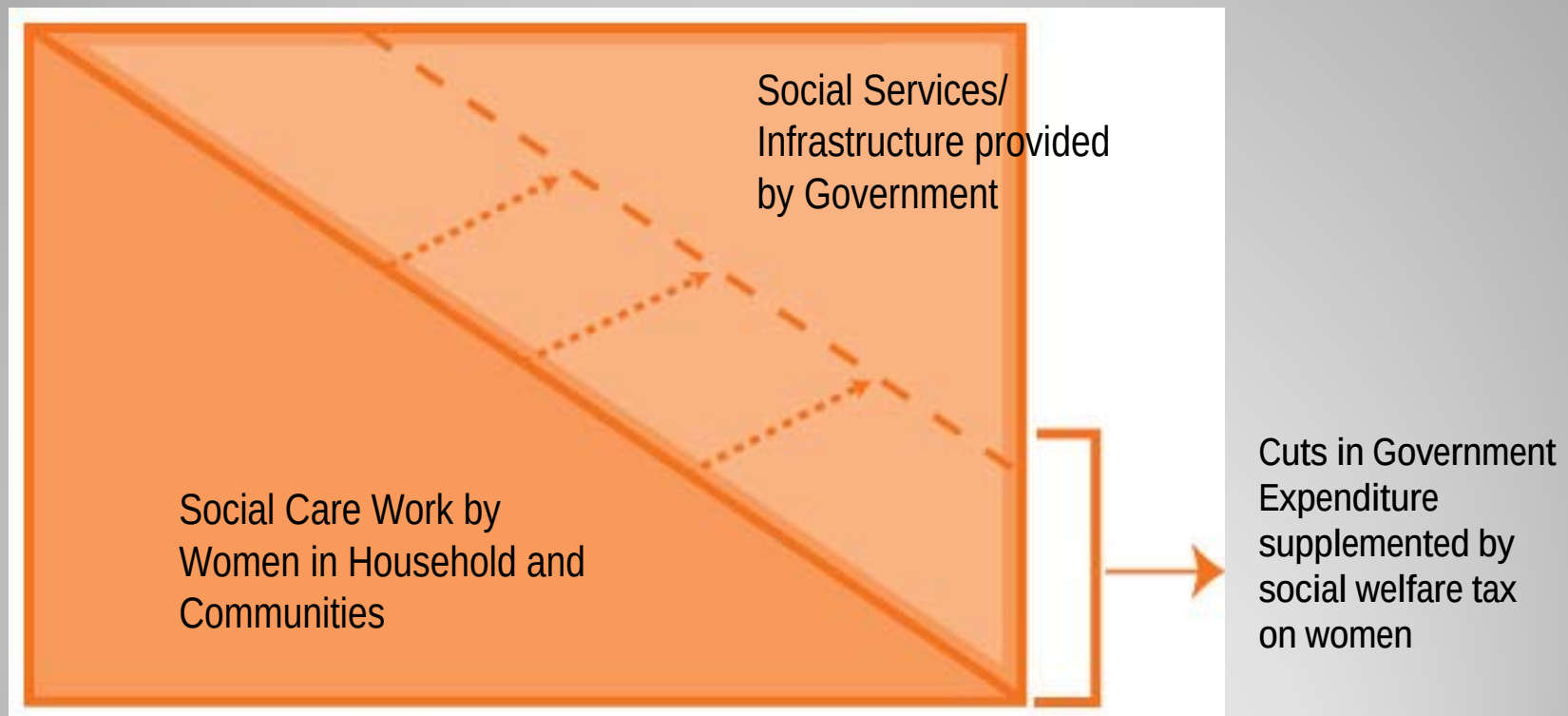
Gender responsive budgets are not about 50% male: 50% female.

They are about budgeting that intentionally directs resources and raises revenue in a way that addresses disadvantage and exclusion.

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING... Principles

Recognizes the ways in which women contribute to the society and economy with their unpaid labor in the productive sector and in bearing, rearing and caring for the people in the country. Acknowledges the intersection between budget policies and women's well being.

WOMEN'S UNPAID WORK AND BUDGETS



Shortage can be expressed as lower government spending on per capita education, health or cuts on water sanitation. The higher the country's poverty level, the larger the social welfare tax, therefore economic policy impacts on unpaid care work making it one of the most vivid manifestations

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING... PRINCIPLES

In a context of gender based discrimination and exclusion, gender responsive budgeting is a tool for ensuring that:

- The priorities of poor women are reflected in budget allocations, expenditures and revenues (not just policies, plans, programmes!)
- The budget actors, organizations, systems and processes better reflect interests of poor women and provide space for women's voice, and transparency and accountability to gender commitments

GRB ... PURPOSE

By monitoring outcomes, outputs, activities and inputs of budgets the following can be achieved:

- Improved **accountability** of governments and representatives towards gender equality, women's needs and empowerment and women's rights as laid out in CEDAW/CESR, Beijing PFA and ICPD
- Informed **participation** of women in planning and budgeting policies
- *Improved **efficiency** and effectiveness by ensuring that public expenditures benefit those who need it most*
- *Improved **transparency** and reduced corruption.*

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5 steps of gender analysis of budgets

- Describe **situation** of women & men, girls & boys
 - Check whether **policy is gender-sensitive** i.e. whether it addresses the situation described in step 1
 - Check that **adequate budget is allocated** to implement the gender-sensitive policy
 - Check whether the **expenditure is done** as planned
 - Examine the **impact** of the policy and expenditure i.e. whether it has promoted gender equity
 - Much of the above is familiar to people working on gender mainstreaming while adding budget questions
 - Emphasises that the situation drives the policy which in turn drives the budget
- outside government - inside government

Gender Budget Analysis Tools

- Diane Elson commissioned by Commonwealth Secretariat to develop GRB tools
- Done in very early days of GRB
- Developed on basis of existing approaches, adapted for GRB
- Focus on analysis rather than development of budget
- Do not need to use all these tools for every GRB initiative
- These are not the only available tools

Early Gender Budget Analysis Tools

- Gender aware policy appraisal
- Sex disaggregated Beneficiary assessment
- Sex disaggregated public expenditure incidence analysis
- Revenue incidence analysis
- Impact analysis on time use
- Gender aware medium term economic policy framework
- Gender responsive budget statement

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GRB MOVEMENT

With Australia and South Africa having led the work on gender responsive budgets since mid eighties and nineties...

...Gender responsive has become a movement, with examples emerging from nearly every part of the world...

PAST AND CURRENT EXPERIENCES

Africa	<u>Nigeria, Senegal, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa</u>	Mauritius,
Asia-Pacific	<u>Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, Malaysia</u>	
Arab States	<u>Egypt, Morocco</u>	
Caribbean	<u>Belize, Suriname, Trinidad</u>	
CEE/CIS	<u>Russia, Kyrgyzstan</u>	
Latin America	<u>Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela</u>	
Other	Belgium, UK, Canada, France, Italy, Scotland, Israel, Spain, Switzerland, Germany	

Modes of Operation of GRB initiatives (political, technical, short term long term)

Mainstreaming in PFMS

- Engaged with budget reform and regulatory frameworks

Increase financing for women's priorities

- Improve plans and gender analysis to mobilize funding for women's priorities at sectoral and local levels

Application of GRB at sectoral, local levels:

- Developed GRB methodologies and monitoring budget performance (the gap between the demands of gender equality and budget policies)

Modes of Operation of GRB initiatives (political, technical, short term long term)

Policy advocacy:

- Strengthening accountability mechanisms and relevance in broad policy debates (aid, FFD, economic crisis..etc)

ENTRY POINTS FOR GBI's

Ministries of Finance:

Changes in budget processes and systems introduced in a number of countries

- Guidelines for incorporating gender in budgets in Ecuador (local level - Quito), Nepal, Uganda, Venezuela
- Call circulars include instructions to include a gender perspective in line ministries proposals - India
- Gender report annexed to the budget - India, Morocco, France

ENTRY POINTS FOR GBI's

Sectoral ministries:

- Concrete changes in allocations
- Sustained capacity building in select line Ministries for mainstreaming gender in planning, programming and budgeting
- National women's machineries taking leading role in monitoring line ministry performance and budgets
- Gender analysis of sectoral budgets from outside government for advocacy by women's groups

ENTRY POINTS FOR GBI's

Civil society:

- Advocacy with national and local governments resulting in concrete changes in allocations
- Capacity building for national and local government: sensitizing planning and budgeting processes
- Establishing monitoring mechanisms
- Advocacy with members of parliament

ENTRY POINTS FOR GBI's

Local Government

- Creating space for women's participation in annual budget meeting and budgeting process
- Data collection regarding priority needs
- Costing and time use exercises for budget advocacy work

Parliaments:

- Creating spaces for dialogue with women's groups
- Raising gender issues during budget discussion
- In monitoring corruption and budget execution

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KEY CHALLENGES:

- Data availability and transparency: either in format of budget data, its accessibility or the availability of sex-disaggregated data
- Public sector capacity needs (systems, organizations, skills, and willingness)
- Capacity of gender advocates in relation to economic policies.
- Partnership between gender advocates and ministries of finance assumes an environment of good governance and participation
- Competing government agendas and pressures, including fiscal reform agenda, economic performance demands, PRSP, MDG, make gender budgeting look like an additional burden

Enabling Conditions

- **Transparency** on the part of national government with regard to investments in gender equality and women's empowerment
- **Reform** processes within the public sector improving planning and budgeting processes, supporting gender equitable results oriented development programmes, monitoring systems that track performance in relation to all forms of inequalities, targeted delivery, and anti-corruption
- **Champions** in ministries of finance and planning
- **Investment in capacity** on gender analysis, planning and budgeting

Enabling Conditions

- ❑ Creation of **space** to enable national women's machineries, gender equality champions and civil society to play an active role in GRB related advocacy and accountability
- ❑ Ability of **parliament** to exert effective budget oversight in line with commitments to women's rights
- ❑ Demonstrated **political commitment** of governments support
- ❑ Availability and access to **sex disaggregated data** both in statistical departments, but more importantly in administrative records of service delivery and public sector institutions.

Conclusions?

- Gender responsive budgeting is not only about budgets. It needs to be rooted in broad economic policies, political contexts and understanding of realities national development plans, fiscal reform, sectoral reform, aid, Trade, Debt, Decentralization...etc.) while using budgets as entry points (
- GRB is an evolving tool that works in unison with other efforts for addressing inequalities and inefficiencies (MDGs, unpaid care, aid effectiveness...etc.)
- Working towards gender responsive budgets is a long term process that requires an integrated approach
- Knowledge building and development needs to be a continuous priority