

## Gender Responsive Budgets: Program Results (2001-2004)



UNIFEM's gender responsive budgets (GRB) programme was launched in 2001. Through this programme, technical and financial support was provided to twenty countries to initiate or support gender budgets initiatives. Fifteen countries received financial support through the Belgian contribution (Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Belize, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, and Morocco); five others (Chile, Egypt, Kenya, Afghanistan and Nepal) were supported from UNIFEM's core or other funds. In addition, the European Union is currently supporting local level gender budgeting initiatives in Morocco, Uganda, India and the Philippines.

Other countries that expressed interest in GRB were supported by UNIFEM facilitating exchange between individuals and groups, providing resource materials, and providing on-site guidance. These countries include: Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Colombia, Honduras and Uruguay, Cape Verde, Trinidad and Tobago, Bulgaria, Poland, Russia and Kyrgyzstan.

Key results achieved under this program relate to four areas: availability of tools for GRB; increased capacity to advocate for gender responsive budgeting, improved budgeting and planning processes to enhance gender equality, and increased resources to support implementation of gender equality plans and policies. Some highlights of these results are summarized below.

### **INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS TO CARRY OUT AND ADVOCATE FOR GENDER BUDGETS ANALYSIS AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS.**

- In **Nigeria**, UNIFEM collaborated with the National Centre for Economic Management and Administration to review its entire curriculum to incorporate principles of gender responsive budgeting (GRB) using the training manual developed by UNIFEM. GRB has been incorporated into the entire curriculum of the Centre. UNIFEM also supported a one week training programme on GRB for planning and budgeting officers from government organizations and the Legislature. In addition, 40 officers responsible for the national HIV/AIDS strategic framework were also trained with the Centre.
- Analytical studies to review the impact of the **Philippines** 5% GAD budget in collaboration with the National Commission for the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW). With UNIFEM technical advice, a results-based approach to gender budgeting has been introduced and its application is being tried within selected sectors such as agriculture and health at national and local levels. Immediate outcomes of this exercise are 1) the shift to a results based approach; 2) the involvement of more NGOs in the processes of gender budgeting.
- Local level gender budgeting manual prepared by one of UNIFEM's partner organization in West Bengal in **India (Sachetana)** assisted in building the capacity of over 1000 Women Councilors within the Local Government. Sachetana developed the training manual on gender budgets through a participatory process. The manual is available in English and Bengali.

- **In Mexico**, UNIFEM continues to provide support to the NGOs *Equidad de Género* and *Fundar* to build capacities at the state level (Chiapas, Querétaro and Morelos). A product of this successful collaboration is the publication of the 'Guidebook on the Formulation of Gender Responsive Public Budgets guide.
- UNIFEM also invested in the production of a guidebook on GRB for parliamentarians in collaboration with **IPU, UNDP, the World Bank** as well as a report on CEDAW and Budgets.
- In **Morocco** UNIFEM, through collaboration with the Ministry of Finance has provided support for the production of a training manual on gender responsive performance budgets which targets the budget officers in the Budget Directorate of the Ministry of Finance and other line ministries was drafted by a committee consisting of the Ministry of Finance and Ministries of Planning and Social Affairs.
- **In Egypt**, training manuals targeting the Finance officers of the line Ministries were produced. These included a TOT Module on Performance Based Budgeting as a tool For Effective Public Management with a Gender Focus and a Manual on Gender Budgeting.

### **INCREASED AND SUSTAINED CAPACITY OF STAKEHOLDERS TO CARRY OUT AND ADVOCATE FOR GENDER BUDGETS ANALYSIS AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS**

- As part of the Programme of Support for Integrated Actions in Gender and Race Equity in **Brazil**, UNIFEM supported activities towards the inclusion of gender and/or race perspectives into public policies and budgets. An analysis of the Multi-Year Plan of the Federal Government for 2004/2007 has been produced by CFEMEA, as well as a document with the selected programmes that will integrate the "women's budget". The racial dimension and race/color issues have been included in the Brazilian National Health Plan for 2004/2007, after advocacy with the Health Ministry and the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Seminar on Black Population's Health.
- Building on the 2000 **IGAD** commitment of ministers towards GRB, UNIFEM convened a workshop on gender budgeting with seven ministers of gender from the IGAD countries. The workshop also included officials from the ministries of planning, finance and foreign affairs. This provided an accountability space as each of the countries made a report on progress made towards the Beijing Commitments and the application of GRB principles.
- A Gender Budget Network of stakeholders working on gender budgeting was established in **Nigeria** in October 2004 under the leadership of UNIFEM and the Centre for Democracy and Development. Members of the Network have benefited from training on advocacy and lobbying skills and on developing a common understanding of gender budgeting. With the support of UNIFEM, Nigerian members of parliament and over 40 budgeting and planning officers were trained in gender budgeting. The Network is expected to play a key advocacy role in engendering budgets in Nigeria and ensuring that gender issues receive priority in resource allocation.
- In **Brazil**, UNIFEM, with the collaboration of *CFEMEA* and the National Congress' Women's Caucus and Budget Commission and SPM, organized a public debate at the National Congress on gender-responsive budgets. The debate reinforced the commitment of the Women's Caucus and of SPM to mainstream gender into policy and budget design and monitoring processes. A major milestone was set when the President of the National Congress' Budget Commission suggested the creation of a sub-commission to monitor public expenditure from a gender perspective.
- In **Mexico**, seven universities were key partners for the institutionalizing of tools and approaches for gender responsive budgeting developed by Mexican NGOs to widen the outreach of these tools

## IMPROVED PRACTICES AND POLICIES TO ENHANCE GENDER EQUALITY BASED ON ANALYSIS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES AT COUNTRY LEVEL

- Guidelines have been issued to ministries in **Nepal** and **Sri Lanka** indicating that 10 % of all development funds should be allocated towards gender priorities.
- In **Senegal**, Parliamentarians demanded the use of gender budget tools to address the issue of women's vulnerability to HIV and Aids through the increase of budgetary allocation. Sustained work and advocacy with parliamentarians resulted in the Parliament proposing the enactment of legislations to engender the budget and set up mechanisms in the Parliament to monitor the implementation of such legislations.
- In **Uganda**, National budget guidelines have been reviewed to reflect a more gendered approach to budgeting. As a result of advocacy activities by FOWODE and other non governmental organizations, the 2005/06 budget circular issued by Ministry of Finance in September 2004 made it a requirement for ministries to show how their budgets will address gender equality.
- **In India**, the National Commission for Women along with women's groups met the Finance Minister to demand a more gender sensitive budget. Consequently, in his budget speech, the Finance Minister made a commitment that in 2005 the national budget in India would focus on gender budgets and set up a task force to look at data needs for ensuring gender responsive budgets. For the 2005, 18 ministries will formulate their budgets with a gender perspective.
- Through a partnership between TGNP and the government of **Tanzania**, UNIFEM's work on gender responsive budgeting resulted in linking gender budget work with the ongoing macroeconomic policy processes (Gross Domestic Product and Macroeconomic models).
- The strategy developed by the Steering Committee of the Gender Budgets project in **Senegal** focuses among other things on the establishment of a clear link between women's empowerment objectives as identified in the Third National Plan for Women (*PANAF*) designed by the Women Ministry and budgets allocation. An agreement was reached with the PRSP Monitoring Unit for the establishment of a comprehensive framework for monitoring the entire PRSP implementation process. The institutional framework and methodology will focus on the provision of sex disaggregated data required for a gender analysis of macroeconomic policies.
- In **Peru**, UNIFEM established a new partnership with the Consensus-Building Round-Table to Fight against Poverty, a civil society/governmental institution in charge of advising the implementation of the participatory budget law throughout the country. Through this partnership, three pilot experiences were carried out in the Departments of Huanuco, Moyamba and Moquegua to include the gender perspective in the participatory budgets.
- In **Nigeria**, UNIFEM has used the opportunity of the development of the Nigerian National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS), and Nigeria's PRSP, to introduce gender responsive budgeting as a tool to be integrated into the implementation of the NEEDS. UNIFEM convened a high level dialogue with the National Planning Commission and has been asked to develop a framework for mainstreaming gender to be used to implement the NEEDS and the States Economic Empowerment Development Strategy
- In **Mozambique**, UNIFEM, in collaboration with UNDP, supported the convening of a series of training of trainers and sensitization workshops on gender responsive budgeting targeting civil society groups and policymakers. This resulted in the creation of the Gender Special Interest Group (GSIG) comprising of donors, government and civil society whose objective is to mainstream gender in the PARPA and the national budget.

- In **Uganda**, FOWODE engaged with national planning processes using the gender budgets analysis findings, partnerships and knowledge developed throughout the initiative.

## INCREASED ALLOCATIONS IN LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER EQUALITY PLANS AND POLICIES

- Through the Programme of Support for Integrated Actions in Gender and Race Equity in **Brazil**, UNIFEM supported *CFEMEA* to advocate at the National Congress for increased budget allocations for gender and race equity.
- In **Cochabamba (Bolivia)**, specific programmes targeting poor-women were developed such as women's alphabetization and laundries for women.
- In **Ecuador**, as a result of gender budget analyses and advocacy, affirmative actions and allocation of specific funds for actions favoring gender equity were introduced to the budgets of several municipalities. In Cuenca, a decree established the priority of hiring women for infrastructure projects funded by the Municipality. The budget for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 has included specific resources to fund actions included in the Equal Opportunity Plan. In Esmeraldas, in response to demands included in the women's Agenda, the Municipality has generated in 2004 a fund for local women's micro-enterprise initiatives and formed the Equity Council of Esmeraldas, this group comprised of councilwomen and representatives of women's organizations, to provide advisory support and oversee the Municipality's gender policies. In Salitre, women's organizations themselves formally presented the gender budget analysis results to Salitre's Mayor and successfully lobbied for resource allocations in the 2003 municipal budget to support their actions.
- In the **Ugandan** district of Kabale, a budget line to the tune of UgShs. 38 million was passed by the district council to cater for women councillors activities as a result of extensive advocacy to empower local women councillors.
- In **Kenya**, advocacy activities with civil society and women's organization around gender and HIV/AIDS resulted in the removal of the Value Added Tax (VAT) on sanitary pads.
- In **India**, a proposal for a budget cut of women's programs was being considered by the local government in Mysore municipality due to unspent funds. Elected women representatives engaged in UNIFEM's gender budgets activities at the municipal level actively mobilized and succeeded in leveraging a 56% increase in the allocations instead. They also called for increased transparency for better information about budget spending in future cycles in order to avoid mismanagement of severely needed funds.

UNIFEM's support to initiatives on gender responsive budgeting since the late nineties stems from its mandate towards gender mainstreaming. In 2001, it launched a 20 country programme creating a momentum among governments, civil society and parliamentarians to engage in budget policy-making from a gender perspective. This work built capacity around budget analysis from a gender perspective, built budget literacy amongst women's rights and gender equality advocates and developed knowledge and experience on effective approaches to gender responsive budgeting. More recently, UNIFEM launched the second phase of its program which seeks to transform budget allocations and processes and institutionalize mechanisms for monitoring responsiveness of budgets and economic policies to gender equality. The countries supported in this phase includes: Ecuador, Morocco, Mozambique and Senegal.

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