Gender Responsive Budgeting: Overview and Potential Lessons for Climate Finance

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• Historical Context
• Main principles and purpose
• GRB – working across planning and budgeting cycle
  • Policy/legislative analysis
  • Budget Analysis
• Critical Stakeholders
• Enabling conditions
• Key challenges
• Connections to Climate Finance
• Conclusions
Groundbreaking work in 1980s & 1990s – Australia, South Africa, Philippines and the United Kingdom

Early 2000s – Unifem (now UN Women) started its engagement in GRB work in 20 countries

National efforts have grown and matured – providing lessons and pointers on how to strengthen efforts

GRB has become a movement - continues to gain momentum
Budget is an important policy tool of government.

Provides comprehensive statement of government finances, including spending, revenues, deficit or surplus, and debt.

Technical and political

Issues of efficiency and equity in budget.

Making realities and priorities of all people visible in budget.
The overall **purpose of GRB** is to:

- *Ensure* governments deliver on gender equality commitments, evidenced by:
  - *Stepped up and well-targeted* allocations to address gender objectives

This is done by:

- Strengthening **efficiency** and **effectiveness** of public budgets by ensuring revenue-raising and expenditures respond to/consider the priorities of all, especially those in most need
- Strengthening **transparency** and **systems of accountability**
• Assess if law or policy is gender responsive
  ✓ Define scope of analysis
  ✓ Identify related legislation/policy documents
  ✓ Analyze the legal and policy documents
  ✓ Compile analysis and corresponding conclusions/recommendations to support necessary changes

EXAMPLE – REVISION OF ORGANIC BUDGET LAW IN RWANDA:

In **Rwanda**, UN Women supported the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to revise the Organic Budget Law of 2013 to include reporting requirement for all government agencies on implementation of Gender Budget Statements (GBS).

The change was a result of intense advocacy and drew on analysis of GBS at national and local level.

Change to public finance management system facilitated government ability to assess financing allocations for gender equality in national budgets.
Budget Analysis

• Analyze budget – **both revenue and expenditure** – to assess whether adequate resources allocated to implement gender responsive laws/policies/strategies
Ministries of Finance - issue guidelines/directives for incorporating gender into budgets; develop gender reports or statements annexed to budget; track allocations to gender equality

Ministries of Planning - support integration of gender in national development plans; contribute to alignment between national action plans on gender equality and NDSs

Sectoral Ministries & Local Governments - gender analysis of sectoral/local budgets; with strong capacity, mainstream gender in planning, programming and budgeting

National Women’s Machineries - coordinate GRB efforts as part of gender mainstreaming; lead development of NAPs on gender equality; monitor gender responsiveness of plans and budgets

Civil Society – advocacy, monitoring and watchdog processes

Parliaments - create space for dialogue with women’s groups; raise gender issues during budget discussions
Enabling Conditions

✓ Champions in government
✓ Government transparency on investments to gender equality and women’s empowerment
✓ Reform processes within public sector
✓ Development and implementation of monitoring systems to track performance
✓ Investment in capacity on gender analysis, planning and budgeting
✓ Space for national women’s machineries and gender advocates to play active role in GRB advocacy and accountability
✓ Availability and access to sex-disaggregated data
Main Challenges

- **Data availability and transparency** – issues include lack of sex-disaggregated data, limitations in data accessibility
- **Public sector capacity needs**
- **Capacity of gender advocates in relation to fiscal policies** and engaging in budgeting processes
- **Effective partnership** between gender advocates and ministries of finance – assumes environment of good governance and participation of citizens
- **Competing government agendas and pressures**, including fiscal reform, economic performance demands, external pressures/requirements
Conclusions

• **GRB is not only about budgets** – rooted in broad economic policies, political, economic and social contexts and understanding of national development priorities

• GRB is a **comprehensive approach** that works in unison with other efforts to address gender gaps

• Strong tracking systems are critical for **strengthening the link between policy and implementation**

• Gender responsive plans and budgets require **long term process** with an **integrated approach** and **engagement of multiple stakeholders**
• UN Women Financing Gender Equality website: http://gender-financing.unwomen.org/en

• UN Women Training Course on GRB: https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/portal/product/gender-responsive-budgeting/
