

SOUTHERN SUDAN WOMEN LEGISLATOR'S CONFERENCE – INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

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PRESENTATION ON GENDER BUDGETING

GENDER BUDGETING

What is Gender budgeting?

The actual integration of a gender perspective into budget decision at the national or sub national levels of government ,(Rubin and Bartle, 2005).

An organized movement to influence government to incorporate a gender perspective into its budget decision.

Gender sensitive budgets are not separate budgets for women, rather it's an analysis of governments budget to establish the budget differential impact on women and men , (Budlender, Sharp, and Allen,1998)

Gender sensitive budget is about taking governments gender commitments and translating them into budgetary decisions

Gender Budgeting is a process

- Involves conceiving, planning, approving, executing, monitoring , analyzing and auditing in a gender sensitive way.
- Analysis of actual expenditure and revenue on women and men
- Helps governments to decide how policies are to be made, adjusted and prioritized
- A tool for effective policy implementation where one can check if allocations are in line with policy commitments and are having the desired input.

What are women looking for in budgets?

- Women need to realize that budgets are powerful tools of actualizing election promises and are a major accountability instrument.
- Women therefore need to look at annual budgets visa vis political manifestos and fast track service delivery, did I cast my vote for the right reason to the right person?

- Budgets are means to achieve policy objectives , that is budgets should follow policy and not the other way round.
- Budgets and policy are often assumed to affect peoples; lives equally while in fact they are not. Therefore gender perspective in budgeting process and policy formulation are important to avoid marginalization
- Implementing gender budgeting requires awareness and understanding among government officials on gender based problems in development, without this understanding, we can only expect little that a budget accommodates gender needs

Examples

- Making laws on women's dress code and behavior to justify public morality , forgetting high maternal and infant mortality rates
- Passing of the domestic violence bill 2010 in Uganda immediately after the death of a general. All th men woke up from their sleep and said domestic violence is real.

Issues to look at and for in budgets?

Women ought to look for sectors where majority of them are engaged in. In the case of Sub-Saharan Africa, the following sectors are key, Health, education, agriculture, environment, roads and transport sectors.

- Example –Ministry of health , Country X (women are 56%of the population!
- Election manifesto, reduce maternal deaths to 0 by the year 2015
- What is the biggest health challenge of women? Maternal and infant mortality

- Total Budget \$70.000.000
- Administration-40.000.000 (cars, luxury trips abroad, entertainment, workshops in five star hotels, refreshments, Etc)

- Malaria drugs/nets 1.000.000
- Immunization, vaccines,500.000
- Equipment- 20.000.000
- Research 8.500.000

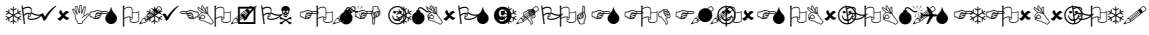
Will this budget realize the election manifesto and make you vote for such a government again?

NO!

IMPORTANCE OF GENDER BUDGETING

- Achieving gender equality- requires equality of outcomes for men and women- Policies affect women and men differently and so they benefit differently from allocations, their needs, interests, preferences vary in life.
- Monitoring achievements of policy goals e.g, the MDGs, African commitments such as the Maputo protocol, the Accra declaration, etc
- More effective poverty alleviation- women have worse social indicators than men in the same social strata, different experiences of poverty, face different constraints to overcome poverty. There will be no poverty reduction without meeting the needs of women.

- Enhancing economic efficiency. Positive correlation between diminishing inequality and higher growth rates. High productivity if women have access to information, markets, credit, extension services, etc
- Advancing realisation of women's rights- Gender budgeting attempts to measure gaps between gender policy commitments in respect to women's rights, adequacy of resource allocation and outcomes of both.
- Achieving good governance. The process of improving service delivery for both men and women in a fair, just and responsible way is a definition of good governance.
- Accountability and transparency. Gender budgeting is a tool for highlighting gaps between international commitments , local commitments, regional commitments, etc



Requirements for gender budgeting

- Knowledge about gender issues at all levels
- Sex aggregated data
- Access to programmatic information
- Commitment in terms of technocrats, resource, etc
- Pressure groups to push for the issues to be addressed

The Five Steps in Gender Budgeting

1. Analysis of the situation of women and men , boys and girls in a given sector.
2. An assessment of the extent to which the sector 's policy addresses the gender issues and gaps described above in step 1. Includes assessment of relevant legislation, policies, programs and schemes, analysis of the written and implicit policies. Examines the extent to which socio-economic and other rights are met.
3. An assessment of the adequacy of budget allocations to implement the gender sensitive policies and programs
4. Monitoring whether the money was spent as planned, what was delivered and to whom(both physical and financial.
5. An assessment of the impact of the policy program, scheme and the extent to which the situation in 1 above has changed towards gender equality.



Uganda's Experience with Gender Budgeting!

- A new concept in Uganda, started in 1999, supported by UNIFEM through women's rights and advocacy groups, parliamentarians and ministry of finance officials.
- Parliament passed an act, budget act where it is involved in the scrutiny of sector budgets, a critical role that bypassed the oversight institution.
- Two NGOs are at the fore front of this, FOWODE(forum for women in development) and Acfode (Action for development). FOWODE mainly at the national level while the other is dominant at the district and sub county level.
- These organizations work in conjunction with UWOPA, (Uganda women Parliamentarians association).

FOWODE'S WORK

- Aimed at establishing a gender –aware medium term economic policy framework-engaged in PEAP/NDP and Uganda PRSPs, Monitored the implementation of PEAP.
- Ensure all sector budgets are pro poor.