

Gender in MENA Projects: Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment

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Gender Responsive Budgeting Program in Rwanda

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Overview of the presentation

Background

Issues in implementation

Overview of proposed program

- Phase One: Preparation
- Phase Two: Sensitisation
- Phase Three: In-depth training and support
- Revision of Planning and Budgeting Documents
- Establishing Gender-Disaggregated Data

Possible GRB entry points from budget process

Conclusion

Background

- ❖ From 2002 to 2004, MIGEPROF led a gender budgeting initiative in five key ministries (MINEDUC, MINAGRI, MINISANTE, MINITERE and MINALOC) with technical support from DFID.
- ❖ Planning and budgeting officers in the pilot ministries and provinces as well as civil society organizations representatives received training.
- ❖ An evaluation of the initiative highlighted that low capacity and high staff turnover threatened the sustainability of the initiative after the technical assistance had left.

Background (cont')

- ❖ From 2004 to date, similar training was also given to parliamentarians, to planners and budget officers from government, to a pool of gender local experts with the support of Migeprof, UNIFEM, World Bank and CIDA.
- ❖ Studies on GRB have been conducted by Minecofin, UNIFEM, UNDP and UNCDF.
- ❖ Despite these GRB initiatives, still the country is facing challenges towards achievement of national development priorities and international commitments within a gender perspective.

Advantages for Implementation

- ▶ Strong political commitment: Gender Machineries, Legal framework and GNP Policy
- ▶ MTEF is already linked to program budgeting which provides easy entry points for gender
- ▶ Gender Focal Points established in each budget agency by Prime Minister's Office
- ▶ Decentralisation framework provides for women to be well represented in Parliament and in District Councils & other administrative entities
- ▶ Many Stakeholders – WB, UNIFEM, MIGEPROF, MINECOFIN, UNFPA, SNV
 - Potential to share experiences and learn from one another
- ▶ Civil Society can partner with central and local government
 - For example, already partnership in health and education

Key challenges

- ▶ The general lack of gender awareness and technical expertise in planning, programming and budgeting with a gender perspective in all public institutions.
- ▶ The serious shortage of gender responsive baseline data from different institutions and sectors.
- ▶ The existing system of monitoring and evaluation which is not gender responsive and as a result is not possible to track progress towards achieving gender equality goals.
- ▶ Lack of GRB coordination.
- ▶ Civil Society organizations are not well engaged in gender budget advocacy

Overview of the GRB Program

GRB program objectives are:

- ▶ To have a consolidated Gender Budget Statement or Gender Report to accompany 2010/11 budget and all subsequent years;
- ▶ To make the discussion and analysis of government policies from a gender perspective;
- ▶ To increase gender responsive budget allocations in pilot sectors (health, education, agriculture and infrastructure) and later in all other sectors

Overview of the GRB Program

1. **Phase one:** preparation and **institutional framework**; core team and steering committee
2. **Phase two: sensitization** of all layers of government, civil society and donors. Training of **core team** of staff from MINECOFIN and MIGEPROF
3. **Phase three:** provides more in-depth training and support to **pilot sectors** (Agriculture, Education, Health & Infrastructure) and districts for full implementation

Overview of the GRB Program_(cont')

- ▶ After Pilot Sectors, implementation will be extended to **remaining** sectors

Alongside implementation in sectors and districts,

1. Review of **documents** which guide planning and budgeting at central and district level (e.g. BCC, Joint Sector Reviews, Strategic Issues Papers)
2. Establish collection of gender-disaggregated **data** at national and local levels in partnership with relevant institutions
3. Post-GRB program: after 2-3 years of the project on Gender Responsive Budgeting Program (supported by UNIFEM) in MINECOFIN, the project can be phased out as gender has been sufficiently mainstreamed.

Possible GRB Entry Points in the Budget Process

Step 1: Strategic Planning

1. Ensure that gender inequalities are identified at the planning and budgeting stage
2. Develop strategies and programs to reduce the number of unpaid working hours which may increase GDP by enabling women to participate more in paid labour

Step 2: Budget Preparation

1. BCC provides guidelines instructions and tools to budget ministries/districts on gender issues
2. Strategic issue paper (budget request submissions); re-focus ministries and district programmes/activities to be gender sensitive
3. Gender Budget Statement will be used during review and negotiations usually between the ministry of finance and individual line ministries and districts of budget request

Possible GRB Entry Points in the Budget Process (cont')

- ▶ MIGEPROF and GMO will be part of discussions
- ▶ 4. Budget Framework Paper is prepared; the section on sector budget priorities and outputs must be gender sensitive
- ▶ 5. Gender Budget Statement is annexed to Draft Finance Law and presented to Parliament to grant opportunity for review and detailed discussions on the draft finance law; reviews are conducted sector by sector by parliamentary committee
- ✓ The Finance Law is approved and Published with Gender Budget Statement
- ▶ **Step 3: Budget Execution**
- ▶ **Step 4: Budget Monitoring of physical realization**
- ▶ **Step 5: Budget Reporting**
- ▶ **Step 6: Policy Review at central and local levels**

Conclusion

- GRB program is up and running.
- There is every commitment required to achieve the desired objectives.
- Good progress has been registered.
- Challenges still exist BUT we can overcome them.

Thank you for your kind attention.