
Gender Budgeting and the World Bank Experience

Capacity Building Workshop

Gender Budgeting

Rabat, 22 - 23 October 2008

Today's presentation

■ Objectives

- Provide a brief overview of gender budgeting initiatives
- Review key elements of gender budgeting initiatives on which to build a more specialized knowledge over the next two days
- Place gender budgeting in the context of policy formulation for growth and poverty reduction

■ Structure of the presentation

- What is Gender Budgeting (GB)?
- Why is GB important?

What is Gender Budgeting?

- **Definition:** GB uses a variety of tools and processes to assess the impact of government expenditure and revenue on the social and economic position of men and women
- **Objective:** To make budgets responsive to the needs of men and women. To make sure that the allocation of public resources corresponds to the needs of men and women
 - Examples: Reallocate education expenditure to promote measures to increase gender equality in access to primary school (e.g. scholarships); Improve targeting of health resources according to the different illnesses of men and women; Increase number of female extension staff; etc.

What GB is not!

- **Gender Budgeting is not a separate budget for women**
- **Nor budgetary segregation with specific credits allocated to men and women in the general budget**
- **Does not mean to increase spending for programs targeting women**
- **Does not mean to decrease the state budget by the amount allocated to the gender budget**
- **Nor is a compilation of the measures and budgetary allocations targeting only women**
- **GB stresses reprioritising within and across sectors rather than only an increase in overall government expenditure**

Why the budget?

- Because the budget is the reflection of a government's most important policies
- Because of its strategic impact from the point of view of gender mainstreaming

GB encompasses a variety of actions and actors

- Different areas of action
 - Research, advocacy, institutional change, capacity building
- Different scope
 - Local, regional or national
 - Focused on the national budget versus on a sector or issue (e.g. domestic violence)
- Different actors playing different roles
 - Government (MoF, line ministries, MoGender), academia, civil society, parliament, statistics agency, etc.
- Examples
 - Create a parliamentary commission for equal opportunities; evaluate gender impact of public expenditure in a Ministry/department; collect sex disaggregated data to inform departments policy/expenditure; letter to ministries requesting information on gender impact of their programs; opening budget preparation to civil society women's groups, university research on gender impact of tax reform, etc.

Examples of Gender Budgeting Initiatives

- Australia, Netherlands. Example of government led, government implemented GBI
- Scotland, South Africa. Examples of coalition between women's groups in civil society and parliament to promote GBI
- UK. Example of civil society research based GBI

Why is Gender Budgeting
important?

Gender inequalities hinder poverty reduction and economic growth

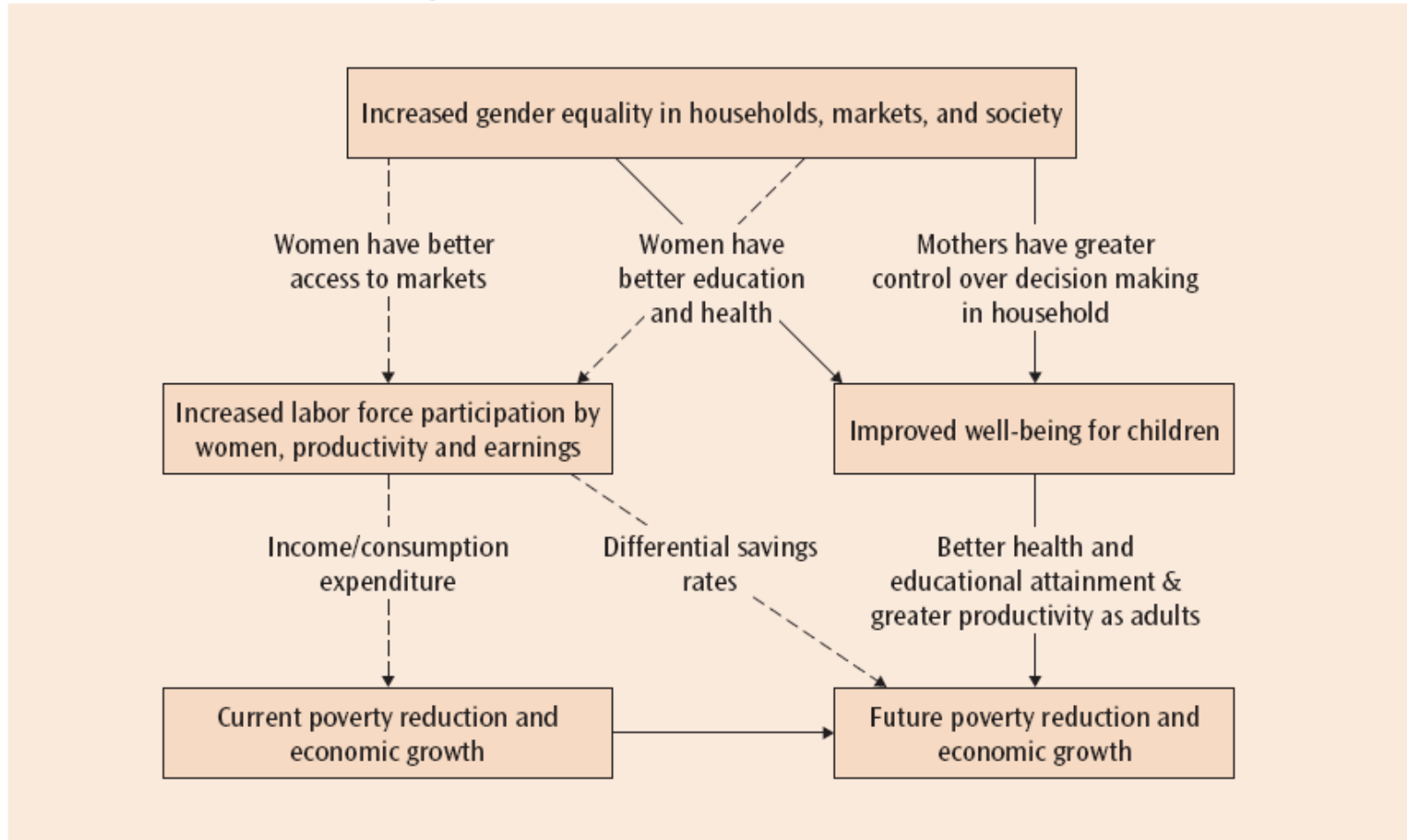
- Gender inequalities impose costs on productivity, efficiency and economic progress
 - Through limiting the accumulation of human capital, limiting men and women's access to labor market, resources, public services or productive activities
 - For example, in Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Kenya more equal control of inputs and farm income by women and men would raise farm yields one fifth of output
 - If gender gaps in education in MENA, SSA, and SA were at the level of those in EA, income pc in these regions could have grown 0.5 - 0.9% per year

Source: World Bank Engendering Development 2001

Gender inequalities hinder poverty reduction and economic growth (cont.)

- If gender inequalities in the labour market in Latin America were to be eliminated, not only could women's wages rise by about 50%, but national output could rise by 5% (Tzannatos, 1991).
- In Tanzania reducing women's time burden in a community of smallholder coffee and banana growers increases household cash incomes by 10%, labour productivity by 15% and capital productivity by 44% (Tibaijuka, 1994).

The link between gender inequalities, poverty, and growth



Source: World Bank Global Monitoring Report 2006

Better policies and better use of resources to fight gender inequalities through GB

- Gender budgeting provides information that allows for better decision-making on how policies and priorities should be revised – and the accompanying resources needed – to achieve the goal of gender equality.
 - **Gender budgeting helps address gender inequalities in policy formulation**
 - Gender budgeting helps ensure that government budgets are allocated in an **equitable and efficient** way so that the most pressing needs of individuals and groups are satisfied.
 - It ensures that when resources are scarce, the available resources are used to assist those who are least able to provide for themselves.
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Gender budgeting is a win-win situation for women, men and society...

- Gender Budgeting helps address gender inequalities through public policy
- Gender Budgeting helps rationalize public expenditure
- By addressing gender inequalities, GB contributes to increased growth and poverty reduction, improves the impact of economic policies and therefore maximizes the impact of public expenditures

Further Reading

- World Bank, 2001, *Engendering Development through Gender Equality in Rights, Resources and Voice*. Washington DC: The World Bank.
- World Bank, 2007, *Global Monitoring Report: Confronting the Challenges of Gender Equality and Fragile States*. Washington DC: The World Bank.
- Saito, K. and D. Spurling (1992). *Developing Agricultural Extension for Women Farmers*. World Bank Discussion Paper 156, Washington DC: The World Bank.
- Tzannatos, Z. (1991). Potential Gains from the Elimination of Gender Differentials in the Labour Market in G. Psacharopoulos and Z. Tzannatos (eds) *Women's Employment and Pay in Latin America, Report No10*. Latin America and Caribbean Technical Department. Washington DC: The World Bank.
- Tibaijuka, A. (1994). The Cost of Differential Gender Roles in African Agriculture: A Case Study of Smallholder Banana-Coffee Farms in the Kagera Region, Tanzania, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol 45, No 1.