

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING AND WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: A RESOURCE PACK





UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

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UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security. UNIFEM works in partnership with UN organisations, governments and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and networks to promote gender equality. It links women's issues and concerns to national, regional and global agendas by fostering collaboration and providing technical expertise on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment strategies.

UNIFEM has supported initiatives on gender responsive budgeting in over 20 countries. This support facilitated a growing momentum among governments, civil society and parliamentarians to engage in budget policy-making at national and local levels from a gender perspective.

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We are very pleased to introduce the UNFPA/UNIFEM resource pack, “Gender Responsive Budgeting and Women’s Reproductive Rights,” and the training manual, “Gender Responsive Budgeting in Practice.” We feel certain that these two publications will add value to the available wealth of training resources and help you to build expert teams to meet the growing demand at country level. The goal is to encourage a gender perspective in the national planning and budgeting processes.

Gender responsive budgeting helps to track the way that budgets respond to women’s priorities and the way that governments use funds to reduce poverty, promote gender equality, reverse the spread of HIV and lower the rates of maternal and child mortality. It helps ensure government accountability to the commitments made to women in the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Today, more than ten years after the Cairo Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action, we can see significant progress in the areas of women’s empowerment, gender equality and women’s reproductive rights and health. Yet much more remains to be done. We trust that, in your hands, you shall find the tools to help take us further along the road towards even greater progress.



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