

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING IN PRACTICE: A TRAINING MANUAL





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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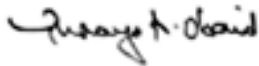
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FOREWORD

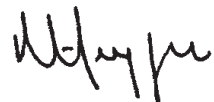
We are very pleased to introduce the UNFPA/UNIFEM training manual “Gender Responsive Budgeting in Practice,” and the resource pack, “Gender Responsive Budgeting and Women’s Reproductive Rights.” We feel certain that these two publications will add value to the available wealth of training resources and 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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MANUAL DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

In 2005, UNFPA and UNIFEM concluded an agreement under UNFPA's strategic partnership program (SPP) with United Nations partners. The UNFPA/UNIFEM partnership program identified Gender Responsive Budgeting as an area for cooperation. The aim of this partnership is to build internal capacity in UNFPA through its country support teams (CSTs) and country offices and in UNIFEM through its regional programs. It is also envisioned that this partnership will strengthen joint initiatives on Gender Responsive Budgeting. In addition, it will offer more coherent and effective support to program countries and to UNCTs in applying this tool to make progress on gender equality commitments.

Under this partnership, UNIFEM undertook to develop knowledge products on gender responsive budgeting and reproductive health. The process for identifying the components of these knowledge products was a participatory one that drew on existing expertise within the staffs of UNFPA and UNIFEM. This process entailed a desk review of UNFPA and UNIFEM programs, an electronic discussion in late 2005, and two workshops held in Cape Town and Bangkok in April and June 2006 with UNFPA and UNIFEM staff. The outputs of this partnership include the present training manual and a resource pack entitled, "Budgeting for Reproductive Rights: Using gender responsive budgeting."

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The training manual on gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is intended to build the capacity of UNFPA and UNIFEM staff in applying gender budget analysis tools in their programming around gender equality and women's rights, it will also assist them in supporting gender budget initiatives wherever they exist. The manual specifically seeks to build understanding of GRB as a tool for promoting gender equity, accountability to women's rights as well as efficiency and transparency in budget policies and processes.

It is anticipated that this manual will develop skills required to effectively engage in mainstreaming gender in planning and budgeting processes at country level. It is also foreseen that UNFPA and UNIFEM will be using the manual to build teams of experts that can support the growing demand from national partners for capacity building in GRB.

The training manual adds value to the wealth of training resources on GRB firstly through a focus on the applicability of gender responsive budgeting to reproductive health and secondly through a presentation of sector-specific examples and case studies dealing with maternal health, gender and HIV/AIDS, and violence against women.

The manual draws on the rich experience and lessons learnt from UNIFEM's programming on gender budgeting in more than thirty countries since early 2000. It further encapsulates the understanding that gender responsive budgeting is an essential element in any serious political commitment towards gender equality and lays out approaches to align budgets with requirements for the achievement of women's rights.

CONTENT OF THE MANUAL

The manual consists of five training modules, each divided into two to four sessions. It is intended for use in a workshop setting.

The five training modules provide a comprehensive overview of entry points for gender responsive budgeting within national budget cycles. Thus, the manual should continuously be related to the planning and budgeting processes at the national level.

The manual seeks to offer clarity and understanding of the conceptual, technical and political elements of gender responsive budgeting:

- The first module, “Gender budgeting: concepts, principles and purposes,” covers the conceptual elements of gender responsive budgeting in relation to gender mainstreaming and women’s rights.
- The second module, “Budget formats and processes,” unpacks the technical and political aspects with reference to budgets and policy making cycles.
- The third module, “Tools for Gender budget analysis,” introduces a range of useful tools for analyzing budgets from a gender perspective, with a special focus on those that are most commonly used.
- The fourth and fifth modules present concrete applications of gender budget analysis tools and approaches used by gender budget initiatives to advocate for the incorporation of a gender responsive perspective based on the results of the budget analysis. Specifically, module five, “Gender budget initiatives from within government,” focuses on government-led gender budget initiatives.
- The final session of the training manual, entitled “Supporting GRB work,” is a hands-on exercise that allows participants to apply the skills and knowledge developed during the training through the drafting of gender responsive programs in relation to specific issues.

COMPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

The manual should be used in conjunction with:

- The “Budgeting for Reproductive Rights” resource pack, which was also developed under the strategic partnership between UNFPA and UNIFEM
- The CD-ROM of handouts and annexes
- Key reading materials on gender responsive budgeting available on the website www.gender-budgets.org (see list in Annexes)

MANUAL DESCRIPTION

WORKSHOP DURATION

The workshop is designed to be carried out over a period of three days. An example of a workshop program, which can be adapted to suit participants' profiles and availability, is provided in the annexes.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The training manual is targeted at staff of UNFPA and UNIFEM and their partners from governmental and non-governmental organizations as a way to support the institutionalization of GRB work at country level. Other UN agencies may also find it useful. The recommended characteristics of workshop participants include:

- Interest and commitment in incorporating gender responsive budgeting concepts into policy advocacy and programming for gender equality
- Analytical skills in relation to gender inequality
- Experience in supporting national planning and programming processes in relation to women's rights and reproductive rights

WORKSHOP FACILITATION

Workshop facilitators should ideally have:

- Extensive experience using gender responsive budgeting concepts and tools
- Familiarity with a number of gender budget initiatives around the world
- Proficiency in gender and economics issues
- Advanced capacity for gender analysis
- Strategic planning and program formulation skills
- Experience in applying adult learning methodologies and workshop facilitation skills

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