

Summary of Recommendations

1. Demonstration of adequate political will and high level commitment;
2. Adopting clear political guidance for gender budgeting work;
3. Involvement civil society and development partners;
4. Clear policies for transparency and accountability.

Highlights

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) is an approach restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to to budgeting that uses fiscal policies and promote gender equality. The purpose of Gender administration to promote gender equality. For the Budgeting can be perceived in three fold; promote past two decades, governments, international accountability and transparency of the budget process organizations and civil society groups have used a (planning and execution); increasing gender broad range of approaches to breakdown government responsive participation in the budget process, for budgets and scrutinize them for their impact on example by undertaking steps to involve women and women, girls, men and boys. These so-called gender-men equally in budget preparation; and advance responsive budget (GRB) initiatives have been gender equality and women's rights. adopted as a strategic to the assessment of the role of budgets in promoting gender equality.

Since independence, South Sudan has been struggling with setting systems and establishing institutions. Now almost ten (10) years as an independent state, the country is yet to find the appropriate approach to handling different aspects of Public Finance Management (PFM) including having a regularly passed budget and inclusion on concepts intended to facilitate inclusivity.

Sound gender analysis leads to good planning and budgeting for gender equality and economic growth. Importantly, gender budgeting is about restructuring the budget to ensure that the government and institutions are using public resources in a way that can increase gender equality and thereby increase the efficiency and effectiveness of budgets and policies. This in turn helps accelerate inclusive and sustainable growth.

In order to fully implement PFM reforms, transparently Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) brings together manage and equitably distribute public resources, it is two issues that are not commonly associated with importance to ensure that the national budget reflects the another: gender equality and public financial interest of all sections of the society. This will in return management.¹ The fiscal authorities at any level result into financing national development priority such government can assess the needs of men and women as investments in human capital, infrastructure, and in terms of identifying key outcomes or goals, develop services delivery, as well as to setting the right plans, allocate resources/distribute public funds, incentive/incentives for sustainable private-sector monitoring and evaluate achievements at the end of investment in both small and medium businesses. It is the year. Countries have taken many routes to gender equality through enactment of clear and gender sensitive budgeting efforts to promote gender equality, girls policies and adoption of gender budgeting as a national and women's development and each approach reflects policy and practice that interests of different segments of not only the country's goals but also the particular the society can be addressed in PFM processes. budget process and administrative capabilities.

Gender budgeting is used for a 'gender based assessment of budgets incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and

¹ http://gsdrc.org/docs/open/reading-packs/grb_rp.pdf

Issues Analysis

The concept of 'gender responsive budgeting' (GRB) is based on a number of critical premises: Government budgets are not just a technical compilation of incomes and expenditures. It is the most important policy statement made by the Executive in the course of the year; Budgets are the strongest expression of a government's political priorities and commitment; They constitute a declaration of the government's fiscal, financial and economic objectives and reflect its social and economic priorities. Budgets are therefore not gender-neutral in impact. They have the potential to either increase or reduce the burdens and/or vulnerabilities of different social groups, or to improve their capacities and capabilities.²

Integrating a gender responsive budgeting methodology into the national budgetary processes allows governments and institutions to better understand how equitable national resource distribution and spending can be achieved given that policies guiding the budget, can have different impacts on women and men. In most cases, gender perspectives are often omitted in budgeting processes and budgets are often perceived as being gender neutral. However, research shows that lack of attention to gender responsiveness of the budget actually leads to gender blind budgets hence sub-optimal service delivery. Therefore, gender responsive budgeting can be achieved through use of different analytical and technical tools such as instituting; Gender-aware medium-term economic policy framework, Gender-aware policy appraisal, Gender-disaggregated beneficiary assessment, Public expenditure incidence analysis and Gender-aware budget statements³

Gender responsive budgeting provides for inclusion of key gender related components that are often overlooked in budgets and policy processes. However, it is important to note that effective gender responsive budgeting require enabling environment facilitated by factors such as; sufficient political commitment matched with a technical capacity for gender mainstreaming and engaged leadership. This is of particular importance to ensure that gender equality is integrated into the planning and execution of national budget. While implementing gender responsive budgeting, the following are some important aspects that require keen attention; Gender analysis, Gender-disaggregated data and indicators for budgeting and Costing for gender equity⁴

Because of the theoretical and practical difficulties in determining the effect of fiscal policies and programs on women and men, and the traditionally weak voice of women in political discussions and government bureaucracies, women's developmental concerns are unlikely to be fully taken into account in public budgeting. Gender budgeting efforts are intended to commit public budgeting to weighing the benefits and costs of policies that would promote gender equality and girls' and women's development, and then to taking action in response to this evaluation.⁵ However, the important question to answer is how the national budget can be of benefit to women and men, boys and girls, persons with disability and all sectors of the society. Therefore, WTWG-PFM has the following recommendations to offer.

² <https://www.ngeckenya.org/Downloads/NGEC-GRB-Guidelines-for-National-Govt-in-Kenya.pdf>

³ <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/001/2003/083/article-A001-en.xml>

⁴ <https://www.iapb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Gender-Responsive-Budgeting-Tool.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2016/wp16149.pdf>

Policy Recommendations

1. **Demonstration of adequate political will and high level commitment:** Political leadership of the country need to demonstrate adequate political will and high-level commitment of public institutions to improved technical capacity of civil servants to facilitate gender analyses of budgets/budget processes and strengthen national statistics and information management systems in ministries, public agencies to provide accurate information and encourage use of sex-disaggregated data.
2. **Adopting clear political guidance for gender budgeting work:** This can be achieved through decisions of the highest policy making organs of the country (Legislature and Council of Ministers) to consider gender responsive budgeting as a national policy and ensure its monitored through the national gender machinery (Ministry of Gender and the Parliamentary Committee on Gender) so as to provide annual gender analysis of the budget and recommendations for the subsequent financial year.
3. **Involvement civil society and development partners:** These entities have an important role to play in ensuring that governments are held accountable for meeting international and national gender equality commitments, linking government to society, promoting participatory/open budgetary processes and conducting budgets analysis from a pro-poor, gender equality and equitable resource allocation.
4. **Clear policies for transparency and accountability:** In order to achieve real progress in implementing gender budgeting, the efforts must be backed by a responsive and accountable central government/institutions and awareness raising among key actors, such as national parliaments, institutions of the executive, political parties, local assemblies/executive and their consultative bodies such as Commissions and other national mechanisms.

About the Women Technical Working Group on PFM Reform Process (WTWG-PRFEP)

Women's Technical Working Group on Public Finance Management Reform Process (WTWF - PFM-RP) is made up of women from different walks of life brought together under the auspices of SSuDEMOP to identify and analyze various aspects of PFM related issues that affect women and provide recommendations to the relevant policy institutions including PFM - Oversight Committee (OC) and PFM - Technical Committee (TC). The group works alongside Citizen Working Group on Public Finance Management Reform Process (CWG-PFM-RP). It is important to note that work of the group is often aligned with the processes happening at the level of the PFM-OC and PFM-TC. The group was established to; enable women from different sectors and with different technical expertise to work together on PFM related issues of concern to women and the society, set the basis for a more robust and strategic women engagement in the PFM-RP and ultimately engender the PFM-RP in South Sudan.