

MAINSTREAMING GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING PRINCIPLES IN SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY TOOLS

What is Gender Responsive Budgeting?

Public budgets affect the lives of women and men, boys and girls in different ways. Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) is a process to assess whether public budgets do or do not contribute to more equality between women and men, and to introduce changes that promote gender equality.

MoFEC with UN-Women and PANE piloted GRB in Ethiopia. ESAP2 is first agency to make GRB available country-wide by including it in the SA Guide. ESAP2 developed user friendly guidance for grassroots application of GRB. The GRB tool was developed in a participatory, learning-by-doing way, and helps to integrate GRB into other Social Accountability SA tools.

GRB has assisted in creating equal access to pro-poor services, promoting equity, and meeting the needs of vulnerable groups. How? By mainstreaming a gender dimension into all stages of the planning & budget cycle, ensuring that at every step the question is asked: *How does this plan / budget item impact on women and girls, and men and boys?*

6-step GRB implementation guide

- **Step 1:** Gender and budget expertise, plus sector specific focal person(s) often referred to as “**resource mapping**” - identify experts and invite them to take part in the SA process. In practice, this usually involves the Woreda Women, Children and Youth Affairs (WWCYA) office, the Financial Transparency and Accountability (FTA) focal person and staff from the agricultural, water & sanitation, health, education or rural roads office at Woreda level.
- **Step 2: Timing with the budget cycle** – plan the SA process in such a way that citizens can influence budget decision making.
- **Step 3: Gender Equity in service delivery: training and awareness** – provide GRB training to experts identified in step 1 and work with these and frontline service providers to explain gender policies to citizens.
- **Step 4: Gender analysis** - Involving women/girls and men/boys in SA tool application – make gender analysis part of the service assessment. The human resources with gender expertise (identified in step 1) can lead this process.
- **Step 5: Interface meetings/budget forums** – keep gender issues on the agenda in interface meetings and budget forums. The SAIP and Social Accountability Committee have to ensure that the issues prioritized by women and vulnerable groups are given the priority they deserve in the Joint Action Plan.
- **Step 6: Monitoring service improvements for women and for men** – check that service improvements are indeed benefitting women and men as agreed during the interface meeting / budget forums.

GRB contributed to service improvement results

In a significant number of cases, the mainstreaming of GRB principles in SA tools led to the prioritisation of certain actions that addresses inequality in service provision. Specific examples are as follows:

<p style="text-align: center;">Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional beds in health centres • Friendlier service • Longer opening hours • Better access roads • Expanded maternity ward + waiting rooms • Agreement that ambulances will take women back home after giving birth 	<p style="text-align: center;">Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School fence constructed to make school compounds safe • Separate toilets for girls & boys • Encouragement to send girls to school • School dropout prevention • Community discussions on gendered division of labour (water collection, child minding, household chores) which preventing girls from gaining equal access to education
<p style="text-align: center;">Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women have been given training in horticulture, poultry and dairy farming • Women taught how to use different agricultural technologies, incl. irrigation 	<p style="text-align: center;">Rural Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment of girls on way to school, collect water or firewood was considered seriously by whole community, prevention strategies found • In community women prioritised a change of the route for a planned new road: easier to reach the market, the health centre
<p style="text-align: center;">Water and Sanitation</p> <p>Additional water points closer to homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shorter time for girls to fetch water • reducing girls' work load • enhancing girls' school enrolment and time for study 	

Key findings of mainstreaming GRB principles in SA tools:

- ESAP2 has proven that it is possible to mainstream GRB principles into the SA process.
- Future GRB implementation may target council members to highlight key gender issues for government accountability and oversight.
- Systematic investment is needed to institutionalize the GRB capacity of key actors: government planners, budget officers, monitoring & evaluation officers, donor partners and CSOs
- Documenting and sharing GRB experiences will bring greater adoption of the method country-wide