Paper on Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:

Experiences from Tanzania

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PROGRESS IN TANZANIA AS REGARDS GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETS

- ample evidence on steady progress in gender budgeting in Tanzania.
- country's experiences widely quoted in many sources
- government-NGO collaboration approach widely acclaimed as innovative and ground breaking.

Focus in the Pilot ministries

- conduction of training for budget officers
- backstopping the budget officers in preparation of their sector budgets
- development of gender budgeting checklist and mainstreaming tools for enabling the engendering process.

IMPACT, GAPS AND CHALLENGES IN GRB

- Current Guidelines for the Preparation of Medium Term Plan and Budget Framework for 2005/06 to 2007/08 provide continued emphasis on addressing cross cutting issues. The guidelines instruct the following:
 - Carrying out capacity building programmes for core personnel dealing with gender.
 - Promoting credit facilities which cater for women economic development needs.
 - Sensitising decision makers in gender matters at district and regional levels.

National Minimum Standards

- Additional challenges to GRB include the funding mechanisms in allocation of resources in Tanzania, especially the inadequate operation of the National Minimum Standards. More closely, this allocation criterion has revealed the following observations:
- Vertical and horizontal allocation of resources
- Scant data on own sources at local government level,
- apparent non-transparent mechanisms, also impede scrutiny.
- role in decentralization is still shrouded with ambiguity, and central government domination.
- Financial management, accountability and transparency are largely below par.
- Approaches to allocation of resources is highly conditional to size and distribution and is therefore determined in ad hoc fiscal fashion.

FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR NATIONAL MACHINERIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

- For the present budget year, the ministry has been allocated 10.4 Billion shillings [or 0.00214% of the total budget] as compared to 10.9 Billion shillings in the previous year [or 0.00179% of the total budget].
- annual disbursements to all districts through its Women Development Fund [WDF], wherein each district receives an average 8 million shillings (approximately USD \$ 6400) annually.

ROLE WOMEN ORGANISATIONS PLAY IN THE GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING PROCESS

- TGNP organises consultative discussions and meetings with more than 30 FemAct members.
- Updating the GBI strategy and continued facilitation of responsive and coalition joint activities.
- Through its Sub-Programme 2 on Activism, Lobbying and Coalition Building, TGNP has continued to organise and promote advocacy work around gender budgeting, HIV/AIDS, GBV, anti-water privatisation, and post election violence.

CRITERIA USED FOR DEFINING AN EFFECTIVE GRB PROCESS

- through definition issued by TGNP,
 - Seeks to "actively target resources and services to improve the quality of life for the most marginalised women, men and youth."
 - Attempts to "cushion people especially poor men and women against social adversity."
 - Takes "a wider view of poverty by noting that it is more than lack of income."
 - Focuses on "increasing income as well as improving access to other resources."
- through the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission.

MEASURING PROGRESS AND IMPACT FOR GRB

- Budget Tracking with selected IGNs and outreach groups.
- Organisation of budget analysis sessions on the 2007/08 budget session. Two GDSS sessions were held with more than 259 participants - 176 being women.
- Organisation of joint advocacy and lobbying activities with more than 650 FemAct members and partners on matters such as – GBV and maternal mortality; Beijing +10; Time Use issues; Water, International Women's Day, and HIV/AIDS]. Deputy Minister for Community Development and the Minister for Constitutional Affairs attended some of these sessions.
- Organisation of feedback sessions on findings of Time Use Survey. This focused on cleaning the data and strengthening analytical skills on the concept of care economy.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR FINANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- Girls Secondary Education Support Programme (GSES) has been established by the Ministry of Education & Vocational Training in order to support more than 2980 girls benefited between 1998 and 2002.
- Female Undergraduate Scholarship Program.
- Pre-Entry University Programmes to promote more girls into joining courses in science, engineering, technology, economics and statistics.
- Complementary Basic Education in Tanzania (COBET).

- Standardization and popularization of tools used in gender disaggregated beneficiary assessment of service delivery and budget priorities in the piloted MDA Ministries.
- Annual follow-up and scrutiny of gender aware medium term macroeconomic policy framework through the PER and TAS forums.
- Yearly review of gender aware policy evaluation of public expenditures with the Ministry of Finance through the Ministry's programme performance budgeting system.

- Regularized scrutiny of gender aware budget statements, especially in: women's priority public services such as health; gender inequality reduction ratios within education, policy making and legislation.
- Additional research on gender disaggregated public expenditure benefit incidence analysis at the local government level within TGNP's IGN networks Districts.
- Producing an annual report on achievements and technical progress in gender budgeting interventions in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and or Planning Commission.

- Inserting gender budgeting as a component in capacity or skills building courses, seminars or workshops at Finance institutions such as the IFM and Business College), planning institutions (Institute of Development Planning and Institute of Rural Development Planning), and for donor funded activities within Tanzania making it part of the agenda in evaluations, assessments and reviews.
- Providing feedback on GBI findings in the researched sectors to reach at least 30% of all MPs, and key government staff or partners.

- Documentation and popularisation of GBI research findings to reach at least 30% of key actors in the researched sectors.
- Identifying new areas or sectors for GBI research at the local government levels and other ministries.

- Conducting training on gender policy and issues of macro-economics to selected FemAct, IGNs and selected community service organisations through training sessions arranged quarterly.
- Organizing GBI training to selected actors in the Ministry of Finance, especially the Revenue section through reaching at least 15 planners and or budget officers.
- Conducting regular working sessions with the National Guideline Team at the Planning Commission to backstop the engendering of the budget guidelines.

- Focusing on demand for public services
- Engaging GBI interventions at national, district and local levels by focusing on health, water, governance, and partner local government districts - IGN linked.
- Continued collective engagement for collective responses on electoral system and number of women in political and public leadership.