

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING AND DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES

NGOCC - Zambia's Experiences

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Presentation Outline...

- ❑ About NGOCC
- ❑ Some statistics
- ❑ Towards inclusive budget
- ❑ Looking into Gender Responsive Budgeting
- ❑ Some challenges in Gender Budgeting advocacy
- ❑ Must DOs for governments
- ❑ Benefits of gender budgeting



INTRODUCTION

- NGOCC formed 32 years and membership at 98 (CBOs 54 and NGOs 44) to facilitate networking, advocacy and capacity building in the field of gender and development nationally and internationally
- Influential voice in advocating for the implementation of gender programs and promoting gender mainstreaming at all levels.
- NGOCC and the gender budgeting journey – 2002 to inform its advocacy on the budget towards ending gender inequalities and mitigating poverty which currently stands at 55% mostly impacting on women and children.
- Now progressing to local level analysis of policy consistency and tracking of resource allocations to public service delivery



Some statistics for Zambia...

- Average 4-5% growth rate driven mainly by mining sector and expansion of industrial and service activities in urban areas
- Rising debt stock – above 40%
- \$1.4bm debt repayment annually - almost equivalent to health and education budgets at \$1.bm
- Increasing domestic resource mobilization to 29% from informal sector and transport amid burden of subsidy removal on electricity and fuel
- Individual tax still tops at 37.5%
- Poverty at 55% , rural poverty at 70%, extreme poverty for Female Headed Households at 60.4%. 90% Zambia's food grown by rural women populations
- Spending on health and education low at 9.5% and 16% respectively



Towards Inclusive budget...

- Budget - one of the key planning and resource allocation instruments of the Government that effect citizens' lives
- So far, remains gender blind despite existing and visible inequalities and inequities between women and men in Zambia. 70% going to emoluments while 30% goes to service delivery!
- Hence for any budget to respond to the unique needs of women and men gender should be taken as a cross-cutting issue that must be considered in all areas of planning, execution and evaluation while at the same time specific strategies and interventions need to be prioritized within the poverty reduction programs.



Looking into Gender Budgeting...

- Realization that as long as budgets do not take into consideration the differences in the gender roles and responsibilities, gender needs, interests and opportunities, they become tools of perpetuating the gender inequalities.
- NGOCC stepping in to ensure gender sensitive and equitable resource allocation and advocacy for engendering macroeconomic policy and subsequently delivery of public services.
- It is a fact that gender budgeting ensures funds are allocated so as to improve the position of women, who are the most marginalized with regard to accessing basic social services, hence contributing to gender equality.



Looking into Gender Budgeting...

- So far NGOCC work on gender responsive budget has shown how:
 - vulnerabilities can be reduced, e.g. girl child retention challenges in schools, (Zambia program of “Keeping Girls in Schools”) reproductive health and menstrual hygiene, (Zambia committed to distributing free sanitary towels to all vulnerable girls especially in rural areas) water and sanitation, school feeding programs,
 - abilities can be strengthened (e.g. Bursary accessibility by less advantaged learners, government skills development that responds to industry skills requirements, Re-entry policy for girls,)



Looking into Gender Budgeting...

- equal access to opportunities can be ensured (e.g. financial products targeting women entrepreneurs, land access and control by women through land audit – determining who owns what land? who is accessing agric machinery? etc).
- Such interventions would effectively fight poverty, diseases, strengthen the social infrastructure and hence contribute to the attainment of gender equality at all levels.



Some Challenges in Gender Budgeting advocacy...

- Difficulties in accessing information from government departments and spending agencies – No “Access to Information” law
- Inadequate skill sets within government planning departments to design gender specific interventions – some training program by Ministry of Gender still inadequate
- Slow implementation of policies and proposed reforms aimed at ensuring adherence to expenditure plans and minimize financial losses
- Limited involvement of communities in budget planning and execution e.g. Zambia’s Citizens Budget still not consistently produced to ease engagement with communities – much work left for CSOs



Must DOs for governments going forward...

- Social safety nets should be safeguarded in order to reduce poverty levels and high income and gender inequalities beyond high expenditure allocations towards public order and safety.
- Support value addition through R&D which is critical in promoting economic diversification and improve quality of agriculture for national and household food security that will improve welfare of vulnerable in society.
- Agric focus should be on what crops are being supported, who is targeted, what skill sets are available. Need to review processes and procedures of access – Zambia now has adopted “Beneficiary Farmer Selection” mechanism.



Must DOs for governments going forward...

- Embark on comprehensive tax reforms and broad based high value employment creation that will allow for growth in tax revenue collection beyond the 20% few payers in formal sector.
- Tap more into taxing key economic activities such as construction of high value property businesses and mining sector through progressive mineral royalty taxes.
- A positive for Zambia is the move to address tax evasion from big investments and discontinuing tax holidays.



Benefits of Gender Budgeting...

- **Gender Budgeting:**
 - Ensures expenditure benefits those who need it most and improves transparency and accountability
 - Can be used to report on progress with government commitments to democracy, equitable economic development and women's rights and equality
 - Strengthens monitoring initiatives by citizens
 - Provides information and viable policy alternatives to challenge discrimination, inefficiencies and public accountability



Benefits of Gender Budgeting...

- Recognizes ways in which women can contribute to the economy and how to address the needs of the poorest and powerless
- ensures that public service delivery is in sync with related policy statements to move from theory to practice
- Enhances gender awareness, disaggregation and analysis of policies and budget at appraisal, assessment, implementation and evaluation stages
- Provides space for governments to work with civil society

