



Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative (GRBI)

Quarterly Progress Report (Jan- March) 2006



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1. OVERVIEW

Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative project has been initiated with the technical and financial support of the UNDP and its cost sharing donors. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Finance Department, Punjab. The project aims to:

- a. Develop skills to prepare, review and analyze budgets using the gender lens;
- b. Promote policy and resource allocation with a gender perspective; and
- c. Build advocacy skills of GOP and civil society organizations for gender budgeting.

The total cost of the project is \$1.044 M for two and a half years

Following is a brief result oriented description of various activities performed under different stages to achieve project outputs during the 1st quarter of financial year 2006.

2. PROGRESS AGAINST PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Output No. 1: Government spending addresses the needs of women and men and attends especially to the needs of the poor

Results Achieved:

2.1 Raise Awareness and build consensus (Stage 1)

In order to build consensus on Gender Responsive Budgeting, the GRBI project has entered into a **strategic alliance with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) Secretariat**. As part of supporting PRSP secretariat in developing PRSP II document, GRBI developed a series of papers which include:

- 1) How gender-responsive budgeting can contribute to the PRSP
- 2) PRSP - Monitoring Indicators for Gender
- 3) PRSP - MDG and Gender

The first paper describes the similarities and complementarities between GRB and PRSP approach. It makes an argument of further utilizing GRB for an effective and all encompassing poverty reduction strategy. The second paper assess the gender indicators as given in the PRSP document and comments on the level of utility of each indicator and suggests further indicators which need to be included. The third paper highlights the gaps from a gender perspective in the proposed methodology (to be

used by PRSP Secretariat) which was presented in the MDG costing training in Islamabad.

These papers would assist in the development of PRSP II document in a more gender sensitive manner and would facilitate in institutionalizing the process of GRB comprehensively in the government processes.

The **Annual Progress Report 2005** was printed and circulated to all stakeholders as a means to raise awareness on the current activities and progress in the area of gender responsive budgeting.

Output No. 2: Budgets reviewed and analyzed through a gender lens, undertake a sector specific situation analysis in order to better understand the contribution and needs of women in the national economy

Results Achieved:

2.2 Training in Gender Budgeting for the stakeholders (Stage 2)

For capacity building the project approach is to impart trainings to targeted groups for a particular GRB tool which they are expected to make use for specific purpose.

In order to train master trainers on Gender Budget Statement, a **two-day TOT on Gender Budget Statement** was held in LUMS Lahore, which was facilitated by Ms. Debbie Budlender. The specific aim of this workshop was to train those who would afterwards assist civil servants in the three focus departments of the Initiative – namely, Health, Education and Population Welfare – in preparing gender budget statements. Participants included focal persons from the three provincial departments, representatives of the provincial Finance and Planning Departments, representatives of the Initiative's two pilot districts namely, Rajanpur and Gujrat, and members of civil society organizations.



The TOT was a determined attempt to prepare a pool of trainers who can well understand the concept and modalities of GBS and have the potential to get GBS prepared by pilot sector government departments. Various formats were discussed and a sample GBS was prepared through group discussions and participations.

The TOT was particularly helpful in practical demonstrations of the way towards making a sample gender budget statement. The selection of suitable format through consensus, brain storming on causes, consequences and solutions for the particular gender problems in pilot sectors were some of the creative contributions by the participants which brought conceptual clarity regarding replication of this exercise during actual making of gender budget statement during coming months.

2.3 Gender Analysis of the priority sector (Stage 3)

The **Gender Aware Beneficiary Assessment (GABA) survey** (being undertaken for pilot districts of Rajanpur and Gujrat) is a key GRB research tool which aims at collecting and analyzing the opinions of men and women on how far current forms of public investment and public service delivery meet their needs and how far current patterns of public expenditure accord with their priorities.

After out-sourcing of the conduct of survey to CRCP (Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan) at the end of last year, a meeting was scheduled with the key planner of the organization at federal project office. Various issues regarding scope of survey and methodology were discussed mutually. It was observed that the CRCP team would require persistent technical inputs from the project at every level of activity to give a quality product.

A **half-day Focus Group Discussion to review ongoing Gender Aware Beneficiary Assessment Survey** was arranged by GRBI Punjab at Islamabad which was attended by the provincial and federal project management teams along with Ms

Debbie Budlender and the representatives of CRCP. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the comments made by the GRBI experts on strategy paper and draft instruments; and to improve and evolve a consensus between GRBI and CRCP on the overall approach, methodology and instruments submitted by CRCP. The meeting resulted in better and harmonized strategy for implementation of the activity aimed at seeking a quality output.

The project commissioned a paper titled '**Data Requirements of Gender Responsive Budgeting in Pakistan**'. The paper describes, (a) the needs in terms of data for GRB reporting purposes; (b) the relevant data sources currently existing in Pakistan, or planned for the near future; and (c) presents matrices for the three pilot sectors showing where indicators already exist, and where there are gaps. The focus of the exercise was on documents which will need to be prepared by government officials as part of gender-responsive budgeting. In particular, the concern whether adequate data exist in Pakistan to enable government officials in the three pilot sectors of education, health and population welfare (i) to respond to budget call circulars as these are adapted to reflect gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) and (ii) to draw up gender budget statements for key (sub) programs. The document would assist in the finalizing a set of output indicators for the proposed amended MTBF Call Circular.

Output 3: Civil society and government partnership promotes transparency in the determination of government priorities and in public spending

Results Achieved:

2.4 Review of Research (Stage 4)

In order to move in a methodical manner and as stipulated in the project document, a **Strategic Plan for dissemination of research and analysis** has been developed. The plan individually takes into account each of the GRB tools which are being currently used by the project as well as those which are planned to be employed. It suggests various means, keeping in view the target groups, to be used for dissemination of research and analysis. The Plan would go a long way in benefiting the project in effective review, propagation and circulation of its research outputs.

2.5 Advocacy Activities (Stage 5)

Similarly, a **Strategic Plan for GRB advocacy** has been prepared. It identifies various instruments which can be employed for the purpose of promoting GRB. It is important that a comprehensive research-based advocacy is carried out to strengthen the gender budgeting process. The Plan would support in undertaking those activities in an organized and efficient manner.

Draft policy briefs on Gender Aware Policy Appraisal (GAPA) have been developed based on the three finalized GAPA studies. The Policy Briefs outline the key policy elements and recommendations of each study. The brief would help in dissemination of the findings of the GAPA studies and help in advocating the cause of GRB. The briefs would be printed and disseminated during the next quarter

After the signing of contract for maintenance, the **GRBI website has been upgraded** to include a section on 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs) which answers all basic queries regarding the concept of gender responsive budgeting and about the GRBI project. This addition would support advocacy of GRB concept in a user-friendly manner.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Output: Strengthened Monitoring and Management Capacities

Results Achieved:

3.1 Linkages/Collaboration

The Commonwealth is one of the leading international voices on gender equality. The **Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec)** has been extensively involved in gender responsive budgeting work in many countries. After due discussions with Gender Unit/GRBI, ComSec has decided in principle to collaborate with Gender Unit/GRBI to undertake specific activities in the Education sector in the province of Sindh.

After a meeting with **Social Policy Development Center (SPDC)**, it has been agreed that SPDC will incorporate gender budgetary analysis in their regular post budget annual publication. For the first year the scope would be on one sector which would be expanded during the coming years. Moreover, SPDC agreed to become part of peer review exercises to be conducted on the outcome of various research tools adopted by the GRBI

As part of an approach to share resources and to extend support to sister gender projects, written suggestions for incorporation of gender aspect in social sector PC I, as prepared by Ms. Debbie Budlender, were shared with the **Gender Mainstreaming in the Planning Division/Departments** project.

Similarly, as a result of synergies with the another gender project **Women Political School**, the concept material on GRB has been incorporated in their training manual for women councilors which would help in awareness raising at the local level.

A briefing on GRB was arranged by Gender Unit, UNDP for the **INGAD** members. NPM GRBI gave a presentation on the progress of the project while Ms. Debbie Budlender discussed the preliminary findings of the GAPA studies. The occasion helped in taking on board various donor agencies working on gender issues.

3.2 Annual Audit

The project remained engaged in assisting the conduct of annual audit from during the month of March. As a result of following laid-down procedures and codal formalities along with proper maintenance of record there were very few minor observations for both the federal and provincial offices, The result was reflected through least audit observations of minor nature on which management response was satisfactory and most of the observations were dropped.

4. CHALLENGES/RISKS

4.1 During the Quarter

As per initial deliberations with the Federal Bureau of Statistics, the Time Use Survey was expected to start during the first quarter of 2006. However, due to issues disbursement mechanism of funds and various administrative problems raised by FBS, initiation on Time Use Survey was delayed.

4.2 Future Challenges

Since the project outputs require amendments in governmental guidelines and formats of its budgetary instructions such as Budget Call Circular as well as introduction of Gender Budget Statement, the departmental inertia and status quo may become a hindrance

The capacity of the public, private and NGO sector to implement GRB research agenda is quite limited posing various constraints.

Need for coordination among projects with overlapping agenda

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	DONOR	ADVANCE REQUESTED BY GRBI FEDERAL	EXPENDITURE 1ST QUARTER GRBI-FEDERAL	ADVANCE REQUESTED BY GRBI PUNJAB	EXPENDITURE 1ST QUARTER GRBI--PUNJAB	TOTAL EXPENDITURE 1ST QUARTER (FEDERAL & PUNJAB)
Awareness Raising	SDC & NOR	7,219.00	7,155.85	4,000.00	-	7,155.85
Material Development	SDC & NOR	-	-	-	-	-
Stakeholder Training in GRB	SDC & NOR	21,596.00	14,596.00	5,863.00	2,894.49	17,490.49
Review of Tools on Gender Analysis	SDC	100.00		9,019.00	759.68	759.68
Review of Research Reports (STNC + 5 Seminars)		-	0.00		-	-
Advocacy Activities (STNC)		-			-	-
Construction of GRB Website	SDC & NOR	-	167.93	1,000.00	-	167.93
Advocacy and Training Material Development		-	-	1,000.00	-	-
SUB TOTAL PROGRAM COST		28,915	21,919.78	20,882.00	3,654.17	25,573.95
Admin Cost (Salaries)	SDC & NOR	14,028.00	13,930.10	6,435.00	6,193.06	20,123.16
Equipment	SDC & NOR	-	321.08	500.00	-	321.08
Sundries	SDC & NOR	2,559.00	3,097.01	3,292.00	1,625.39	4,722.40
Travel	NOR	1,069.00	2,552.02	3,651.00	921.92	3,473.94
SUB TOTAL ADMIN COST		17,656	19,900.21	13,878.00	8,740.37	28,640.58
GRAND TOTAL		46,571.00	41,819.99	34,760.00	12,394.54	54,214.53

	Advance	Expenditure
FEDERAL	46,571.00	41,819.99
PUNJAB	34,760.00	12,394.54
TOTAL	81,331.00	54,214.53

Progress against Planned Activities - 2005

Planned Activity	Responsible Party (Fed/Prov)	Status	Remarks
News Letter	Fed	Postponed	Postponed till next quarter
Awareness/Advocacy Strategy (Strategic Plan)	Fed	Completed	
Publication of Gender aware Policy Appraisal Studies	Fed	Under process	The reports are with printer and would be printed shortly
Study ' Data requirements for GRB in Pakistan'	Fed	Completed	
Benefit Incidence Analysis	Fed	Postponed	Will be carried out as and when FBS releases micro data on PSLSMS
Up-gradation/Maintenance of Website	Fed	Completed	
Study Tour	Fed/Prov	Postponed	On the request of the host country
Technical assistance on Gender Budget Statement etc (by International consultant)	Fed/Prov	Completed	
Awareness Raising Workshop for Parliamentarians	Prov	Postponed	Postponed to coincide with the visit of Debbie Budlender (Resource person)
2-day TOT for incorporation of gender perspective in budgetary publications	Prov	Held	
Beneficiary Assessment survey	Prov	On-going	Will continue till third quarter
Half-day review of ongoing Beneficiary assessment survey	Prov	Held	

Additional Activities	Responsible Party (Fed/Prov)	Status	Remarks
Paper 'How gender-responsive budgeting can contribute to the PRSP'	Fed	Completed	
Paper ' PRSP - Monitoring Indicators for Gender'	Fed	Completed	
Paper ' PRSP - MDG and Gender'	Fed	Completed	
Suggestions for incorporation of gender aspect in social sector PC I	Fed	Completed	