



# **Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative (GRBI)**

## **Quarterly Progress Report (July- September) 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 namely, SDC and Royal Norwegian Embassy. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Finance Department, Government of 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 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 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)***

The project's first **News Bulletin**, covering the period from January to June 2006, was published and widely disseminated. It contained among others project's successes and achievements till 2005, ongoing and undertaken activities during 2006 (till June), synergies and collaborative efforts with other agencies and list of documents/papers produced by GRBI. The wide-spread circulation of the news bulletin facilitates the project's efforts for enhanced awareness on gender responsive budgeting.

Media personnel are key stakeholders in the gender responsive budgeting process because of their important role in mobilizing public opinion. To familiarize the media personnel with gender responsive budgeting concepts, issues, scope of project and role of media, an **awareness raising session for Media** (Media Dialogue) was organized in September 2006 in Islamabad. About fifteen to twenty media personnel attended the session which included representatives from The Nation, The Post, Daily Jang, APP, SANA News, Hum TV and Royal TV etc.



The session covered key aspects on gender responsive budgeting such as its scope, research tools and utility for effective planning. Project staff presented, inter alia, overview of the project, findings of Gender Aware Policy Appraisal studies of the three sectors of Health, Education and Population Welfare. The role of media in advocating for gender sensitive resource allocation was also highlighted. The participants took enthusiastic part in the discussion session. Some of media personnel voiced their concern regarding the overlapping work in terms of gender analysis. It was explained to them that the gender analysis conducted by GRBI would be used for advocating re- prioritization of budgetary resources. The media representatives, in the end, ensured their support for the GRB initiative.

**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)***

There is no activity to report under this head directly by the project. However, Citizen Rights Commission of Pakistan (CRCP), the firm hired to carry out the Beneficiary Assessment survey, conducted a **training of field staff/enumerators for the Beneficiary Assessment survey**. The CRCP conducted two

separate 2-day trainings for selected field enumerators for Gujrat and Rajanpur districts. The aim of training was to provide comprehensive knowledge related to various aspects of the gender aware beneficiary assessment survey. The project team participated and conducted few of the sessions to explain the context of survey within the overarching framework of gender responsive budgeting.

### *2.3 Gender Analysis of the priority sector (Stage 3)*

**Gender Aware Benefit Incidence Analysis** aims at estimating the distribution of budget resources among males and females. Benefit incidence can be calculated as the net value of the unit costs multiplied by the number of units utilized by women and men, respectively. Through this, the extent to which men and women, girls and boys benefit from expenditure on publicly provided services can be analyzed. After obtaining micro data from Federal Bureau of Statistics on Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey (PSLSMS), work on Benefit Incidence Analysis of Education sector has been initiated in-house.

The Budget Call Circular (BCC) for the year 2006-07 issued by the Finance Department, Government of the Punjab for the provincial government departments for the first time incorporated certain amendments to provide gender disaggregated information on employment related budget estimates as well as gender patterns in public sector. Finance Department, Government of the Punjab has already received the responses to the amended Budget Call Circular from line departments. Work on **Analysis of sex-disaggregated data** collected through amended Call Circular 2006-07 has been contracted out and initiated and the study will provide analysis of public sector employment (by scale, remuneration, type etc) from a gender perspective.

The work on the **preparation stage of Time Use Survey (TUS)** was completed during the quarter. As initially envisaged that the time use survey would be conducted nationally covering 20,000 households from both rural and urban areas of Pakistan randomly selected from all four provinces. This comprehensive coverage would allow for exercises such as valuation of unpaid care work and construction of satellite accounts. It would also provide more reliable information for policy making. A well-defined sampling framework currently in use by FBS for conducting nationally representative surveys would be employed for the Time Use survey. Moreover, the survey would sample only two people aged ten years and above per household to avoid

placing too great a burden on larger households. The choice of the two people to be interviewed would be determined by random sampling. The results would subsequently be weighted by age group and sex to correct for any bias introduced by this household-level sampling.

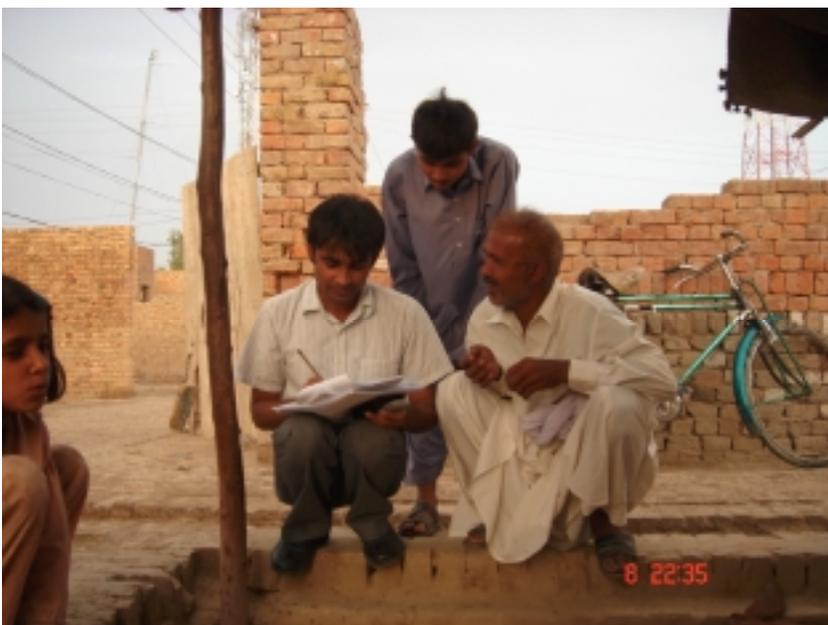
In depth discussions were held on the questionnaire and coding list and index. A detailed work plan was prepared and finalized with the input of the project. A training manual for the field enumerators/supervisors, based on the international training manual was also completed. The list of the documents finalized is as under:

- TUS Questionnaire
- Coding List and Index.
- Category-wise Activities List
- Training Manual for Field Enumerators/Supervisors.
- Detailed Action Plan.
- Sample List/Plan
- Tabulation Plan

The pre-testing/pilot of the questionnaire was carried out at the field level to determine the quality and adequacy of the responses. The gaps/shortfalls were taken into account and the questionnaire was revised accordingly.

The above work was carried out with the technical input and feedback from the GRBI project as well as from the international consultant. With the completion of the above work, Time Use Survey (TUS) unit of Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) is now ready to initiate the fieldwork which would start after the Ramazan.

After the pre-testing of the gender aware beneficiary assessment survey questionnaire and subsequent modifications in the questionnaire, the **field work for Beneficiary Assessment survey was concluded** during the quarter in the pilot districts of Gujrat and Rajanpur. The survey was carried out by a team of experienced enumerators after receiving further training from CRCP and project staff for the said purpose. Due to its vital implications on gender aspects of public services delivery mechanism steps were taken to ensure the quality of the survey. For instance, an equal number of male and female field enumerators have been divided into teams consisting both male and female enumerators to conduct interviews of the person of the same sex. These teams are constantly monitored and supervised by highly experienced and gender sensitized field supervisors. Several computer based data consistency checks were applied to gauge the reliability of the estimates



The report on the survey is under preparation by CRCP and would be submitted in November to be followed by dissemination of the findings.

A **Gender Budget Statement (GBS)** is an accountability tool which a government uses to inform parliamentarians and members of civil society about its initiatives for advancing gender equality. The tool is linked to the budget because unless adequate money is allocated to implement policies, programs and projects, they will not be effective. The on-going work on the Gender Budget Statements (GBS) was finalized during the quarter for the sectors of Education, Health and Population Welfare at the provincial level.

**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)***

No action to report during this quarter under this head

***2.5 Advocacy Activities (Stage 5)***

The ‘**Annual Budget Review 2006**’ of **Social Policy Development Centre (SPDC)** has incorporated gender aspect in its analysis due to the efforts of the project. As the ‘Annual Budget Review’ is a regular annual publication of SPDC which critically analyze the current budget, incorporation of gender aspect would go a long way in practice of looking at the budgets

from a gender lens by an independent research institute

As part of this quarter's work plan to conduct **meetings/discussions with relevant stakeholder** for the propagation and advancement of GRB work, the following meetings were held:

- As a result of meeting with Director General **National Institute of Public Administration**, Lahore, NIPA has agreed to include one hour GRB session in their regular 3/4 months Advance Management Course. This Advance course is a compulsory course for all government officials for getting promotion from grade 19 to grade 20. The first session would be conducted by GRBI, thereafter, NIPA's own staff, trained in GRBI's Training of Trainers (TOT) would carry it on for future courses.
- A meeting was held with **MNA/ Chairperson Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women Development**. It was tentatively agreed upon that at the time of the next budget session, GRBI would provide research outputs (in the forms of briefs etc) and any technical assistance that is required so that related policy and budget issues, as highlighted by research, could be brought up and discussed in the budget session.
- Meeting with **Shirkat Gah** led to an understanding that Shirkat Gah will provide peer review of the draft report on the preliminary results of the findings of the BA survey. Further, it also agreed to utilize the findings of Beneficiary Assessment survey for advocacy purpose around gender issues.

In order to highlight the activities that can be undertaken by NGOs, a small booklet titled ***GRB: Opportunities for NGOs*** was produced by the project during the last quarter which was published and disseminated during this quarter. This booklet provides ideas for activities that CSOs can undertake in relation to gender responsive budgeting, however, it is not intended as a toolkit. Instead, it provides ideas that organizations can develop and modify to make it country specific and in support of their ongoing work.

The **GRBI website** has been further updated to reflect the current activities. The recent reports and publication have been uploaded to provide comprehensive access to the users.

### 3.MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

#### **Output: Strengthened Monitoring and Management Capacities**

##### **Results Achieved:**

The **Project Steering Committee Meeting** was held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2006 under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary Finance. The meeting was attended by majority of the notified members which include representatives of Ministries of Education, Health Population Welfare and Women Development, Economic Affairs Division, NRSP, Planning and Development Division and UNDP in addition to the project staff.

The Committee was briefed on the up to-date progress and the Annual Work Plan, which already had the anticipatory approval of Finance Secretary, was formally approved. The Committee was also given a presentation on the proposed gender sensitive amendments in the MTBF Budget Call Circular. The committee gave a go-ahead signal for processing the amendments. The committee was also apprised of the proposed GRB intervention in the province of Sindh with the financial support of Commonwealth Secretariat.

After two meetings with Additional Finance Secretary (Budget) and discussions with JS (Budget) and DS (Budget), AFS (Budget) agreed in principle, in writing on the file, to incorporate the proposed **gender sensitive amendments in the federal MTBF Budget Call Circular**. The Call Circular which is issued in November will, hopefully, include the relevant amendments. Similarly, at the provincial level, the budget wing of the Finance Department has agreed to include further comprehensive gender sensitive amendments in the MTBF Budget Call Circular.

Govt. of Sindh approved and circulated the minutes of meeting of GRBI/UNDP with ACS GoSindh for the proposed **GRB intervention in Sindh through Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec)** which kick started the preparation work for the Sindh GRB intervention. Detailed work plan with budget was prepared and agreed upon by UNDP and ComSec. All the concerned departments in Sindh i.e. Education Department, Finance Department and District Government Jacobabad, Sindh have nominated focal persons as was required under the approved minutes of meeting. A draft Cost Sharing agreement has also been prepared and which is to be signed soon to formalize the agreement between the UNDP and ComSec

Spot **field monitoring of the ongoing Beneficiary Assessment survey** was carried out in the district of Gujrat by National Expert GRBI. The key field activities including geographical

coverage, selection of respondent and interview process were observed and found to be satisfactory.

GRBI was one of the three projects to give a briefing on the project activities and future plans on **Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) Partner's Day** to all the projects funded by SDC. The project activities evoked lively interest and questions and debate.

A new **Provincial Project Manager (PPM), Punjab** has been selected after the departure of previous PPM for higher studies. The PPM would be soon joining the project.

#### **4. CHALLENGES/RISKS**

##### ***4.1 During the Quarter***

The response from the provincial line departments on the draft Gender Budget Statement was much delayed. There still needs to be more ownership on the initiative at the departmental level. The provincial office is required to remain in constant touch with the line departments for a foreseeable future and conduct refresher courses.

The pace of progress by the Citizen Rights Commission of Pakistan (CRCP), the firm hired to carry out the Beneficiary Assessment survey, was slower than the proposed time lines agreed at the start of the survey. Resultantly, the final output has been delayed.

##### ***4.2 Future Challenges***

The lack of capacity/understanding of gender issues by the officers who would be filling the submissions to the amended Budget Call Circular may impede the required comprehensive analysis.

Lack of ownership by various concerned ministries and departments and their relevant sections can make their full participation as well as the acceptance of the research analysis an uphill task.

## FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2006 (July-September)

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	DONOR	ADVANCE REQUESTED BY GRBI FEDERAL	EXPENDITURE 3 <sup>rd</sup> QUARTER GRBI-FEDERAL	ADVANCE REQUESTED BY GRBI PUNJAB	EXPENDITURE 3 <sup>rd</sup> QUARTER GRBI-PUNJAB	TOTAL EXPENDITURE 3 <sup>rd</sup> QUARTER
Awareness Raising	SDC & NOR	268.00	2,448.58	100	-	2,448.58
Material Development	SDC & NOR	-	-	-	-	-
Stakeholder Training in GRB	SDC & NOR	19,981.00	- 638.87	14,985.00	-	-638.87
Review of Tools on Gender Analysis	SDC	00	1,504.10	24,590.00	-	1,504.10
Nationwide Survey/Review of Research Reports	SDC & NOR	160,600.00	160,170.63	50.00	2,545.50	162,716.13
Construction of GRB Website	SDC & NOR	168.00	-	-	-	-
Advocacy and Training Material Development	SDC	1,961.00	1,538.75	-	-	1,538.75
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR</b>		<b>182,978.00</b>	<b>162,834.73</b>	<b>39,725.00</b>	<b>25,45.50</b>	<b>165,380.23</b>
Admin Cost (Salaries)	SDC & NOR	16,395.00	11,609.43	4,465.00	4,351.66	15,961.09
Equipment	SDC & NOR	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	SDC	2,352.00	2,805.13	1,327.00	571.34	3,376.47
Travel	SDC	2,260.00	2,156.37	1,587.00	15,32.24	3,688.61
<b>TOTAL ADMIN EXPENDITURE FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR</b>		<b>21,007.00</b>	<b>16,570.93</b>	<b>7,379.00</b>	<b>64,55.24</b>	<b>23,026.17</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>203,985.00</b>	<b>179,405.66</b>	<b>47,104.00</b>	<b>9,000.74</b>	<b>188,406.40</b>

Component	GRBI- Federal		GRBI- Punjab		TOTAL	Utilization %
Description	PLEA Account	Direct Payment	PLEA Account	Direct Payment		
<b>Advance Requested</b>	<b>203,985.00</b>		<b>47,104.00</b>		<b>251,089.00</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	179,405.66	8,550.00	9,000.74	4,916.25	<b>201,865.72</b>	<b>80.40</b>

## Progress against Planned Activities 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (July - September 2006)

Planned Activity	Responsible Party (Fed/Prov)	Status	Remarks
News Letter	Fed	Completed	
Media Dialogue	Fed	Held	
In-service training	Fed	Postponed	Postponed till next year on the request of Ministry of Finance
Benefit Incidence Analysis	Fed	On-going	
Time Use Survey (TUS)	Fed	On-going	Preparation stage completed
Payment (50%) to FBS for TUS	Fed	Completed	
Meetings with FBS	Fed	Held	
Field Monitoring of Beneficiary Assessment survey	Fed	Held	
Processing of proposed amendments in MTBF Call Circular	Fed	On-going	Formal approval solicited. Actual implementation is expected in the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter
Printing and Dissemination of Advocacy material	Fed	Completed	
Stakeholders Meetings/focus group consultations ( NIPA, Parliamentary Standing Committee, Shirkat Gah)	Fed	Held	

Project Steering Committee Meeting	Fed	Held	
Briefing on GRB in SDC Partner's Day	Fed	Held	
GRB intervention in Sindh	Fed	On-going	Work plan finalized. Draft agreement prepared
Up-gradation and maintenance of GRBI Website	Fed	On-going	
Awareness Raising through Talk Show	Prov	Postponed	To be undertaken in next quarter
Information/Orientation Seminar for Media	Prov	Postponed	To be undertaken in next quarter
Finalization of Draft Budget Statement	Prov	Completed	
Beneficiary Assessment Survey	Prov	On-going	Fieldwork completed. Draft report is expected next month
Focus Group Meeting with CRCP and other stakeholders	Prov	Postponed	Postponed till next quarter as the draft report is not yet submitted
Analysis of the sex disaggregated data from Punjab's Budget Call Circular	Prov	On-going	Will be completed during next quarter