



## INTRODUCTION



The Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 is an important landmark in the long journey to achieve gender equality and equity. It, inter alia, prescribed effective and practical steps for its attainment. The Beijing Platform for Action called for gender perspective in the budgetary process. Thereafter, gender mainstreaming has become the internationally accepted strategy to achieve gender equality and equity. Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is a means to mainstream gender in public finance.

In Pakistan, gender responsive budgeting was first proposed by the Ministry of Women Development in connection with

Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF). The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) showed its commitment when it stated that “in the longer term, the government will support the use of gender responsive budgeting (GRB) in analyzing the federal, provincial, and district government budgets to determine the extent to which resources are allocated to address gender inequality and the impact of budgetary expenditures on different gender groups.” The Government of Pakistan’s commitment to introduce gender responsive budgeting has been reiterated in the Gender Reform Action Plans (GRAPs) which have been approved recently both at the federal and the provincial levels.

In 2005, the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Department of Finance in Punjab launched the Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative (GRBI) Project with the supported of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and its cost-sharing partners. The GRBI will assist government to develop skills to prepare, review and analyse budgets through a gender lens; promote policy and resource allocation with a gender perspective; and build advocacy skills of the Government of Pakistan and civil society organizations in gender budgeting. Initially the project





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will focus on the health, education and population sectors of the federal budget and the Punjab provincial budget. At the district level, Gujrat and Rajanpur budgets will be the focus of work.

The resource kit has been prepared keeping in view the requirements of stakeholders of gender responsive budgeting in Pakistan. The information relating to specific policies, budget approach, and the budget process therefore describes the situation in Pakistan. However, the information sheets also provide general knowledge information that would be applicable to other countries. In addition, the text boxes describe case studies from different countries to illustrate various aspects of GRB.

*The objectives of the information sheets included in this resource kit are to:*

- *Explain the main concepts and tools of gender responsive budgeting;*
- *Identify various entry points and strategies for integrating the gender perspective in the on-going budgetary reforms in Pakistan;*
- *Identify the main stakeholders to be involved in gender responsive budgeting initiatives and their respective roles; and*
- *Provide best practices and lessons learned from the experiences of other countries.*

