



GRB AS A TOOL TO MONITOR POLICY COMMITMENTS

Gender responsive budgeting is a tool to promote gender equality in general, and to monitor the implementation of government's policy commitments towards gender equality in particular. Pakistan has committed itself to gender equality in several policy documents:

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Pakistan signed CEDAW in 1996 and submitted its first implementation report in 1998. CEDAW has 16 articles and two general recommendations which cover all aspects of life, such as education, employment, and equal access to health care. The two recommendations deal with violence against women.

The National Plan of Action for Women

Following its commitment made at the UN's Fourth World Conference for Women in Beijing, Pakistan prepared the National Plan of Action for Women (NPA) with a 15 years perspective. Launched in August 1998, the NPA covers the following 12 critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing process: Women and Poverty; Education and Training of Women; Women and Health; Violence against Women; Women and Armed Conflict; Women and the Economy; Women in Power and Decision-Making; Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women; Human Rights of Women; Women and the Media; Women and the Environment; and the Girl

Child. In addition, the Pakistan NPA has annexed a special section devoted to the needs of women and girls with disabilities. Each NPA chapter identifies strategic objectives and then suggests specific actions required to meet those strategic needs. In total, the plan encompasses around 180 different actions to be taken.

National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women

The National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women was announced by the President of Pakistan in 2002. The policy contains a number of different activities in three intervention areas:

- *social* empowerment of women (education, health, law and access to justice, violence against women, women in the family and community, and the girl child)
- *economic* empowerment of women (poverty, access to credit, remunerated work, women in the rural economy and informal sector, and sustainable development)
- *political* empowerment of women (power and decision making)

The Gender Reform Actions Plans

The federal and the provincial governments have approved Gender Reform Action Plans (GRAPs) during 2004-05 that include a number of actions to institutionalize gender sensitive analysis and processes for appropriate allocations to gender related policy choices



...grb as a tool to monitor policy commitments

The planned activities under the GRAP focus on the following intervention areas:

- Women's political participation
- Institutional restructuring for more effective gender mainstreaming
- Women's employment in the public sector
- Policies and fiscal reforms
- Capacity development interventions
- Support actions to create an enabling environment

The GRAPs contain a number of reforms in public resource management systems that aim at mainstreaming gender in policy, planning and budgeting.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) is a policy document that entails a comprehensive strategy to reduce poverty in consultation with all stakeholders. It is centered on four main pillars:

- High and broad-based economic growth focusing particularly on the rural economy, while maintaining macroeconomic stability;
- Improving governance and consolidation of devolution;
- Investing in human capital with a renewed emphasis on effective delivery of basic social services; and
- Bringing the poor and vulnerable and backward regions into the mainstream of development, reducing existing inequalities.

In the PRSP it is recognized that effective

poverty reduction is only possible if gender gaps are reduced. Gender issues are mentioned throughout the document, although gender is not thoroughly mainstreamed. A separate chapter devoted to gender focuses on women's economic position and defines gender indicators.

The PRSP explicitly discusses GRB as follows: "[I]n 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 impact of budgetary expenditures on different gender groups. It, however, does not construe separate budget for women."

The Medium Term Development Framework

The macro economic medium term framework for 2004 to 2007 has been substituted by the Medium Term Development Framework (MTDF) 2005-10 in line with the vision 2030 which envisages a developed, industrialized, just and prosperous Pakistan. The MTDF has a comprehensive chapter on women's development. The gender strategy in MTDF has the following features:

- i. Gender to be considered in all development programs and projects;
- ii. Institutional strengthening programs so that government officials have the capacity for gender mainstreaming;
- iii. Consistency in the policy context for women;
- iv. Appointment of gender focal points in all ministries;
- v. Establishment of horizontal and vertical linkages and provision of technical support by the Ministry of Women Development to the gender focal points in other ministries.

