



## GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### What are the Millennium Development Goals?

In September 2000, representatives of the governments of 191 countries adopted the Millennium Declaration that contains the following eight Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by the year 2015.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. **Promote gender equality and empower women**
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Developing a global partnership for development

Eighteen targets and 48 indicators have been developed to measure the progress

of each country in reaching the MDGs.

### Gender equality is a goal in itself and a crosscutting issue

Gender equality and the empowerment of women constitute a goal (number 3) in its own right. The achievement of this goal will be measured by the target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education “preferably by 2005” and in all levels of education no later than 2015. There are four indicators specified, as follows:

1. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
2. Ratio of literate females to males aged 15-24 years
3. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
4. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

## ...gender responsive budgeting and the millennium development goals

In addition, gender equality is a prerequisite for the achievement of all other MDGs as half of the population are females.

### Strategic areas for investments

The UN Millennium Task Force on Gender Equality and Education has identified seven strategic areas that require priority attention:

1. Strengthening opportunities for post-primary education for girls while simultaneously meeting commitments to universal primary education
2. Guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights
3. Investing in infrastructure to reduce women's and girls' time burdens
4. Guaranteeing women's and girls' property and inheritance rights
5. Eliminating gender inequality in employment
6. Increasing women's share of seats in national parliaments and local government bodies
7. Combating violence against girls and women

### Gender needs assessment

Based on the seven strategic areas the Millennium Development Task Force on Gender Equality has developed a methodology to cost the following specific interventions:

- Sector-specific interventions to reach women
- Awareness of rights and services
- Economic and political participation
- Ending violence against women
- System wide interventions

Data on the target population is based on a country's demographic data and the target coverage rates. By combining these data with costs per beneficiary for key interventions the total amount that would be needed for investments in the seven priority areas can be estimated. The gender needs assessment can provide detailed information required for planning and budgeting for public expenditures and could thus be a key input for a policy plan to achieve the MDGs. So far, no gender needs assessment has been carried out for Pakistan. However, it would be a powerful tool for lobbying and advocacy within gender responsive budgeting initiatives.

