



## ADVANTAGES OF GRB

There are several advantages associated with gender responsive budgeting.

### **Monitoring of the achievement of policy goals**

Gender responsive budgeting provides a tool to monitor the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other policy goals in a gender-aware manner.

### **Alleviating poverty more effectively**

Statistics on poverty are usually calculated at the household level and it is therefore not easy to say whether women and girls are more affected by income/consumption poverty than men and boys. However, it is widely acknowledged that women generally fare worse than men with respect to a range of social indicators, and that women and men experience poverty differently and face different constraints in overcoming poverty. Women are also more affected by time poverty than men because they tend to spend much longer than men on unpaid care work. If women's needs and situation are not adequately taken into account, poverty reduction policies risk failure.

### **Enhancing economic efficiency**

Several studies have shown that there is a positive correlation between diminishing gender inequality and higher growth rates. Women's productivity increases disproportionately if their access to information, credit, extension services, inputs, and markets is enhanced and their

time burden is reduced through, for example, investment in labor-saving infrastructure.

### ***The economic benefits of reducing gender inequality***

#### ***Agricultural productivity in Africa***

*"Giving women farmers in Kenya the same level of agricultural inputs and education as men farmers could increase yields obtained by women farmers by more than 20 per cent."*

#### ***Economic growth and education***

*"Everything else being equal, countries in which the ratio of female-to-male enrolment in primary or secondary education is less than 0.75 can expect levels of GNP that are roughly 25 per cent lower than countries in which there is less gender disparity in education."*

#### ***Gender inequality and labour market***

*"If gender inequality in the labour market in Latin America were to be eliminated, not only could women's wages rise by about 50 per cent, but national output could rise by 5 per cent."*

#### ***Gender inequality and the productivity of the next generation***

*"The probability of children being enrolled in school increases with their mother's educational level, and extra income going to mothers has more positive impact on household investments in nutrition, health and education of children than extra income going to fathers."*



## ...advantages of grb

### **Women's time burden and economic growth**

*"Reducing time burden of women could increase householder cash incomes for smallholder coffee and banana growers by 10%, labour productivity by 15% and capital productivity by 44%."*

*Source: Diane Elson (1997), 'Integrating gender issues into national budgetary policies and procedures within the context of economic reform: Some policy options', Preparatory Country Mission to Integrate Gender into National Budgetary Policies and Procedures, London: Commonwealth Secretariat, pp 1-2.*

### **Achieving gender equity/equality**

Achieving gender equity requires equality of outcomes for women and men. This implies the recognition of different needs, preferences and interests, which affect the way women and men benefit from the same policies.

### **Advancement towards the realization of women's rights**

Gender-responsive budgeting attempts to measure the gaps between policy commitments in respect to human and women's rights instruments (including CEDAW), the adequacy of resource allocations, and the outcomes of policies.

### **Achieving good governance**

The process of improving the delivery of goods and services to women, men, girls

and boys in a fair, just, and responsible way is an integral part of the definition of good governance. Good governance also requires a participatory approach to the policy-making process, so that the different perspectives of different groups of citizens, including women, are represented.

### **Enhancing accountability and transparency**

GRB is a powerful tool for highlighting gaps between international commitments (such as those established at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and in national policy documents) and the amount of public spending earmarked for the achievement of benchmarks and targets related to gender equality. GRB necessitates the availability of sex-disaggregated data and the accessibility to information about public expenditure patterns. By tracking how allocated money is spent, GRB increases both accountability and transparency.

### **Assessing budget provision for implementation of gender-related legislation**

*The Gender Advocacy Program, a non-governmental organization (NGO) in South Africa, has carried out a budget analysis of the 1998 Domestic Violence Act. The study found a disjuncture between the provisions of the act, such as special courts for addressing violence against women, and budgetary provisions.*

