

Gender Responsive Budget Initiatives

**Some observations from the
2003 Conference on Feminist Economics
University of West Indies, Barbados
June 27-29**

- 1. What is gender budgeting?**
- 2. Concepts and methodological tools**
- 3. New initiatives: Looking at revenue collection**
- 4. Examples from the Pacific**

GENDER BUDGET INITIATIVES

- Raise awareness of gender issues and impacts of budgets and policies**
- Make governments accountable for their budgetary and policy commitments to gender equality**
- Bring about changes to budgets and economic and fiscal policies**

Gender budget analyses have many commonalities with other equality analyses, however:

- Assessment on an individual as well as on a household basis**
- Account for contribution of unpaid care work**

DIVERSITY OF APPROACHES

- Location

national/regional/local budgets
inside government/ elected assemblies/civil society

- Coverage

whole budgets (rare)/selected areas/departments
expenditure on new programs
revenue

- Budget Cycle Phase

planning/ macroeconomic framework
appraisal
audit
evaluation

LOOKING AT REVENUE

New research initiative by Commonwealth Secretariat

Revenue analysis focuses on:

- Direct/personal income tax**
- Indirect/commodity taxes**
- User fees**

GENDER RESPONSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

- Participatory budgeting initiatives often gender blind**
- Need for safeguards: representation of women in budget committees, special capacity building**

EXAMPLES FROM THE PACIFIC

RETA: Gender and Youth Sensitive Public Expenditure Management (Marshall Islands)

TA: Women's Plan of Action (Fiji)

Gender Sensitive Public Expenditure Management (RMI)

- People-centered approach**
- Inside government model
(coordinated by Ministry of Finance)**

Phase 1

- Review procedures for preparing the budget
- Assess data availability
- Analyze gender roles and responsibilities
- Analyze impact of budget on women and poor
- Capacity building

Phase 2

- Integrating gender perspective into budget allocation

First Lessons Learned

- Lack of sex-disaggregated data**
- External impetus**
- Lack of awareness of civil society groups**
- Difficulties related to PEM process in RMI**

Women's Plan of Action (Fiji)

- to support Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation in its efforts to mainstream gender concerns**
- Gender Audit of:**
 - Ministry of Health**
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement**
- Focus on capacity building, learning by doing, developing strategic plans**

First Successes

2003 budget circular from Ministry of Finance includes request for all ministries to provide an analysis of how proposed budget expenditures impact on women and men