



GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

MAKING BUDGETS MEET WOMEN'S NEEDS

UN Women India supports the National and State Governments prepare their gender budgets. Gender budgets are budgets that plan and meet the needs of women. We have helped prepare gender budgets within sectors such as agriculture, urban development, and village council development

One of the key goals of the Sustainable Development agenda, adopted by governments around the world, including India, is to achieve gender equality by 2030. Tracking a country's public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment is a key indicator of its commitment to gender equality. The amount of money invested in women's interests not only demonstrates government commitment to achieving goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals – gender equality – but is also essential to bringing about equality between women and men, and ensure better lives for women and their families.

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) is a tool that monitors policy commitments related to gender equality to ensure they are adequately reflected in budget allocations. It strengthens the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data for closing gender gaps and increases both accountability and transparency. When budgets are planned according to the differential needs of men and women, they lead to better economic and social outcomes for all.

Gender Responsive Budgeting initiatives can be carried out at the national, state and local levels and may cover the overall budget or selected parts. India adopted this kind of budgeting in 2005-06, with the publication of the Gender Budget Statement. Though there is no law to stipulate the development of these budgets, India now leads the globe on the use of this innovative tool to design and budget projects and schemes through a gender lens.

HOW UN WOMEN IS SUPPORTING GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING IN INDIA

- UN Women conducts research and analysis on the funds allocated to women's interests in the sectors mentioned above. We have worked with the government to integrate this research into training of government officials so they can develop budgets that take account of women's needs
- UN Women also develops customised knowledge products such as sector-specific training manuals, to support the capacity building of officials in those sectors
- In 2015, UN Women worked with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) to produce a Gender Budgeting handbook that is still being used to guide government officials, researchers, and practitioners on budgeting with a gender lens
- UN Women also helps strengthen mechanisms in various Indian states to perform gender analysis, publish a gender budget statement, and collect gender disaggregated data to inform policymaking
- UN Women, as a member of the Broad-Based Committee on Gender Analysis and Gender Budgeting under the Ministry for Women and Child Development
- UN Women convenes dialogues with civil society, academia and policy experts to discuss and assess gender responsive budgeting frameworks
- UN Women is working with the Government of India to develop an e-governance tool that would provide an online learning platform to help government officials analyse and improve transparency and accountability of government departments on implementing their gender budgets

IMPACT OF UN WOMEN'S GRB ADVOCACY

The state of Madhya Pradesh has been publishing an annual Gender Budget Statement since 2007-08 when it adopted gender responsive budgeting. The state committed to making Madhya Pradesh a safe tourism destination for women in 2021. The Department of Tourism is collaborating with UN Women to strengthen the Department's ongoing efforts to make tourist sites safe and violence-free for women and girls. 'Safety of women in Tourist places' is reflected in Part A of the state's Gender Budget Statement with an increased allocation between 2021-22¹ and 2022-23². This allocation, based on robust budget analysis, will improve women's lives by creating more jobs in the tourist industry. This is a direct result of government allocation that recognises the needs of women and actively invests in sectors that are likely to benefit women.

The Government of Kerala adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting in 2008 and introduced gender responsive allocations in the budget. However, the attempt to include gender in the

1 Gender Budget 2021-22, Vo.6, p.18 <https://openbudgetsindia.org/dataset/e14099af-d040-4501-96eb-da3d8fe2066f/resource/f23b8d6f-fdf7-4cab-9edc-16be289c8487/download/volume---6---gender-budget.pdf>

2 <https://finance.mp.gov.in/budget>, Gender Budget 2022-23 Vol.6 p.22

budget process began in earnest during the 11th Five-year plan (2007-2012). The state reaffirmed its commitment to Gender Budgeting during the 13th plan. Because of this commitment, 10 per cent³ of total state plan outlay is mandatorily used for women-specific schemes. Total plan allocations for women in the Gender Budget Statement of Kerala have increased from 11.4 per cent in 2017-18⁴ to 20.9 per cent in 2022-23⁵, showing the impact of gender analysis and allocations within the budget. The government has also taken various initiatives to digitally empower women through the Kerala Start Up Mission, IT Mission, Kudumbashree. Through specific allocations to women's needs in the budget, the government has created spaces for women in the non-IT sector, too. The state's gender budgeting exercise, with its particular emphasis on creating jobs for women, has paid off to some extent as the urban female workforce participation rate increased from 22.1 in 2017-18 to 23.4 percent in 2021.⁶

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TOWARDS GRB

Andhra Pradesh and Manipur published their first gender budget statement in 2021-22 and Himachal Pradesh published its first gender budget statement in 2022-23

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

UN Women works with the Indian government at the national, state and local levels to advance gender responsive budgeting as well as with experts from civil society, academia and media, to ensure that GRB frameworks are shaped by evidence, best practices and lived experiences of people across genders.

Since 2015, UN Women India has financial support for this work through ADB, Royal Norwegian Embassy and Ford Foundation. While ADB's current contribution of USD 1,534,400 is supporting the GRB work in four states, Ford Foundation funding of USD 2,50,000 supported the GRB work in India and Sri Lanka during 2017-2019. Earlier in 2015, and also during 2016-17, funding of USD 1,18,818 from Government of Norway and USD 4,00,000 from Republic of Korea were directed towards strengthening GRB work in Bhutan and Sri Lanka, respectively. During this time, UN Women had a multi-country office covering these states, as well as India.

PARTNER WITH UN WOMEN:

- To invest in research, gender data and e-governance for gender responsive budgeting
- To build capacity and training resources for policy makers in planning and allocating gender responsive budgets
- To centrestage women's needs, priorities and potential in COVID-10 response and recovery

3 https://budget.kerala.gov.in/keralabudgetdoc/2021_22/GenderBudget.pdf

4 https://budget.kerala.gov.in/keralabudgetdoc/2021_22/GenderBudget.pdf

5 https://www.budget.kerala.gov.in/keralabudgetdoc/2022_23/GenderBudget.pdf

6 The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Quarterly Bulletin (January-March 2021), <https://mospi.gov.in/documents/213904/301563/Quarterly%20Bulletin%20PLFS%20January%20March%2020211638269959091.pdf/7499e879-4323-78ac-b3cd-48aaa4b7567c>

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities;

- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems,
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy,
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence ,
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action.



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