

National Consultation on Gender Responsive Budgeting brings best practices to advance gender equality

New Delhi, May 11, 2022 – The Government of India was one of the early advocates of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), especially in South Asia, and has made significant progress in formulating plans and budgets through the gender lens to advance gender equality.

The National Consultation on Good Practices: Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Responsive Budgeting, was held as part of the technical assistance championed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in four States, with technical and implementation support of UN Women, funded by Asian Development Bank and Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific. It was attended by senior government officials, civil society organisations, representatives from the academia and delegates from the state governments of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Karnataka and, Telangana. Held at India Habitat Centre, the national consultation had delegates from across states sharing their experiences on Gender Responsive Budgeting, including what worked well in their socio-economic context and regions.

In the keynote address, Mr. Indevar Pandey, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) said “India has not only dedicated funds to remove gender barriers, but has also integrated gender in those schemes and programmes that do not solely focus on gender equality outcomes. From having a gender sensitive Budget Circular to preparing Gender Budget Statements, incorporating gender concerns in the design stage of policies and programmes to disaggregating data by gender – the government has come a long way to employ gender budgeting to meet the differential needs of women and girls.”

Ms. Susan Ferguson, UN Women Representative in India, praised India for being a forerunner of Gender Responsive Budgeting on the global stage.

In her welcome address, she said, “Indian governance system is an outstanding example of decentralisation and devolution. Going forward, we must ensure that gender is integrated throughout the budget making process at sub-national levels, up to the Panchayats. As we all collectively move towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in this last Decade of Action, let us take strong and bold steps with informed investment decisions to propel us to gender equality.”

As of today, 27 Indian States and Union Territories have adopted gender budgeting. Over time, UN Women has worked in over 10 states including the two-year technical assistance initiative, led by State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur. Support has been provided to strengthen gender budgeting mechanisms and processes, build capacities of stakeholders and develop knowledge products with a sectoral focus.

Note to editors: The Technical Assistance (TA) project on ‘Advancing Gender Budgeting in Select States in India’ is an initiative of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asian and the Pacific (JFPR), with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, as the Executing Agency. UN Women India (UNW) is the implementing agency for the technical assistance in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur. The project began on August 3, 2020 and the first phase will end on May 31, 2022. The project has helped generate new knowledge and evidence on what works well in gender responsive planning and budgeting.

Eminent guests at the National Consultation on Good Practices included:

- Mr. Takeo Konishi, Country Director ADB
- Ms. A R Anuradha, Principal Secretary, Department of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens, Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Ms. Rupali Thakur, Director, Department of Women and Child Development
- Ms. Binobala, Deputy Director, Dept of Social Welfare, Manipur

Dr. Mridul Eapen, Former Member, Planning Board, Government of Kerala, Dr. Akanksha Bhaskar, Joint Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of West Bengal, Mr. G Vidya Sagar Reddy, Managing Director, Stree Nidhi, Government of Telengana and representatives from CORO, SATHI, CBGA and CEHAT made presentations on good practices on gender mainstreaming and Gender Responsive Budgeting.

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