



GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

SALGA WOMEN'S COMMISSION NATIONAL SEMINAR

25 AUGUST 2021

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Role and function of the FFC
- What is gender responsive budgeting?
- Why GRB is important?
- What are key aspects of GRB?
- Findings by FFC on GRB
- Recommendations

ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE FFC

- The Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC)
 - Is an independent, permanent, statutory institution established in terms of Section 220 of the Constitution
- Must function in terms of the FFC Act
- Mandate of Commission
 - To make recommendations, envisaged in Chapter 13 of the Constitution or in national legislation to Parliament, Provincial Legislatures, and any other organ of state determined by national legislation
- The Commission's focus is primarily on the equitable division of nationally collected revenue among the three spheres of government and any other financial and fiscal matters
 - Legislative provisions or executive decisions that affect either provincial or local government from a financial and/or fiscal perspective
 - Includes regulations associated with legislation that may amend or extend such legislation
- Commission must be consulted in terms of the FFC Act

WHAT IS GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING?

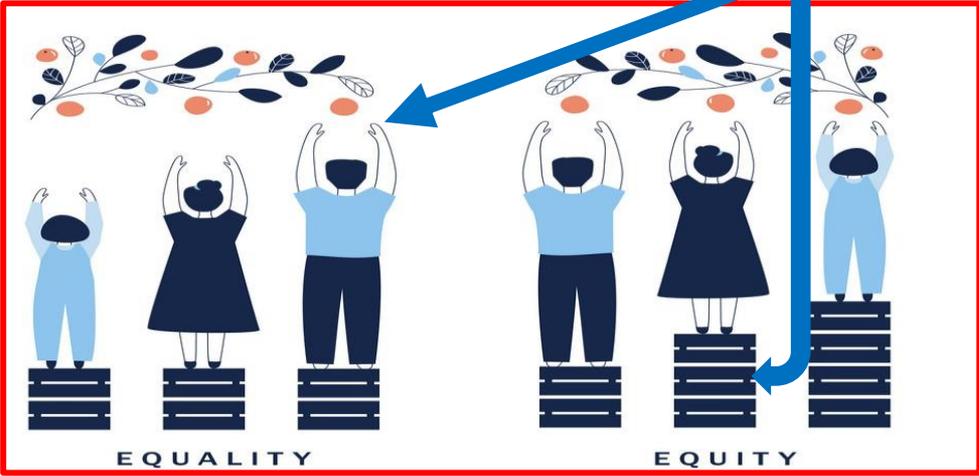
- Gender equality is a fundamental human right. This principle is found in the Constitution's Bill of Rights.
 - It's fundamental also for achieving SDG 2030, AU Agenda 263, SADC protocols, ILO conventions (non-discrimination, equal pay) which South Africa has ratified, and reaffirmed in the NDP and the Employment Equity Act
- Despite these commitments, unacceptable gender inequalities remain in South Africa. These gender commitments should be translated into fiscal commitments at local level
- The budget is one of the essential tools to achieve gender equality and gender equity. This use of the budget to achieve gender equality/equity is called Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)
- GRB is about deliberately making the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations System sensitive/responsive to the needs of women and contributing to moving women out of poverty
- It is about gender-sensitive resource allocation
 - Integrating a clear gender perspective within the overall context of the budget process decision-making
 - Understanding the implications of fiscal decisions on gender
 - Budget prioritisation based on needs of men and women - ensuring inclusivity
- Gender budgeting is an innovative strategy for achieving gender equality
- It is NOT a new budget or separate budget for women but rather the integration of gender approaches into all stages of the budget cycle (mainstreaming)

WHY GRB IS IMPORTANT?



What gender responsive budgeting can do? (One of the blocks)

The struggles and obstacles to women reaching their goals

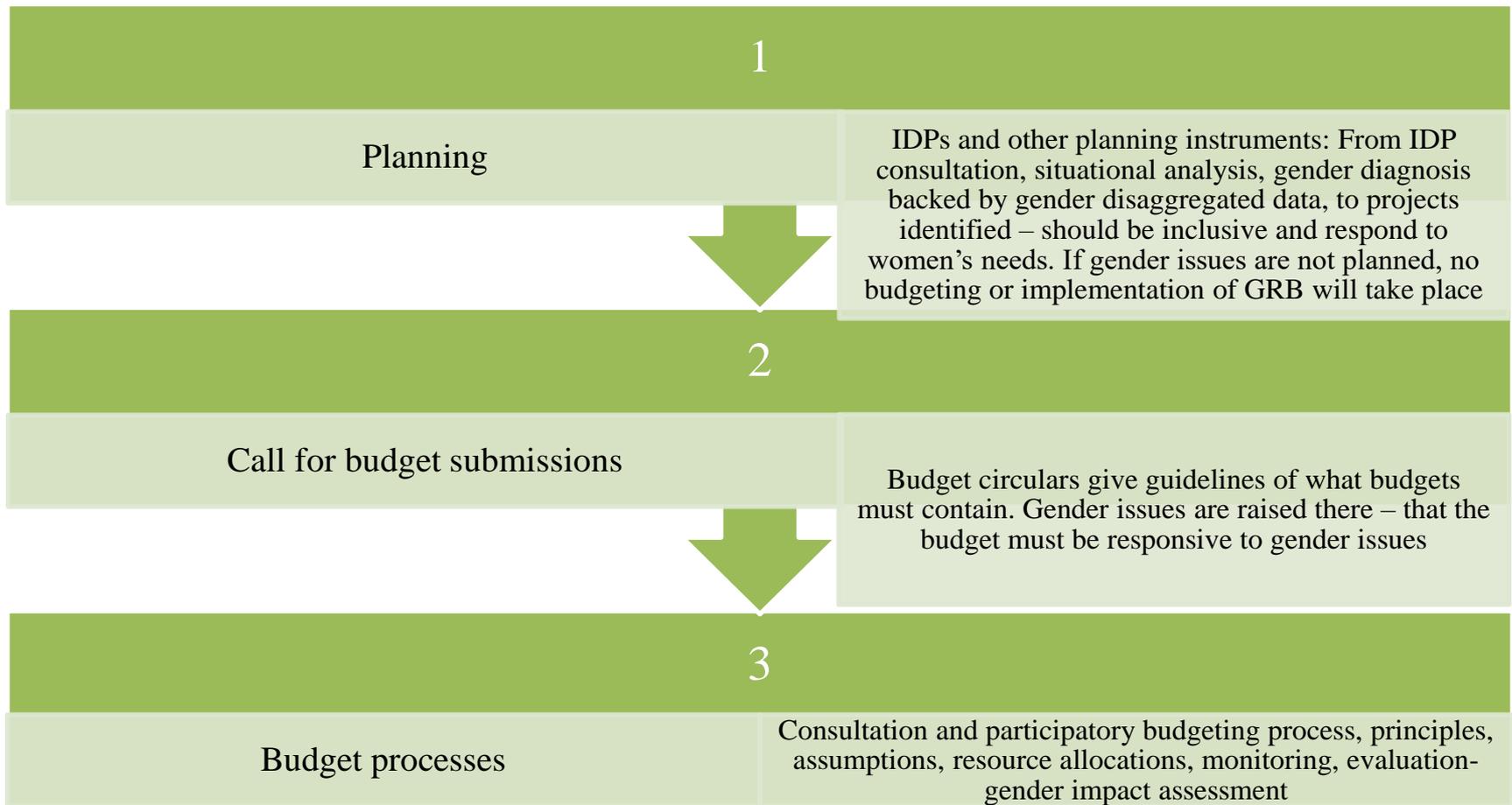


WHY GRB IS IMPORTANT?

In the SA context poverty, inequality and unemployment, are largely gendered

- 52% of females are poor and 74,8% of female-headed households in rural areas are poor
- Women, despite being the majority in rural South Africa, own only 13% of farms and agricultural land, while men own 71%
- Additionally, we must consider that when income is placed in the hands of women, research shows that they spend 70% of it on the family. As opposed to men, who spend only 30% of their income on families
- Objective of building resilient, vibrant, sustainable communities can best be met by empowering women
- Empowering women through the budget is not only “the right thing to do”, but we cannot win on anything if “half team is not playing”
- Gender non-sensitive budgets are inefficient and do not accord with the principles of equality enshrined in the Constitution
- A successful IGFR system is one that is sensitive to the needs of women and contributes to empowering women and moving them out of poverty

WHAT ARE KEY ASPECTS OF GRB?



FINDINGS OF FFC RESEARCH: ASSESSING GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Lack of Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment as an approach
- Lack of gender disaggregated data
- Equity versus mainstreaming for gender equality: More about the numbers
- Weak translation of gender equality commitments into fiscal commitments: IDPs show little evidence of the way the IDP planning processes and budget offices have budgeted for gender mainstreaming
- Gender discourse is events driven
- Lack of gender budgeting training and capacity building of decision makers
- Poor institutionalising of gender responsive budgeting
- Absence of analysis of the gender impact of existing revenues and expenditures
- Absence of an approved gender policy across all municipalities
- Absence of a municipal gender mainstreaming strategy
- Personnel in management (who make decisions) and budget officers (who track expenditure) have limited knowledge of gender mainstreaming
- Gender equality indicators and the collection of gender disaggregated information is limited

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Run gender budgeting pilots in a few municipalities first and evaluate results for impact before wider application
- Ensure municipal integrated development plans institutionalise gender planning by sector (e.g. water and sanitation, local economic development etc.) and include gender disaggregated performance indicators and targets; provide gender budgeting good practice guides and toolkits
- Provide guidelines for collecting gender-disaggregated data for budgeting processes and ensure that municipalities have the capacity to analyse budgets from a gender perspective
- Institutionalise a gender-responsive budgeting process linked to integrated development plans
- Build capacity for gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting at local level
- Ensure gender-responsive appropriations and budget allocations
- Ensure gender-sensitive public participation and consultations at local level



RECENT RESEARCH ON GRB- CHAPTER IN THE 2022/23 FFC DoR SUBMISSION

**THIS STUDY ON GRB FOCUSED ON NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS
- HOWEVER RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EQUALLY APPLICABLE
IN THE PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPHERES**

FINDINGS OF FFC RESEARCH: SUBMISSION OF DIVISION OF REVENUE 2022/23 GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

Limited Mainstreaming of Gender Issues

- There is limited mainstreaming of gender issues in departmental budget processes. The main reason for this is that departments generally lack gender-disaggregated data and information to enable the implementation of gender-responsive planning – followed by budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and auditing.
- The lack of gender-disaggregated data hinders the effective translation of gender commitments into budgetary allocations. GRB is difficult, if not impossible, to undertake without an institutional plan to affect the engendering of service delivery programmes supported by gender-disaggregated information

Limited Gender Disaggregated Data

- The analysis indicated that gender-disaggregated information could be found in other domains or within the working knowledge of departments, but such information is seldom integrated into the strategic documents of departments to allow gender-responsive budgeting processes. For instance, Statistics SA and the CGE generate reports with gender-disaggregated data, which could be helpful to various departments, but departmental systems are not sufficiently mature to integrate such data

FINDINGS OF FFC RESEARCH: SUBMISSION OF DIVISION OF REVENUE 2022/23 GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

Lack of Detailed Departmental Gender-specific Performance Indicators

- Departmental performance indicators are not sufficiently detailed in providing data on the number of women and girls who benefit from their programmes. The DoH, for example, uses various indicators to monitor the progress of its programmes. However, these indicators, except for programmes explicitly focused on women, cannot be used to determine who benefits from the budget in terms of women and men. Similarly, the programmes in the DBE's Annual Reports and Annual Performance Plans have defined indicators with set targets, but such indicators are not disaggregated to enable a determination of the beneficiaries of these services and facilities in terms of gender. The DWYPD is at the heart of coordinating gender equality efforts in the country. It has various indicators related to each programme and targets set, such as the number of reports on interventions and economic opportunities for women produced and the number of programmes conducted. The Department is expected to take the lead in coordinating the implementation of the government's gender equality commitments, including through initiatives such as GRB

FINDINGS OF FFC RESEARCH: SUBMISSION OF DIVISION OF REVENUE 2022/23 GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

Legislative, Policy and Institutional Framework on GRB

- Gender equality and women's empowerment are often an afterthought or relegated to a sector or specific outcome rather than an integral component across all government sectors. Oversight on gender equality and women empowerment also tends to be limited to the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, yet it should be cutting across all committees of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. The CGE is mandated to promote gender equality and advance the protection, development and attainment of gender equality in South Africa. However, the CGE budget is mainly consumed by the compensation of employees, and the risk of such a high compensation of employees' budget is that it may crowd out other important priorities and mandate of the Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The DWYPD and the DPME should finalise the institutionalisation of gender-responsive planning throughout national and provincial government as envisaged by the GRPBMEA
- National Treasury, together with the DWYPD and the DPME, should spearhead the implementation of GRB and mainstreaming GRB throughout the entire scope of the budget process as it applies to the national and provincial government. In collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, GRB implementation and mainstreaming should be extended to the local government sector
- The National Treasury and the DWYPD should consider the introduction of a formal gender auditing process to be conducted by a relevant independent institution in respect of the non-financial performance information of departments, entities and municipalities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The DWYPD should coordinate, and spearhead initiatives focused on the capacity building of political and administrative leadership on gender-responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and auditing at all levels of government. Such initiatives are to include the training of budget officers on GRB and the use of gender-disaggregated data in the budget process
- The DWYPD should, on an annual basis, prepare a comprehensive report on how the Division of Revenue Bill responds to gender inequality and how fiscal policies translate the government's gender equality commitments. The report should be tabled for consideration by the relevant Committees of Parliament
- The DWYPD, together with Stats SA, should provide explicit guidelines for collecting and integrating gender-disaggregated data to ensure the visibility of girls and women in government programme execution and in budgeting processes within the government. The Department should also invest in statistical capacity-building in government to improve the measurement of gender equality indicators and the collection of gender-disaggregated data



THANK YOU

*Financial and Fiscal Commission
Montrose Place (2nd Floor), Bekker Street,
Waterfall Park, Vorna Valley, Midrand,
Private Bag X69, Halfway House 1685
www.ffc.co.za*