



*Regional Workshop
Social Expenditure Monitor for the Arab States*

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة

ESCWA

**Session 5
Gender Budgeting**

ESCWA Center for Women

A story...

Gender Equality is a fundamental human right. It is a necessary foundation for Sustainable Development-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development- to ensure no “woman/girl” is left behind and to ensure women and girls’ potential is fulfilled to equally and actively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Despite significant efforts in the last decades, gender equality is an unachieved business in our region. Gender budgeting is a strategy/approach to promote gender equality and also to support countries to fulfill their international commitments. Several challenges face the roll-out and implementation of gender budgeting in the region. The “Social Expenditure Monitoring” and gender budgeting are mutually reinforcing as SEM can support gender budgeting efforts and benefit from them.

In this presentation:

- What is gender budgeting?
- How SEM and gender budgeting are mutually reinforcing?

Persistent gender inequality in the region

- Gains in education attainments do not translate into significant increase in Labor Force Participation (20.5%)
- Unemployment rate for women (16%) more than twice the unemployment rate (7%) for men
- Women spend almost 5 hours daily on unpaid care work/almost one hour for men
- Violence against women: 1 of 3 ever-married women in the region have experienced physical or sexual violence
- Low representation in political and decision-making spheres

Context of discrimination in legal frameworks and gender stereotypes and norms

What is Gender Budgeting?

Strategy

Achieve equality between women and men

Focus on

***How public resources are
COLLECTED and SPENT***

**Gender budgeting is good budgeting
(Stotsky, 2016)**

Gender perspective within national budgets

- A government's budget synthesizes its development vision, plans and priorities: concretization of the vision
- Gender budgeting is a tool for the gender perspective to be articulated within the national vision
- Shift from policies/strategies/legal frameworks to concrete implementation and 'achievement'

Gender Budgeting



Is not about creating **SEPARATE** Budget for women



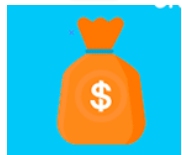
Is not about **SOLELY** increasing spending on women's programmes

Gender Budgeting: two major questions?



How public resources are COLLECTED matters for gender equality

-Taxation policies: direct/indirect taxes, unit of taxation, tax related to sectors, etc.



How public resources are SPENT matters for gender equality

-Public expenditures

What is needed to answer the two questions?

Gender dynamics and issues

- Challenges/constraints to women's empowerment and participation
- Sectoral specificities
- Differences in consumption and savings behavior
- Etc.

Budget process

- What are the stages of the budgeting process/cycle?
- How and to whom is the budget available or communicated ?
- What is the budget calendar?

Country/context specific

How does gender budgeting work?

- Analysis of budget and policies from a gender perspective;
- Linking gender budgeting to overall gender equality objectives;
- Restructuring budgets and amending policies;
- Integrating gender perspective throughout the budget cycle;
- Monitoring and evaluation of achievements.

Main challenge: DATA and *KNOWLEDGE*

SEM/gender budgeting

How to rationalize the allocation of public expenditure to different priorities?

Two overarching principles
Social Justice and Human Capital

Gender dynamics and issues

- **Support a better (in-depth) understanding of the situation**
 - “Women” are not a homogeneous group neither at the level of the region nor at the national level
 - “For all”: it is mainly about disaggregation
- **Better and greater mainstreaming**

Adequate answer/action according to national vision and priorities

Important to note

- Gender budgeting is important at *central government* level
- Gender budgeting is also important at *regional and local government* levels

Need to meet increasing commitments

- **SDG 5c Target:** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
 - **Indicator 5c1:** Percentage of countries with systems to track and make public allocations to gender equality and women's empowerment
 - Shift from policies/strategies/legal frameworks to financial tracking
- Addis Ababa: Explicit commitments to strengthen financing for gender equality with the aim of achieving sustainable development

“Necessity of gender responsive budgeting for strengthening transparency and equal participation in the budgeting process”

Important to note

- Gender budgeting is not ONLY about increasing financing for gender equality
- Gender budgeting is about “re-modulating” / “re-adjusting” expenditures to promote gender equality



Thank You



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