



# **Regional Forum Gender-responsive Budgeting in Asia and the Pacific**

Held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand on  
the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017



# Context

## International Treaties:

- ❖ **Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);**
- ❖ **Beijing Platform for Action;**
- ❖ **Revised Pacific Platform for Action;**
- ❖ **Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration**
- ❖ **Sustainable Development Goals – Goal 5;**

## National commitments

- ❖ **Constitution 26(3) (a)**  
Right to equality and freedom of discrimination according to gender..
- ❖ **In the National Green growth Framework for sustainable growth**, achieving gender equality in decision making and income levels and eliminating violence against women in accordance with international conventions, is a strategy that is crucial for sustainable development
- ❖ **Fiji National Gender Policy** with the overall goal to promote gender equity, equality, social justice and sustainable development in the Republic of Fiji. It provides a written commitment by government which the population can monitor and evaluate. It recognises that gender equality is a fundamental human right, and that it is an inherent component of economic growth and development.

# What are significant legislative and policy developments towards adopting gender responsive budgeting

**National Gender Policy**, The National Gender Policy was approved by Cabinet for Implementation on 23rd February, 2014, Cabinet approval number MW 23/120/13 and is coordinated by Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation in partnership with the Department of National Planning.

## **2. Aggregate budgets of individual ministries**

Its implementation as a whole of Government Policy remains the responsibility of all Ministries.

Hence budgetary allocations with the largest portion assigned to the Ministry of Women and other Line Ministries that implement Women specific activities e.g Women Policing with the Fiji Police Force and Cottage Industry with Ministry of Agriculture

## **3. Gender Responsive Budget**

Through the coordinating Ministry's implementation of the Women's plan of Action, mainstreaming efforts is made to line Ministries to integrate women's concerns

## **Practical steps in applying gender mainstreaming mechanisms in national planning processes at national and sub national levels**

- \* Capacity build up, Advocacy and promotion of women are the core objectives of the Womens' Plan of Action.**

# Women's Plan of Action( 2010-2019)

- \* In alignment with the Women's Plan of Action (2010-2019), **resource centers** are being established in all provinces to enhance women's leadership skills, business management skills and to coordinate income generating projects.
- \* The **Zero Tolerance Violence Free Community campaign**, aimed at preventing violence against women and children, now targets communities annually through collaborative activities with key stakeholders based around legal literacy training and community awareness.
- \* Commitments by rural and urban communities are supported at the national level through new **laws including the National Gender Policy 2014, Crimes Decree 2010 and Child Welfare Decree 2010 Domestic Violence Decree 2009.**

# Women's Plan of Action( 2010-2019)

- \* **Equal Participation in Decision Making- Leadership Training** – Women's Groups/Leader, Potential Women Leaders to Boards & Committees, Decision Making Bodies, Development Forums

- \* **Elimination of Violence Against Women & Children**

**Gender Sensitization Trainings Zero Tolerance**

**Violence Free Community (ZTVFC)** Project; EVAW DV Helpline , Male Advocacy Women & the Law, Legal Literacy Training, Paralegal Training CEDAW Awareness Sexual Reproductive Health;

# Steps being taken to promote GRB challenges

## ❖ **Collection of Gender Statistics and its analysis**

The collection of sex di-segregated data – issues on availability of sex-disaggregated data, limitations in data accessibility

## \* **Gender planning design, budget, implementation and assessments and audits.**

Continue to be the responsibility of line Ministries in it's implementation of the National Gender Policy there is no policy mandate that requires each Ministry across Government to allocate a % of their budget to gender issues.

# GRB in the NGP

## \* Responsive Gender Budgeting and Planning

- ❑ **Introduce GRB and gender audits in planning, evaluation and monitoring of national budgetary process and promote GRB to development practitioners to ensure optimum benefits to rural and urban woman**
- ❑ **Create and utilize gender sensitive indicators in economic planning process**
- ❑ **Reinforce social justice programs** to improve situation of marginalized groups of men and women
- ❑ **Hold sustainable dialogue** before 1<sup>st</sup> August each year with ministries and stakeholders to ensure gender is integrated into Fijis annual budget



# GRB in NGP

- ❑ **Consult with NGO and gender based groups before the budget has been drawn up** and after the budget has been announced to enable women to understand the budget process and have an input into it
- ❑ **Evaluate and monitor the progress towards greater levels of equality in representation of women through data collection, analysis and dissemination of qualitative and quantitative data on women and men** in various levels of the decision making process to promote their access in positions of power and decision making
- ❑ **Establish performance based indicators including performance appraisals** on gender equality in decision - making

# The Way Forward

- \* The national efforts have progressed from initial raising awareness, advocacy and capacity building however towards data collection, tools and technical support would be required for analysis in order to make informed directives to development of budget.
- \* To implement GRB capacity building and tools are required by both the coordinating Ministry and the line Ministries.
- \* In the future perhaps we may anticipate a Gender Bureau that will be the National Machinery and will have its Gender Budget to support all gender programs across the board

# ■ Def Presentation