



Bangladesh: Country Paper

Welcome to the presentation on
Gender Responsive Budgeting in Bangladesh

Delegates

1. Md. Abu Taleb

Project Director(Deputy Secretary)

Establishment of 20 Child Daycare Centers

Dept. of Women Affairs,

Ministry of Women Children Affairs.

2. Shahnawas Dilruba khan

Additional Director

Dept. of Women Affairs

Ministry of Women Children Affairs.

Topics

1. Country Overview
2. Understanding GRB
3. Introduction of GRB in Bangladesh
4. Institutionalization of GRB in Bangladesh
5. Lessons learned and challenges
6. Way forward

Bangladesh: Country Overview

Area: 147,570 sq. km

Boundary: India ,Bay of Bengal & Myanmar

Population: 164 million

Density of population:1266 per sq.km

Life expectancy: 71.63 years (M: 69 years F: 70 years)

Human Dev. Index : 0.579 (Rank: 139)

Literacy Rate: 61.5% (2015)

Capital: Dhaka

Administrative Divisions: 8 Divisions,64 districts and 491 Upazillas



Understanding GRB

GRB refers to a gender-based assessment of budget, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality.

Understanding GRB: Coverage

Gender Responsive Budgeting can be applied to the-

1. Whole Budget
2. Expenditure of selected departments/agencies
3. Expenditure on new programs
4. Selected forms of revenue
5. New legislation

Understanding GRB: Importance

Gender Responsive Budgeting -

1. Helps fulfill constitutional and International obligations(CEDAW, Beijing 1995 etc.)
2. Used as a tool for achieving National policies on gender equality
3. Increases awareness and understanding
4. Ensures Greater accountability
5. Ensures efficient use of public resources
6. Improves transparency

Introduction of GRB in Bangladesh

1. In FY 2009- 10, for the first time, the Finance Minister placed before the parliament analysis on gender budgeting titled 'Women's Advancements and Rights' along with the annual budget.
2. The first gender budget report was prepared only for four ministries.(Ministry of Education, Health & Family Welfare, Social Welfare and Disaster Management)
3. In Fiscal year 2016-17 total 43 ministries reported their progress in advancing gender equality.

Institutionalizing GRB in Bangladesh

A shift away from inputs and processes to a focus on results in the form of outputs and outcomes. Legislatures, policies and plans for institutionalizing GRB in Bangladesh-

1. Constitution and National Policies for GRB
2. 7th Five Year Plan and SDG
3. Introduction of Gender analysis in the MTBF Process
4. Creation of the RCGP model (Database)
5. Introduction of Gender budget Report

Institutionalizing GRB in Bangladesh: Constitution

1. Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh guarantees equal rights and opportunities for women in the Articles 19, 27, 28 and 29. Article 19(1) ensures equality of opportunity for all citizens and Article 28(1) states that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Article 28(4) paves the way for enactment of laws to facilitate women's development. Apart from constitutional obligations, Bangladesh is a signatory to almost all international conventions and covenants on women's development.

Institutionalizing GRB in Bangladesh: 7th Five year Plan

The Seventh Five Year Plan(2016-2020) of the Government of Bangladesh emphasizes on pursuing strategies and actions to establish a country where men and women will have equal opportunities and rights and women will be recognized as equal contributors in economic, social and political development. The mission of this plan is to ensure women's advancement as self-reliant human beings and reduce discriminatory barriers by taking both developmental and institutional measures. The framework for women's empowerment and gender equality, as mentioned in 7th FYP comprises of 4 areas of strategic objectives:

- Improve women's human capabilities;
- Increase women's economic benefits;
- Enhance women's voice and agency;
- Create an enabling environment for women's advancement.

Institutionalizing GRB: National Women Development Policy 2011

The National Women Development Policy (NWDP), 2011 is the core policy-specific document of the present government in relation to women development. For the Implementation of the National Women Development Policy, gender responsive budgeting is an imperative for government to track its own financial resources. In the light of the Constitutional obligations, the Five Year Plan and the international commitments, the NWDP-2011 has fixed 22 objectives.

Institutionalizing GRB: Introduction of Gender analysis in MTBF Process

1. GOB is implementing Financial Reform where Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF) process is being introduced for budget formulation.
2. All the ministries are brought under MTBF process.
3. This initiative has created an opportunity for directly including poverty reduction and women's advancement issues into the budgeting process.
4. Poverty and Gender has been inserted in the BCI, where ministries have to explain how by achieving these strategic objectives will benefit in terms of poverty reduction and women's advancement.
5. Linkage among strategic objectives of ministries, their activities/programs and benefits in terms of poverty reduction and women advancement is established in section-3.

Institutionalizing GRB in Bangladesh: Creation of RCGP model

- Finance Division developed the Recurrent, Capital, Gender and Poverty (RCGP) Model or database where all expenditure items are disaggregated to indicate what percentage of allocation goes to benefit women-based on the 14 standards for assessing gender impact.
- The gender and poverty proportioned percentage data for both recurrent and development budget is estimated separately from a standard defined logic incorporated in the database.
- The proportion of women work force serves as the basis for computing women's allocation in non-development budget. For the development projects, a percentage is assigned to each indicating what proportion of total expenditure will benefit directly women,
- Allocation for women development for both recurrent and development budgets are generated and presented in the gender budget report for ministries and divisions.

Institutionalizing GRB : Gender Budget Report

- Each year, the government is presenting to the national parliament a gender budget report that explains the policies and strategies for advancement of women, activities of various ministries/divisions that have implications on women development, KPIs connected with female welfare attained, major achievement for uplifting women's rights, allocation for women development.
- In the first year (FY2009-10) such analysis was done for four ministries. Gender budget report of 2017-18 fiscal years contains analysis of women's advancement activities of 43 Ministries/ Divisions.

Institutionalizing GRB : Gender Budget Report(contd.)

Fiscal Year	Total Budget (crore taka)	Allocation for Women Dev. (crore taka)	Allocation for women compared to total Budget(percent)	Allocation for women compared to GDP (percent)	No. of Ministries/ Divisions in Gender Budget Report
2009-10	110523	27248	24.65	3.95	4
2010-11	130011	34221	26.32	4.36	10
2011-12	161213	42154	26.15	4.61	20
2012-13	189231	54302	28.68	5.23	25
2013-14	216222	59756	27.64	5.06	40
2014-15	239668	64087	26.74	4.23	40
2015-16	264565	71872	27.17	4.16	40
2016-17	340604	92765	27.25	4.73	40
2017-18	400266	112019	27.99	5.04	43

Source: RCGP Data Base, Finance Division. Figure from 2009-10 to 2016-17 are Revised Estimates, 2017-18 Budget Estimate

Institutionalizing GRB : Gender Budget Report(contd.)

(Taka in Crore)

Description	2017-18				2016-17				2016-17			
	Budget	Gender	Gender as % of Budget	Gender as % of GDP	Revised	Gender	Gender as % of Budget	Gender as % of GDP	Budget	Gender	Gender as % of Budget	Gender as % of GDP
Expenditure												
Non-Development Expenditure	2,34,013	44,627	19.07	2.01	1,92,931	38,640	20.03	1.98	2,15,744	42,785	19.83	2.18
Non-Development Revenue Expenditure (Statement III)	2,07,138	43,736	21.11	1.97	1,78,154	37,798	21.22	1.93	1,88,966	42,177	22.32	2.15
Non-Development Capital Expenditure/2 (Statement IV)	26,875	891	3.32	0.04	14,778	843	5.70	0.04	26,778	608	2.27	0.03
Net Outlay for Food Account Operation (Statement VIII)	361	190	52.63	0.01	561	295	52.58	0.02	- 594	- 312	52.53	-0.02
Loans & Advances (Net)/3 (Statement VIA)	6,879	1,307	19.00	0.06	7,691	1,311	17.05	0.07	8,428	1,376	16.33	0.07
Development Expenditure	1,59,013	65,894	41.44	2.96	1,15,990	46,339	39.95	2.37	1,17,027	48,932	41.81	2.50
Development Programmes Financed from Revenue Budget/4 (Statement IV)	249	115	46.18	0.01	370	125	33.78	0.01	354	117	33.05	0.01
Non-ADP Project (Statement VIA)	3,512	317	9.03	0.01	2,987	294	9.84	0.02	4,147	411	9.91	0.02
Annual Development Programm/5 (Statement IX)	1,53,331	64,392	42.00	2.90	1,10,700	44,857	40.52	2.29	1,10,700	47,107	42.55	2.40
Non-ADP FFW and Transfer/6 (Statement X)	1,921	1,071	55.75	0.05	1,933	1,063	54.99	0.05	1,826	1,297	71.03	0.07
Total - Expenditure :	4,00,266	1,12,019	27.99	5.04	3,17,174	86,586	27.30	4.43	3,40,605	92,781	27.24	4.73
Memorandum Item	GDP	22,23,600			19,56,055				19,61,017			

Lessons Learned

Support from the top level is essential: Civil society worked with the top decision makers to develop their understanding of the concept of GRB and to win their support in favour of introducing and developing GRB.

Building understanding about the rationale of GRB among the mid-level government officials: Civil society also worked with mid-level officials in the Ministry of Finance to building their understanding of the link between GRB and transparency and accountability of the national budget.

Avoid overburdening government official by trying to do too much too soon: GRB tools were rolled out in an incremental manner and therefore did not overburden the government officials in terms of understanding and incorporating GBR tools in the budgeting process.

Challenges

1. Resources Constraints
2. Absent of monitoring mechanism to assess outcomes of GRB.
3. Absent of availability of gender disaggregate data for effective analysis and planning.
4. Lack of capacity among government officials to effectively use GRB.

Way Forward

- 1. Increase of budget allocation for MOWCA:** Due the lack of funds the ministry's human resource base is very limited. It is therefore unable to contribute effectively in coordinating and monitoring activities of the other ministries in addressing gender specific issues.
- 2. Establishing of monitoring cell:** Monitoring and reviewing of the completed projects from a gender perspective is essential,

Way Forward

3. Developing a database: Development of a model of disaggregated database to provide quality, comparable and regular gender statistics on government expenditure.

4. Building capacity of gender focal points. Each ministry/division has a gender focal point person who is responsible for ensuring inter-ministerial coordinating on gender issues. But they are not part of the GRB process and their capacity to deal with GRB is weak. Building the capacity of gender focal points of all ministries in the area of gender responsive budgeting is essential so that they can play an important role in strengthening this initiative.

Way Forward: Actions in progress

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs with technical support from UN Women has developed a joint programme. The programme is intended to achieve following results;

1. Capacity development of frontline government officials and civil society representatives to address gender responsive plans and budget issues in their respective sectors.
2. Development of a model of disaggregated database to provide quality, comparable and regular gender statistics on government expenditure.
3. Development of a well defined monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the outcomes of GRB initiatives and
4. Strengthen institutional capacity for gender responsive public finance management and planning.

THANK YOU