

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
(GEWE), SDGs and Five Year Development
Plan (2016/17–2020/21)

Prof. Marjorie Mbilinyi
[on behalf of TGNP Mtandao]
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Socio-Economic Context

- ▶ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth 7.0 percent in 2015 but poverty rate remained high at 28.2%
 - ▶ Multi-dimensional poverty levels have not dramatically declined, and in some cases have increased [poverty of time in particular]
 - ▶ Inequalities increased between the rich and the poor, between rural and urban areas, between women and men; not only in income, but in access to and control of property assets, in access to quality education, health & safe clean water
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Socio-Economic Context contd

- ▶ Policy bias towards promotion of largescale investments in agriculture, tourism, mining etc and lack of strong support for smallscale producers
 - ▶ This has led to land grabbing & loss of sustainable livelihoods for many smallscale producers in many regions of the country, a large portion of whom are women
 - ▶ Women depend on family economic activities more than men, and are especially vulnerable given the interaction of patriarchal and corporate globalisation structures and systems
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GEWE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS [SDGs]

- ▶ Gender equality is a basic human right, a fundamental value for social justice, not just a means for economic growth or prosperity
 - ▶ Combating gender inequality is a key cross cutting goal and issue in all sectors and at local and central government level.
 - ▶ There is a need to eliminate gender/age/class discrimination of any kind, and ensure redistribution of wealth, resources and power
 - ▶ Our analysis is grounded in perspectives of marginalised women in rural and urban areas, & addresses all actors, government, civil society, organised commercial sector & development partners
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GEWE & SDGs contd

- ▶ **SD goal #5 for gender equality** consists of 8 targets, including:
 - abolition of sex/gender discrimination in general, and specifically in education;
 - expand women's economic opportunities and recognize their rights to resources and reduce the burdens of unpaid care work on girls and women
 - enhance access to sexual and reproductive health care services and protect girls/women's reproductive rights; and
 - end gender based violence, female genital mutilation and child marriage.

GEWE & SDGs contd

- ▶ These and other targets provide tools with which we can examine the FYDP II, as well as ADP & budget, asking to what extent they have incorporated these targets, provided ‘actionable deliverables’, and the necessary resources to implement the relevant strategies; backed up by a concrete monitoring and evaluation plan.
- ▶ Other SD Goals are very relevant. **SD Goal #10** ‘**reduced inequality**’ poses the question of inequality in general, including among women

GEWE & SDGs contd

- ▶ Goals #3 [Good health and well being], #4 [Quality education], #6 [clean water and sanitation] and #7 [Affordable and clean energy] are all top priorities for low income marginalized women in rural and urban areas.
 - ▶ More attention is needed to enhance quality education at all levels, as well as innovation, science and technology, in order to create the foundation for the knowledge economy [SDG #4 Quality Education].
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GEWE & SDGs contd

- ▶ **Goal #2 Zero Hunger** is a top priority: Rural communities in Tanzania have higher rates of malnutrition and seasonal hunger than urban communities; paradoxically the highest malnutrition rates for children are in food surplus zones and regions
- ▶ Given the gender division of labour, women are considered – and consider themselves – responsible to ensure that their children have adequate food. Rural and urban women directly produce food for family consumption and also devote a considerable portion of their cash earnings to purchase of food for family consumption.

GEWE & SDGs contd

- ▶ Zero hunger calls for **inclusive rural development**, including rural industrialization; with sustainable agriculture that enhances the productivity and incomes of small scale producers, ensures food security at local and national level, and provides the necessary raw materials for industrialization and urbanization.
- ▶ **Goal # 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth** is a top priority for most women in all areas; gender equality depends upon women and men having equal access to dignified and sustainable employment and livelihoods with a livable income.

GEWE & SDGs contd

- ▶ **Goal # 15 – Life on Land** needs to be perceived from the point of view of marginalized small scale producers, **protecting community rights** to land, water sources, forests and other resources **with gender equity** against various forms of land grabbing, while also supporting women and men to develop more sustainable, efficient and productive systems to provide energy, water, food, herbs, commodities for sale, and other uses.

GEWE & SDGs contd

- ▶ **Goal # 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities** is of increasing importance to Tanzanian women and men, given the high urbanization rate. The majority of urban women and men live in slum areas without adequate services of any kind. The highest unemployment rates are found in urban centres, especially among female and male youth.
- ▶ Concrete strategies are needed to enhance sustainable, equitable, just development in urban areas, with equal access to affordable, safe and dignified housing, transport, water, education and health services.

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ FDYP II prioritises economic growth & is generally **gender blind**. What is the nature of growth, who is responsible and at what cost? GEWE calls for poverty-reducing, jobs-creating and inclusive growth with gender equity & social justice.
- ▶ A multidimensional understanding of poverty:
 - ▶ -poverty of social outcomes (education, health..)
 - ▶ -poverty of time, unfair and unequal work burdens especially unpaid work in care economy
 - ▶ -limited opportunity to make key decisions
 - ▶ -unequal access to, ownership of and control over key resources such as credit, land, proceeds from one's own work

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ The theme of FYDP II is **nurturing Industrialisation for economic transformation and human development.**
- ▶ The concept of *human development* should be unpacked to show **women-specific development** issues in the context of GEWE, with specific strategies and measures for women-specific development as a result of transformation.
- ▶ Performance reports for FYDP II must show how women as distinct from men in different income groups fared in economic growth in general and how much they are part of jobs-creation, poverty-reduction and inclusive growth, rural and urban.

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ The mainstream definition of **economic transformation** – namely a drop in proportion of GDP and employment in agriculture, and corresponding rise in non-agriculture sectors – is contentious, especially in context of land grabbing
- ▶ What kind of off-farm employment & livelihoods are available for majority of women and men of all ages in the rural areas? Livable incomes? Dignified work and sustainable livelihoods?
- ▶ What support will be provided to help small scale family producers, especially women, improve production and access the value chain as *independent producers, not casual labour?*

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ FYDP II implementation should ensure that growth in Foreign Direct Investment [FDI], PPP and exports are benefiting women. This can be partly done by assuring close and beneficial **inter-sectoral linkages between the organised commercial corporate sector on one hand and sectors in which majority of women are engaged on the other [largely informal sector]**. Among other things, investment incentives could be linked to the extent to which corporate investment projects directly & substantially enhance employment & livelihoods for women & their communities – MIF & training not enough.

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ Concerning the planned growth in **productive sectors**, and in **industrialisation** in particular, more information is needed on **gender patterns in employment** in all of these sectors, including **access of women to top positions of decision making and higher incomes in occupational hierarchies**, and in **ownership/management positions** vis a vis low income employees in both formal and informal sectors.
- ▶ What specific strategies will be adopted by the government & corporate private sector to **challenge & abolish gender bias and sex discrimination** in employment, education and property ownership?

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ Three pillars of transformation have been identified: **industrialization, human development and implementation effectiveness**. Very little attention is given to **rural diversification, inclusive social transformation, and the expansion of the service sector** – service sector is a key sector for global growth and development of the knowledge economy in the 21st century. i.e. more than manufacturing & value added agroprocessing

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ The industrialization strategy needs to prioritise production of goods and services which enhance quality of life, reduce inequality, & advance women and men in both rural and urban areas.
- ▶ **What kind of goods and services will be produced/delivered in industrialisation processes: to what extent do they meet the needs of different categories of women?**
- ▶ Do they reduce labour burdens in the care economy at home: such as easily accessible and inexpensive if not free safe and clean water and sanitation? Alternative energy sources? Public laundries, quality child care facilities?

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ The plan suggests the **prioritization of ‘investors’ and the private sector**, such as adoption of ‘development corridors, zoning and clustering to provide investors with economies of conglomeration’.
- ▶ What does this mean for majority of Tanzanian producers living there who are partially dependent on some form of ‘peasant’ smallholder production as well as off-farm household based informal economic activity – women in particular?

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ The role of the **public sector** needs to be emphasized, both for provision of public goods, namely social and economic services, as well as public works which provide employment for women and men, and produce vital goods and services in care economy & elsewhere a la South Africa.
 - ▶ **Austerity measures need to be revisited** to ensure adequate support for social and economic services, & strategic public investments which enhance employment, enhance purchasing power, & the growth of the domestic market – i.e. more, not less, public expenditure. Austerity is not good economics!
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Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ In 2015, the government merged FYDP with MKUKUTA. There is a need to ensure that the poverty reduction, gender equity, & citizen participation in decision making strategies given specific attention in MKUKUTA are given even higher weight in the FYDP II.
- ▶ Specific strategies to combat all forms of Violence against Women & Children need support at home, school, workplace, community – ZERO TOLERANCE of VAW is good economics

Analysis of GEWE Issues in the FYDP II

- ▶ Para 4.3.9 on good governance calls for effective participation of citizens in demanding accountability .. which requires **enhanced openness and transparency**, with freedom of assembly, information, knowledge generation and dissemination & openness to civil society advocacy and public dissent.
- ▶ What steps will be taken to reform those laws which block freedom of information, including the recent Cyber Crime and Statistics Laws, as well as older laws on the media?

Priority Issues for Advocacy Vis a Vis FYDP Implementation [including ADPs & Budgets]

- ▶ Implementation strategies of FYDP need to adopt a social gender conceptual framework which **explicitly targets gender/class equity and women empowerment as a priority goal, focusing on marginalised women in particular.**
- ▶ They need to identify opportunities and barriers to enhance gender equality and women empowerment overall and in **each strategic sector.**
- ▶ They ought to **state explicitly the government policy to remove all forms of gender discrimination and inequality, and to adopt specific measures to enhance gender equality and abolish gender i.e. male bias in all areas and at all levels of government, zero tolerance for VAW & children, ...**

Priority Issues for Advocacy contd

- ▶ **The instrumentalisation of the women economic empowerment concept** needs to be challenged. Whereas it is 'good economics' to empower women so that they produce more, earn more, and thereby can provide more for their children and families, to what extent is this at cost to women in the form of additional labour burdens, rather than less? how do women themselves benefit from 'empowerment'? what kind of 'real' changes take place in existing male dominant structures of power at family, community, work place and political level?

Priority Issues for Advocacy contd

- ▶ **Adequate resources** need to be allocated to achieve these objectives in each sector
 - ▶ Numerous micro level initiatives by government, civil society organisations & development partners have shown how to promote gender equality and women empowerment in Tanzania. The challenge now is to develop **appropriate scaling up strategies** at district, regional and national level, combined with adequate resources [financial, human and other material resources].
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Priority Issues for Advocacy contd

- ▶ Women and likeminded male government leaders and politicians are encouraged to work together with advocacy civil society organizations and networks at all levels, including TGNP Mtandao and members of the Feminist Activist Coalition FemAct, to track progress & advocate implementation of SDGs and the GEWE desired strategies of FYDP and budget, regardless of Party affiliation
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Priority Issues for Advocacy contd

- ▶ Development partners working in Tanzania are called upon to support the strengthening of local/national/regional women's rights organizations with direct funding to act on their own behalf, with special attention to the interests and demands of marginalized women
 - ▶ This requires a shift from the present trend towards funding of INGOs and consultants based in the donor country or elsewhere in 'the North'
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- ▶ THANK YOU FOR LISTENING
- ▶ I WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS, QUESTIONS,
ALTERNATIVE VIEWS