

Every Step Counts ...



The Zimbabwe Gender Budgeting  
Experience

# Who is ZWRRCN?



- The Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRRCN) is a non-governmental organization that was established in 1990



- We seek to empower women in Zimbabwe through the provision of information, technical support and advocacy that promotes their participation and benefit from economic, social and political processes.

# Who is ZWRCN?



The overall theme that informs all programming is:


# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



# FOR WOMEN

Women take up your stand Men be a part of it Children learn now



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Gender Equality support project (GESP)

CHRISTIAN AID

# Accountability in PFM and Gender Equality



- Economic planning is NOT gender-neutral as is assumed....in Zimbabwe this process is laden with gender blind or stereotypical assumptions, and decisions often leading to differential impacts between social groups
- Women and men experience economic growth, poverty and service delivery differently
- While commitments on paper are appreciated, they are not enough. It is one thing to make commitments to gender equality but without a budgetary allocation and subsequent disbursements, these are reduced to 'statements of love'. ***Put your money where your mouth is!!!!***

# Accountability in PFM and Gender Equality



- GRB offers a means to systematically address gender equality and women's empowerment through government budgets and financial management
- The aim is to mainstream gender into all the stages of the budget cycle and to analyse the impact of government's economic planning and public finance management on women and men
- There is need for transparency on financing for gender equality through strengthening of budget monitoring and expenditure tracking systems, provision of accurate sex disaggregated data and gender responsive budget analyses
- As these are public funds, all citizens, i.e. women and men in their various diversities should benefit from these resources

- Strategic aim is to promote women's human rights and empowerment, including access to , ownership and control over resources in Zimbabwe and globally
- The programme is premised on the need to mainstream gender in government macroeconomic frameworks, policies, programmes and budgets to achieve social and economic justice
- GEPPF's main programme interventions are Gender Budgeting and Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking
- The programme employs the following complimentary strategies
  - Human Capacity Building
  - Policy Analysis and Research
  - Advocacy
- The programme is operating at three levels
  - Local
  - National
  - Regional

# National Gender Budgeting Programme



- The 'Gender Budgeting' concept was introduced in Zimbabwe in 1999
- Following a vigorous advocacy campaign by ZWRCN and other NGOs to persuade Government to mainstream gender into national budgets, the Government agreed through the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development to start the process in earnest in 2006
- In December 2006, ZWRCN and The Ministry of Women Affairs signed a ***Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*** for collaboration in programme implementation

# National Gender Budgeting Programme

- The programme was ***officially launched*** in April 2007 by the Ministry of Finance which reinforced Government's commitment to the Gender Budgeting initiative





- Capacity Building in gender and gender budgeting has been a major component of the programme. To date Gender Focal Persons, Directors of Finance, Heads of Departments, Members of Parliament from selected portfolio committees have been trained
- Policy analysis and research has focused mainly on engendering the macroeconomic policies such as the Medium Term Plan (2011-2015) which provides the blueprint for crafting of rolling national budgets and other socio-economic policies and is set to drive economic growth and create sustainable development over the next five years.
- In order to increase civil society participation in the national budgeting process, sensitisation on gender issues and gender budgeting has been conducted. Gender Budget Action Committees have also been set up at community level
- The project also has a strong focus on demand for accountability through Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking (BMET). This has been done for the Ministry of Health with a focus on resources for sexual and reproductive health.

- Engendered Call Circular by Ministry of Finance for 2007 to date. Effectiveness and application is still work in progress
- Capacity building in gender and GRB for Government technocrats, policy makers and the media practitioners
- Development of GB Training Manual and Tool and Guide for Government
- Budget Statement since 2008- special reference to specialised groups like women and youth

- National budget is more gender sensitive with specific allocations to women and other marginalised groups such as:
  - The Women's Development Fund (\$2 500 000)
  - 6 line ministries were allocated gender mainstreaming budget lines
  - Employment Creation Fund pegged at \$100 000
  - US\$2 million towards the Youth Development Fund (YDF)
  - An allocation of the US\$5 800 000 was set aside for SMEs for lending and infrastructure services.
  - US\$6 000 000 towards addressing maternal health issues

- In 2008, ZWRCN recognized the need to cascade gender budgeting in Zimbabwe from the national level to the local level after the realisation that local government is a crucial institution for change as this is:
  - Where service delivery occurs,
  - Public decisions are made and resources allocated
  - The level directly affecting the daily lives of impoverished communities, particularly women and children

- 5 year programme implemented from June 2009
- ZWRCN working in collaboration with Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender & Community Development, Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, and other local partners working in the local governance sector
- Areas of focus (5 cities and 1 rural)
  - ❑ Mutoko, Kadoma, Kwekwe, Gweru, Bulawayo and Masvingo (pilot districts)
- Target Group
  - ❑ Councillors, Council officials, CSOs and various marginalised groups

- ZWRCN is employing a two pronged complementary approach in its gender budgeting strategy.
- The holistic approach aims at strengthening both its government and citizens.
- Strengthening the supply side of service delivery has mainly been through building capacities of councillors and council officials thus creating local authorities or governments responsive to the needs and priorities of their citizens.
- On the civil society side, ZWRCN has contributed to building the demand side through strengthening capacity of various community groups such as faith based organisations, residents associations, informal traders associations, youth groups, people with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children and through civic education on gender budgeting and budget monitoring and expenditure tracking.

# Achievements



- Institutionalization of Gender Budgeting by the Ministry of Local Government through the adoption of the Gender Budgeting Training Manual and Tool and guide produced by ZWRCN as core gender mainstreaming tools to be used by all local authorities
- The ministry has also engendered the Budget Call Circular
- Pre-Budget Consultations conducted annually have broadened participation of various stakeholders, particularly women and provided a platform for them to voice their priority needs.
- Establishment of Gender Budget Action Committees (GBACs) which are advocacy structures at community level comprised of individuals that will represent the views of the respective community groups in local and national budgetary and other decision making processes.

- Operationalisation of GB skills gained has been demonstrated by the inclusion of citizen's priorities in local authority budgets. Examples include
  - Bulawayo: provision of a monthly allocation of 25 free gallons of water for child headed and elderly households and adoption of a preferential allocation of market stalls that is heavily skewed towards women, the disabled and people living with HIV and AIDS.
  - Kadoma has increased the social welfare budget and also set aside USD 300 000 for income generating programmes for the youth
  - Masvingo set aside USD 14 000 for a revolving fund for marketers and cross border traders who are predominantly female.
  - Reduced maternity fees at clinics



- Gender has been accepted as a key development concern in principle but gender mainstreaming has progressed at a very slow pace in Zimbabwe largely due to capacity challenges and lip service.
- Staff turnover in Government has also meant that the GB idea has to be continuously popularised.
- Gender and GB are not key result areas for Gender Focal Persons who have other duties that are considered core business
- Collection of sex disaggregated data is still an area that needs strengthening to add to the body of evidence on gender issues

# Challenges



- Centralised decision making in local government as all power is vested in the parent ministry
- Low literacy levels among elected councillors and Members of Parliament has affected pace of gender budgeting implementation.
- Non-enforcement of expenditure monitoring tools as per the Public Finance Management Act. Inadequate reporting of expenditures and revenues
- Budget documents very brief, and difficult to understand for communities
- Issues of turf need careful handling e.g. who should play the lead on GRB issues- who monitors who at among Ministries

- Political will is crucial for the success of the GB initiative but we need to move from rhetoric to action
- GB is a process that Government officials need to learn over time and for which they need technical and financial support- importance of pacing and sequencing the process
- Comprehensive gender training is necessary if the Gender Budgeting concept is to be well understood, appreciated and implemented correctly.
- Continuous need to disseminate information as well as scale up the sensitisation initiatives at both national and local government levels; private sector, civil society itself and training institutions e.g. higher education

# Lessons Learnt



- GBACs- platform for civil society and other stakeholders to participate in the GB process- to demand accountability and transparency (monitoring and evaluation watchdog)



*The journey continues....*

