

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

An Introduction

Catharina Schmitz
Institute of Public Management, Sweden

GENDER BUDGETING

A strategy to promote gender equality in macroeconomic and budgetary policies, thus effectively contribute to the quality of public finance management.

Council of Europe definition:

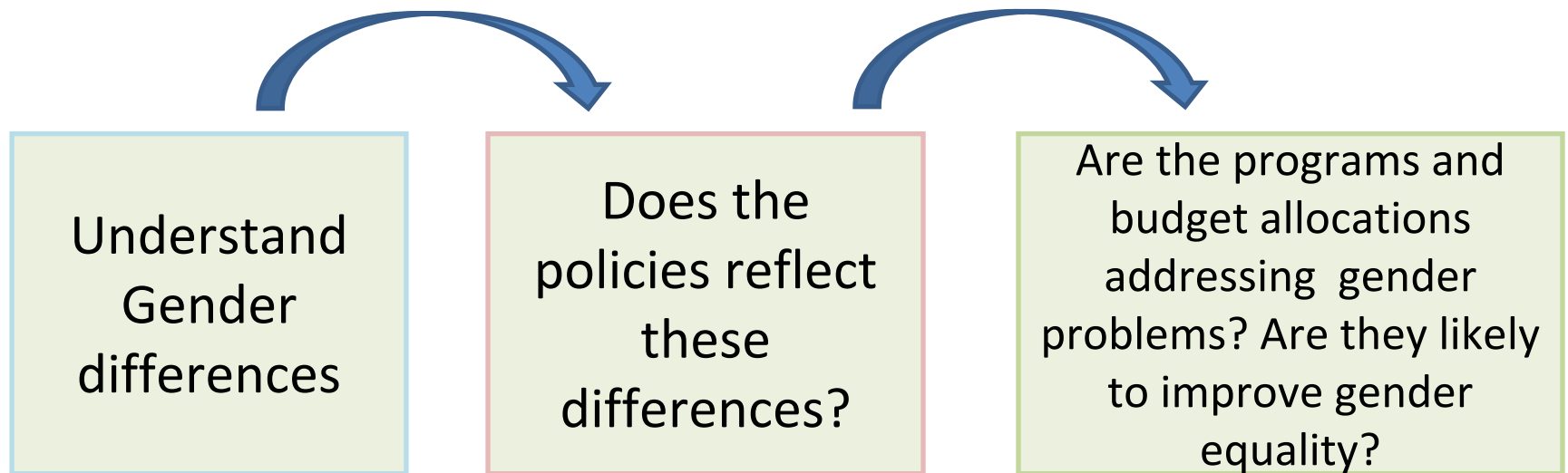
Gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality.

What is GENDER BUDGETING?

- Contributing to Good Governance and effective service delivery
- It is a way of linking equality policy with macroeconomic policy.
- It is based on the premise that budgets are not gender neutral.
- It is not a separate budget.
- It is a way of expediting gender mainstreaming.
- It means close scrutiny of the outcomes of budgets.
- It allows for better targeting, and therefore more efficient allocation of public expenditure.

Key objective 1 of GRB: Increase gender equality

Gender Analysis of Budget



Key objective 2: Implement gender commitments
international/national
Human Rights, Gender rights and Budgets

1) Budget polices and processes are bound by
international HR laws:

- Non-discriminatory
- Equality
- Participation
- Governments are responsible to actively modify discriminating / prejudices - hindering gender equality (transformative action)
- Principle of resource allocation: not lessen human rights already achieved not undertake “retrogressive” measures (relevant in budget cuts)

2) National gender commitments / goals

KEY FEATURES OF GOVERNMENT BUDGETS

Defines how to raise finances and spend resources.

Budgets are key policy statements reflecting a governments socio-political and economic priorities.

Direct impact	Indirect impact
Distribute resources to people Claim resources from them	Effect on employment levels, inflation, economic growth

BUDGET ANALYSIS FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Public Revenue
Public Expenditure
Macroeconomic effects
Budget process

PUBLIC REVENUE

Revenue	Example of gender dimensions
Income Tax	Effects on labor market participation Tax reform effects on different groups, single parents...
Indirect Tax (VAT)	Effects on consumption of different products
User fees	Effects on service availability for different groups

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

Expenditure	Example of gender dimensions
Separate gender programs	with aim to promote gender equality
General programs	Is public spending reaching both women and men in accordance with their needs? Is there consistency between economic goals and social and legal commitments? Is gender policy commitments matched with sufficient resource allocations?
Public goods	addresses need of both women and men

Gender budgeting is about the ordinary money and measures ...

Example from the Swedish Budget Bill for 2006

Labour Market Policy

Gender Equality
Programmes

SEK 27 Millions

Total budget

SEK 67,4 Billions

... achieving a fair distribution and good results for both women and men

Gender equality analysis of Swedish labor market policy (2005)

The need for:

- Fair distribution of resources – the analysis showed that women are over-represented in training programs with low average costs and men in programs with high average costs.
- Good results for both sexes – the analysis showed that men are over-represented in the most effective programs and women in programs that more seldom lead to permanent jobs.

MACROECONOMIC EFFECTS

- How effective is the budget spending in achieving national gender goals?
- Does expenditure cuts disproportionately impact on women/men's
 - unemployment / under-employment
 - division of unpaid work
- Is policies reducing the gender pay gap?
- Is policies effectively supporting reconciliation of work and family responsibilities for both women and men ?
Equal distribution of unpaid work?

Sweden's Gender Equality Policy Objectives

Overall Objective

Women and men must have the same power to shape society and their own lives.

Interim Objectives

1. Equal division of **power** and influence between women and men. Women and men shall have the same rights and opportunities to be active citizens and to shape the conditions for **decision-making**.

- 2. Economic equality between women and men. Women and men shall have the same opportunities and conditions with regard to education and paid work that provide lifelong **economic independence**.

- 3. Equal distribution of unpaid care and household work. Women and men shall take the **same responsibility for household work** and have the same opportunities to give and receive care on equal terms.

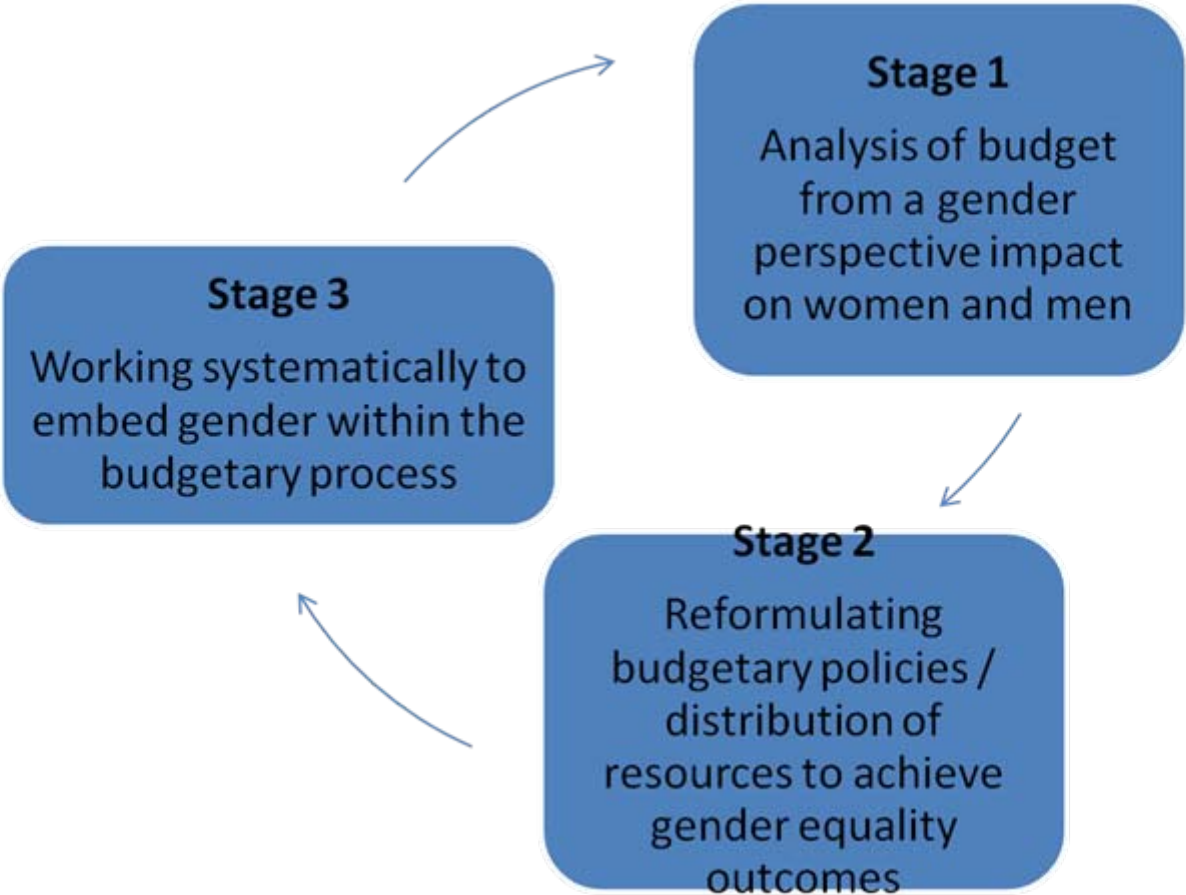
- 4. **Men's violence against women** must stop. Women and men, girls and boys, shall have equal rights and opportunities in terms of **physical integrity**.

These objectives were adopted by the Swedish Riksdag in May 2006.

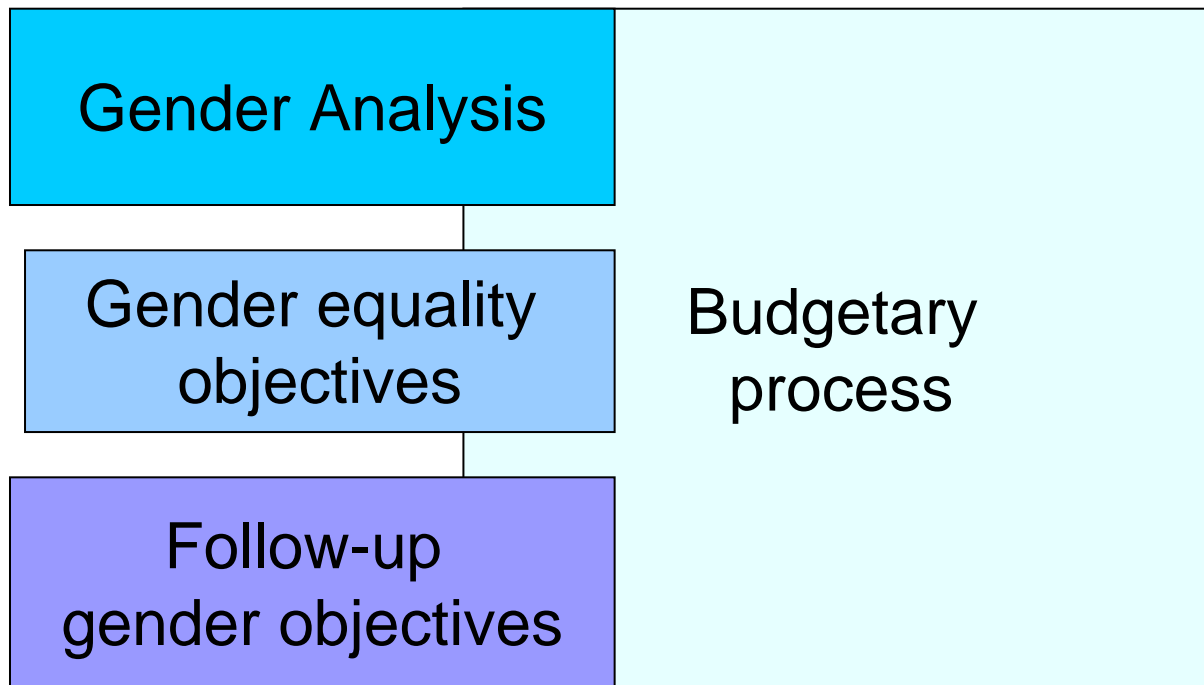
BUDGET PROCESS

- Participation: Who is participation in the budget formulation process, are both women and men's views and needs expressed?
- Engender the process of developing budget proposals
- Visualize W/M in Budget document and other underlying documents
- Strengthening monitoring of gender goals in process and by relevant actors
- Follow-up on progress towards gender equality

The three stages of gender budgeting



The Nordic approach
Integrate a gender perspective in Result-based
management / Performance budgeting



Gender Budgeting at different levels

Level	Responsibility	Specifics
Central level	Putting gender budgeting on a legislative basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Assign supervisory responsibility, aspects of accountability and monitoring•Data collection and management systems•Ensuring revenue-raising measures are scrutinized for gender impacts•Requirements for annually progress reports
	Linking gender budgets with budget reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Into Performance budgeting•Gender goals, indicators, gender disaggregated statistics

Country	Approach
Austria	<p>Within framework of performance budgeting, gender equality will stand alongside transparency, efficiency, accountability in management of public resources , gender equality is placed at the <i>same level as the objective of macroeconomic balance and sustainable finances</i>. By 2013.</p>
Belgium	<p>Introduced A Gender mainstreaming Act 2007 – system-wide gender budgeting.</p> <p>Departmental Gender note attached to the draft budget – ultimately attached to Federal budget.</p> <p>Law calls for drafting of strategic gender equality objectives and priority actions at beginning of term of government. Gender note in effect 2010.</p> <p>Sex –disaggregate statistics, gender indicators, Impact evaluation report.</p>
Sweden	<p>Government decision on Gender Budgeting 2006.</p> <p>Gender Analysis and gender goals included in budget proposal.</p> <p>An appendix to the budget statement: Distribution of Economic Resources between Women and Men.</p> <p>Time-use studies distribution of unpaid work between w/m</p> <p>All individual statistics sex-disaggregated in the Budget Bill.</p>

Level	Responsibility	Specifics
Departmental level	Mainstreaming	Support and coordinate gender budgeting across scope of their spending level Where gender policy is translated into implementation
Local government	Service delivery	Transparency Direct participation in budget priorities
Programme	Resource allocation	Target group analysis – gendered needs Beneficiary analysis

Tools

Gender disaggregated data	Gender disaggregated data Unit cost
Gender Analysis	Various analytical tools for beneficiary assessment, impact assessments Toolbox, Web sites
Mainstreaming	Sustainable mainstreaming (Jämstöd Sweden), Change management. Organizational analytical tools
Steering of the process	Country specific; Gender aware call circular, Gender Aware Budget statements
Monitoring and evaluation	Gender Audit Defining mandate to responsive actors; Financial controllers, auditors, parliamentary committee
Training material	Gender awareness Specific for different actors

Conclusion

- Pilot projects good start - develop processes and methods
- Interministerial cooperation important and necessary
- Pilot project leads to “regular work”
- Important to have formal governance of the implementation process via an explicit political commission

- Important to “see” that gender equality perspective represents a dimension of core activity – thus help improve it,
Brings about more efficient use of resources and enhances services
- Gender budgeting is a change process and need to be supported,
four areas of specific importance
 - ✓ Governance of the process
 - ✓ Organisation of work
 - ✓ Methods
 - ✓ Training

Gender Budgeting in EU

Spain 2003

Sweden 2004

Finland 2004

Norway 2005

Denmark 2006

Czech Republic 2008

Germany 2008

Belgium 2010

Austria 2010

Italy

France

Switzerland

OECD member agreement 2001 - Deadline for GRB 2015

UNIFEM recommendation, 2005

Council of Europe, resolution 2006, 2009

EU resolution on the way (opinion paper presented 2008)