Strengthening the Development Results and Impact of the Paris Declaration through work on Gender Equality, Social Exclusion and Human Rights
London, 12-13 March 2008

Workshop Jointly Organized by:
United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID)
the WP-EFF and the DAC Network on Gender Equality

The Budget as a tool for Ownership, Results and Accountability, as well as Alignment

COUNTRY PRESENTATION
NEPAL

Presented by:
Dr. Chandra Bhadra, Associate Professor, TU &
Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota, Joint Secretary and Coordinator, GRBC
Ministry of Finance, Nepal
GRB Initiatives in Nepal

- In Nepal Ministry of Finance (MoF) has initiated A Gender Responsive Budget from the Fiscal Year 2005/06.
- In the Fiscal Year 2006/07 the Government has Emphasis on institutionalization of gender-responsive budget.
- To institutionalize the GRB, MoF has established Gender Responsive Budget Committee (GRBC) in August 2005.
- In this current fiscal year 2007/08 the Government has formalized the Gender Responsive Budget incorporating five indicators in its computerized system; where it is evident that 11.3% of the budget is 'directly gender responsive', 33.16% is 'indirectly gender responsive' and 55.54% is 'gender neutral'. 
Gender Responsive Budget Committee, Nepal

- Joint Secretary, Budget and Program Division, Ministry of Finance, Coordinator
- Representative, National Planning Commission, Member
- Representative, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Member
- Representative, Ministry of Local Development, Member
- Representative, UNIFEM, Member
- Under Secretary, Budget and program Division, Ministry of Finance, Member Secretary
Scope of Work of GRBC

- To review and monitor the patterns of budget allocation and implementation to make budget gender responsive.
- To evaluate public expenditure from gender perspective.
- To orient gender focal points and planning divisions of sectoral ministries responsible for budgeting.
- To disseminate information on gender responsive budget for providing inputs to the government to make budget gender responsive.
- To work for improvements in making budget gender responsive.
Future steps on GRB

- GRB initiatives will be continued and efforts will be made to increase GRB budget volume.
- The Government of Nepal will work together with UNIFEM in future to further institutionalize and strengthen GRB process.
- Gender audit will be performed for the project which have more than 50 million budget allocation.
- GRBC will encourage local bodies and NGOs to prepare GRB.
- Invest more fund on reducing 'feminization of poverty' and allocate more funds on women friendly technology.
- The GRBC will urgently earmark a substantial budget to address the issues of re-establishment, re-integration and rehabilitation of conflict affected girls and women.
- The current indicators will be upgraded as and when necessary.
Ownership

**Opportunities:**
- Increasing ownership of Government, Donors and Civil Society
- Sufficient professional capacities in place
- Active Civil Society
- Significant Donor support for CSOs

**Challenges:**
- Uncertain political situation, pushing the GE at back bench
- Professionals and Activist make more noise less action
- Insignificant funding by Donor to Government
- Gaps between commitment and implementation
Alignment

Opportunities:
- Government has undertaken policy measures to advance GE according to International Commitment
- Increasing gender awareness among Donors

Challenges:
- Issue of conditionality made by Donor, failure to demonstrate examples within their own agencies
- Changing and contradictory International Commitments
Paris Declaration: Nepalese Experience

Harmonization

**Opportunities:**
- Government committed to international instruments on gender equality through the formulation of various Action Plans
- Donor Community has increasing acceptance of GE policies and plans

**Challenges:**
- GE issues generally not visibly featured in conditionality of Donors
- New commitments overshadowed by earlier commitments often regressing on GE in terms of quantity and quality
Paris Declaration: Nepalese Experience

Managing for Results

Opportunities:
- Increased Emphasis on M & E by implementation of Gender Management System (GMS) at the National Planning Commission
- Results-Based Management (RBM) by incorporating indicators of gender equality in Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) initiative
- Government and Donor eager to see impact on GE

Challenges:
- Government and Donors’ laid-back action resulting in resource gaps
- Gender issues not addressed in large projects of larger Donors
- Gender-sensitive Donors have small funds
Paris Declaration: Nepalese Experience

Mutual Accountability

**Opportunities:**
- Parliament supportive of GE
- UNIFEM as UN GE agency is Supporting Government and Civil Society on gender equality initiatives
- Government policy on Affirmative Action
- Government has Gender responsive policies, plans and budget

**Challenges:**
- Lack of follow-up by Parliament itself
- Insufficient Action Plan of the Affirmative Action Commitments
- No pressure from Donors on affirmative action
- Male dominated behavior at the Donor level and Government level
Paris Declaration: Key messages

**Government:**
- To initiate make a linkage between policy initiative/reforms and impact
- To take Gender Equality issue in rights-based approach rather than welfare approach
- To initiate empirical experience rather than academic and donor driven based approach

**Government & Donor:**
- Government and Donor should work seriously on the issue of Gender Equality rather than showing their own supremacy.
- To strengthen Technical Capability both at the Donor and Government level
- Government and donor should seriously work on GRB

**Donor:**
- To remove Decreasing/ Discontinuity of fund flow due to shifting priority based upon Ideological Whims.
- To remove duplication & unhealthy ideological competition between donor (which would affect the outdo shadowing the GE issue).
- Donor should make their own serious effort on affirmative initiation at least in their contributing program.
Advocacy by CSOs

- Continuous Advocacy since Beijing+5
- Series of national, regional and international consultations on GRB in Nepal, of government and CSOs between 2000-2005 facilitated by UNIFEM
- Constant inputs and feedbacks on global and regional GRB initiatives to decision makers in the Ministry of Finance (senior officials, senior advisors and ministers)
From Advocacy to Technical Support

- Ministry of Finance requested two gender experts to initiate GRB in the Ministry in April 2005 following the Paris Declaration
- A gender budget expert was housed in the Ministry of Finance in May-July 2005
- Conducted orientations on GRB to the Ministry of Finance officials
- Had GRB sessions with sectoral groups during the budget discussion sessions in the Ministry of Finance
- Assisted in making Gender Responsive Budget Statement 2005/06
- Assisted in the formulation of Gender Responsive Budget Committee (GRBC)
- Assisted in formulation of GRB tracking indicators
Public Interest in Budget Statement 2005/06

- Public interest in Budget Statement 2005/06 centred around the Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) initiative
- There was a wide media coverage on GRBI
- There were public debates and discussions on GRB
- Private sector commitments to provide employment to women
Partial Treatment

- GRB initiative has encompassed only the allocation aspect of the budget system
- GRB has to be initiated in the revenue policy and practice
- GRB has to be initiated in the taxation policy and practice
Way Forward

- GRBI has to be decentralized
- Gender equality has to be mandated in the decentralized planning and budgetary process
- Capacity on GRBI at various levels in the district has to be developed
- Women’s agency on GRBI at the grassroots level has to be facilitated
- GRBI in private sector and NGOs have to be mandated
- Capacity on GRBI has to be developed of the private sector and non-government sector
GRB needs to be used as a monitoring tool for the impact of national finance policy and practice on Gender Equality

GRB needs to be used as a tool for policy reform

Need to negotiate with donors in the mandatory application of GRB indicators as the monitoring tool for donor supported projects/programs
Thank You