Gender Responsive Budgeting
the Case of Ghana

Presentation
By

Eva Esselba Mends and Francesca Pobee Hayford
Head Budget Development Unit MOFEP / Director, Dept of Women MOWAC

at

a the OECD DAC 7th meeting of the GENDERNET
10th – 11th June 2009
PARIS
Why gender responsive Budgeting in Ghana

- Further demonstration of the country’s commitment towards removing gender inequities in the provision of and access to essential social and economic services provided by the state.

- To hasten the attainments of the MDG’s and to fulfill other international commitments e.g. CEDAW, BfPA.

- It is also to ensure that government policy of mainstreaming gender issues within national policies and programmes was given effect.
Where are we now in Gender Responsive Budgeting in Ghana

- In 2005 after the Commonwealth Finance ministers the issue of Gender Budgeting became a topical one.

- After discussions between the Hon Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning and Women Ministry a memorandum was sent to Cabinet in 2006

- Cabinet approval granted in 2007

- The Ministry of Finance was instructed to implement it.

- The 2007 Guidelines for the Preparation of the Government Economic Policy and Budget statement indicated that GRB will be implemented in three selected Ministries

- In preparation Key officials from Ministry of Women and Children participated in numerous conferences and programs in to develop capacity towards the implementation of the initiative

- Training was organized for key staff of MOFEP, NDPC and the three implementing Ministries MDAs
Where we are cont'd

- Steering committee formed and meeting regularly
- Steering committee members
  - MOWAC
  - MOFEP
  - NDPC
  - MOH
  - MOE
  - MOFA
- Recruitment of Gender Policy analyst and Budgeting expert to support implementation of the Initiative
ACTIONS TAKEN

- 2008 – 2010 Budget Guidelines/Circular clearly stated that all ministries should start gathering sex disaggregated data as part of preparation towards the subsequent roll out

- Three selected ministries were requested to implement gender responsive budgeting on the basis that they have been implementing some form of the GRB through their various interventions like women in agric and girl child education etc.

- MOFEP/MOWAC has undertaken an analysis of the budget estimates of the three MDAs to ensure that they are Gender responsive
What have we accomplished with the initiative

- General awareness within political and economic institutions of the need for gender mainstreaming/budgeting

- Commitment from more technical people within the MDAS

- Up scaling of gender mainstreaming activities by a lot especially more MDAs especially the three pilot Ministries

- That is has become part of government policy discussion with our DPS within the Budget support programme

- That we have manged to shift from just a governance issue to become a PFM issue within the framework
Challenges to implementing GRB

- Capacity constraints
- Non availability of sex disaggregated Data
- Issue of ownership
- Lack of understanding of the basic gender concepts
- It requires additional effort
- It is relatively new and therefore not very charted
- Lack of a critical mass of technical staff with the knowledge and skill to support the initiative
- Funding
Way forward

- Training for budget officers to equip them with the skills and tools to analyze MDAs' budgets
- Development of training manual and tool kit for MDAs to assist them in preparing GRB
- Support three Key MDAs (education, health, and agriculture) in preparing their GRB
- Preparation of briefing notes to assist Chairpersons of Budget Hearings/Negotiations to ensure that Policy and Technical Budget presentations have reflected the directive
Way forward

- Training to be organized for another 11 selected MDAs by Statistical service in the collection of gender disaggregated data in 2009

- Development of a comprehensive national programme for full implementation of the initiative
Way forward

- Communication Strategy to be developed through briefs, handouts, Radio and TV discussions

- Strengthening of Steering committee to ensure smooth implementation of the initiative

- Monitoring of expenditures to ensure that gender responsive interventions are being adequately funded (inclusion of gender analysis in the current expenditure tracking system)
What do we need?

- Technical support
- Political commitment from MOFEP
- Adequate funding
- Training
- Engagement with civil society
Conclusion

- It is definitely a good start
- There is commitment for its continuation
- We need more champions
- We need DPs to support it