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**Gender Budgeting
Experiences from
Tanzania**

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[Financing for Gender Equality and The Empowerment of Women: Experiences from Tanzania]

**Paper on progress made in Tanzania in implementation of Gender responsive Budgeting and proposals
for Policy makers on Gender Responsive Budget Initiatives and the Roles of Various Stakeholders.**

Paper on Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women: Experiences from Tanzania

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¹ The consultant once worked as a researcher for TGNP in studying resource allocation from a gender perspective in the Ministry of Education & Culture, as well as the Ministry of Higher Education, Science & Technology. The exercise produced several reports and papers. TGNP has through such work produced a book titled **“Gender Analysis on Budgets in Tanzania”**. “Manual on Rural Accessibility Planning” since October 1997. This experience exposed him to the planning related details as regards rural accessibility issues in terms of access and mobility matters. Another paper on TGNP’s experiences with collaboration in gender budgeting was presented by the consultant at the University of London in July 1999.

Additional exposure to gender budgeting activities was gained in relation to the UNIFEM’s regional office’s bi-annual meetings in Harare, Zimbabwe (which was a platform for sharing on progress within gender budgeting in the region). The consultant was engaged as a researcher to share in new findings and observations within GBI in Tanzania.

Moreover, the consultant was also involved as a consultant in gender budgeting exercises in the following areas within and without Tanzania: Presentation of research paper titled **“Tanzanian Experiences on NGO and Government Research Partnership in Gender Budgeting”** (April 2000), at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London UK (May 2000). In April 2003, the consultant prepared and executed an in-country workshop on **“Gender Budget Analysis for Poverty Reduction”**, for more than 70 participants from the Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development in Uganda. In the last 3 years, the consultant has written 3 other papers on engendering financial reforms and the accountant general offices, for the Association of East and Southern African Accountant Generals – ESAAG.

ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action (1995)
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CVO	Community Voluntary Organization
FAWE	Forum for African Women Educationists
FGC	Female Genital Cutting
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAD	Gender and Development
GB	Gender Budgets
GFP	Gender Focal Person(s)
GM	Gender Mainstreaming
GMWG-MP	Gender Mainstreaming Working Group- Macro Policies
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgets
HIV	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
IMF	International Monetary Fund
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PREAMBLE

Between 1997 and 1999, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), an NGO based in Tanzania, has been engaged in researching how the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education & Culture, Ministry of Science, Technology & Higher Education, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives, Ministry of Health and The President's Office, Planning Commission, and the Ministry of Industries and Trade, allocate resources to men and women in the Tanzanian communities through budgetary processes. This "TGNP Gender Budgeting Initiative" participatory action research is part of TGNP's endeavour to trace gender gaps within the budgeting process and procedures, and therefore address these by means of lobbying and advocacy.

It is a fact that gender responsive budgets provide a means for determining the effect of government revenue and expenditure policies on women and men. GRB initiatives consist of different components and vary considerably across countries and regions. These initiatives are led either by governments or civil society groups, or a combination thereof. They mainly involve the examination of how budgetary allocations affect economic and social opportunities for women and men. To date, GRB initiatives have been implemented in more than 40 countries world wide. The nature of GRB initiatives varies from country to country.

The main focus in this paper is on: gender responsive budgeting initiatives in Tanzania; achievements so far in addressing gender responsive initiatives in government and other public development activities; the role of various stakeholders in such initiatives; and the impact of such initiatives in increasing resources for gender equality. This paper is created from the personal experiences of the writer as one of the researchers, as a full member of TGNP, a TGNP Board Member, and as an active and committed protagonist of gender equality and equity within the local and global development contexts.

Quite a handful of people assisted and facilitated in different ways in making this paper and its composition successful. I should thus convey my gratitude to the staff the GAD Consult Ms. Khalila A. Shariff, Ms. Zainab Abdallah, and Ms. Farida Katuli for their research in enabling me accomplish this engagement, and, Ms. Asha Sarota, the from Ministry of Community Development, Gender & Children Development. It is my sincere belief that support from all the above mentioned people, and many others, enabled me accomplish this paper comfortably.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since budgets are concerned with distribution of resources, goods, services and obligations to members of a community, it is crucial to go beyond and see how these revenues and expenditures are actually beneficial to the male and female members of the respective community.

Gender budgets enable a scrutiny on whether the delivered services and income transfers actually support meeting policies on creation of gender equality and equity across all sectors. In other words, gender budgeting assists governments get a better perspective on how budgets should adjust or reallocate resources to effectively address priorities defined by the male and female members of community. Moreover, gender budgeting challenges traditional planning processes and opens them up into being more participatory, democratic and increasingly accountable.

Assuming that the GBI exercise is a long term gender transformation strategy with immediate and sometimes short term goals, it is anticipated its presence will be indefinite. As of present, actors within the Tanzanian gender budgeting initiatives scenario need to concentrate their efforts in the following areas:

- § Standardisation and popularisation of tools used in gender disaggregated beneficiary assessment of service delivery and budget

framework [MTEF] through the PER and TAS forums.

- § Yearly review of gender aware policy evaluation of public expenditures with the Ministry of Finance through the Ministry's programme performance budgeting system.
- § Regularised scrutiny of gender aware budget statements, especially in women's priority public services such as health and within education, policy making and legislation.
- § Engaging additional research on gender disaggregated public expenditure benefit incidence analysis at the local government level within TGNP's IGN networks Districts.
- § Producing annual reports on achievements and technical progress in gender budgeting interventions in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and or Planning Commission.
- § Inserting gender budgeting as a component in capacity or skills building courses, seminars or workshops at finance institutions such as: Institute of Finance Management [IFM], and College of Business Administration [CBA], and the Faculty of Commerce and Management

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Main achievements or impact in the GBI process in the **first phase** were particularly in the following areas:

- § Identification of structural and social constraints as regards inadequate civil society involvement or consultation.
- § Addressing capacity requirements in analytical and conceptual understanding of gender mainstreaming in resource management.
- § Access to government decision making structures, bodies and MDA leadership through the PER, TAS and PRSP processes.
- § Enhanced questioning of macro economic processes on gender sensitivity, especially on pro poor equity issues and on linkages between gender and economics.
- § NGO coalition through FemAct Coalition and media, and at sub national level through IGNs and GDSS.
- § Trust building with Ministries especially those in Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Planning & Empowerment, Ministry of Community Development, Gender & Children Development, Commission, etc.
- § Creation of pilot sectors for institutionalising gender mainstreaming and budgeting interventions in Health, Education, Agriculture, Water, Community Development and Local Government.

Additional achievements or impact registered so far in the **second phase** of the GBI campaign are the hereunder:

- § Government recognition and commitment regularly reflected in budget speeches such as the President's Office Ministry of Planning & Privatization, which stated strengthened resolve on gender mainstreaming in planning and budget processes.
- § Increased openness and transparency in the government budget processes, through wide sharing of PRS2 process leading to creation of the MKUKUTA [NSGRP], creation of a national website and vectorsRe(t&o -1.15rTw[e]-5.8lfe

close engagement with the government. Among the main challenges are:

- § Being too close to government circles is crucial for engaging or linking with government. But the challenge is at the same time to ensure protection of CSO transformation agenda while drawing lessons and building new skills.
- § Capacity building at all levels has faced various obstacles, especially in regards to CSOs. It is hard to mobilize CSOs. Most have poor skills in linking gender to common daily activities, and this slows down the conceptualization process.
- § Meeting expectations as a “Role Model”. Being too out-stretched in regards to its capacity, and facing a high demand for its services by its clients, there is obvious need for additional gender mainstreaming actors;
- § North-South NGO partnership strengths. The North seemingly able to access information, and more able to influence the WB, IMF, WTO, bilateral donors. The Southern NGOs being comparatively more able to assess relevance of different ideas, strategies, and interventions. However, the common challenge is that governments and donors are frequently inconsistent.
- § Challenging Macro-Economic Frameworks in HIPC conditionality, and limited room for government to support progressive approaches. Also the need for alternative development paradigms, and transformative strategies.
- § Need for slightly more systematic identification and documentation of changes in regards to tracking what was caused by GBI or not?
- § Absence of systematic mechanisms for tracking impact through using outreach groups for feedback, poor reporting on contentious issues.
- § Being strange bed fellows as regards through being co-opted by the government into negative policy outputs and outcomes.
- § Constant need for shifting balance between strategic focus and content. Persistent complexity in balancing between TGNP’s wider goals and GBI’s regular demands.

NGO's involved in promoting and protecting human rights are also involved in addressing issues of combating violence against women - Women in Law and Development in Africa [WLAC], and the Legal and Human Right Centre [LHRC].
IGNs and Outreach Groups in Mbeya Rural, Kyela District, Kisarawe District, and Kinondoni District.

