



Public Participation in Budget Policy- the story of gender responsive budgets in Mexico

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A gender responsive budget (GRB)

Is NOT a separate budget for women. It is, rather, an effort through which the public budget becomes an instrument through which gender inequities are recognized and addressed.

As such: it should reflect a government's priorities and actions to address existing gender inequities.

Sharp,R. "Budgeting for Equity: gender budget initiatives within a framework of performance-based budgeting." UNIFEM (July, 2013)

Budlender, D., Hewitt,G., y Mukhopadhyay,T., "Gender Budgets Make Cents." Commonwealth Secretariat, (Jan, 2002)

Ronda Sharp- GRB conceptual framework

1. “**Specifically identified** gender-based expenditures of government departments and authorities (earmarked expenditures).”
1. “Equal employment opportunity expenditure by government department and authorities on their employees.”
1. “**General or mainstream** budget expenditures by government departments and authorities assessed for its **gender impact.**”

Minimum characteristics of the budget necessary for GRB

- The totality of public administration disaggregates its gender equality related actions and these are reflected in the public budget;
- Information is disaggregated by sex;
- Three classifications in the budget are included and combined;
- Gender indicators are attached to budget programs;

The case of Mexico: GRBs and public participation

1. National Women's Forum analyzes \$ reproductive rights

2. New administration, CSOs engage in capacity building on gender policies and budgets

3. CSOs, UNIFEM launch first GRB focusing on health

4. MOH, CSOs, Gender Equity Committee earmark budgets for reproductive health.

★ 1. General Gender Equality Law is passed (2006)

2. Federal Responsibility Law is passed (2006)

★ 3. Access to a Life Free of Violence for women is passed (2007)

★ 4. MOF develops and Congress approves the first ever Gender Equity Budget Annex for the 2008 Federal Budget and Year-End Report.

National Development Plan incorporates gender equality as one of three transversal axis of national level public policy

Gender Equality System

PROIGUALDAD



1999 2000 2002 2004 2006 2007 2008 2011 2012-2018



Transparency and Access to Information Law is approved along with the National Institute for Access to Information



General Governmental Accounting Law is passed (2008)

Reforms to the National Constitution (Art. 1) – recognizing human rights and elevating international treaties to Constitutional level



The Annex: affirmative action or mainstream effort?

Still affirmative action in terms of the national level public policies and budget.

Moving slowly in the direction of mainstreaming the approach

Still pending...

- Improve the transparency and accountability in the use of these resources;
- Evaluate the impact of public spending on gender equality policies and programs and budget based on findings;
- Translation of these efforts to the subnational level where the majority of people live, the vast inequities prevail, and public policies are implemented;
- CSO and citizen engagement at the budget implementation process!

Lessons to consider

- Continuous effort with building blocks in terms of legislation, public policies and budgets (20 years)
- Springs from civil society engagement throughout the entire trajectory and at different levels:
 - Legislative
 - Executive
 - UN bodies
- And through a diverse set of efforts:
 - Research
 - Advocacy
 - Engagement in parallel efforts (transparency agenda)
 - Strategic alliances (with Legislature and UN bodies)
- Multi-factor/Multi-Actor

Discussion questions that come to mind from this experience

- What is the key contribution of civil society and citizen engagement to achieve and sustain a process such as GRBs?
- What conditions are necessary to propel such a shift in complex instruments such as the public budget?
- What is the role of the Legislature in these processes? Can a complex process such as this happen without you?
- Are Legislatures and Citizens natural allies for such a process? What is needed?

THANK YOU!

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