

Fourth Annual Web Update

GTF238 Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network

Local Government Gender Budgeting (LGGB) Project



Programme Purpose: Strengthened awareness and capacity of local authorities in gender and gender budgeting to effectively mainstream gender in policies and budgets for greater gender equality.

Pilot Districts; Mutoko, Masvingo, Bulawayo, Gweru, Kwekwe and Kadoma.

Main Activities and Outputs were:

Human Capacity Building

- Publication of 150 copies of the Local Government Gender Budgeting Training manual for use in gender budgeting training in Ministry of Local Government and all local authorities in Zimbabwe. Official launch of manual will be held on 12 July 2012 by the Minister of Local Government Rural and Urban Development, followed by distribution of manual to all local authorities in Zimbabwe.
- Gender Budgeting Training for Councillors: ZWR CN continued building the supply side of governance for effective results. In October 2011, ZWR CN conducted one day gender budgeting refresher training workshops for 143 councillors (122 males and 21 females) in all six districts. The workshops were in preparation for the 2012 budget and equipped councillors with skills to re-prioritise the council's expenditure in the 2012 budget.
- Gender Budgeting civic education conducted in September and October 2011 in the 10 districts including the six pilot districts. The civic education targeted community based structures. The aim of the workshops were to ensure that the citizens were made aware of their rights to participate in the budget process and to understand their role as citizens in the budgeting process. Approximately 1000 community members were reached. Civic education was conducted through edutainment. A local theatre arts group was engaged to provide drama as a tool for raising awareness on local authority budgets and service delivery. The edutainment was synthesised by question and answer sessions.

Policy, Budget Analysis and Research

- Pre-budget consultation meetings were held in October/ November 2011, in 10 districts, including the project's 6 pilot districts. The budget consultations targeted community based organisations such as residents associations, informal traders associations, women's clubs, youth clubs, people with disabilities, Formal Business Associations and ordinary citizens majority of whom had undergone civic education.
- Budget Adoption Workshops (November 2011)–ZWR CN has been at the forefront of facilitating budget adoption workshops in all six districts. The MLGRUD has made it mandatory for all local authorities to present their draft budgets to residents before adoption. A certificate of participation is also required, indicating names and signatures of residents who will have participated in the process. ZWR CN has been assisting local authorities technically and financially to ensure that the process is done.
- ZWR CN conducted a Gender Budget Analysis of the 2012 local authority budgets to assess gender sensitivity of the six pilot districts after the gender budgeting training they had undergone. The analysis showed that the six local levels were at different levels of engendering their budgets.
- Budget Feedback workshops – As a follow up to the gender budget analysis of the six budgets, feedback meetings were held in the local authorities in February and March 2012. The workshops targeted both council officials and councillors. The workshops helped identify gender gaps in the

local authorities 2012 budgets and formed a basis for reprioritising resource allocation for the 2013 budget to address gender gaps in all the districts.

Advocacy, Networking and Coalition Building

- Formation of Budget Action Committees - As a follow up to the civic education held in the six districts, ZWR CN identified representatives from various community groups who had attended the workshops and set up Budget Action Committees in the six districts. Members of the Budget Action Committees will undergo further training and will become lobby groups and watchdogs over local authorities activities in each district. The BACs will also be useful in mobilising community members for pre and post budget activities and cascading gender budgeting information in their communities.
- Advocacy material aimed at disseminating Gender Budgeting information to communities was developed and distributed in the form of Pamphlets on Gender Budgeting produced in English and translated into the two main vernacular languages: Shona and Ndebele. T-shirts, posters and calendars were also produced.

Key priorities for 2012/2013

In 2012/2013, the programme will focus on

- Policy: Development of gender policies, gender mainstreaming of strategies, policies and by-laws in local authorities to support formulation of gender responsive budgets.
- Strengthening citizens' capacity in demanding for accountability and advocating for their budget priorities remains key. This will be done through rigorous GB civic education and strengthening of community democratic structures such residents associations and budget action committees in lobbying and advocating for gender budgeting.

For further information on ZWR CN, please visit <http://www.zwrcn.org.zw> and to download the fourth annual report for this programme, please see <http://www.zwrcn.org.zw/images/stories/gtfannualreport.pdf>

