

FINANCING

for implementation of BPfA

Lead

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Structural barriers and negative trends

- Weak process of linking planning and budgeting of the BPfA at national levels.
- Lack of comprehensive availability of sex-disaggregated data, particularly following the life cycle stages (by sex as well as age), as a basis for Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB).
- Weak linkages between GRB and wider public finance management (PFM) reform processes. Weak link between policy and legal requirements for gender equality with resource allocations for implementation of these requirements in many of our countries in the region
- Weak mechanisms to track resource allocations throughout the budget cycle, from budget planning through to evaluation of impact of expenditures.
- Weak transparency on allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment leading to the status when information is not publicly available.
- The national agenda 2030 implementation plans, have weak Means of Implementation (MOI) strategies in particular regarding Sustainable Development Goal number 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls
- Weak effectiveness: in many cases, Gender Responsive Budgeting is implemented by 'ticking boxes' and does not serve the purpose of transforming Gender equality financing.



Progress on implementing the Beijing Platform for Action

Countries are undertaking gender-responsive budgeting but gaps remain in translating their commitment to gender equality into adequate resources and monitoring systems, and at all levels of government from national to local.

The Sustainable Development Goal number 5 on Gender Equality has a target and indicator for tracking resource allocations to gender equality measures. Governments introduce deliberate measures into the planning and budgeting cycle to meet their gender policy objectives such as eliminating gender based violence or increasing women's employment. By making these allocations public, governments commit to higher levels of transparency and accountability in budget decision making.

The Beijing+25 national review reports show that many countries from the region have not reported to question 21 of the UN Women "Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews: "Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?" One of examples from governmental reports to this question: "NO. Such statistics is not yet covered, and it will be possible only after the gender program is developed".

In the 2018 Monitoring Round (indicator 8 "Countries have transparent systems to track public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE)" =SDG indicator 5.c.1. showed that only 19% (13 of 69) of partner countries report they have comprehensive tracking systems in place and make gender budget allocations available publicly, thus fully meeting the indicator requirements.

10 countries from the UNECE region participated in measuring mechanisms to track resource allocations towards women's rights and gender equality: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova.

Some countries have taken steps to establish such systems and have some basic elements of these systems in place. Strong, gender-responsive development strategies show that countries are committed to gender equality, but these strategies are not resourced. Few countries have allocated adequate resources to support gender-equality activities, which signals an important policy implementation gap.

Many partner countries, those that already use sex-disaggregated statistics to inform decision making as well as those that do not, indicate a need for increased capacity in this

area – both in terms of collecting the data and to understand and systematically use this information.

Results of the 2018-2019 GPEDC Monitoring Round show that partner countries are experiencing challenges moving beyond the planning phase to putting in place mechanisms to systematically track allocations to gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the budget cycle and also to make these allocations public. While 51% of partner countries include specific guidance on gender-related objectives in their budget call circulars (or equivalents), fewer (28%) tag budget allocations to identify their link with gender-equality objectives, and only 19% conduct gender audits of the budget. Currently, 64% of countries publish information on gender-equality budget allocations, but continued effort is needed to make this information available in a timely and accessible manner.



Recommendations beyond Beijing+25

- **Adequate and effective financing** as it is essential to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls. We call Governments to reverse the trend of underinvestment in gender equality and women's empowerment. Governments should close implementation gaps in gender-responsive budgeting and in translating their political commitments into financial practice. They should make allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment public in order to strengthen oversight and accountability.
- Governments should apply a **comprehensive approach** to implement policy priorities, whereby governments incorporate gender-sensitivity throughout the budgeting and PFM process and systems rather than through isolated and separate efforts.
- **Legal reforms** to ensure that state make obligatory, transparent and accountable budget allocations for effective implementation of commitments on women's rights and gender equality should be taken urgently.
- Put in place **mechanisms to systematically track allocations to gender equality** and women's empowerment throughout the budget cycle and also to make these allocations public.
- Governments should ensure at least **85% of their development funding is gender responsive**, as some States have started to do as part of their Feminist Foreign Policy approach.

- **Capacity building for governments** and decision makers is needed to understand how to monitor if funds were spent in a gender responsive manner
- **A multi-stakeholder process** is needed (States+CSOs) to plan the allocation of finance in a gender responsive manner, using gender responsive budgeting (GRB) methodologies
- **As loans for women in rural areas** are inaccessible, governments need to prioritise grants rather than loans to fit the situation of women with low income and who have no guarantees and collateral.
- **Public Private Partnerships (PPP)** are not an option for funding women's equality measures, as PPPs focus on large infrastructure programs that are not based on the human rights of local populations' and their needs
- **Capacity building** for women's organisations is needed (platforms, training of trainers, training, webinars) including tools on accessing available finance.
- **Gender responsiveness should be mainstreamed within the PFM system**, governments should adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels the need to strengthen linkages between GRB and wider public finance management (PFM) reform processes.
- **Criteria** for additional funding by donors for partner countries that are performing well in areas related to gender equality, should be encouraged.
- We suggest organising a side event during the Forum Equality to explore the barriers and the options to overcome these barriers.

Recommendations from group on Financing implementation of the BPFA

In order to ensure an adequate and effective financing to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls we:

- Call for legal reforms to ensure that state makes obligatory, transparent and accountable budget allocations for effective imp of commitments on women's rights and gender equality
- Call to put in place mechanisms to systematically track allocations to gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the budget cycle and also to make these allocations public.

Useful sources

- Governmental Beijing+25 review reports
- GPEDC. 2019. Making development co-operation more effective: How partner countries are promoting effective partnerships. PART I OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP 2019 PROGRESS REPORT:
<http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Part-I-of-the-Global-Partnership-2019-Progress-Report.pdf>
- UN W. 2017. EGM Report on SDG Indicator 5.c.1:
<https://gender-financing.unwomen.org/en/highlights/sustainable-development-goal-indicator-5c1>
- FG CPDE 2019 data on indicator 5.c.1 : The metadata of Indicator 5.c.1 can be found in the webpage of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGS:
- https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-06/Tier%20re-classification%20requests%20for%206th%20IAEG-SDG%20meeting_web.zip