



EVENT IN BRIEF

UN WOMEN ETHIOPIA PROMOTES SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION THROUGH EXPERIENCE SHARING FORUM ON BUDGET TRACKING FROM GENDER PERSPECTIVE



DELEGATES FROM UGANDA AND RWANDA SHARE BEST PRACTICES

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The three-day experience sharing forum on budget tracking tool development for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) was held from 24 – 26 August 2018 in Debre Zeit town with a call by the Government of Ethiopia on the need to identify financing gaps from gender perspective in sectoral budget allocation and developing a budget tracking system.

Thirty participants comprising of sectoral ministries, regional bureaus, delegates from Rwandan and Ugandan Government Institutions, UN Women’s staff members from Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia gathered at the forum organized by UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC). The objective was to enable the technical team from Ethiopia to share experiences with Uganda and Rwanda and to revise the draft budget tracking tool template to track allocations for GEWE.

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Anna Parini, UN Women’s Ethiopia Deputy Representative, highly appreciated the willingness of Ugandan and Rwandan delegates to share their rich experience on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), specifically on budget tracking tool development. She also highlighted the Ethiopian Government’s efforts, including the leadership of MoFEC and MoWCA, in promoting GRB and in taking the initiative to develop a budget tracking system from a gender perspective, which is a key SDGs indicator.

Regarding the gaps and the potential to bridge Ms. Anna explained,

“There is very limited accountability to achieve the goals as the allocation of resources for realizing GEWE targets in the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) is not clearly known. The budget tracking system aims to show evidences on the resource allocation for policies and programmes in each sector for GEWE targets and to review and strengthen the draft budget tracking tool template. UN Women believes that this forum is an opportunity to share ideas and agree on a practical tool to track allocations for GEWE in Ethiopia.”

Mr. Tesfaye Birhanu, State Minister Advisor from the Ethiopian Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation in his part acknowledged UN Women’s supportive role in helping the Government to develop the budget tracking tool and its effective implementation, "Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Programme aims at enabling the Government to pursue gender-responsive planning and budgeting system and to ensure that resources are allocated considering gender equality and women’s empowerment commitments across the sectors."

About the forum's potential to impact the budget tracking tool development for Ethiopia, Mr. Tesfaye added,

"The experiences of Rwanda and Uganda on gender mainstreaming and budget tracking suggest that governments can address gender-oriented goals through the budget by setting clear and well-thought-out priorities in different sectors of the economy. I'm delighted to recognize that this forum will provide a platform for discussions, which will enable us to share knowledge, and experiences that will improve the performance of our country's gender budget tracking and ultimately ensure equitable budget allocation for the benefit of women in particular and the entire society at large."

According to Ms. Sylvia Muwebwa Ntambi, chairperson of Equal Opportunities Commission in Uganda, the current Gender and Equity planning and budgeting approach in Uganda has gone through various reforms before becoming what it is now - a regional champion in gender and equity planning and budgeting. Among the key lessons the country learnt through the process is the power of capacity building in changing attitudes towards gender and equity planning and budgeting as she said,

"my key advice, start by training the ministers and relevant departments on what exactly Gender and Equity Budgeting is. If they do not understand the concept, having the Budget Tracking Tool alone would be difficult to implement."

"Availability of gender disaggregated data and baseline indicators are critical to make gender tracking tool effective."



Participants actively involve in the discussions.
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As the three-day forum concludes, the draft budget tracking tool from gender perspective in Ethiopia was revised. This was done using the learnings of Rwanda and Uganda and contextualizing it starting from the planning to reporting templates, which are key for tracking resource allocations for GEWE.

According to Ms. Misrak Tamiru, the National Planning and Budgeting Programme Specialist at the UN Women Ethiopia office this gestures the development of the budget tracking tool as she stated,

"What is not planned and budgeted cannot be monitored and what is not monitored cannot be evaluated for achievement of results. Hence purposive planning and resource allocation for interventions that promote GEWE is indispensable for the achievement of the GEWE targets of GTP II and SDGs."



Delegates from Uganda and Rwanda (From right to left), Ms. Sylvia Tereka, Ms. Sylvia Muwebwa Ntambi, Ms. Edna Akullq and Ms. Emma Carine Uwantege.

Regarding the opportunity in effective development and use of the budget tracking tool in Ethiopia, Ms. Emma Carine Uwantege, Programme Coordinator of UN Women in Rwanda and previous employee in the Ministry of Finance, sees one of the key tips for effective GRB, the Ethiopian Government's commitment to the principles of gender equality, "I see some commitments and when there are commitments there are possibilities." She also emphasized on the importance of using figures to advocate,

In their closing remarks, Ms. Azeb Rezene of MoWCA, Ms. Neteru Wondwosen of MoFEC and Ms. Yelfigne Abegaz of UN Women emphasized on the need for continuous engagement of all high-level stakeholders and experts for the endorsement and practical use of the tracking tool to benefit Ethiopian women and girls.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Ethiopia is a four - year programme launched in 2017 and being implemented by UN Women in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Commission (MoFEC), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and other stakeholders.

By building on the good practices and taking up the learnings from the global Financing for Gender Equality Programme, it aims to enable the Government of Ethiopia establish Gender Responsive National Planning and Budgeting system to ensure that resources are allocated considering gender equality and women's empowerment commitments. This is through ensuring that new and existing internationally and nationally agreed commitments on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment(GEWE) are adequately and effectively financed in Ethiopia.

Expected outcomes of the programme include; enhanced political consensus by the Government of Ethiopia to address the GEWE financing gap, prioritized fiscal laws and policies and national action plans of the Government of Ethiopia budgetary allocations in favor of GEWE, increased allocation of resources on GEWE from international financing sources and strengthened oversight mechanisms on allocation towards GEWE in Ethiopia. The programme is supported by the Government of Sweden.

For more information about the programme, contact Misrak Tamiru: Misrak.tamiru@unwomen.org