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What is Gender-Responsive Budgeting?

Gender responsive budgeting is a strategy that considers the different needs and priorities of women and men by integrating gender perspective into all stages of planning and budgeting.
What is the aim?

The overall objective of gender-responsive budgeting is to achieve a society where women and men enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

Objectives of gender-responsive budgeting are to:

- Promote gender equality and women’s empowerment,
- Ensure equal participation of women and men in the budgetary planning and delivery processes,
- Analyze the different impacts of public revenues and expenditures on women and men,
- Ensure effective and efficient use of public resources,
- Promote accountability and transparency in public financing and management,
- Provide for a fair budget distribution.
Why Gender-Responsive Budgeting?

• A gender responsive budgetary process enhances public accountability and safeguard the budgetary rights of citizens.

• Public services become equally available for women and men.

• By promoting women’s empowerment, it helps build prosperous societies of strong individuals.

• Through realistic planning, it saves public resources by ensuring that they are transferred to areas of need.

• It promotes gender mainstreaming in the budgets of central and local authorities, and reduces development gaps among regions.
Gender-responsive budgeting does not increase government spending; rather, it helps save resources by setting priorities in line with the needs.
Gender-responsive budgeting does not mean,

cutting budgetary resources in half for the use of women and men,

preparing separate budgets for women and men,

creating a new budget for women,

formulating programs that target only women,

or increasing budgetary spending.
Gender-responsive budgeting:

- Offers equal opportunities in terms of access to public services, by focusing on the differing needs of women and men.

- Embraces other democratic approaches such as participatory budgeting.

- Stands out as the financial instrument for a gender mainstreaming strategy.

- Promotes the principle of equality which is enshrined in the constitution and legislation.

- Brings along inclusive economic growth through sustainable practices.

- Doesn’t have to be delivered in a certain single way; the implementation method may vary according to the local context.

- Is not a target, but a tool to achieving gender equality.
Practitioners and Stakeholders

National Level

• Turkish Grand National Assembly
• Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Presidency of Strategy and Budget
• Ministry of Family and Social Services
• Ministry of Treasury and Finance
• Governmental Institutions
• Universities
• Turkish Statistical Institute

Local/Regional Level

• Offices of Governors
• Local Governments
• Municipality Councils
• Development Agencies

Other Stakeholders

• Audit Organizations (Court of Accounts, Internal Audit Units)
• National Human Rights Organizations (Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey, the Ombudsman Institution)
• Academics
• Civil Society Organizations
• Budget groups/Experts
But how?

Gender responsive budgeting focuses on the differing priorities and needs of women and men. It contributes to building a powerful society by planning and restructuring how public revenues would be generated and spent.
5 Steps to Gender Responsive Budgeting

Baseline Assessment and Needs Analysis
• Define existing gender inequalities
• Identify areas of improvement through programming

Setting out Performance Objectives
• Enhance the gender equality performance of policy objectives

Setting out Performance Indicators
• Follow up the progress in gender equality indicators

Defining Activities
• Define the activities for achieving gender equality performance objectives

Budget Allocation
• Ensure budget allocation allows for the delivery of activities
Within the scope of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, Turkey has made a series of commitments in the field of gender equality and women’s empowerment. Turkey is also committed at the national level, to achieving gender equality, addressing the needs and empowerment of women and promoting women’s rights. Gender responsive budgeting emerges as an indicator of how determined the government is in terms of delivering on those commitments.
Entry Points for Gender-Responsive Budgeting

1. Legal Framework

The approach that promotes gender equality which is mirrored in the Turkish Constitution is binding for all central and local authorities. Accordingly, the legislation involves a great number of provisions aimed at achieving gender equality, preventing all kinds of discrimination against women and promoting empowerment of women.

2. Strategic framework

The targets laid out in the strategic plans of central public institutions and local governments are expected to be in line with the objectives set out in the key policy documents. Key policy documents of Turkey accommodate many objectives aimed at achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment as well as a series of measures designed for reaching those objectives.

3. National Statistics

National statistics provide the source of information that is necessary for not only identifying problem areas, but also assessing the effectiveness of the measures developed for addressing these problems. The current infrastructure in Turkey can be further improved to better present statistics.
Legal Framework

• Articles 5, 10, 41, 42 and 90 of the Constitution
• Labour Law No. 4857
• Turkish Civil Code No. 4721
• Law No. 6284 to Protect Family and Prevent Violence Against Women
• Law No. 6701 of Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey
• Law No. 5018 on Public Financial Management and Control

Strategic Framework

• 11. Development Plan (2019-2023)
• National Strategy and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment (2018 –2023)
• National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025)
• 2022-2024 Budget Preparation Guideline

National Statistics

• Social Structure and Gender Statistics of the Turkish Statistical Institute
• Turkey Demographic and Health Survey
• Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey and other thematic surveys
• Analysis Reports
Women in Turkey

Figures*:

Women’s labour force participation: 30.9%

Percentage of female MPs: 17.3%

Maternal mortality rate is 13.1 per one hundred thousand.
Maintaining the downfall in maternal mortality rate can only be achieved through reproductive services accessible for all women.

A research from 2014 shows that 37.5% of women have been exposed to physical and/or sexual violence at one point in their lifetimes.

In Turkey, 4.7% of women and 0.7% of men are illiterate.

The percentage of illiterate women is 6 times greater than that of men.

References:
- Turkish Grand National Assembly, https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/SandalyeDagilimi
- Ministry of Health, Health Care Statistics, 2019
- MoFSS, Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey, 2014
- TurkStat, National Education Statistics Database, 2020
- TurkStat, Population and Demographic Statistics Database, 2020
- TurkStat, Women in Figures, 2020
Today, one of the leading reasons for the existing gender inequalities across the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is the gender blind public policies. Gender blind policies result with gender inequalities, which can be seen across education, health care, labor force, management and decision-making processes.

Recently, nearly half of all OECD countries (15 out of 34 countries) have adopted gender responsive budgeting; most of the remaining ones are either planning to adopt it or actively considering it.

Source: https://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/gender-budgeting.htm
Project on Implementing Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting in Turkey

- **Project implementing organization**
  UN Women

- **Project Beneficiaries**
  Ministry of Family and Social Services
  Directorate General on the Status of Women
  Presidency of the Republic of Turkey
  Presidency of Strategy and Budget

- **Lead Institution**
  Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate of European Union

- **Project Donors**
  European Union and UN Women

- **Budget**
  €3,300,000

- **Duration:**
  15 December 2020 - 15 December 2023
  (36 months)
Implementing Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting in Turkey Project aims to systematically and sustainably improve Planning and Budgeting where different priorities and needs of women and men are taken into account.

Designed to help achieve the primary objectives of the 11th Development Plan of the Republic of Turkey, the Project promotes the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Planned for the period of 2020-2023, the Project is aimed at ensuring that women and men enjoy equal rights, services, and opportunities.

Co-financed by the European Union and UN Women, the project will be implemented by UN Women under three main objectives in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, Presidency of Strategy and Budget.

**Stakeholders**
- Ministries
- Public Institutions
- Local Authorities

**Target Group**
Senior officials and staff of public institutions and municipalities, members of the parliament, academicians, representatives from the civil society organizations.

**Activities**
Within the framework of the project, workshops, trainings, inter-agency coordination meetings, different analysis and practices will be implemented to support achieve gender responsive budgeting.
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