
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Analysis of the gender budgeting in the agricultural and rural development sector is part of wider project activities which are related to: Project on Building gender responsive budgeting in the reform of public administration of BiH, implemented by the Republika Srpska Gender Centre, in cooperation with the Gender Equality Agency of BiH and FBiH Gender Centre. The Project is supported by UNIFEM in the framework of its regional Programme "Gender Responsive Budgeting in South East Europe: Advancing Gender Equality and Democratic Governance through Increased Transparency and Accountability. The Programme was implemented with funding from the Austrian Development Cooperation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, including RS, have signed the most important international Conventions on the issue of *gender equality and the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, Women Beijing Declaration)*. *There are different Laws that prohibit discrimination against women where they get equal rights to education, work, health and social security etc. Gender Equality Law (BiH Official Gazette, 16/03)* promotes gender equality in private and public sphere and prohibits discrimination based on sex or sexual orientation and obligates the government and its institutions to make the programmes for implementation of the Law in all segments of life. *There is also a special Article in CEDAW Convention about Advancement of Women in the rural areas and Bosnia and Herzegovina is responsible to work on Advancement of Women in the villages and improve their economical and social statuses.*

On the basis of Beijing Declaration and obligations from the Law on Gender Equality in BiH, Entity Gender Centers, have developed the Gender Action Plan (NAP) for BiH, adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers in September 2006. The main goal of the BiH GAP is "to define strategies and realize programme objectives to reach equality of women and men in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Gender Budgeting – sometimes referred to as Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) or Gender Sensitive Budgeting - is a tool, recognized worldwide and by EU, by which gender perspective is integrated in a budgetary process. Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Hercegovina, prescribes introduction of gender sensitive budgets at all levels of authority. However, it is still a very new concept in the country and has been tested in a few pilot initiatives.

Initiatives for the implementation of GRB in BiH have started in 2007 and until today pilot initiatives have been implemented in health, education and social services sector, and on the level of some local municipality budgets as well. A Review of the 2007 budget allocations, lines and requested and approved budgets were examined, by for the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Services at the FBiH and RS Government levels budgets have been assessed as being 'gender blind. In Social services sector initiatives have resulted in extra fund allocation within municipal and national budget in the Republika Srpska and are used for the safe houses for victims of domestic violence.

In the agricultural and rural development sector many reforms have been adopted in the last few years. Many strategic documents have been created and regulations are harmonized with EU standards. Budget for the agricultural and rural development has been increased by 100%.

Rural areas are for the first time analyzed through an integrated and multi-sectoral approach and not only through agriculture development. The agricultural sector and rural development sector is developing and improving its institutional and legal framework. This is exactly the reason why Gender Center of RS decided to launch initiative for introduction of GRB in agriculture and rural development sector and to try to ensure that needs of both gender are recognized in the sector strategies and budget.

Analysis of the impact of above mentioned reforms on the situation for women in rural areas was up to this date, object of sporadic studies that comprised only smaller project areas and didn't have overall approach starting from sectoral policies, budgets expenditures, etc. This is why this research represents the first step towards reviewing agriculture and rural development in context of their impact on rural women, and aims to prove a hypothesis that adoption of Gender Sensitive Budgeting concepts can improve position of women in rural areas and can work towards erasing gender inequalities, but also towards improving rural economies for all: children, women and man.

Main objectives of this research were to:

- To make introspection on gender issues in area of agriculture and rural development and to present findings within context of overall socio-economic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with special attention to gender inequalities within agriculture and rural development sector;
- To conduct analysis on gender responsive policy and budget making in the field of agriculture focusing on integration of gender into planning and budgetary processes; identification of indicators and methodology for analysis etc.
- To develop methodology for gender responsive budget analysis of this sector and carry out the analysis. Analysis should present budget allocations within the sector over the past 3 years, focusing on adequacy of specific allocations, trends, and level of priority given to selected programmes.
- To present results of the research following with findings and recommendations for implementation of GRB methodology within RS budgetary process for agriculture and rural development;

In order to answer those objectives, the study was conducted through several research phases embracing various research methods, as: literature review, project documentation review, legal assessment, focus group interviews, surveys and questionnaires, and qualitative and quantitative budget analysis.

Following findings revealed as a result of conducted study:

- Women in rural areas are exposed to poverty and a difficult economic situation because they are in more ways than men limited in making an income. The main factors that affect their chances of participating in the labor market are their dispossession of productive resources like land ownership, difficulties in access to markets, the burden of housework and education of children, their old age and lower level of education, characteristic of women in rural areas of RS.
- Because of the different roles that women are playing in agriculture production and rural development, their contribution to the development of those sectors is fundamental. Women play a major role in food production and influence the choice of foods used to prepare meals for the family and take care of their health and wellbeing. They are a crucial provision of labor for agricultural production, mainly in the areas of management of production and marketing of products on the market.
- The main limits women face in their participation in agricultural production and rural development are related to their access to resources, particularly their dispossession of the means of production and the uneven home budget distribution that allocates far less proportion of means to tackle their needs and interests. Moreover, the fact that their presence in the agricultural economic sector

is greater in the production level and lower in marketing makes them less accessible to markets for agricultural products. Additionally, their lack of information on markets, loans and new technologies and their limited access to financial and credit caused by non existing liquidity creates a serious hindrance in the path of economic development. Equally important the low participation women undertake in the life of rural communities through counseling and decision-making on investments in infrastructure, as well as the low participation in manufacturing organizations reduces their chances to improve their potential for success in agricultural economy.

- The strategic objectives of agriculture and rural development are indiscriminately directed to problems of rural population, women and men, although there is no defined indicators from which MoAFWM can measure and define the differential impact of the implemented measures on women and men in rural areas.
- Although, the Ministry is organizing consultative meetings with beneficiary organizations during the budget drafting process, the representatives of the most vulnerable beneficiary groups, including women in rural areas, usually are not members of those organizations. That means that they are left out of the discussion process.
- The existing measures of support in agriculture and rural development budget, can't be classified as discriminatory to women's needs, but the criteria for the application of these measures are in most cases discouraging for women because of their differential situation. Particularly, women's less mobility, lower access to resources and lack of information, as well as the lesser involvement in farmer's organizations, hampers their economic development.
- There is no special program within the Ministry reflecting the above mentioned problems for women in rural areas. So, in the long run there is no chance for this situation to be changed.
- The application criteria are designed in favor of commercial producers and in order to improve competitiveness of agriculture production. However, a large number of producers, including women, are not in a position to meet these criteria. Arguably, their competitiveness could be improved in other ways either by easier criteria or by new measures;
- The ministry has only one special measure to support women's associations in rural areas and no other programs or instruments for education, information or encouragement of women to use subsidy funds;
- In the program of monitoring and assessing the implementation of incentives in MoAFWM there is no defined list of indicators to quantify the effects of individual measures. They could contribute to better monitoring and understanding a compulsory policy measure.
- The Ministry does not track users of support measures disaggregated by gender. There are no gender-sensitive indicators developed within the monitoring and evaluation system. Nor has any action taken for analysis of any kind of effects of stimulus measures to women in rural areas or the analysis of their needs.
- MoAFWM staff is not familiar enough with concepts such as gender equality or gender budgeting. They are not either involved enough in the process of creating the budget for agriculture and rural development. Most of them believe that women have already achieved equal rights and opportunities in the implementation and support for agriculture and rural development.

Based on findings presented, following recommendations can be suggested for adoption of GRB concept within agriculture and rural development sector:

- MoAFWM should be the initiator of all processes related to the introduction of gender aspect in the creation of sector strategies and budget. An important precondition for this is the general acceptance within MoAFWM that gender equality has to be integrated in agriculture and rural development policies and programs;
- Women's and other vulnerable groups' representatives in rural areas needs to be included when the decisions on priorities and objectives are made;
- Gender-sensitive goals for agriculture and rural development needs to be defined, and, regarding to this, impact indicators should be determined as a way to measure the progress in the implementation of the future goals;

- Prior to setting up new objectives, a situation analysis should be conducted assessing gender situation in rural area, identifying the constraints women face in the process of exercising their rights and producing Gender Disaggregate data about the area of focus;
- Revision of existing programs in agriculture and rural development budget should be conducted in order to analyze the effect of existing measures in the budget on the position of women and men in rural areas;
- In terms of implementation of the above-mentioned process, the coordinating team should be formed within the MoAFWM. This team would be responsible for the implementation of gender accountability through the entire process of creating the budget and its implementation.
- Gender Sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation System should be build, which understands training of officers for M&E with a gender focus, creation of gender indicators, creation of additional tools for monitoring of ongoing programs in achieving expected results, conduct periodical evaluation of support measures by sex, etc.
- Together with the Ministry of Finance initiate and support a budget system reform towards creating a program-oriented budgeting;
- Support and organize public debate and campaign on the role of women in agriculture and rural development at all levels with main objective of encouraging organized involvement of women in the process of budget planning for next year
- Initiate department cooperation between different Ministries who are responsible for socio-economic development in rural areas;