

What is a Gender Responsive Budget?

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), also known as gender budgeting, is an approach to budgeting that takes into account the various needs of a diverse population by using an intersectional gender lens to respond to the different experiences of women, men, and gender-diverse groups.

It is literally thinking through your financial plan of your theory of change and results frame work which should already integrate gender.

It is important to try and normalise and integrate the idea of doing gender-based work as part of your project rather than as an add-on.

Four Reasons for a Gender Responsive budget

Gender neutral budgets seldom exist.

Because project implementation is largely determined by the source of funding, budgets can either promote gender equality or exacerbate inequalities.

GRB is holistic.

Gender dimensions need to be part of the whole project cycle and not just at the end – when monitoring. Do not plan to fail by failing to plan.

GRB is impactful.

A gender responsive budget (GRB) impacts more people positively and equally by responding to differentiated needs.

ROI.

Things to budget for include gender analysis, outreach, capacity building, technology.

A gender-responsive budget is a budget that works for everyone

by ensuring gender-equitable distribution of resources and by contributing to equal opportunities for all.

Gender responsive budgeting can reveal the different impacts of spending and revenue decisions on women and men, which differ depending on their life stages and economic and social circumstances.

Gender Responsive Budget Checklist

- 1 Diversity**
Is the team deciding on budget diverse?
- 2 Inclusion**
Are those with the most to lose or gain included in the process?
- 3 Analysis**
Does the budget accommodate gender differentiated needs?
- 4 Business Case**
Is there budget for business case development that incentivises GRB?
- 5 Intersectionality**
Is this a significant % of the budget?
Gender is one part of diversity
- 6 Engagement**
Budget to engage men & boys?
- 7 Cost-Benefit**
Does the budget focus on the highest ROI gender related activities?
- * General**
Have you budgeted for catalytic activities?

Where should you start?

Gender neutral budgets seldom exist. So, your budget may be gender blind.

There is often nothing that relates to gender at output.

You get the biggest bang for your buck if you look at your whole project from a gender lens perspective. It's a lost opportunity if you do not budget for it, as you can then exploit all the gender integration opportunities.

This may well be low-cost high impact interventions.