Definition of Key Terms

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) defines gender as “the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female, and the relationships between women and men, and girls and boys.”

A budget is the most comprehensive statement of a government’s social and economic plans and priorities for a defined period of time, normally a year. In tracking where the money comes from and where it goes, budgets determine how public funds are raised and used, and who benefits from them.

Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) has long been promoted as a strategy that promotes the goal of gender equity by allocating specific budgets for gender mainstreaming. GRB includes integrating gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) more strategically and practically at the levels of policy, planning and budgeting. GRB is not about creating separate budgets for women or solely increasing spending on women’s programmes; rather GRB seeks to ensure that the collection and allocation of public resources are carried out in ways that are effective and contribute to advancing GEWE.

GRB should be based on in-depth analysis that identifies effective interventions for implementing policies and laws that advance GEWE and women’s rights. GRB also provides tools to assess the different needs and contributions of women and men, and girls and boys within existing revenues, expenditures and allocations, and calls for adjusting budget policies to benefit all groups, and address gender bias and discrimination.
GRB is a step towards accountability to women’s rights and greater public transparency and can shift economic policies leading to gains for women and girls, as outlined in global normative frameworks, such as 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

GRB is often used to bring together two areas of development – gender policy and programming – that are not usually linked with public financial management. GRB also enhances the oversight and accountability of national planning and budgeting processes related to GEWE.

**How To Do GRB for Climate Action?**

GRB presents an opportunity for effective collaboration between social and environmental sectors, and more effective budgeting to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**STEP 1**
- Gender Analysis
- Problem Identification using Qualitative and Quantitative indicators, Gender statistics, indicators and sex disaggregated data.

**STEP 2**
Develop strategy – is the policy Gender-responsive?
- Does it match what has been identified in step 1?

**STEP 3**
- Check that the budget allocation necessary to implement programmes aimed at promoting GE is adequate.

**STEP 4**
- Check whether expenditure is spent as planned. Have planned activities been executed; delivery rate achieved and M&E completed?

**STEP 5**
- Examine the impact of policy and expenditure.

This *Gender & Climate Change Resilience Series* is a UN Women publication under the EnGenDER Project. The EnGenDER Project is funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UKFCDO). Led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the EnGenDER Project is also jointly implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), World Food Programme (WFP) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Nine Caribbean countries are beneficiaries of the EnGenDER Project – Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.