

# Session 6 – Strategies for GRB

## REGIONAL LEVEL

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# Experience of GRB in Asia Pacific by Yamini Mishra

*OVERVIEW – Based on a preliminary study*

- Difficult to talk about; diversity, every country has different trajectory; different way of looking at the regional experience
- In the last 3-4 years, numbers have increased... more than 30 countries in the region (est. is more)

# Experience of GRB in Asia Pacific

## TO INITIATE GRB:

### 1. Legal framework DEFINITELY helps:

5 countries – laws promote GEWE in general

15 countries – laws promote **specific**

3 countries – no legal backing for GRB

### 2. Institutional mechanism

17 countries – specific mechanism in the national level

10 countries – experience in other levels

# Experience of GRB in Asia Pacific

3. Key actors: Ministry of Finance (value-added GRB), building allies with non-traditional partners
  4. Scope differs: 56% national level, 11% local, 33% both levels ...Has GRB really changed the lives of women? More work on local level (sub-national/provincial)
  5. Budget scope: sectoral budget/programme/participatory/etc
- GRB missing on the revenue side

# Experience of GRB in Asia Pacific

- GRB is a new body of work in Asia Pacific; experimentation; important to ask for **results** but note that it needs to be given some **time**
- Strategy most often use: “capacity development is possibly the only way to start”; It’s okay to begin with capacity development/trainings but don’t get caught on it
- **Recommendations:**
  - (1) invest in a roadmap/develop strategies (Ask relevant questions: Where do you want to take capacity dev? Whose capacity? For what?);
  - (2) different methods and formats; more focused

# What have we achieved (+Improvements)

1. Enhanced capacity on gender and GRB  
*Strategies?*
2. Gender Budget Statements  
*a statement that the govt. uses to tell you what budgets have used GRB for a particular year; different formats (quantitative/qualitative)*
3. Contributions to the gender architecture  
*Who monitors? Convenes? Sit in on budget decision?*
4. Changing policies and budgets  
*Changed policies and budgets, at least in the introduction, GRB increasing*

**FINAL ACHIEVEMENT?** *Make budgets & policies more gender responsive... resulting in better outlays, outcomes & impact on women. BUT we haven't really answered this question.*

# Relevance of International Organizations to the Region

YAMINI, UN Women:

- Multifaceted, but mainly to provide **policy advisory services**
- Request can come from country/civil society partner if there are no country offices

YUMIKO, UNDP:

- Regional centre to provide services to country offices; national planning commission; comprehensive macro-economic planning & mainstreaming gender, time-use survey and how to integrate into socio-economic training, gender & trade, finance, increase revenue, industrial policies

GIOVANNI, Coimbra University, Portugal

- (1) **URBAL** – Automatic network of municipalities & districts, between Latin America & Europe on participatory budgeting & gender (innovation from the South to the North), 380 cities (critical mass) – the risk from funding/projects “they last until they last”  
--- political institutions in creating networks: they can disappear from one day to another, thus make it multi-actorial, multi-trans-color network for continuity ...**how is this possible in AP?**
- (2) **UCLG (United Cities and Local Government)** which has a specific committee on gender ...work with them as a sort of a base, to strengthen a network on it?
- (3) **APEC** – more on trade & investment, with women’s leadership

# Q&A Session

- The need to now bring GRB into universities, building human resources?  
Work on GRB with the government, academics, women's movements, etc on monitoring and tracking... and then intro to universities
- Women's organizations haven't engaged enough in budget & policies (instill gender lens)
- Gender & taxation: How can you make tax policies more gender responsive? Direct & in-direct tax – Direct/personal income tax, relating to women's unpaid work
- GRB: In Women's Ministry or Finance Ministry? Involve Ministry of Finance; for strategic reasons; gender technical expertise and monitoring work in Ministry of Women; e.g. Indonesia: Women, Planning, Finance and Home Ministry...



Is there an existing GRB regional network?  
If not, how can we envision one?

- ROLES & ISSUES
- OPERATIONS:
  - WHO: Secretariat & Membership
  - HOW
  - FINANCIAL/FUNDING

# Is there an existing GRB regional network? If not, how can we envision one?

*The ball has started rolling...*

## **ROLES:**

- To promote equality and abolish discrimination
- For information gathering
- For sharing experience on (mapping) progress of the region/compile documentation from member countries
- For technical support (budget cycle, capacity building for govt in terms of planning & budgeting) + technical financial analysis

# Is there an existing GRB regional network? If not, how can we envision one?

## **OPERATIONS:**

**Phase 1: Starting**

**Phase 2: Consolidation**

Non-political institutions, to be driven by international organizations & civil society) –to be vary of group/power dynamics

### **•Secretariat:**

-- Phase 1: Create network of active people: Institutions that have been promoting local experience & international networking, i.e. PWDC? start in an institution that already exists (UCLG, ASEAN, APEC?), housing the network a sort of already-existing working group/create different working groups to dialogue with similar people

### **•Membership:**

Phase 2:

1. International institutions

2. Regional governments, local governments, civil society, women's NGOs, universities

-- 2-year rotation, politically independent

-- UN Women

-- ASEAN represent the work of this region

# Is there an existing GRB regional network? If not, how can we envision one?

## **COMMUNICATION:**

- Phase 1: Communication: Online at first, but a meeting at least once every 2 years; Language: English? Publish an executive summary in their own language every year; google group
- Phase 2: & physical centre, meet quarterly/annual conference

## **FINANCIAL/FUNDING:**

- Phase 1: Funds to arrive thru projects, fees, Phase 2: From member countries + international funders (UN Women?); from different types of actors so no one dominates

# CONCLUSION

- A follow up on a regional conference as a first step
- Specific GRB issues were not discussed in detail