

Session 6: Strategies for Action for GRB - Local / Municipal Level

What have been the positive experiences of local level GRB?

1. Stronger, more resilient, more engaged communities
2. New leadership to include leadership from more marginalised groups
3. Closer relationship between local government and 'the people'
4. Better use of facilities
5. A cleaner environment/city with better amenities
6. Wider understanding of the benefits of participatory GRB

What encourages participation?

1. Commitment to build awareness and capacity across groups
2. Motivation from stakeholders
3. Where participation is in partnership with (local) government, political will to support it, backed by appropriate structures and budget allocation
4. Tangible results to assure people their input counts
5. Sensitivity to times and place of meeting, and language used, to ensure as great an inclusion as possible (not least of women)

What is the role of civil society organisations / grassroots in participatory budgeting

1. Advocacy for GRB, including sharing of best practices from the region and globe
2. Monitoring of GRB, including demonstration of appropriate GRB tools and data systems
3. Mobilisation of people especially at community level to be involved in participatory GRB, including helping with capacity building
4. Helping documentation of narratives of women and men to show the actual/real impact of GRB
5. Help extend partnerships and broaden the scope for decision making.
6. Play the role of mediator where conflict arises within the communities and/or between communities/local government

Can we identify key factors that have made GRPB successful within local/municipal governments?

1. Community commitment and involvement from the top via political will
2. Commonality of goals @ community and local government
3. Appropriate policies, regulations, structures and allocations
4. Good information sharing and space for dialogues/debate
5. Commitment to continuity and long-term goals
6. Understanding of different needs
7. Good inclusive monitoring and evaluation
8. Consistency of those in any GRB team, to build trust and confidence

What have been the difficulties in doing GRB at local level? How do we address these?

1. Mind-set problems: patriarchy, indifference, perception that GRB is 'more work', GRB perceived as 'a women's issue' and therefore not important
2. Red-tape; lack of (especially female) leadership; lack of champions; conservative male-dominated decision-making; hierarchy
3. Clash of priorities/expectations between communities/local government
4. Commitment and time availability both from residents and local council representatives.
5. The complexity of negotiating with various local personalities and conflicting interest groups in the communities.

6. Lack of budget and other resources, including expertise
7. Frustration at pace of change, which can be slow
8. Lack of basic sex-disaggregated data and analysis – little information to go on

How to address these issues?

1. Build understanding via capacity development, data analysis, expertise
2. Develop appropriate structures and frameworks
3. Develop appropriate legislation and processes (for example, developing staff KPIs to include GRB, and develop a GRB ISO?)
4. Keep linking GRB to wider goals of gender equality, good governance and social justice
5. Raise the level of awareness through public campaigns and other public events