

National Treasury: Gender responsive budgeting

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national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Gender responsive budgeting

- The South African budgeting system, strives to ensure gender redress by financing government programmes across all departments
- Gender responsive budgeting is broader than a mere tallying of expenditure on women and girls in country budgets
- Currently it is widely acknowledged that gender responsive budgeting is to be planned into the country budgeting process
- In the 1990s civil society organisations worked on the Women’s Budget Initiative supported by the Joint Budget Committee in Parliament
- Many countries have used various gender responsive budgeting tools over time, often linked to donor financing
- These initiatives have since been abandoned as they have generally not attained the desired outcomes
- However, it is encouraging that in India, gender responsive budgeting continues to be practiced. Key lessons for success must be learned from many country experiences.

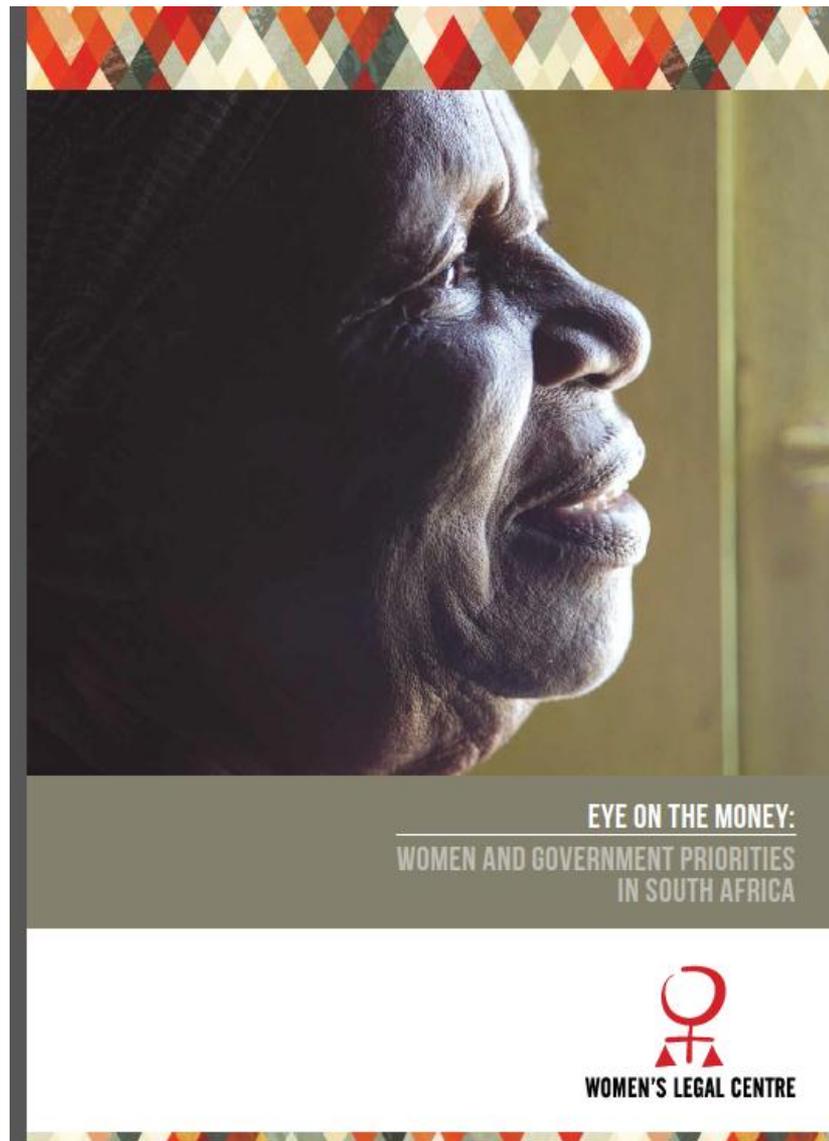
Gender mainstreaming

- Gender mainstreaming identifies gender patterns in society and aligns policies and expenditure to address prevailing gender-based inequalities. (i.e. interventions for women and men, girls and boys)
- Gender aware performance planning upfront is vital, before gender responsive budgeting can have any impact – the gender dimension to be funded must be explicit



Eye on the Money (2014),

- A lack of gender disaggregated data regarding programmes implemented hinders gender responsive budgeting. There is also no practiced coherent gender responsive budgeting policy framework
- “while a sufficient budget is one of the conditions necessary for effective implementation, it is by no means the only requirement and cannot rectify limitations to the underlying conceptualisation of programmes”
- Data collection and management is costly, and hence every effort needs to be made to ensure that as data is disaggregated by gender, this is done for the data that is significant and can demonstrate the gender effectiveness of programmes



Gender responsive budgeting for the future

- The Department of Women has agreed with National Treasury on further consultation processes
- National Treasury would implement the government-endorsed gender responsive budgeting policy framework that is developed
- Initially government programmes which will have the greatest gendered impact should be targeted – in terms of gender performance planning preceding its budgeting
- Gender responsive programmes are undertaken across government departments and will be assessed for funding alongside all other programmes.
- Support for all government programmes is limited by the fiscal space and is subject to budget adjudication
- Funding allocations in the budget process are guided by priorities stated in the NDP 2030, the 9 point plan for economic growth, the Industrial Policy Action Plan and other plans of government
- These plans are expressed in Medium Term Strategic Framework plans and linked to departmental planning documents, including programmes with gendered impacts
- Costed policies are submitted to the budget process, and are considered by various budget adjudication committees.

60th Women's Day Anniversary



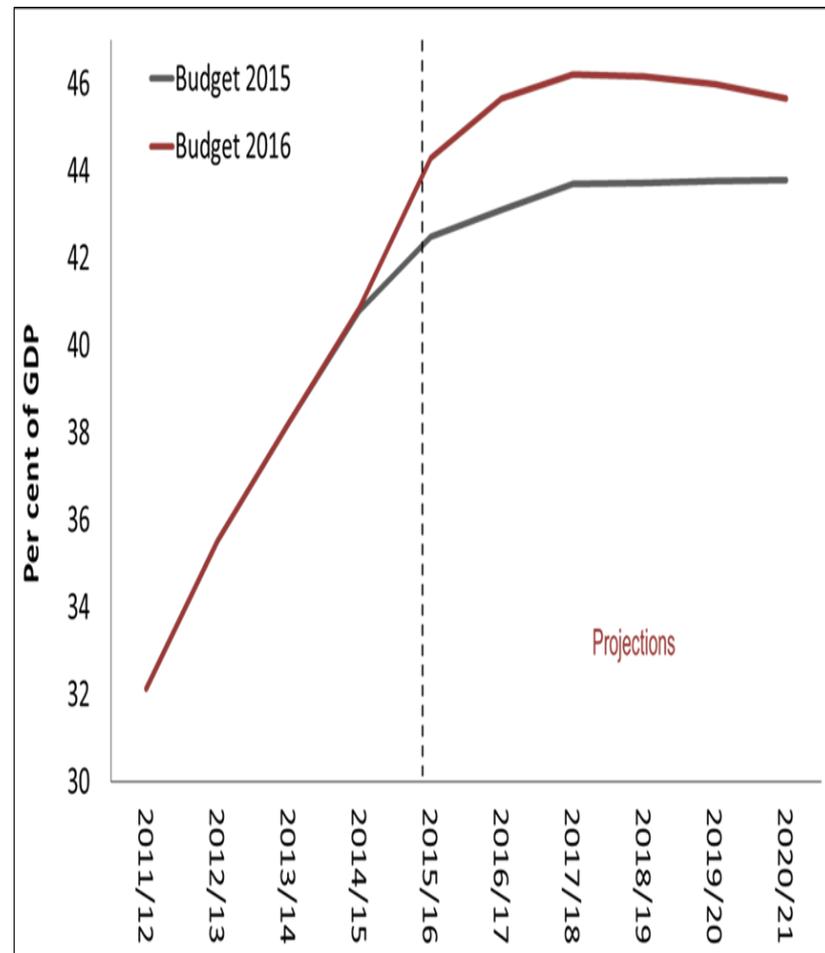
Gender mainstreaming



- Significant progress has been made for women in business.
- However, challenges remain which require continuous efforts to improve

Fiscal constraints to the South African budget

- The level of the debt-to-GDP ratio has shifted upwards as a result of lower nominal GDP and the sharp depreciation of the rand, which pushed up the value of foreign debt stock
- Net debt is projected to stabilise at 46.2 per cent of GDP in 2017/18, two years earlier than was estimated at the time of the 2015 MTBPS
- This crowds out spending of the aggregate budget baseline, primarily via increased interest rates and foreign exchange rate effects.

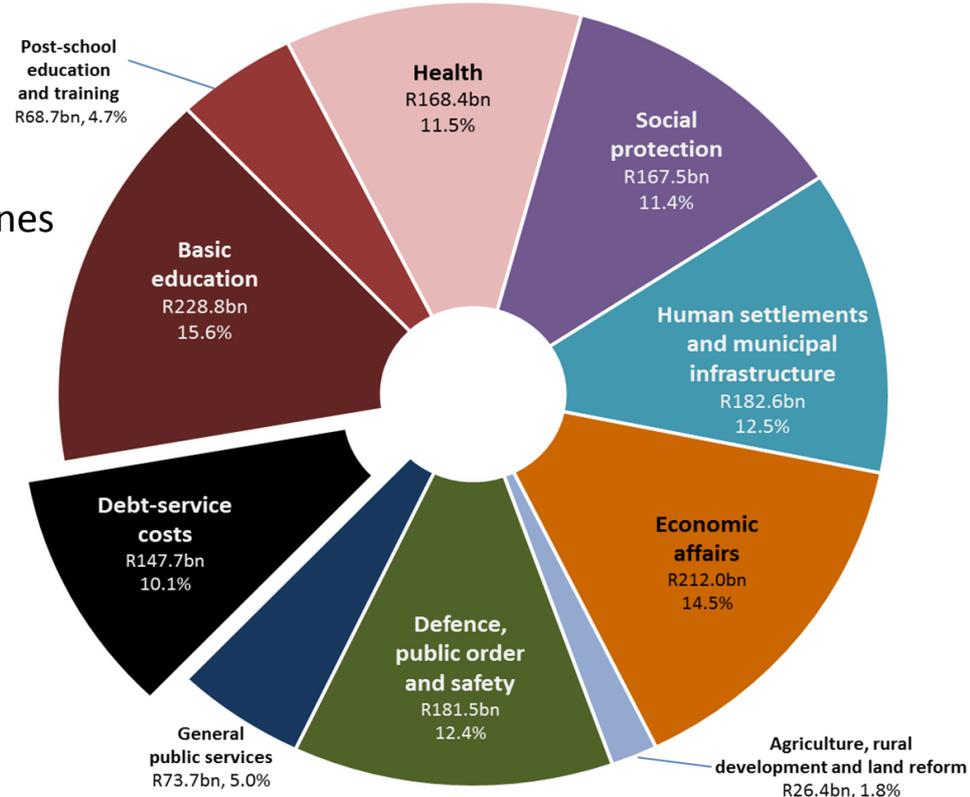


Allocating budgets

- Only programmes that were formally submitted by departments to National Treasury for consideration, can be funded. Ultimately proposals regarding funding go to Cabinet, after consideration of the Ministers' Committee on the Budget
- Programmes proposed for funding are assessed in terms of their government priority status, the impact they will make, as well as the department's implementation readiness status – depending on fiscal space
- Budget alignment to NDP objectives:

Many programmes including gender responsive ones

- But the gender impact is not visible due to weaknesses of gender sensitive planning, gender sensitive indicators and targets
- 2015 directive that government flagship programmes for economic empowerment have an explicit gender dimension, should be extended



THANK YOU