

Inter-Agency Network on  
Women and Gender Equality  
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# **Gender mainstreaming in programme budgets**

**Task Manager: DAW**

# **Report of the Interagency Taskforce on Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives into Programme Budget Processes**

**to the  
Meeting of the Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality  
New York, 24-27 February 2003**

## **Taskforce members:**

DAW: Tsu Wei Chang

UNDP: Aster Zaoude

UNFPA: Sahie Hadi

UNICEF: Kristina Goncalves

WFP: Patricia Kennedy

OSAGI/DAW: Carolyn Hannan (Task manager)

## **Mandate**

The 2002 session of IANWGE requested the taskforce to:

- Carry out additional case studies;
- Prepare a status report on the work of the taskforce to date;
- Organize a workshop on the findings and conclusions of the taskforce.

UNFPA was also requested to prepare a good practice example of the institutional impact of its involvement in the project as a case study.

## **Intersessional activities**

All work of the taskforce has been carried out electronically, in keeping with the guidelines for the work of IANWGE.

A project is underway covering four new entities: UNDP, WPF, UNHCR and ITC. Individual reports have been prepared for each of the entities and are under discussion and review by these entities. The reports on the four case studies will be completed by March 2003.

The status report is under preparation and will be concluded with the inputs from the four case studies currently underway. The report will provide information on the incorporation of gender perspectives in a number of key areas: budget instructions and guidelines; overview or introduction to the programme budget; subprogrammes (or related category) including expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement; outputs including publications and other relevant aspects. In addition, a matrix is under preparation on the departments of the secretariat, comparing the programme budgets for 2000 - 2001 and 2002-2003. The report should be available in May 2003. Once the report is finalized, the workshop on the findings and recommendations will be organized in New York.

The good practice example from UNFPA has not yet been developed. The status report under preparation will also contain a number of good practice examples.

## **Outputs**

To date the taskforce has produced:

- A three-part report from the first project;
- 15 individual reports on case studies;
- A synthesis report outlining the findings to date;
- A report from the workshop held in ILO in 2001.

In addition, a summary note on the work of the taskforce is also available. Four additional case study reports are under preparation and a status report is being finalized.

## **Lessons learned**

Efforts were made in the preparations for the final four case studies to improve the potential for catalytic change through the process for the entities involved. The consultants were briefed on the need for:

- An explicit focus on gender mainstreaming in programme budgets processes;
- Maximum interaction with entities prior to the process;
- Efforts to fully engage budget and programme staff in the process;
- Stronger focus on review of drafts within entities.

A framework was prepared for the preparation of these reports in the next project.

*The Gender Focal Points from entities participating in this project may wish to provide information on the experience within their entities.*

## **Future work of IANWGE on programme budgets**

The taskforce, which has been working since February 1998, will finalize its work with the presentation of the report to the next session of the Network in 2004. The next stage of the process must involve individual entities building on the findings and moving the process forward within their own organizations. Exchange between individual entities or groups of entities should also be encouraged. Some such exchange was already initiated informally at the workshop in Geneva with budget officers expressing interest in further opportunities for exchanging experience.

The possibility of revisiting this work after three years (in 2006) - through an assessment of the extent to which gender perspectives are incorporated in programme budgets across the system - could be considered by the IANWGE. The work of the taskforce would provide a useful baseline against which to measure progress.

The taskforce suggests that it will now be important to focus attention on the monitoring or assessment of the implementation of programme budgets, which is undertaken by oversight bodies.

## **Proposal for activities in 2002**

The taskforce proposes that the following activities be undertaken during the coming year and that, on the completion of these activities, the taskforce be dissolved:

- Finalization of the third project (four case studies)
- Finalization of a status report on mainstreaming gender perspectives into programme budgets in the UN system.
- Workshop in NY for budget staff, programme staff and Gender Focal Points to discuss the findings and recommendations of the work of the taskforce.
- Final report back to the IANWGE in February 2004.