

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Budgets have become an important instrument in policy formulation and implementation. Policies and projects need to be supported by the necessary financial resources for these to be implemented. This is especially true in terms of taking forward gender equality. While many countries have now included gender as part of their government's priorities, many of these promises lack teeth as they come without financial support from their respective governments. This has often led to the stagnation of gender initiatives in many countries. Gender-responsive or gender-sensitive budgeting (GRB or GSB) is a means by which the budget is used to take forward the gender efforts in the country.

This report is based on the proceedings of the regional training of trainers workshop on gender-responsive budgets conducted by the United Nations Development Program in cooperation with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), and the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP) with support from the Japanese government. The workshop, which took place from 12-15 July 2004, saw the participation of some 35 trainers from 14 countries who underwent lectures, exercises, and role play with the goal of deepening their understanding of GSB and acquiring skills in training others in their governments and countries.

This report is divided into six sections. The first section provides the context of GRB in the region. Entitled "Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Asia-Pacific", this chapter tackles issues on what GRB is, how budgets affect gender, and what has been happening so far in terms of GRB initiatives in Asia-Pacific and outside Asia-Pacific.

After getting a clearer picture of the Asia-Pacific context, the second chapter focuses on the different aspects of budgeting. Entitled "Understanding Budgets", this section opens with an introduction on the budget process, an exercise on Causes, Consequences and Solutions, Performance Budgeting, Reading Budgets, and a section on Budget Call Circulars.

After giving an overview of the budget process and its related processes, the next section focuses on "Advocacy and Dissemination". Here we see how the workshop participants processed their role-play case on convincing the Finance Minister to introduce gender budget statements. Succeeding sub-chapters include a section each on the care economy, advocacy messages, and designing workshops.

A section called "The Road Ahead" contains the general conclusions derived from the workshop discussions as well as the next steps, which the participants envisioned themselves doing to promote GSB when they go back to their countries after the workshop.

A final chapter on the UNDP/Bridge CD-ROM as well as other gender and gender budgeting resources presented by participants is found at the end of this report. These references could serve as inputs in succeeding training workshops on GSB.