



# BUDGET BRIEFS FOR GENDER RESPONSIVENESS EMBU COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Study conducted by:  
**Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC)**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Gender based violence remains a public health concern as an impediment to development. It is one of the worst forms of human rights violations. It hampers socio-economic growth and overall health of the survivor, community and the country at large. A lot of empirical research on causes of GBV conducted have given recommendations on the strategies to curb GBV at various levels. Recent costing study by National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and UNWomen (2016) estimated that 1% - 2% of the national GDP is consumed by GBV.

Despite the good intention of devolution, Counties have not adopted gender responsive approach to development that would accord particular attention to equality and non-discrimination. Adopting gender responsive approach to budgeting and development permits the considerations to eliminate harmful and discriminatory practices that perpetuate Gender based violence and seek to promote social and cultural values and norms that favour equality, equity as well as justice.

Prevention and response to GBV is heavily dependent on external funding necessitating the need for sustainable domestic financing. However, budgets for women programs remain insignificant as the departments created to implement gender programs in the Counties remain under-resourced. In addition, budgetary allocation is either gender blind or neutral. Thus, there exist gender gaps in the budget allocation and particularly so for programs addressing GBV which is seen as private and domestic in nature.

Therefore, this budget brief provides for guidelines for enhancing capacity for key stakeholders comprising of GBV Networks (Civil Society Organizations), Members of County Assemblies and County Management team) to ensure a gender responsive budget that include GBV vote head in individual County.

## **1.1 Objectives of the Development of the Budget briefs**

The budget briefs aspire to enhance the participation of the right holders and duty bearers in the budget process to realize more resource allocation towards GBV management. In addition, the budget briefs seek to guide in lobbying for allocation of funds towards prevention and response to GBV in Embu County.

The objectives included to:

1. Enhance the capacity of Members of County Assemblies and County Management team and GBV Working Groups (Civil Society Organizations) in monitoring and analysing the County budgets to realize gender responsiveness in Embu County
2. Engage in advocacy that leads to enhanced gender responsiveness in the appropriation of funds
3. Promote budgetary allocations for gender equality interventions
4. Push for increasing domestic financing towards GBV management
5. Empower structures for GBV response and timely intervention

## **1.2 Methodology**

The methodology entailed:

1. Content analysis of the First Generation County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), County Fiscal Strategy Papers, County Appropriation Bills of the Financial Year 2016/2017
2. Content analysis of the National Government budget policy statement of the year 2017/2018
3. Consultative engagement with various stakeholders such as:
  - Members of County Assembly
  - County Executive Committee – CECs and chief officers/directors
  - CSOs /GBV working groups (networks)
  - Local administration and public institutions – police, Office of Directorate of Public Prosecution (ODPP), Judiciary and the health departments

### 1.3 The Key Questions Asked for the Budget Brief

- What was the allocation in FY2016/2017?
- How was it appropriated from a gender perspective?
- How much was allocated to the programs in the various sectors as itemised in the Mid-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)?
- How was the allocation to the various programs in the 2017/2018 at the national level?
- How can the appropriation of the 2016/2017 budgets be scaled up to suit the interests of men and women boys and girls?
- How can programs be improved to be more gender responsive-reprioritised?
- Which policies need to be made, adjusted and reprioritized?
- How does policy implementation become effective (check allocations vs policy commitments / desired impact)?
- How can stakeholders monitor gender responsiveness in program formulation and implementation?
- What are the indicators essential for ending GBV driven by deprivation, poverty and disempowerment of men, women, girls and boys by sector

### 1.4 Gender Gaps / Responsiveness in the County Budgets

An analysis of budget making process demonstrated a significant level of being gender responsive and hence provided an opportunity to scale up and ultimately provide for a vote head to address GBV. A brief analysis of the Embu County budgets is as shown below:

The budget brief assignment entailed situational analysis as the first step toward effective and efficient GRB. This greatly aided in identifying gender gaps that exist in the budget of the 2016/2017 financial year. A comprehensive analysis of the various sector yielded several gender gaps.

#### **The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Priority Sectors in Budgetary allocation and Gender gaps**

The participants discussed the MTEF priority areas and audited the allocation for the 2016/2017 financial years and also made proposals for the 2017/2018. The priority sectors were:

- Agriculture and food security
- Infrastructure
- Accessibility of water
- Accessible health care
- Education
- Construction
- Real estate
- Financial / insurance

The participants and consultant discussed in details the allocations and all undertook to use the GRB approach as a tool for Allocation of revenue for the 2017/2018 financial year:

SECTOR	AMOUNT ALLOCATED	%SHARE
Office of Governor	185,600,000.00	15.95%
Finance and Economic Planning	72,276,337.00	6.21%
Education, Science and Technology	26,546,234.00	2.28%
Health	244,015,426.00	20.96%
Infrastructure, Public Works, Housing and Energy	32,694,400.00	2.81%
Youth Empowerment and Sports	10,314,852.00	0.89%
Trade, Tourism, Industrilizaton and Investment	24,724,981.00	2.12%
Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Cooperative Development	32,976,111.00	2.83%
Lands, Water, Environment and Natural Resources	15,453,635.58	1.33%
Gender, Children, Culture and Social Science	14,111,723.00	1.21%
Public Service and Administration	18,417,969.00	1.58%
County Public Service Board	16,780,716.00	1.44%
County Assembly	237,828,086.00	20.43%
Embu Level 5 Hospital	232,193,642.00	19.95%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,163,934,112.58</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: The Embu Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017-2020

The key social sectors which presented an opportunity for allocations to include a GBV vote head were adequately resourced but had a significant number of gender gaps.

### **1.5 Gender responsive budget should include budgetary allocation for the following**

1. Allocate resources and develop adequate infrastructure for provision of health, legal and protection services. Shelter homes and evacuation services to the victims and survivors to enhance their protection
2. Develop capacity development plan to support multi-sectoral interventions for enhanced effectiveness by allocating resources towards training and continuous assessment.
3. Create practices for the protection and medical treatment of victims ensuring that forensic evidence procedures are followed; Sensitize and train health care professionals to recognize signs of GBV; Ensure County budget includes resources for appropriate health response to GBV.
4. Allocate funds towards operationalization of the National Guidelines for the Management of Sexual Violence (2015) and Guidelines for Handling Child Survivors at each level of health sector can offer services ranging from basic services to comprehensive care
5. Collaborate with National Government to decentralize and resource for forensic laboratory
6. Allocate funds towards institutionalization of multi-sectoral referral mechanism and directory for GBV service provision across all sectors
7. Engaging a gender expert for gender sensitization, capacity building, gender auditing, monitoring and evaluation as an essential component of GBV programs
8. Finance community advocacy programing towards working with men, especially youth, and communities at large, to change attitudes and behaviours.

## CONCLUSION

The county budget brief process entailed capacity building sessions on the concept of gender responsive budgeting noting what Gender Responsive Budget is and what it is not. The gender legal /normative frameworks were discussed alongside the fiscal legal /normative frameworks highlighting gender specific indicators within the frameworks. This is strategic as it enabled the profiling of programs and allocations capable of shaping of advocacy for interventions that will see an increase in domestic financing capable of preventing and responding to GBV effectively.

The collective audit of the implementation of priority projects and programs of the fiscal year 2016/2017 should enable new thinking around policy formulation and reprioritisation; programs/budgets changes /adjustment to promote gender equality especially when implementing the 2017/2018 budgets. GRB is basically understood as a tool to promote greater gender equality and also equity at community level as it promotes the linking of sets of knowledge on gender and budget. GRB is envisioned as a process of conceiving, planning, approving, executing, monitoring, analyzing and auditing budgets in a gender-sensitive way as it involves analysis of actual expenditure and revenue on women and girls/men and boys.



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