

Strengthening Gender-Responsive Budgeting in the Global South

Outcome Report



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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CONCEPT NOTE

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is a powerful tool for promoting equity, accountability, and inclusive development. Recognizing this DAKSHIN-Global South Centre of Excellence, RIS, India and Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Macedonia, jointly organized a workshop on 'Strengthening Gender-Responsive Budgeting in the Global South: Understanding Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN)'.

Background

The Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN) brings together over 100 civil society organizations from seven countries in the Western Balkan and Moldova, to strengthen public accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of public fund management through gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). GBWN's distinctive approach integrates advocacy, monitoring, and capacity building, empowering CSOs, researchers, and policymakers to align budgets and policies with the needs of women and men equally.

The webinar provided an opportunity to engage with GBWN's methodologies, explore successful advocacy efforts that led to legal and policy changes at the local level, and discuss opportunities for collaboration and membership.

Objectives

- Introduced GBWN's model for advancing gender-responsive budgeting.
- Showcased impactful advocacy stories and tangible policy changes achieved through GBWN-supported initiatives.
- Explored how local-level legal reforms were influenced by gender budget watchdog efforts.
- Invited interested CSOs to become part of the GBWN network to strengthen South-South cooperation in GRB.

Key Topics

- The GBWN Approach: Methodology combining gender budgeting tools, citizen watchdog reporting, and multi-stakeholder engagement.
- Successful Advocacy Stories: Real-world examples of influencing budget allocations, gender policies, and community development initiatives.
- Legal Changes: Case studies demonstrating how GBWN members drove legislative reforms at municipal, regional, and national levels.
- Membership Opportunities: Benefits, expectations, and how CSOs could join GBWN's growing international network.

AGENDA

4:30 PM - 4:40 PM: Welcome Remarks

- **Professor Gulshan Sachdeva**, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN-Global South Centre of Excellence, RIS, India
- **Dr Marija Risteska**, Executive Director, Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Macedonia

4:40 PM - 5:10 PM: Gender Budget Watchdog Network for advancing Gender-Responsive Budgeting

- **Dr Marija Risteska**, Executive Director, Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Macedonia
- **Mr Alexandru Gribincea**, Project Coordinator, Keystone Moldova, Republic of Moldova
- **Ms Ivana Petrisková**, Program Manager, CRPM, Macedonia

5:10 PM - 5:45 PM: GRB in Focus: Discussant Insights

- **Moderator: Professor Gulshan Sachdeva**, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN-Global South Centre of Excellence, RIS, India

Discussants

- **Professor Lekha S. Chakraborty**, Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, India
- **Dr Chheng Kimlong**, President, Asian Vision Institute, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- **Professor Jorgelina Loza**, Associate Researcher, International Relations Department, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Argentina
- **Ms Safaath Ahmed Zahir**, Founder & President, Women & Democracy, Malé, Maldives
- **Mr Edward Mhina**, Gender & Development Consultant, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Dar es salaam, Tanzania

5:45 PM - 6:00 PM: Open Discussion

SUMMARY REPORT

Inaugural Session

The session commenced with opening remarks by Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator of DAKSHIN-Global South Centre of Excellence, who warmly welcomed all participants and set the tone for the discussion by emphasizing the critical importance of making public budgets more gender-responsive, inclusive, and equitable in addressing the diverse needs of societies.

Gender Budget Watchdog Network for advancing Gender-Responsive Budgeting

The Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) team led a comprehensive and insightful session on the Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN), highlighting its key methodologies, achievements, and regional impact.

Dr Marija Risteska

Executive Director, Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Macedonia

Dr Marija Risteska, Executive Director, Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Macedonia began by expressing her appreciation for the initiative and stressed the importance of applying a gender lens to public finance systems. She explained that CRPM has been working in the domain of GRB since 2007, developing and refining tools and methodologies to analyze public budgets through a gender perspective. Over the years, they have established themselves as pioneers in using budget analysis as a means of promoting gender equality, social justice, and accountability in governance.

One of CRPM's most impactful contributions is the creation and leadership of the Gender Budget Watchdog Network, which spans across seven countries. This network includes over 100 civil society organizations (CSOs) that collaborate to enhance transparency and accountability in public budget processes. Dr Risteska explained that

this network plays a vital role in equipping CSOs with the skills and tools needed to engage in effective budget advocacy. These efforts have been instrumental in shifting GRB from a niche concept to a mainstream policy approach in several countries.

The team detailed how their work involves multiple interconnected components. First, CRPM supports the development of gender-sensitive policy documents and budget commentaries. These tools help unpack how national and local budgets affect men and women differently and guide recommendations for more equitable allocations. Secondly, CRPM works with national governments to institutionalize GRB practices within public financial management systems. This includes providing training for government officials, helping ministries incorporate gender indicators in their budget plans, and advocating for legal frameworks that support GRB.

A cornerstone of their work is capacity building. CRPM offers regular training sessions, mentoring, and tailored support to CSOs and grassroots organizations, helping them understand complex budget documents, conduct gender analysis, and participate effectively in policy dialogues. The organization also provides small grants to empower these groups to undertake research, develop advocacy campaigns, and engage with policy makers.

The team emphasized that analyzing public budgets is not just about tracking money but understanding its impact. For instance, she highlighted the example of massive investments in football stadiums versus the lack of inclusive sports infrastructure for women and girls. GRB allows for deeper analysis that questions who benefits from public spending and who remains excluded. This approach encourages a more equitable, efficient, and needs-based allocation of public resources.

In recent years, CRPM has also begun integrating climate finance and emergency response budgets into its GRB analysis. Recognizing that climate change and crises such as COVID-19 disproportionately impact women and marginalized groups, they have extended their methodologies to assess how funds meant for recovery and resilience is allocated. Their findings have helped improve gender sensitivity in both national budgets and international funding mechanisms.

Ms Ivana Petrisková

Program Manager, CRPM, Macedonia

Expanding on their achievements, Ms Ivana Petrisková, Program Manager, CRPM, Macedonia explained how the network has grown from a regional initiative into a globally recognized model. It now includes not only women's rights organizations but also environmental groups, disability rights advocates, think tanks, and those working on UN Resolution 1325 related to women, peace, and security. This diversification has enriched the network's perspective and extended its advocacy to a broader range of

policy issues. The long-term goal is to globalize their GRB methodology and embed it into climate resilience and sustainable development frameworks.

A powerful example of the network's impact is its regional campaign addressing the taxation of menstrual hygiene products. One study, conducted across multiple countries, revealed that menstrual products were being taxed as luxury goods, thus contributing to menstrual poverty and economic inequality. Advocacy based on this research led to a reduction in VAT on these products in several countries, including Montenegro and North Macedonia. Some governments even initiated programs to distribute menstrual products free of charge to vulnerable groups such as school-going girls. CRPM also introduced the network's Organizational and Advocacy Capacity Assessment tool, a strategic resource used to measure the baseline capacity of CSOs and assess their growth post-engagement. This tool helps in designing customized mentoring plans that ensure sustainable development of partner organizations.

CRPM's commitment to knowledge dissemination is evident in its open-access e-academy, which offers 10 certified courses on GRB and related themes. These online courses are available in multiple languages and currently serve more than 200 active users. They enable CSOs, government officials, and researchers to build their capacities remotely and at their own pace, significantly widening the reach of GRB education.

Mr Alexandru Gribincea

Project Coordinator, Keystone Moldova, Republic of Moldova

Lastly, Mr Alexandru Gribincea, Project Coordinator, Keystone Moldova, Republic of Moldova introduced two pivotal case studies highlighting the implementation of GRB in agriculture within Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

EcoVisio, a Moldovan civil society organization, conducted research revealing significant gender disparities in agriculture. Findings indicated that women owned only 19 per cent of agricultural land, had limited access to irrigation (7-8 per cent), and received less than 20 per cent of agricultural subsidies. Moreover, the last agricultural census was conducted in 2011, underscoring data gaps. EcoVisio's advocacy led to the integration of eight gender-disaggregated indicators into the Medium-Term Budgetary Framework. Notable outcomes included increased direct payments to women farmers, a 70 per cent discount on agricultural insurance policies for women, and the publication of an annual report on gender equality in agriculture.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Priroda Women's Association focused on the municipalities of Bratunac and Vlasenica. Their research highlighted that over 50 per cent of unemployed women were engaged in unpaid agricultural work, which remained invisible in budgets and strategic plans. Challenges included limited access to business development services and training programs for women. Through their efforts, 56 local

programs and two national funds were analyzed, leading to more inclusive planning and budget allocations. Three municipal plans incorporated gender considerations in areas like fire protection and emergency response. Additionally, over 60 rural women directly benefited from targeted initiatives, including the establishment of 75 greenhouses and support for 30 women to start their own agricultural businesses.

GRB in Focus: Discussant Insights

This session brought together distinguished experts from across the Global South to share their reflections, research, and country experiences on advancing gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), highlighting both challenges and transformative practices.

Professor Lekha S. Chakraborty

Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, India

Professor Lekha S. Chakraborty, Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, India reflected on her pioneering work on gender budgeting in India, which began in 2000 at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP). At the time, there were no global models to emulate, making the Indian initiative particularly challenging. She posed a critical question to her peers: How have other countries integrated gender budgeting within their macroeconomic policy frameworks, especially in contexts of fiscal consolidation? She noted that in India, gender budgeting coincided with the enforcement of fiscal rules and the drive toward a 3 per cent fiscal deficit target. Despite these constraints, gender budgeting remained stable, a remarkable outcome thanks to its institutionalization within the Ministry of Finance.

Professor Chakraborty elaborated on the multi-phase evolution of gender budgeting in India. It began with knowledge networking and model building, where NIPFP submitted a country-specific framework to key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Women and Child Development, UN Women, and select parliamentarians. The subsequent phases focused on institutional frameworks, capacity building at both central and state levels, and establishing monitoring mechanisms. Gender budgeting evolved into a tool for fiscal accountability, with oversight from institutions like the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). Recognizing the importance of decentralization, she highlighted a global meeting in Delhi that examined how local governance and women's representation in local bodies could enhance gender outcomes.

A significant concern raised was the need to move beyond expenditure-focused gender budgeting to incorporate taxation and fiscal transfers. She pointed out that while subnational tax collection might be limited, tax transfers constitute a major source

of subnational finance. However, India's Finance Commissions have yet to explicitly integrate gender variables into the transfer formula. She argued for incorporating gender considerations even in sectors traditionally seen as gender-neutral, such as infrastructure and external affairs. For instance, gendered analyses of energy infrastructure and immigration policies have uncovered specific needs and vulnerabilities of women.

Professor Chakraborty also addressed the issue of skewed sex ratios and asked whether such deeply rooted gender biases could be addressed through fiscal tools in addition to legal measures. In discussing international examples, she cited collaborations in the Philippines focused on women's migration and institutional frameworks needed to support them. This experience reinforced her argument that even so-called gender-neutral ministries, like external affairs, have scope for gender budgeting if one considers the differentiated experiences of migrant women, including refugees and spouses.

Highlighting the empirical foundation of India's efforts, she noted several studies demonstrating the impact of gender budgeting. An IMF study showed it positively affected gender parity in education, while research from the University of California found an inverse relationship between gender budgeting commitments and gender-based violence. Another study with the IMF revealed that unconditional fiscal transfers had greater positive gender impacts than conditional ones, empowering states to prioritize gender-responsive measures based on local needs. Furthermore, Professor Chakraborty underscored the growing relevance of integrating gender budgeting with climate change policies, noting her ongoing work with Brookings on this front.

She emphasized that measurement remains a critical challenge, particularly in valuing unpaid care work. Referring to India's Time Use Surveys from 2000 and 2019-20, she noted that such data is essential for developing a comprehensive care economy package. Despite persistent gaps in linking gender budgeting with female labor force participation, efforts are underway to construct infrastructure for a care economy based on expanded production boundaries defined by the UN Statistical Division. She concluded by stressing the importance of political economy in shaping gender budgeting, advocating for male allies and urging stakeholders to move beyond binary gender frameworks to include issues of sexuality and the rights of all individuals. Acknowledging that faith-based and legal constraints vary across countries, she called for context-sensitive approaches that do not shy away from addressing emerging challenges in gender budgeting.

Dr Chheng Kimlong

President, Asian Vision Institute, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Dr Chheng Kimlong, President, Asian Vision Institute, Phnom Penh, Cambodia shared valuable insights from Cambodia's experience with gender-responsive budgeting

(GRB). Though not his primary expertise, his institute supports government efforts on women's equality in policy making and is currently implementing related research. He highlighted that the Cambodian government is actively working to ensure public funds are allocated fairly to benefit both women and men by integrating gender equality into policy and program design. Over the years, Cambodia has made efforts to establish dedicated budget lines for GRB initiatives within every ministry and agency funded by the national budget. A notable example is work in a suburban area of Phnom Penh focusing on improving women's and girls' access to healthcare, increasing education funding for girls, and addressing gender-based violence. The government also encourages local governments to allocate up to 20 per cent of their annual development budgets toward commune committees serving women and children.

Dr Kimlong emphasized that over the past two decades, women's political participation has significantly increased from around 8 per cent to over 23 per cent, which is crucial for advancing women-responsive budgeting. Cambodia's unique institutional structure, with a dedicated Ministry of Women's Affairs led by a female minister, further supports these efforts. He acknowledged international cooperation with organizations like UNDP and UNSDG to learn best practices.

He then posed thoughtful questions regarding the inclusion of women in the informal sector—who represent the majority in many societies but often lack government protection and how GRB initiatives could better address their needs. He stressed the importance of methodology that captures inequalities in land ownership and access to resources, as well as women's advancement in health, education, and income outcomes. Finally, he sought insights on challenges in coordinating gender budgeting efforts between national and local governments, especially on how local bodies might influence national budget allocation for women's programs. He closed by thanking the participants and organizers for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

Professor Jorgelina Loza

Associate Researcher, International Relations Department, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Argentina

Professor Jorgelina Loza, Associate Researcher, International Relations Department, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Argentina brought valuable insights from Latin America's evolving experience in this domain. She traced the origins of GRB in the region to the late 1990s, highlighting early efforts in Mexico. This subcommission on gender in finance initially targeted the health sector, addressing issues that disproportionately affect women and gender-diverse individuals such as breast, ovarian, and uterine cancers, as well as adolescent pregnancy prevention programs.

Across Latin America, approximately 17 countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, and others have implemented GRB initiatives, each adapting different methodologies and institutional frameworks. Notably, over two-thirds of these countries made legal and structural changes to embed gender considerations into budgetary processes. Professor Loza spotlighted Colombia as a significant case, where gender budgeting gained prominence in the context of peace building. The government integrated gender equality goals into its national development plan and implemented a legally mandated gender budget tracker. This tracker, monitored annually and reviewed by parliament and civil society, has led to measurable budget increases for gender-specific initiatives.

Focusing on Argentina, Professor Loza discussed the landmark 2021 national budget—the country’s first gender-responsive and diversity-focused budget. This followed the 2019 development of a policy-tagging methodology and the establishment of key institutions, such as the National Directorate for Gender Equality and Economy and the Ministry of Women, Genders, and Diversity. These bodies played pivotal roles in mainstreaming gender in public policy and expenditure. The 2021 budget earmarked 15 per cent of total expenditure (3.4 per cent of the GDP) for initiatives aimed at reducing inequality gaps, coordinated through an inter-ministerial GRB program.

However, she cautioned that recent political shifts in Argentina have undermined these achievements. The current far-right government has dismantled GRB initiatives, censored terms like “gender” and “climate change” in official documents, and limited access to essential policy data. This regression has deeply affected the academic and policy community. Nevertheless, Professor Loza emphasized the resilience of Argentina’s civil society, which has a strong tradition in human rights and gender advocacy. She called for continued institutionalization of GRB practices and platforms for dialogue, while highlighting the vital role of researchers and civil society in data generation, monitoring, and evidence-based policy making.

Ms Safaath Ahmed Zahir

Founder & President, Women & Democracy, Malé, Maldives

Ms Safaath Ahmed Zahir, Founder & President, Women & Democracy, Malé, Maldives provided an overview of the Maldives’ gender budgeting landscape, emphasizing the country’s resource limitations and socio-political context. She explained that the Maldives, a small island nation with a population of around 350,000, has close ties with regional neighbors such as India and Sri Lanka. These relationships influence the country’s modernization processes. However, post-COVID fiscal constraints and climate vulnerabilities have made it difficult to prioritize equality-focused policies and institutionalize GRB mechanisms.

Despite these challenges, the Maldives has made some progress. The previous government amended the Decentralization Act to require 33 per cent of local council seats be held by women was a significant step towards gender parity in governance. Still, the broader integration of gender perspectives into fiscal and development policies remains weak. Ministries often lack trained personnel in gender analysis, and institutional capacity is stretched thin. Although a gender equality plan was introduced under the last administration with provisions like appointing gender focal points in ministries but the pace of progress under the current administration has been slow and inconsistent.

A major barrier is the lack of gender-disaggregated data. Ms Zahir noted that both the Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Finance struggle to collect accurate and updated data, particularly in sectors like health, employment, and informal labor. This absence of data severely restricts the government's ability to conduct evidence-based policy design and evaluation. Furthermore, while gender equality is nominally part of national development frameworks, the actual implementation remains largely symbolic.

Political instability also hinders GRB progress. Frequent leadership changes mean that institutional knowledge and training efforts are often lost. Policy makers rarely stay long enough to understand and implement gender-sensitive economic reforms. Cultural and religious norms—Maldives being a 100 per cent Muslim country, also present societal barriers, especially in male-dominated decision-making spaces. While women occupy some high-profile ministerial roles, they remain underrepresented in key economic and political portfolios. Miss Zahir concluded by underscoring the role of civil society particularly the National Institute for Women in advocating for more inclusive leadership and ensuring that gender perspectives are integrated into national budgets and policy making.

Mr Edward Mhina

Gender & Development Consultant, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Dar es salaam, Tanzania

Mr Edward Mhina, Gender & Development Consultant, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Dar es salaam, Tanzania shared an in-depth account of Tanzania's long standing engagement with gender-responsive budgeting through TGNP, a feminist activist organization established in the early 1990s. He emphasized that their journey into GRB began in 1997 through sectoral research into ministries such as education, agriculture, energy, and water. This early work laid the groundwork for formal collaboration with the government, particularly with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance, to embed GRB directives into the annual budget call circular. As a result, ministries and local authorities were mandated to address gender priorities during budget planning.

TGNP's efforts led to the institutionalization of GRB practices within national budgeting systems. In partnership with UN Women and the Ministry of Finance, the organization is currently working to embed gender-tracking variables into Tanzania's Central Budget Management System. This approach aims to streamline the assessment of national gender-transformative objectives such as leadership representation, economic empowerment, and gender-based violence across all government sectors.

Despite significant institutional progress, Mr Edward acknowledged ongoing challenges. Bureaucratic delays and limited awareness of GRB concepts at the national level continue to hinder implementation. At the grassroots level, TGNP has established "budget watch" initiatives in over 50 local government districts, setting up knowledge centers to promote transparency and monitor gender equity in resource allocation. These centers empower women activists and local communities to influence district budgets and advocate for gender-sensitive policies.

He cited successful campaigns on issues such as clean water access and combating gender-based violence, including efforts that protected over 250 girls from female genital mutilation between 2008 and 2017. Additionally, TGNP supports women's economic empowerment through access to banking and government loans. Mr Edward concluded by stressing that achieving meaningful GRB outcomes requires multi-level engagement from central ministries to local governments and sustained collaboration between civil society and state institutions. Responding to a moderator's question, he recalled that the process was triggered by a groundbreaking 1992 gender gap analysis report published by TGNP, which catalyzed initial interest and cooperation from government actors.

Open discussion

Dr Jyoti Kiran Shukla

Former Chairperson of the Rajasthan Finance Commission

Dr Jyoti Kiran Shukla, former Chairperson of the Rajasthan Finance Commission, highlighted the critical need for incorporating gender budgeting outcome indices not only at the central Finance Commission level but also within state finance commissions. Drawing from Rajasthan's experience between 2015 and 2018, she pointed out that decentralized financing with gender sensitivity is achievable and can produce measurable outcomes. She also brought attention to a technical challenge that remains unresolved: the inconsistency between workforce participation data and national product measurement, particularly in capturing invisible and unpaid work. Dr Shukla stressed the urgency of developing alternative data sources to fill gender data gaps, emphasizing that these gaps should no longer be an excuse to delay policy action. Additionally, she noted the progress made in

global forums like the W20 in pushing women-led development and called for stronger networking and structural analysis to advance gender-responsive policies.

Ms Ivana Petrisková

Program Manager, CRPM, Macedonia

Ms Ivana reflected on recent achievements, such as the successful push for a law and electronic registration system for seasonal workers in Costa Women's Network, which benefits rural women in agriculture by ensuring access to rights like health insurance and maternity leave. She acknowledged the political sensitivity often associated with the term "gender" and suggested that framing gender-responsive budgeting as "citizen-responsive budgeting" might help increase acceptance among local and national authorities. Ivana emphasized the importance of creating inclusive platforms that bring together academia, civil society organizations, and policymakers to foster a comprehensive ecosystem supporting gender-responsive budgeting. She also highlighted the diversity of political and social contexts within the Global South and the need for flexible, locally relevant approaches rather than imposing models from the Global North. Finally, she underscored that institutionalizing gender-responsive budgeting within government structures is essential for sustainability, alongside building capacity and promoting resource-sharing among countries in the Global South.

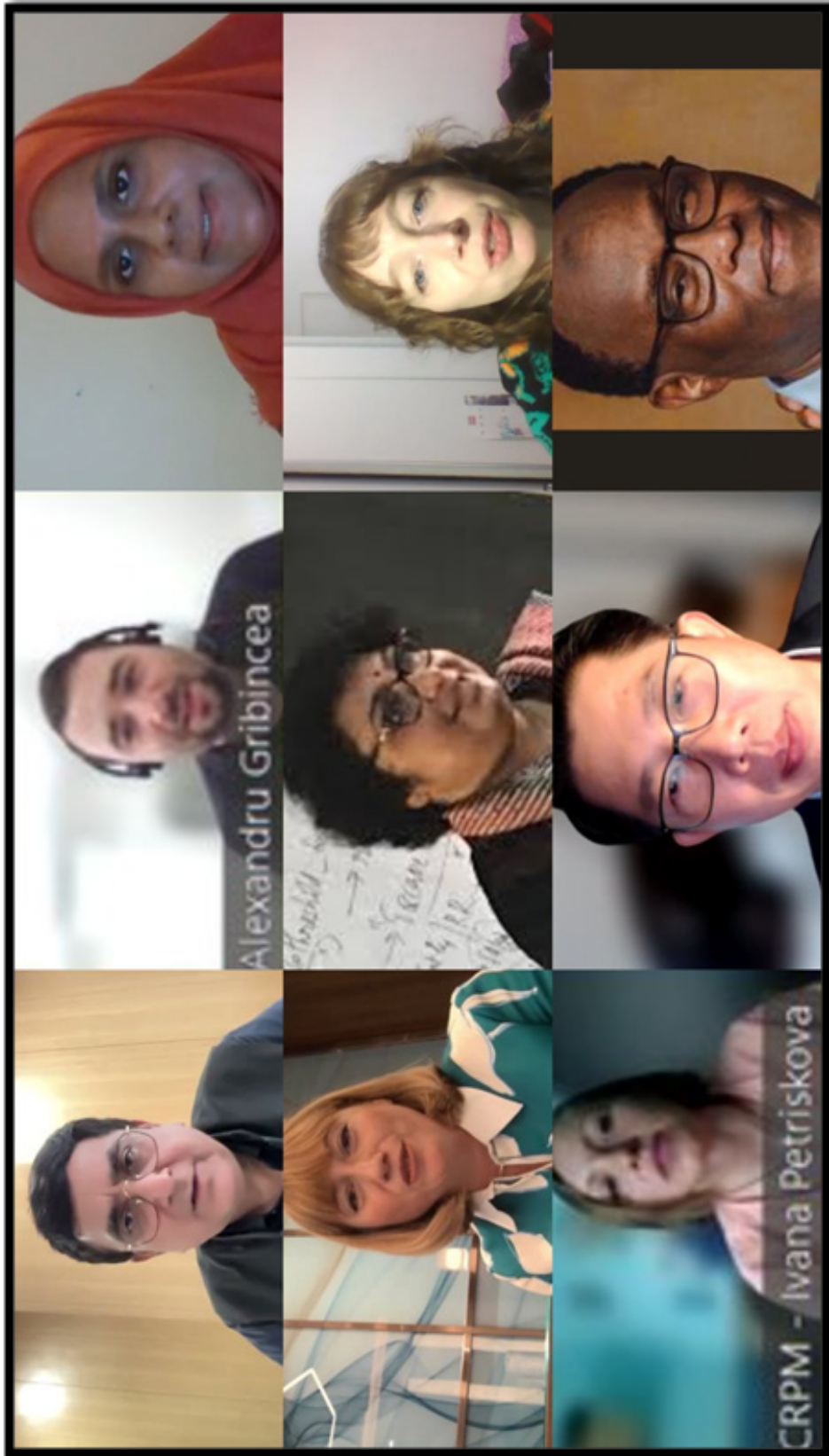
Professor Sachdeva reflected on the widespread interest and efforts toward institutionalizing gender-responsive budgeting across regions such as Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and South-Central Europe. He noted that while GRB might seem abstract to some, it fundamentally concerns the allocation and utilization of resources making it a critical issue for development. He emphasized the importance of ongoing dialogue, knowledge exchange, and networking, which platforms like DAKSHIN facilitate, to strengthen and expand GRB practices in the Global South. He expressed gratitude to all participants and the CRPM team for their contributions, and encouraged continued engagement in future discussions to deepen understanding and cooperation on gender and related development issues.

OUTCOMES

- The session highlighted the importance of integrating gender perspectives into public finance systems and institutionalizing GRB practices within government structures.
- It showcased how gender-sensitive policy documents and budget commentaries can guide equitable resource allocation.
- Capacity building emerged as a cornerstone of GRB implementation through training, mentoring, and support to CSOs and grassroots organizations.
- The inclusion of gender analysis in areas such as climate finance and emergency response budgets were emphasized as an important expansion of GRB scope.
- The GBWN's achievements, such as reducing VAT on menstrual hygiene products and introducing gender indicators in agriculture budgets, were presented as successful examples of advocacy-led policy change.
- The creation of an open-access e-academy with certified GRB courses was recognized as an innovative approach to widen reach and strengthen global GRB capacity.
- Country examples demonstrated tangible improvements in women's access to resources and participation through gender-informed agricultural budgeting.
- Discussions underlined India's pioneering role in gender budgeting and the importance of linking GRB with macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks.
- Participants highlighted the need to move beyond expenditure-focused budgeting to include taxation, fiscal transfers, and infrastructure in gender analysis.
- The challenge of valuing unpaid care work and incorporating it into fiscal policy and national accounts was recognized as a critical next step.
- Linking gender budgeting with climate change and environmental policies was identified as a growing area of importance.
- Civil society's role in monitoring and generating gender-disaggregated data was emphasized as crucial for accountability and sustainability.

- Political instability and cultural barriers were noted as factors slowing gender mainstreaming in fiscal processes.
- Grassroots-level “budget watch” initiatives were presented as effective tools for transparency and local engagement.
- Decentralized financing with gender sensitivity produces measurable outcomes.
- The inconsistency between workforce participation data and national product measurement was identified as a data gap requiring urgent attention.
- Development of alternative data sources is necessary to fill gender data gaps and strengthen evidence-based policymaking.
- Framing gender budgeting as “citizen-responsive budgeting” can increase acceptance among policymakers in sensitive contexts.
- The importance of institutionalizing GRB within government mechanisms was identified as key to ensuring long-term sustainability.
- The workshop reaffirmed the value of South–South cooperation and global networking through platforms like DAKSHIN and GBWN.

Glimpse





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RIS specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. It is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. Through its following centres/forums, RIS promotes policy dialogue and coherence on regional and international economic issues.



The word “DAKSHIN” (दक्षिण) is of Sanskrit origin, meaning “South.” The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence in November 2023. The initiative was inspired by the deliberations of Global South leaders during the Voice of the Global South Summits. DAKSHIN stands for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative. Hosted at the RIS, DAKSHIN has established linkages with leading think tanks and universities across the Global South and is building a dynamic network of scholars working on Global South issues.



AIC at RIS has been working to strengthen India’s strategic partnership with ASEAN in its realisation of the ASEAN Community. AIC at RIS undertakes research, policy advocacy and regular networking activities with relevant organisations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN countries, with the aim of providing policy inputs, up-to-date information, data resources and sustained interaction, for strengthening ASEAN-India partnership.



CMEC has been established at RIS under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPS&W), Government of India. CMEC is a collaboration between RIS and Indian Ports Association (IPA). It has been mandated to act as an advisory/technological arm of MoPSW to provide the analytical support on policies and their implementation.



FITM is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Ayush and RIS. It has been established with the objective of undertaking policy research on economy, intellectual property rights (IPRs) trade, sustainability and international cooperation in traditional medicines. FITM provides analytical support to the Ministry of Ayush on policy and strategy responses on emerging national and global developments.



BEF aims to serve as a dedicated platform for fostering dialogue on promoting the concept in the Indian Ocean and other regions. The forum focuses on conducting studies on the potential, prospects and challenges of blue economy; providing regular inputs to practitioners in the government and the private sectors; and promoting advocacy for its smooth adoption in national economic policies.



FIDC, has been engaged in exploring nuances of India’s development cooperation programme, keeping in view the wider perspective of South-South Cooperation in the backdrop of international development cooperation scenario. It is a tripartite initiative of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, academia and civil society organisations.



FISD aims to harness the full potential and synergy between science and technology, diplomacy, foreign policy and development cooperation in order to meet India’s development and security needs. It is also engaged in strengthening India’s engagement with the international system and on key global issues involving science and technology.



As part of its work programme, RIS has been deeply involved in strengthening economic integration in the South Asia region. In this context, the role of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) is very important. SACEPS is a network organisation engaged in addressing regional issues of common concerns in South Asia.



Knowledge generated endogenously among the Southern partners can help in consolidation of stronger common issues at different global policy fora. The purpose of NeST is to provide a global platform for Southern Think-Tanks for collaboratively generating, systematising, consolidating and sharing knowledge on South South Cooperation approaches for international development.



DST-Satellite Centre for Policy Research on STI Diplomacy at RIS aims to advance policy research at the intersection of science, technology, innovation (STI) and diplomacy, in alignment with India’s developmental priorities and foreign policy objectives.

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