



## Tools for Gender Sensitive Planning and Implementation

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Although the new aid modalities has marked a shift in the development assistance, however channeling donors assistance to the treasury account of the recipient country has its pros and cons, at the negative side, if the recipient country is not committed to gender equality it becomes more difficult to generate funding for gender equality, at the positive side, NGOs and women's organizations

have now one window to advocate and pressure to secure more funding for gender equality. Thus awareness raising on the new aid modalities that target civil society is an essential tool to assist them in achieving the MDG # 3 namely, Gender equality and women's empowerment by consolidating their effort and increasing their involvement in the national budget discussion to ensure that funding for gender equality is accounted for. For instance, using the SWAPS, women's organizations have now more space to pressure government to increase funding for a certain sectors with special attention to gender equality such as health and education. As a development practitioner working in a local NGO, I would use the tools and knowledge I gained during this course in two folds: one, I would contribute toward raising the awareness of civil society actors, specially women's organizations on the new aid modalities and how can they use it to increase their involvement in PRSP debate and formulation and the five years plan, which spell out the national planning strategy for all sectors in Yemen. These organizations, if mobilized, can be a substantive force on pressuring the government to increase funding for gender equality within its national budget. Currently, many of these organizations lack the capacity and skills in gender analysis, and in many cases they are not aware of the new aid modality and how can they leverage it. By raising their awareness and building their capacity in gender analysis and gender planning tools, their involvement in PRSP discussions and national budget planning can be more substantial and the impact on government policy on women's empowerment and gender equality will be clearly felt. Second, on the line of my work as a program manager for the Women in Technology Program, our main goal is to build women's skills and ability to compete in the labor market for better job opportunities. Current statistics shows that Yemeni women participation in the paid labour force is 13.8% and 87.8%<sup>1</sup> of women are working in the agriculture sector. Gender equality which is an essential part of decent work provides us, as a development practitioner working toward improving women's economic empowerment, with multidimensional tools, at the one hand it assist us in raising the society, and women's awareness on the invisible work of women, such as house work and agriculture work, on the other hand it provides us with the tools and knowledge to highlight the importance of women's participation in the economy which will contribute to poverty reduction. In addition, it offers the tools to mobilize like- minded organizations to participate in public policy debate to ensure that the right of women for productive employment is explicitly spelled out in these policies as well as to raise the awareness of the society on the importance of building women's skills and improving their access to education which will give them better opportunity to participate fully in productive employment.

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<sup>1</sup><http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTGENDER/EXTANATOOLS/EXTSTATINDDATA/EXTGENDERSTATS/0,,contentMDK:21438813~menuPK:4080948~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:3237336,00.html>