



**COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND
ACTION PLANS: THE CONNECTORS WITH THE
BUDGET CIRCLE FOR EFFECTIVE
DEVELOPMENT AT THE GRASSROOTS**

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- ▶ What is needs assessment and why needs assessment?
- ▶ What's the connection between needs assessment and budget?
- ▶ Does needs assessment affects women at the grassroots?
- ▶ Relationship between livelihood , human needs, and empowerment of women through basic economic literacy.
- ▶ SPP and the connection for sustainable livelihoods for rural women.
- ▶ Next steps

WHAT IS NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND WHY NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

- ▶ A **needs assessment** is a systematic process for determining and addressing needs, or "gaps" between current conditions and desired conditions or "wants". The discrepancy between the current condition and wanted condition must be measured to appropriately identify the need. The need can be a desire to improve current performance or to correct a deficiency.

CONT'D...

- ▶ A needs assessment is a part of planning processes, often used for improvement in individuals, education/training, organizations or communities. It can refine and improve a product such as training or service a client receives. It can be an effective tool to clarify problems and identify appropriate interventions or solutions. By clearly identifying the problem, finite resources can be directed towards developing and implementing a feasible and applicable solution. Gathering appropriate and sufficient data informs the process of developing an effective product that will address the group's needs and wants. Needs assessments are only effective when they are ends-focused and provide concrete evidence that can be used to determine which of the possible means-to-the-ends are most effective and efficient for achieving the desired results.

CONT'D...

- ▶ Needs assessments can help improve the quality of policy or program decisions—thus leading to improvements in performance and the accomplishment of desired results. Improving results—that is, moving from current to desired performance—is typically a worthwhile and valuable effort. The results of a needs assessment will guide subsequent decisions—including the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects and programs that will lead to achieving desired results for the common good of all.

What's the connection between needs assessment and budget?

- ▶ Needs assessment is a development tool, whilst budget is a fiscal instrument use through a circle to promote governance infrastructural equilibrium, social equity, economic enhancement, among others.
- ▶ Needs assessment should evolves from communal consultation, needs mapping with action plans, which communities could use to engage and advocate for development through synergic engagement of the governments budget circles.
- ▶ Further elements and importance of budget formulations are:
 - ▶ - Setting up fiscal targets
 - ▶ -Formulating expenditure policies
 - ▶ -Allocating resources in conformity with policies and fiscal targets.
 - ▶ -Balancing operational efficiency

CONT'D...

- ▶ -Weighing macroeconomic framework to fiscal goals
- ▶ -Among others.
- ▶ On needs assessment, further elements and importance of formulations are:
- ▶ -Town Hall Meetings (which is why we are here...)
- ▶ -Knowledge and understanding of budget circle (from planning, conceptualization, formulation, presentation, defence, passage, signing, execution, monitoring, evaluation, procurement audit and impact assessment, etc)
- ▶ -Development of action plans as an advocacy tool
- ▶ -Carrying communally centered M & E in collaboration with government, using a participatory model
- ▶ -Using Shadow Budget/Groups as advocacy vehicle...

DOES NEEDS ASSESSMENT AFFECTS WOMEN AT THE GRASSROOTS?



Formative research, also known as *situation analyses* or *needs assessments*, collect information and data needed to plan programmes and initiatives. They may describe the needs of the community or population, types and extent of violence against women and girls, the factors that put people at risk, the context in which the programme will be operating (political, environmental, social, cultural, economic, institutional), as well as what resources are available, and what interventions are currently being implemented and by whom. This information is critical to the planning stage and should be collected before or during the development of a programme's monitoring and evaluation.

CONT'D...

Situational analysis and needs assessment are inter-related. It is a comprehensive review of the situation at hand, providing an understanding of many contextual factors, such as the: types and extent of violence against women and girls, needs within the population, strengths and weaknesses of the services available, laws, policies and plans that exist to address the issue, resources available to address the issue, knowledge, attitudes and practices of key actors within different sectors and within the community, formal and informal systems of justice, conflict resolution and leadership capacity and training opportunities for key officials, either; in the security/police, justice and health sectors(duty-bearers), civil society and government, actors/stakeholders working on the issue of empowerment, livelihoods, among others.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIVELIHOOD, HUMAN NEEDS, AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, THROUGH BASIC ECONOMIC LITERACY FOR

- ▶ The increasing use of the term 'livelihoods' in emergency assessments has led to confusion as to what a livelihoods assessment actually is. Sometimes an emergency livelihoods assessment is seen as synonymous with food security or household economic assessment. In fact, it is only recently that household economy and food security assessments have started making explicit use of the livelihoods framework.
- ▶ Such assessments increasingly consider all the livelihoods assets, as defined in the livelihoods framework, to define different wealth groups. However, there are few examples of emergency assessments that explicitly analyse policies, institutions and processes, how these determine people's vulnerability and how they have been transformed by a disaster.

CONT'D...

- ▶ One element of policies, institutions and processes that is receiving increased attention is markets. Another example is credit institutions, which were particularly important in tsunami affected countries and for populations affected by the earthquake in Pakistan. In emergency prone communities or countries with long term livelihoods programmes or in protracted livelihoods crises, an analysis of the wider policy and institutional context is more common, However, facts emphasize here is the connection between livelihoods and budget. The next paper shall elaborate on this, including on basic economic literacy.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT(SPP) AND THE CONNECTION FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR RURAL WOMEN.

- ▶ Oxfam's emphasis for empowerment of women is paramount through this Oxfam's SPP-Financing for Development intervention.
- ▶ This empowerment is why you all are here...That is, teach me how to fish!
- ▶ NDEBUMOG is doing this through partnership with multi-sectoral partners and Oxfam for capacity enhancement on how women and men can use economic literacy to demand constructive (non-violent democratic) empowerment with shadow budget as a tool.

NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Mobilization of more women to participate at decision making processes, which affects the lives of women within (y) our communities
- ▶ Building alliances and networks with similar groups to share experience and way forward
- ▶ Coalesce your interest on economic literacy and socioeconomic rights, through participatory budget, or shadow budget strategies.
- ▶ Follow up with (you) stakeholders on the formation of your shadow budget groups for mentorship, guidance and possible affiliate ship with the Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

