ONE WORLD ACTION
FOR A JUST AND EQUAL WORLD

Making a Difference Citizen's and their organisations and networks contributing to change OWA PPA 2008-9: Case study 21

Title of Case Study:	Just Budgets Project Evaluation – Key findings

1. PPA partner name	One World Action
2. Countries highlighted in case study	Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda

PPA partners names
Gender Institute for Democracy, Leadership and Development (GEDLIDE)
Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA)
Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP)
Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)

What does this case study demonstrate
OWA's unique position in developing this area of work.
The concept of Just Budgets is valid and relevant. Some of the Just Budgets partner organisations, particularly TGNP and FOWODE, would *now* be in a position to play an active part as a result of knowledge they have gained through their Just Budgets research.

- OWA should strive to maintain its strong *feminist policy advocacy edge* when recruiting to replace the Gender Policy Coordinator.
- OWA should seek to maintain its *unique positioning* as a policy advocacy feminist NGO with strong links to women's organisations working in poor communities; good working relationships with DFID and the EU; and strong links to the international women's movement though their involvement in AWID, WIDE and the GADN

- OWA should consider building on the ground-work laid by Just Budgets, to *continue to strive towards realisation of the original project concept*. This requires the bringing together of key people from selected donor organisations and southern civil society organisations in a constructive working relationship. OWA is uniquely positioned to achieve this.

Summary of achievements

- *Good selection of partners* - IDASA had led the way on gender budgeting in South Africa, their work had attracted enormous attention worldwide – and key lessons could be drawn to apply to aid modalities in more aid dependent countries. GEDLIDE, FOWODE and TGNP all have considerable experience of working with their own governments on gender budgets over a period of time, and all were operating in highly aid dependent countries where increasing amounts of aid were being provided through new aid modalities.
- *Inception workshop* - Representatives from 3 partner organisations met with One World Action staff in London for an *Inception Workshop*. The Inception Workshop was very successful in building ownership and understanding of the project amongst project partners. It was a stimulating meeting of like-minded people, able to share and learn from related experiences in different countries, and plan the new initiative together in a practical way. Participants left the meeting feeling engaged in and enthusiastic about the project, and highly motivated to get going.
- The *concept* of the research – the application of gender budget analysis to donor money provided in the context of new aid modalities – was particularly relevant to project partners TGNP from Tanzania and FOWODE from Uganda. The research was directly relevant to their ongoing work.
- The *partner organisations led on the research* – Partner organisations designed, conducted and wrote up the research with the support of One World Action. The research process was in itself a valuable capacity building experience for organisations for whom research was not their core expertise.
- *Knowledge generation: 3 research reports* were produced – by TGNP in Tanzania, FOWODE in Uganda, and IDASA in South Africa. These are professionally designed and presented and on the OWA website. The research reports produced by TGNP and FOWODE were good, and seen both by One World Action and by

the partner organisations to represent particularly good value for money[1].

- The *Synthesis Report and Guidance note* -summarising the findings of the 3 country case studies has just been finished. It will be put on OWA's website as well as printed in hard copy. Both documents will be used in on-going discussions on development effectiveness.

What is the actual impact demonstrated by this case study – who are the beneficiaries/what has changed?

Just Budgets had 2 intended outcomes:

- to provide guidance for donors on strengthening accountability and gender sensitive orientation in development financing

A Guidance Note for donors (and others) has been developed, and will be distributed along with the synthesis report.

- to build partner capacity to more effectively use public financial management processes, including national budgets, to address gender inequality and to monitor implementation of national gender equality commitments.

TGNP and FOWODE have benefited from conducting the research which has enhanced knowledge and understanding of various aspects of *the new aid environment*. This included understanding the role that donors play in influencing government spending, some of the internal dynamics within donor organisations that influence the extent to which gender gets prioritised, and the ways in which gender can easily get lost in new aid environment processes.

What could be the long term benefits?

As a result on the research, TGNP and FOWODE report new targets for advocacy as a result of increased understanding of advocacy opportunities, as well as more effective advocacy and capacity building.

[1] Partner organisations were each given £6,000.

IDASA has recently expanded its staff considerably and will be starting a new gender budgeting programme building the capacity of civil society organisations in the southern African region.

What were the key successes?

Influencing - The OWA Governance Policy Adviser attended the *CSO Accra preparation meeting held in Ottawa* in early 2008. AWID, WIDE and the donor gender lobby, who were all gathering evidence, case material and formulating advocacy messages on women's rights and gender equality, all expressed considerable interest in the anticipated research findings from Just Budgets. The Governance Adviser played a very active role shuttling between the main event and a parallel meeting for women's organisations, ensuring gender considerations were consistently raised, and participating in the successful lobby for women's organisations to be represented by AWID and WIDE in the CSO delegation to Accra.

Dissemination - Project partners were asked by the Gender Policy Coordinator to pull out key messages to forward to the Accra gender lobby – and the gender Policy Coordinator *presented Just Budgets findings* in several national and international fora preparing for Accra: the UNIFEM/ EC/ WIDE meeting in Brussels in April 2008; the WIDE capacity building meeting in Spain in May 2008; and the Irish Aid/OECD event in London March 2008[2]. Just Budgets was presented again later at the DFID/ GADN roundtable on gender and aid effectiveness held in London in December 2008 to reflect on experiences of Accra.

If you were to do this again, what would you change and why?

Stepped up advocacy in the south and north
The southern partners in Just Budgets were *not involved in international debates leading up to Accra*. In the first year of the

[2] Participation in this event was a particular coup for Just Budgets, and arose directly from the Governance Advisers participation in the Ottawa meeting. OWA was the only civil society organisation to present on women's rights and gender equality, despite a number of other key players including ActionAid and the GADN having lobbied to participate.

project, the temporary OWA Gender Policy Coordinator failed to link partners into Accra debates and lobbying activities. In the second year, the time of the OWA Gender Policy Coordinator prior to Accra was fully taken up with finalising the research and organising and attending dissemination workshops. The Director of TGNP was invited to attend Accra with all costs covered but she did not go. However, overall OWA took little active part in the numerous advocacy meetings preparing for Accra. Whereas they had the potential through this project to play a key role in driving the advocacy agenda, in practice they had limited influence. Neither OWA nor project partners participated in the event itself.

What, if any, innovative aspects are demonstrated by this case study?

The concept of this project was highly relevant and timely, One World Action was perfectly positioned to implement it, and partners were well chosen for their expertise. However, although planned activities were largely implemented, and at least some of the planned objectives were achieved, the overall impact of this project seems disappointing when compared to its conceptual ambition and its potential.