

# Monitoring Gender Equality Through Gender Budget Analysis

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# From Policies to Budgets

- All governments have gender equality policy statements but all too frequently these statements are not backed up by resource allocation
- Gender Analysis of Budgets can throw light on where the money is allocated and is spent and what outcomes are achieved
- As South African Parliamentarian, Pregs Govender wrote:

The budget reflects the values of a country-who it values, whose work it values, and who it rewards.... And who and what and whose work it doesn't
- If gender equality objectives are not being achieved, budgets need to be changed

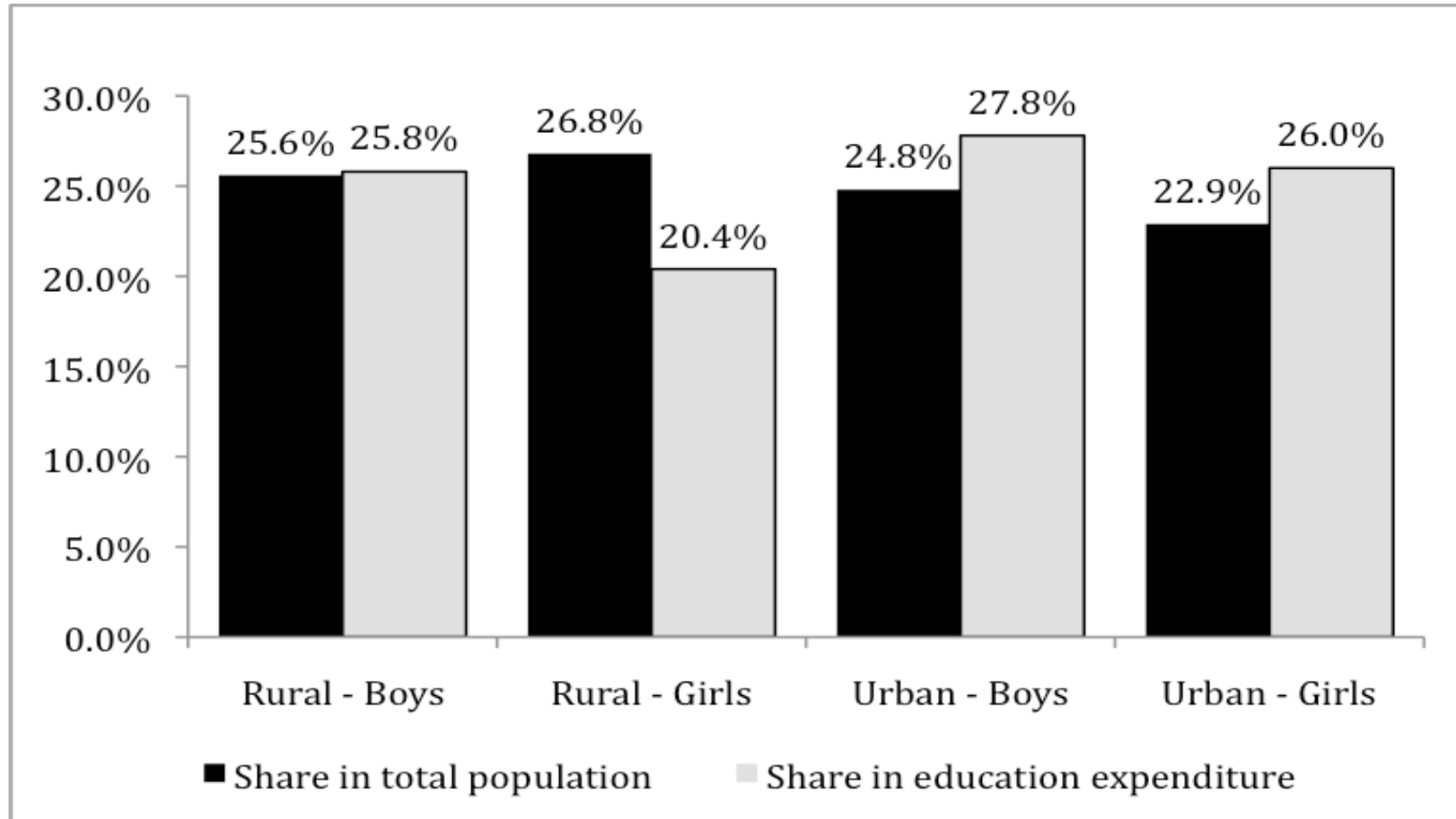
# Following the Money from Budget to Outcomes

- *Inputs* of expenditure must be translated into:
- *Activities* (e.g. operation of education services, campaigns with men against domestic violence, delivery of income transfers, construction of infrastructure)
- *Outputs* (e.g. number of girls and boys enrolled in school,, number of men reached by anti-violence message, value and number of grants, given miles of water pipes built )
- *Outcomes (or Impacts or Results)* (e.g. gender gaps in education reduced ; gender gaps in income reduced; violence against women reduced; gender gaps in unpaid work reduced; gender roles transformed)
- Two examples:
  - Timor Leste, a low income country in the Pacific
  - UK , a high income country in Europe

# Timor Leste: Gender Equality and Education

- Timor Leste has adopted gender equality as a broad principle, including in the Basic Law of the Education System, and in the 2011-2030 National Education Strategic Plan.
- In 2006/7 there was a gender gap in school enrolment with nine girls for every 10 boys enrolled
- There was no specific expenditure targeted towards closing this gap
- Data on school attendance of boys and girls was matched with budgetary data for the same year (2006/07) to identify the share of educational expenditure on groups of boys and girls, for each level of education and location (rural/urban)
- See S. Austen, M. Costa, R. Sharp and D. Elson 'Expenditure Incidence Analysis: A Gender-Responsive Budgeting Tool for Educational Expenditure in Timor-Leste?' *Feminist Economics*, 19(4)1-24, 2013.

## Shares in school expenditure and shares in the total population of children (11 to 15 years old), by sex and location



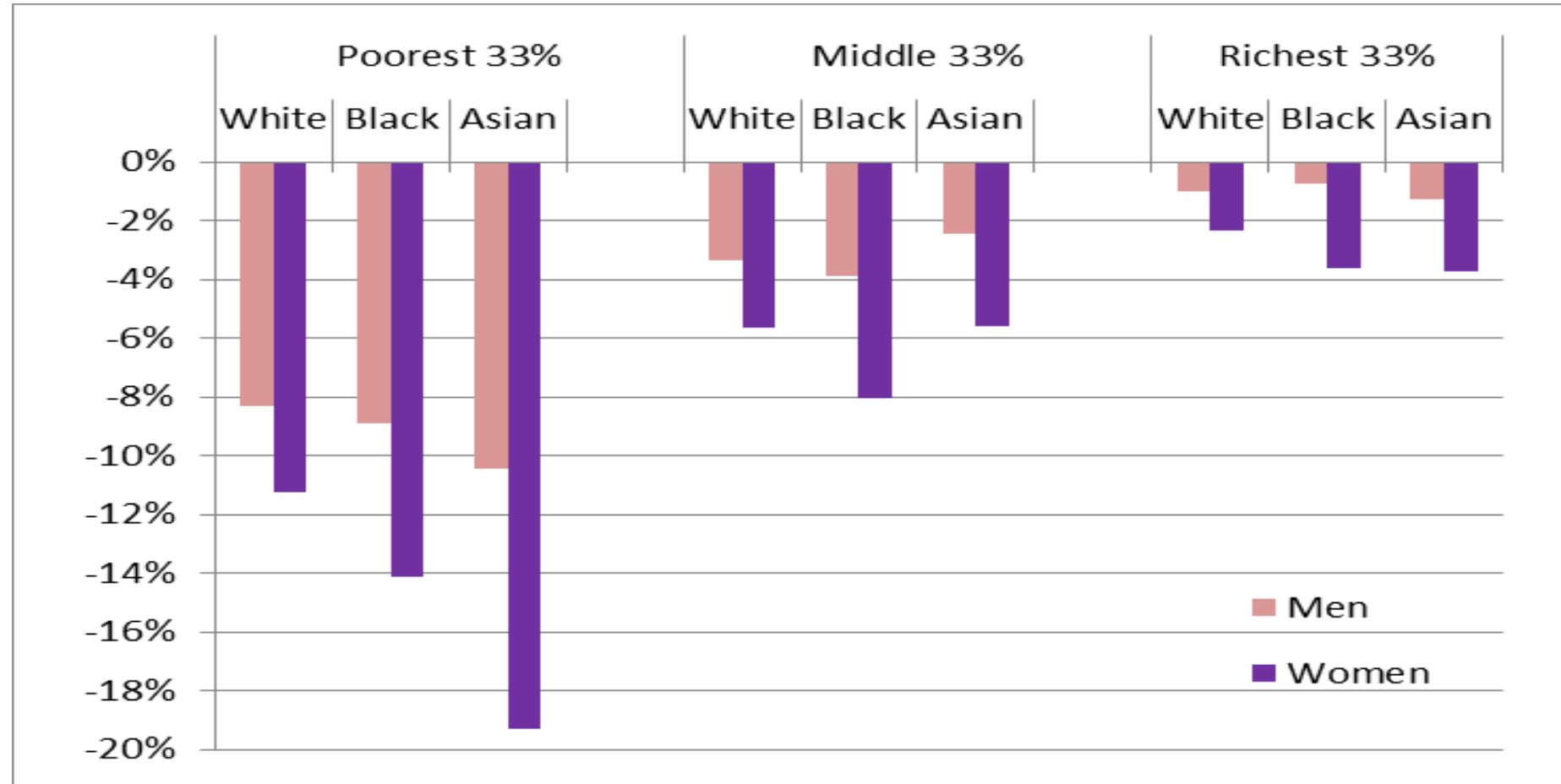
# Policy Implications

- Chart shows rural girls are particularly disadvantaged
- Their share of education expenditure ( at 20.4%) is lower, by more than six percentage points, than their share of the population of children aged 11-15 (26.8%)
- Further research showed barriers to their attendance in school include distance to school, sanitary facilities in school, and demands on girls to help with unpaid care and domestic labour
- Targeting expenditure to address these barriers could help close the gender education gaps- this can include targeting directly to girls such as scholarships for low income rural girls, but also targeting improvements to transport to schools and to sanitary facilities in schools, and to clean water for poor rural households

# UK : Gender Equality and Austerity Policies

- In period 2010-2020 welfare benefits were cut, with aim of reducing budget deficit, but some taxes were also cut
- The UK has legislation requiring governments to pay due regard to the equalities impact of policies, including budgetary policies
- An important way of demonstrating this is to publish an assessment of the cumulative impact of policies on different social groups
- The government did not do this, so an NGO, the Women's Budget Group, published an assessment looking at how incomes would be affected, by gender, ethnicity and class, in 2020
- <https://wbg.org.uk/analysis/intersecting-inequalities/>

Cumulative impact (by 2020) of changes in taxes and benefits (percentage of net individual income per annum) by household income groups, gender and ethnicity





# Policy Implications

- Women lost more than men, across all income groups and ethnicities
- Poor women of Asian ethnicity lost most, and they were already the group with lowest income
- Income gaps by gender, ethnicity and income group set to widen
- To reduce these income gaps, rather than widen them, a different approach to budget deficit reduction was needed, with more emphasis on taxing better off
- Cuts to welfare benefits since 2010 totalled £37bn a year by 2020
- Tax cuts since 2010 cost £41bn a year by 2020

# Conclusions

- Gender Budget Analysis can contribute to monitoring achievements in gender equality provided it follows the money to look at the impacts of budgets on gender equality
- It make recommendations about how budgets should be changed so that they can contribute more effectively to achieving gender equality
- Sometimes expenditures directly targeted to women and girls are needed
- But also expenditures targeted to removing barriers to opportunities, such as investment in water
- And taxation also needs to be considered- increasing taxes on the better off is needed to fund expenditures that will reduce gender gaps