

OECD Gender Budgeting Framework

HIGHLIGHTS



Designing and implementing gender budgeting



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What is Gender budgeting?

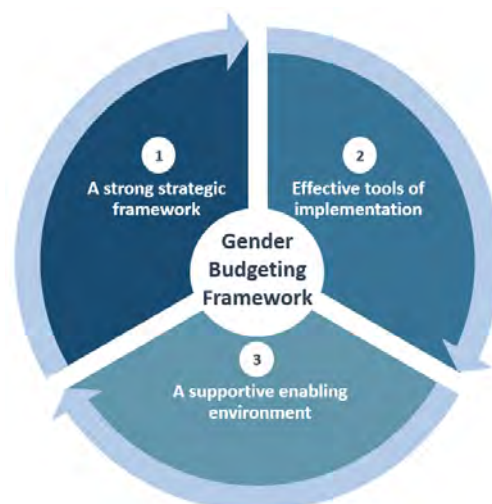
Gender budgeting is the use of analytical tools, as a routine part of the budget process, so that the budget is more effective at helping to meet gender equality goals.

Gender equality is a keystone of a prosperous modern economy, yet gender gaps persist in OECD countries in all areas of social and economic life. Understanding the budget process can have considerable ability to frame government-wide policy-making, countries across the OECD are looking to the tools and techniques of gender budgeting to help deliver on national gender goals.

Around half of OECD countries do gender budgeting; including; Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

What are the core elements to an effective approach to gender budgeting?

The OECD Senior Budget Officials Experts Group on Gender Budgeting meets annually to discuss developments and share good practices in relation to gender budgeting. Country experiences helped inform the OECD publication "Designing and implementing gender budgeting – a path to action" which sets out three core elements underpinning an effective approach to gender budgeting; a strong strategic framework, effective tools of implementation and a supportive enabling environment.



1. A STRONG STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Gender budgeting requires political commitment, strong leadership and clarity of roles and responsibilities of different actors across government so that a whole-of-government approach is in place. This approach is also most effective where actions are guided by a national gender equality strategy that outlines overarching gender goals. Goals may also be linked to an indicator framework which helps track progress.

2. EFFECTIVE TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

To successfully implement gender budgeting, countries should select an approach that builds on existing elements of their budgeting system. A more advanced approach to gender budgeting benefits from the incorporation of gender perspectives at all of the different stages of the budget process. Tools employed across OECD countries include:

- **Gender impact assessments:** Analysis of the gender impact of existing and/or new budget measures (both ex-ante and ex-post).
- **Gender dimension in performance setting:** Identifying gender equality indicators and objectives as part of the performance budgeting framework.
- **Gender budget statement:** A summary of how budget measures are intended to support gender equality priorities.
- **Gender budget tagging:** Tracking how programmes and activities support gender equality objectives, helping to quantify financial flows.
- **Gender perspective in evaluation and performance audit:** Identifying whether gender goals relating to different policies and programmes were achieved.
- **Gender perspective in spending review:** Ensuring spending reprioritisation has a positive impact on gender equality goals.

The introduction of these tools is not an end in itself. Information gathered through their implementation can support analysis and more informed budget decisions, helping governments ensure the coherence of budget decisions with strategic priorities.

3. A SUPPORTIVE AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Gender budgeting will be most effective where there is a supportive enabling environment. This includes systematic collection of gender-disaggregated data, training and capacity development for government staff. Engaging and consulting citizens and experts, for example, through structured engagement with civil society or setting up an expert/consultative group to advise on gender budgeting, can become important to inform ongoing gender budgeting efforts and ensure it remains open to a broad range of inputs and viewpoints, especially critical viewpoints. Equally important is for gender budgeting to be subject to oversight by accountability institutions such as parliament and the supreme audit institution, so that the government is held to account publically for its implementation.

A more detailed description of the OECD Framework for Gender Budgeting is available in the publication “Designing and Implementing Gender Budgeting: A Path to Action” available at:
www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/designing-and-implementing-gender-budgeting-a-path-to-action.pdf



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

For more information visit:

www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/gender-budgeting.htm

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