



FOLLOW THE MONEY!

**A method for analyzing budgets
and policies from
a gender equality perspective**

The Swedish Women's Lobby

© Sveriges Kvinnolobby 2018

Layout: Eva Jais

ISBN: 978-91-983631-6-6

This publication has been produced with the support of the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF). The content reflects the views of the authors only. MUCF can not be held responsible for the information in the publication or how it may be used.



Introduction

Budgets and financial statements are of key importance in realizing policies. Budgets affect most people in society, but since various groups of people have varying needs and living conditions, they will be affected in different ways. If aims and expenses are presented in a gender neutral manner, there is a risk that more resources go to men and boys than to women and girls. This is because public resource allocation often favors men's needs, activities and life styles before women's. To counteract this, it is essential to make the individuals behind the figures visible.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality

Gender Mainstreaming is a global strategy for promoting gender equality. The strategy was first adopted at the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995, and is now used by the EU and the UN, as well as many countries and regions. Gender Mainstreaming means to integrate a gender equality perspective to all stages of decision-making; policy development, research, legislation, and resource allocation, as well as planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects. This is done by assessing the different implications for women and men of any planned policy action, in all areas and levels of society. By doing so, gender equality issues will not end up in the dark or be sidelined; instead they will be at the core of all policies and activities.

The Beijing Platform for Action commits governments to mainstream gender equality into all stages of the budget process; from the proposed allocation of resources to monitoring of reforms and the activities undertaken. Just like any other political reform or proposal, the budget process should contribute to gender equality. This can be done by setting up goals on how gender equality efforts are to progress in key areas and by directing funds to meet them. In order to monitor whether the money was spent as planned, what was delivered and to whom, it is also necessary to have indicators to measure and follow up on the goals.

A prerequisite for being able to follow the money and see what effect the distribution of resources may have on gender equality, is that any data on individuals is collected and tabulated separately for women and men. Tables and charts should always be based on data, indicators and statistics disaggregated by sex. If statistics are not broken down on women and men, it is difficult to make assessments and to monitor the gender equality effects of proposals, reforms and activities.

If budgets do not lead to gender equality, resources should be redirected in order to ensure fair distribution between women and men. This way, budgets can contribute to gender equality and we can achieve a more gender equal distribution of society's resources.

The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life

Many local and regional governments in Europe have signed *The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life*. The Charter is a formal public commitment to the principle of equality of women and men. Each signatory authority undertakes to draw up an Equality Action Plan and to engage with all of the institutions and organizations in its territory, in order to promote the achievement of real gender equality in practice. One of the fundamental principles of the Charter is that the integration of the gender perspective into all activities of local and regional government is necessary to advance equality of women and men:

////////////////////////////////////
“The gender perspective must be taken into account in the drafting of policies, methods and instruments which affect the daily life of the local population – for example, through the use of “gender mainstreaming” and “gender budgeting” techniques. To this end, women’s experiences in local life, including their living and working conditions, must be analyzed and taken into account.”
////////////////////////////////////

Our method for analyzing budgets from a gender equality perspective

This material is intended to serve as a tool and support for analyzing budgets and steering documents from a gender equality perspective. By following the money and analyzing a budget's differing impacts on men and women, politicians and decision-makers can be held accountable.

The material is designed to be used by individuals and non-governmental organizations, but it is also useful for political representatives and officials involved in budget processes. With this material, we want to encourage people and organizations to review how resources are distributed and to push for gender equality!

Analyzing budgets from a gender equality perspective – how to do it!

1. Get the documents

Budgets, financial statements and other steering documents can often be found at the website of the government, municipality, county council or region.

2. Review the documents

Use the template (see the following pages) and review the document step by step by answering the questions. Summarize your messages as briefly and clearly as possible, preferably with statistics and concrete examples. You can also refer to the governments or regions obligations and commitments.

3. Contact politicians and decision-makers

When the review is done, it is time to reach out with your messages to those who are able to make a change. Send the results and proposed actions to your politicians and decision-makers by e-mail or regular mail, and/or request a meeting. You can also start an online petition and collect signatures to support your call for gender equality.

4. Reach out in traditional and social media

Contact national or local media (newspaper, TV, radio). You can do this by writing a press release, a debate article or just a regular email. Share the results of the review in social media and engage others in the discussion of how resources are distributed. Many politicians and decision-makers have social media accounts. Tag them in your posts and updates.

Template for analyzing budgets and steering documents

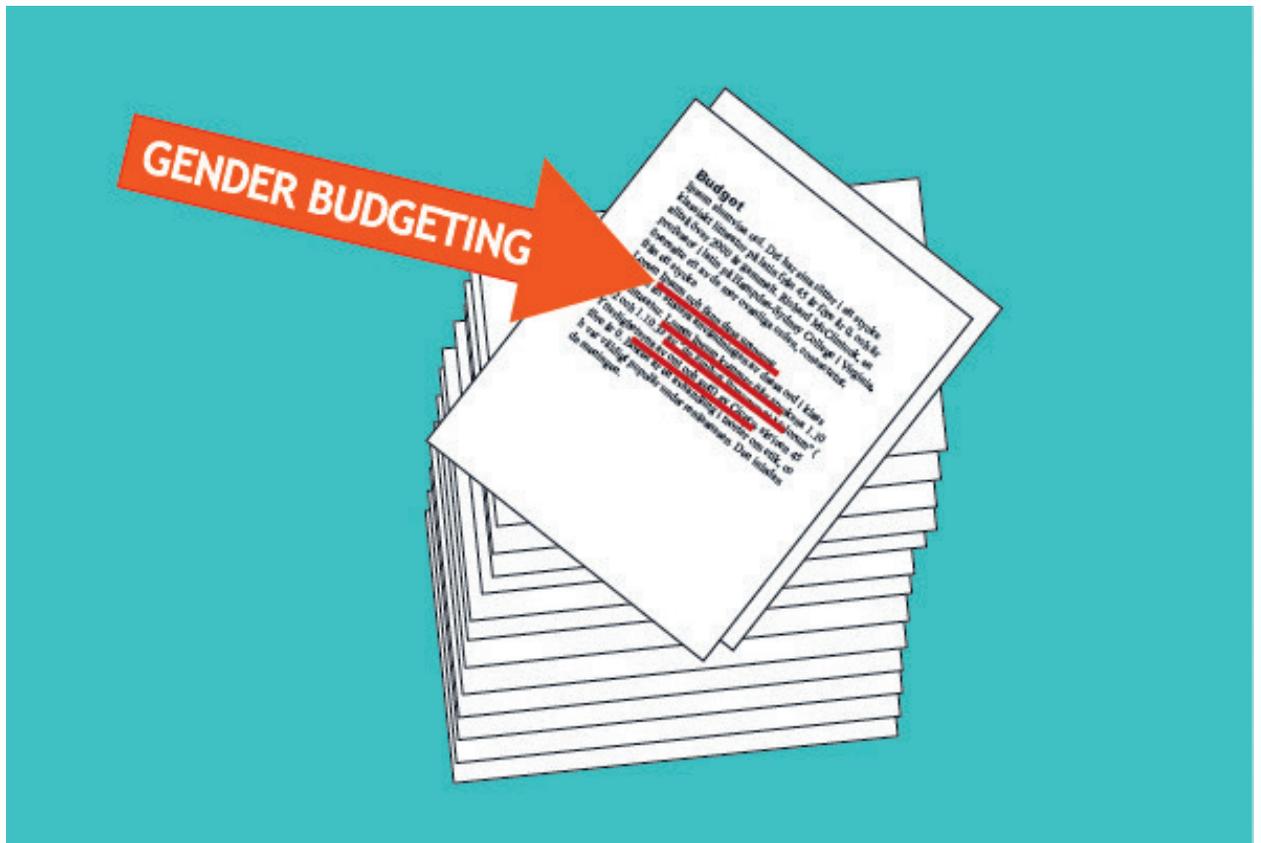
Step 1: Start by reviewing the document as a whole by doing a word search.

Open the document in digital form and type in the following words: »gender«, »gender equal/equality«, »women/woman«, »men/man«, »boy«, »girl«.

Answer the questions:

How often do the words appear and in what areas of the document?

In what context are the words used? Is there any analysis of the consequences for men and women/gender equality where the words occur?



What does this say about the content of the document? What is missing and what should be different?

Step 2: Review tables and charts of the document.

Answer the questions:

Are tables and charts based on individual data and statistics? If so, are they disaggregated by sex (specifying women/men)?

If not: point it out. What is missing?

Is there an analysis of the consequences for men and women/gender equality?

If not: point it out. What is missing?

Step 3: Review the overall budget (tables and text).

Answer the questions:

Does the operating budget (costs such as rent and wages) clearly show how it will affect girls and boys, women and men respectively?

Does the investment budget (one-time costs such as building a new sports hall or investments in roads or lighting) clearly show how women and men will be reached/take part of it?

If not: point it out. What is missing?

Step 4: Review if women and men are present in goals and measurements/indicators for follow-up.

Answer the questions:

Is it clear that general goals and indicators should be achieved for both sexes?

Are goals gender neutral or are »girls and boys«, »women and men«, clearly stated in them? *For example, if the aim is that more people should have a full time job – is it clearly formulated how much the working time should be increased for women and men respectively and how this should be achieved?*

Is it stated that follow up of the goals and indicators should be declared separated on the results for women and men respectively? *For example, that statistics for working hours always should be presented for both women and men along with impact assessments and actions to follow-up.*

If not: point it out. What is missing?



Step 5: Review whether there are actions/recommendations for actions for achieving gender equality.

Answer the questions:

Do general objectives/actions address what kinds of improvements are required in order to ensure that both women and men achieve the objectives?

If not: point it out. What is missing?

Are there objectives specifically aimed at eliminating gender inequalities?

If not: point it out. What is missing?

About the Swedish Women's Lobby

The Swedish Women's Lobby is a politically and religiously independent umbrella for women's organizations in Sweden. We gather around 50 women's organizations with the mutual aim to achieve women's full human rights and a gender equal society. Our work is based on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). We are also the national coordination of the European Women's Lobby (EWL). The Swedish Women's Lobby annually analyzes the state budget bill, as well as local and regional budgets, from a gender equality perspective. More information about our work can be found at sverigeskvinnolobby.se/en.

**SWEDISH
WOMEN'S LOBBY**

