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**GENDER BUDGETING AND PROSPECTS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN  
UZBEKISTAN**

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**ABSTRACT:**

Gender budgeting recognizes and provides resources to address the different needs, interests and realities of women and men in society and the underlying inequalities that arise from them. It recognizes the differential contributions of men and women in the production of goods and services, as well as in work, and takes them into account in the mobilization and allocation of resources. The article discusses the prospects of this issue in Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** Gender budgeting, local program, assessment, region, policy, funds.

**Introduction**

According to the Council of Europe's widely used definition<sup>1</sup>, gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It involves conducting a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process, and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality. In short, gender budgeting is a strategy and a process with the long-term aim of achieving gender equality goals. Fully applying gender budgeting within EU budget processes means the full integration of gender perspectives at all stages of budgeting and planning processes. Practical steps to this end include: 1. a gender-based assessment to take stock of, and make visible, the gendered impacts of budgets — such a gender budget analysis is the starting point for all gender budgeting work; 2. promoting changes to advance gender equality based on the results of the gender budget analysis, including any identified gender gaps and challenges; 3. organising gender budgeting work through a combination of governmental and non-governmental actors — analysis of practical gender budgeting experiences worldwide repeatedly shows that this supports strong results<sup>2</sup>.

Features of gender budgeting:

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<sup>1</sup> Council of Europe (2005), Gender Budgeting: Final report of the Group of Specialists on Gender Budgeting, Council of Europe, Equality Division, Directorate-General of Human Rights, Strasbourg.

<sup>2</sup> EIGE (2019), Gender Budgeting: Mainstreaming gender into the EU budget and macroeconomic policy framework, p. 12.



- Incorporates a gender perspective in all aspects of its development and at all budget levels (national and local).
- It encourages the active commitment and participation of citizens, allowing them to define their own interests and the specific demands of men and women differently.
- Allows monitoring and evaluation of the impact of government spending and revenue on men and women.
- It promotes the most efficient use of resources to achieve gender equality and human development.
- Seeks to rework spending priorities and does not increase public spending at all.
- It tends to restructure programs within sectors rather than trying to change the total amounts allocated to specific sectors.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The first gender budget was drafted in 1984 by the Federal government of Australia and later in South Africa, Canada, the United Kingdom, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Barbados and the United States. Since the end of 1999, countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS, such as Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan have taken the same initiative.

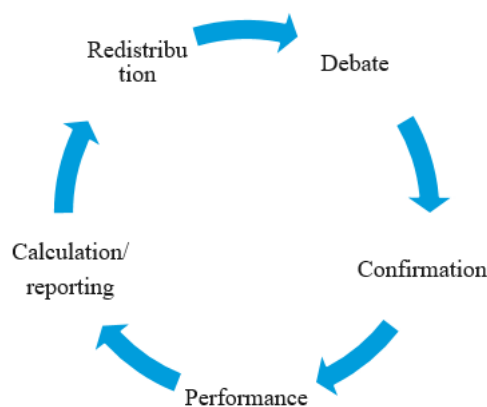
The main initiative that defined the development of the strategy for gender budgeting was the Gender Responsive Budget Initiatives (GRBI) Program, implemented jointly by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) [1].

The Council of Europe defines gender-based budgeting as the integration of gender approaches into the budget process [2]. Gender budgeting allows us to solve the problems of inequality through the mechanism of the budget process.

The gender budget is a new social technology that allows taking into account the interests of women and men in the field of social policy and foreseeing possible social consequences of economic changes [3].

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gender budgeting is carried out in a specific cycle [5]:



**Figure 1. Gender budgeting cycle**



Objective of gender budgeting:

Linking parliamentary work to promote legislation with planning tools and integration of government management achievements that bring together key actors.

Advancing Gender and the Economy: Changing Patterns of Inequality and Redistributing Wealth. Alliances of economic commissions and women's rights parliamentary groups.

Table 1.

Employment, care work and violence against women in four EU Member States

Country	Employment rates	Care-related time use	Violence against women
Czechia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full-time equivalent employment rate is 46 % for women and 65 % for men</li> <li>10 % of women work part-time, compared with 3 % of men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33 % of women care for family members for at least 1 hour per day, compared with 20 % of men</li> <li>86 % of women and 12 % of men cook and do housework every day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once since the age of 15</li> <li>Violence against women costs Czechia an estimated EUR 4.7 billion per year through lost economic output, service utilisation and personal costs</li> </ul>
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full-time equivalent employment rate is 40 % for women and 59 % for men</li> <li>47 % of women work part-time, compared with 11 % of men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 % of women care for family members for at least 1 hour per day, compared with 30 % of men.</li> <li>72 % of women and 29 % of men cook and do housework every day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once since the age of 15</li> <li>Violence against women costs Germany an estimated EUR 36 billion per year through lost economic output, service utilisation and personal costs</li> </ul>
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full-time equivalent employment rate is 50 % for women and 64 % for men</li> <li>15 % of women work part-time, compared with 7 % of men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 % of women care for family members for at least 1 hour per day, compared with 31 % of men</li> <li>76 % of women and 45 % of men cook and do housework every day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once since the age of 15</li> <li>Violence against women costs Estonia an estimated EUR 590 million per year through lost economic output, service utilisation and personal costs</li> </ul>
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full-time equivalent employment rate is 36 % for women and 50 % for men</li> <li>25 % of women work part-time, compared with 8 % of men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>56 % of women care for family members for at least 1 hour per day, compared with 36 % of men</li> <li>85 % of women and 42 % of men cook and do housework every day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once since the age of 15</li> <li>Violence against women costs Spain an estimated EUR 21 billion per year through lost economic output, service utilisation and personal costs</li> </ul>

Dissemination of achievements and budget standards to citizens: women know and can influence the allocation of the budget to relevant issues.

- Viability of applied standards and subsequently monitored;
- Formation of expert committees and priority agenda;
- Audit and political verification with concrete evidence;
- Qualifying the participation of parliaments in approving budgets;
- Increasing accountability and transparency/

Government plays a key role in gender budgeting. The role of parliament in this process is unique:



*Table 1. The role of the Government in gender budgeting*

Place	Actions to be taken
Legislature	Support gender mainstreaming in planning and public finance
Financial control bodies	Request information about investments in gender equality from public institutions. Know and use parliamentary analysis of resources for gender equality
Political representatives	Placing key themes on the agenda aligned with resource allocation as an essential part of guaranteeing rights
Approval of the budget	Advocacy to mobilize resources

Calculation method Indicator 5.c.1

It was proposed by UN Women, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Development Organization

3 calculation criteria:

Criterion 1: Gender equality goals/measures are included in government programs with budgets allocated to them

Criterion 2: Gender budgeting is integrated into public financial management systems

Criterion 3: Budget allocations for gender equality are open to all (transparency)

Criterion 1: Programs or government policies that address well-defined gender equality objectives:

(a) Programs or policies that target only women and/or girls. For example, a government program that provides scholarships for girls only, or a prenatal care program, or a national gender action plan;

(b) Equality programs or policies targeting women or girls, men or boys and making gender equality a primary objective. For example, a public information campaign against gender-based violence or training programs on gender equality in the workplace;

(c) programs or policies where gender equality is not a primary objective, but the program contains actions to close gender gaps. These programs may include the provision of infrastructure, public services and social protection. For example, an infrastructure program that requires the use of women's labor or a public transportation program that takes into account women's mobility needs in its design.

Criterion 2: Call Circulars Call Circulars are official notices issued by the Ministry.

At the beginning of each year, the country's finance or budget office budget cycle. The circular instructs government agencies on how to submit their proposals or requests for budget funds for the coming year. In some countries the notice may have a different name, such as Budget Instructions or Treasury Instructions). It can notify each agency of its budget "ceiling" for the next fiscal year.

Criterion 2: Key programs and policies Government programs or policies designed to achieve clearly defined gender equality goals (as defined in Criterion 1).



Criterion 2: Gender-disaggregated statistics and data are available unsystematically for all key programs and policies

The regular availability of gender data sets and statistics greatly facilitates the evidence base for existing gender identification.

Criterion 3:

Allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment are published

The Ministry of Finance (or budget department) website and/or relevant official bulletins or public notices are clearly indicated and/or distributed in hard copy.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or appropriations are published in the quarter in which the exercise is approved/exercised.

A number of steps have been taken in the issue of gender budgeting in Uzbekistan.

In 2022, 644,849 women in severe social situations across the country were included in the "Women's Register" in 6 categories. So far, 626,910 of these women (97.2 percent) have received various assistance.

210,635 needy women were placed in new jobs and public works.

43,658 needy women were granted preferential loans to start their business activities.

One-time financial assistance was provided to 173,494 out of 179,497 needy women without breadwinners. Of these, 9,973 houses were repaired.

Financial and medical assistance was provided to 119,677 needy women with group 1 and 2 disabilities and in need of urgent medical treatment. Of these, 2,459 houses were repaired.

Assistance was provided to 9,448 women in need of housing. Of these, 2,852 people were provided with housing, 6,596 people were paid rent compensation.

Financial assistance was provided to 69,998 needy women with dependent children with disabilities.

Of these, 3,952 people were given practical and material assistance for effective use of the estate.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of budget processes in the Republic of Uzbekistan has made it clear that it is extremely important to understand the role of all the tools of gender sensitive budgeting (GSB) used in different countries. However, to understand the promotion of GSB, it is also important to study the formalized procedures and processes, focus on their own development path and understand the specifics of the activities of national public authorities. The significance of not only the products of the partner project, but also other equally important aspects, such as the process of creating, choosing methodological approaches, training technologies, recommendations, in short, everything that increases the potential of government agencies and civil activists, is quite obvious. It should also be noted that the use of multiple factors in the budget process opens up new opportunities for gender measurement at different stages of its implementation.

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