

Making Gender Budgeting work in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland's economic status as a devolved region of the UK creates some limitations, particularly in terms of revenue raising powers. However, the most common types of gender budgeting tools could all be implemented here by government departments or local councils, such as:

- Gender aware policy appraisal
- Beneficiary assessment through public participation
- Gender disaggregated public expenditure incidence analysis
- Gender disaggregated analysis of the impact of the budget on time use for household members
- Gender responsive budget statements
- Embedding gender awareness in medium-term economic policy

To make gender budgeting work in Northern Ireland, we need to ensure there is:



More targeted measures to tackle gender inequality



More transparency in the budget process and opportunities for public engagement



More political will and commitment



More training for public servants on how to use gender budgeting

Gender Budgeting Partners

This research project aims to support civil society advocates, public sector stakeholders and elected representatives to successfully implement gender budgeting in Northern Ireland.



For further information about research, training and engagement visit:
[www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/projects/
Gender_Budgeting](http://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/projects/Gender_Budgeting)

For any other queries:

Joan Ballantine
joan.ballantine@ulster.ac.uk

Aoife Mallon
a.mallon@ulster.ac.uk

Alexandra Brennan
info@niwbg.org

Gender Budgeting

Researchers from Ulster University are working in partnership with civil society organisations through the Northern Ireland Women's Budget Group to support the implementation of gender budgeting.

With research, evidence, engagement and training, we aim to equip policy-makers with the tools and knowledge necessary to make budgets work better for all.

This leaflet provides an overview of what gender budgeting is and how it can be used.



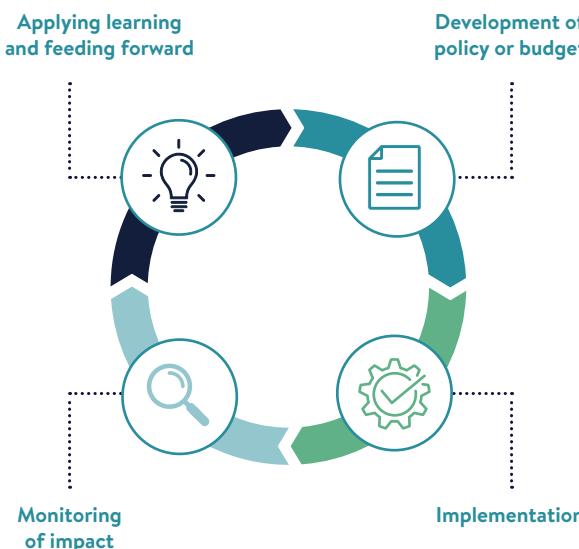
What is Gender Budgeting?

It starts with a commitment from politicians to make sure that public spending equally serves the different needs of women and men.

Officials involved in policy making must ensure that inequalities are considered and mitigated against when planning, implementing and auditing budgets to produce more gender equal outcomes.

A range of gender budgeting tools can help support government departments, local councils and other public authorities to engage in gender budgeting.

Different gender budgeting tools can be used at **different stages** of the policy or budget cycles:



Understanding Gender Inequality

The first step to tackling inequality is performing gender data analysis. This relies on the accessibility of gender disaggregated data. The evidence tells us that women and men experience different social and economic realities.

For example...



Women make up **82%** of all part-time workers



1/3 of women are economically inactive (with the majority citing caring responsibilities as the reason)



93% of single parents are women



95% of employed men with children work full-time compared to 60% of employed women



A gender analysis of public spending is the key to creating meaningful change.

The statutory duty under Section 75 to assess the impact of policies on women and men is an important starting point for tackling these deep-rooted inequalities.

Section 75 has the potential to be transformative for gender equality, if used to its full potential.

How does Gender Budgeting work?

Gender budgeting measures have been adopted in over 40 countries and most use a mixture of tools. These can be applied to national budgets or at local level.

Example: Canada

Canada uses a gender budgeting tool called Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

- This tool uses an intersectional lens to analyse the impact of budgets on gender and other marginalised groups
- All central government budget decisions must be screened through the GBA+ process.
- The Gender Budgeting Act (2018) requires the Minister of Finance to produce an annual Statement and Impacts Report on Gender, Diversity, and Quality of Life.

All gender budgeting tools are based on similar principles:



Equipping decision-makers with better awareness of gender through training



Promoting transparency in the budget process so that progress towards equality can be measured



Providing analytical tools to help those developing budgets consider the gendered impacts