Budget advocacy planning tool

In order to plan your budget advocacy activities in your country or community, please complete the following table in small groups.

Budget Cycle	Your advocacy goal	Documents to influence	Target stake- holders	Allies and partnerships	Arguments	Information needed
1. Budget Formulation	lation					
2. Budget Enactment	nent					
3. Budget Execution	ion					
4. Budget Oversight & Evaluation	ght & Evaluation					





'Budget Advocacy: a guide for community activists'

The guide has been developed by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) as a joint project of the Eurasian Regional Consortium (ERC) with the support of the Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF)

Budget Advocacy: A guide for community activists

The Budget Advocacy Guide is aimed at providing a digest of key recommendations and approaches for activists working to promote sustainable funding of high-quality services for key affected populations and to serve as a collection of case studies and experiences from countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

Health budget advocacy is specific lobbying and campaigning activities to change the way in which public resources are used to deliver health services. By analysing how healthcare is funded and how budgets are drawn up, civil society groups have a greater opportunity to influence the way in which the government defines priorities for health spending, plans and executes those expenditures, and, finally, monitors the outcomes. Working on policy, program and regulatory documents, as well as acting as a 'watchdog', engaging in campaigns and 'cabinet' advocacy, influence budget allocations, as well as the process of execution and accountability.

Why should Community and Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) engage in budget advocacy?

The budget is the most important economic policy instrument; it reflects the government's social and economic priorities and commitments. Although it is difficult to imagine that there is a group of people who are not affected by the government's economic policy, individuals often feel powerless to address topics, such as the budget, and to hold the government accountable. Therefore, the mobilization of organized groups (CSOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)) can make a significant impact on the allocation of additional funding to address the needs of vulnerable groups. All the decisions made by the government — or, more precisely, the decisions which the government has a genuine intention to implement — must be translated into public budgets. Public budgets ultimately shape policy outcomes.

UHC — **Universal Health Coverage** — is now one of the key policy priorities in healthcare worldwide. By definition, universal coverage means that everyone can access the healthcare services that they need without experi**encing financial hardship.** At the international level, this policy priority is clearly expressed in the global Sustainable Development Goals, particularly **SDG 3.8** that seeks to achieve universal health coverage, including financial

risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

The public budget is the annual plan of the government that outlines expected public revenues, the sources of such revenue, and anticipated expenditures. The public budget is the most critical policy document for safeguarding the rights of citizens (i.e. the right to health, education, housing, social protection, and others). in general, budget documents at the national level will include: an executive budget proposal; an enacted budget; an audit report; a medium-term expenditure framework; a budget circular; a citizens' budget; and a year-end and in-year reports.

The four pillars of fiscal transparency are:

- · Clarity of roles and responsibilities;
- Open budget processes;
- · Public availability of information; and,
- · Assurance of integrity and data quality standards.

Community activists can use budget advocacy to:

- increase the share of the overall budget for priority programs within the allocations for the health sector;
- improve the efficiency of the resources used;
- · improve transparency and accountability;
- raise issues that would otherwise be neglected and to draw the attention of the media and others in civil society;
- · pressure governance institutions to treat people from KAP groups with dignity and to inform them of the positive and negative consequences of their decisions on the quality of life of such individuals;
- gain the skills needed to effectively participate in public debate; and,
- expand the debate concerning budget policies and decisions.

Budget Formulation

The budget is put together by the executive branch of government.

 Estimating budgetary needs for the draft budget: size estimation; budget impact analyses; service costing; cost-benefit analyses:

· Guidelines for service standardisa-

 Partnerships of NGO advocating for effective health financing, transparency and reform;

 'Horror stories' — case studies of countries where the transition process has failed.

 Budget monitoring to assess how effectively the government spends the budget;

 Review of national budget monitoring systems to promote adherence to the budget and reduces mismanagement or corrup-

Monitoring and evaluation

 Use of state compliance mechanisms from services clients or patients to report poor quality services

 Community-led monitoring of quality and access to services and reporting

Plan; health sector strategy, drug policy etc. Tools for transitioning planning; · HIV and health

> national strategies and programs; National healthcare program; national AIDS program, etc.;

 Clinical guidelines, standards and protocols:

 Annual budget and multi-year prognoses; budget law

Budget execution

Governmental

reports; audits

mentation.

of program imple-

reports; and,

of budget execution outcomes;

or goods; and,

of their findings.

The actual expenditures of the budget are accounted for and assessed for effectiveness.

Budget oversight and evaluation

Legislation and strategies: **EU** Association

Agreement; Transition

 Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM); the Ministry of Health; the Ministry

of Finance;

and budgeting.

• Government: the

 Parliamentary committees for health

Health services for key populations are stated as a priority (commitment) for domestic funding are

included in the budget.

to improve budget-

ary control.

and adopted by the par-BUDGET **ADVOCACY** IN

THE BUDGET

CYCLE

STNJMUJOO Y NATIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFLUENCE .

Funds allocated for ser-

vices in the budget are

approved by the government

liament.

Enhance the quality, availability, and cost-effectiveness of harm reduction and other HIV

Ministry of Health; services and programs the Ministry for key affected populations of Finance; and, and budget accountability and budget reforms

 All budget users responsible for implementation of programs.

Enhance the outcomes of budget expenditures.

ers responsible for implementation of specific health programs (mainly governmental agencies such as the AIDS Centre,

• Government; the

Ministry of Health; the

Ministry of Finance;

committees

for health

MP.

and budgeting;

Political parties,

All budget us-

· Parliament:

VOCACY TOOLS AND ABOUNTENTS

for example); and, Public procurement agencies.

 Documents developed during the implementation of public procure-

ment procedures.

 Partnerships with other advocacy groups and 'friendly' parliamentarians for organising public hearings;

Budget Enactment

by the parliament which enacts it into law.

The budget plan is debated, altered and approved

 Preparing analytical notes for meetings of Parliamentary committees for health and budgeting;

 Involvement of the media to cover and publish the results of budget analyses and expert opinions of the budget;

• Obtain a copy, and track amendments, of the parts of the budget that interest you; and,

 Awareness campaigns and street action prior to public hearings or votes.

· Influence on the technical specifications for procured goods or services to ensure that they actually meet the needs of the community;

• to ensure that the tender proceedings require a fair and open competition through participation in the tendering process;

 Analysis of regular public reports on the status of expenditure during the year to monitor the

 Development of social contracting mechanisms that allow budget planning for NGO-implemented services;

 Analysis of the fiscal strategy, budget requests, proposals, and engagement in these activities: and.

goods/services procured

The budget is implemented by the government and includes the development of programs under the budget allocation, procurement and reimbursement modalities.

on public procurement;

The budget

proposal.

 Enacted budget/ amended budget;

Regulations

 Annual public procurement plans; and,

flow of funds;

 Community assessment of public procurement as well as the quality of, and satisfaction with, the

Budget Execution

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