

Advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda through Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in ASEAN



Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

is a transformative framework that aligns financial resources with the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, promoting gender equality and enhancing accountability in peacebuilding efforts across ASEAN. The following sections outline the connection between policy and budget processes, identifying key challenges and opportunities.

POLICY SPHERE



Policy Design

Challenges:

National Action Plans (NAPs) for WPS often lack clear, measurable, and time-bound (SMART) goals, making it difficult to track progress and evaluate outcomes. Additionally, undefined roles and responsibilities for implementing agencies create gaps in accountability and coordination.

Opportunities:

Revising NAPs to include SMART objectives and logical frameworks can address these challenges by ensuring clear accountability, defined timelines, and structured implementation. Logical frameworks align goals with actionable steps, fostering better coordination across agencies.



Cost Estimation of the Policy Implementation

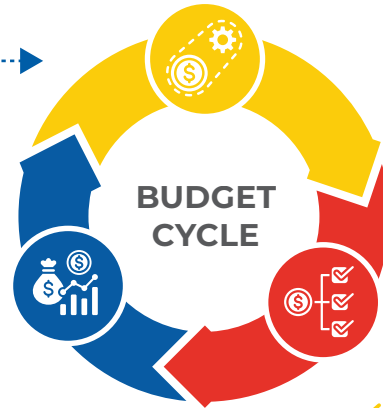
Costing the policy

Challenges:

Many NAPs lack detailed cost estimations, which undermines effective budgeting and resource allocation. Common obstacles include limited technical capacity, insufficient resource mapping, and weak collaboration with Ministries of Finance and Planning.

Opportunities:

Developing tailored costing tools and organizing national workshops with key stakeholders, such as Ministries of Finance, can enhance capacity, strengthen partnerships, and ensure the effective implementation of NAPs.



Budget Formulation

Challenges:

Limited understanding of how to utilize key documents, such as Budget Call Circulars (BCC) and Gender Budget Statements (GBS), reduces opportunities to incorporate WPS commitments during the budget formulation process.

Opportunities:

Providing strategic training for planning and budget officers can ensure that budget proposals reflect WPS NAP commitments, aligning financial resources with peace and security priorities.

Budget Approval

Challenges:

Legislators often lack the tools and technical expertise to evaluate WPS commitments in budgets, limiting their capacity for effective oversight.

Opportunities:

Training programs and toolkits designed for parliamentarians can enhance their ability to scrutinize budgets through a gender lens. Regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing platforms can further promote accountability and innovation.

Monitoring and Evaluation



Challenges:

- Limited data and frameworks hinder the evaluation of how effectively budget allocations achieve WPS outcomes.
- Insufficient capacity to collect and analyze sex-disaggregated data and link expenditures to results.
- Audit reports rarely include findings specific to gender or WPS outcomes, reducing their relevance for oversight and accountability.
- Weak feedback loops between evaluation findings and subsequent budget cycles, reducing opportunities for continuous improvement.

Opportunities:

- Develop standardized evaluation tools and guidelines tailored to assess WPS-related budget impacts, including gender-sensitive audit criteria.
- Improve data collection methods to ensure gender-disaggregated analysis.
- Establish mechanisms to integrate evaluation findings into budget planning processes, ensuring alignment with WPS commitments and fostering accountability.

THE WAY FORWARD

- 1. Strengthen the Policy-Budget Cycle:** Design SMART NAPs for WPS and link them to the budgeting process to ensure effective implementation and alignment with gender equality goals.
- 2. Enhance Data Collection:** Develop robust mechanisms for the production and analysis of sex-disaggregated data throughout the entire policy-budget cycle.
- 3. Build Context-Specific Capacity:** Deliver targeted workshops and provide customized tools tailored to the unique needs of individual countries.
- 4. Foster Regional Learning:** Facilitate regional exchanges to promote collective learning, share best practices, and drive innovation in gender-responsive budgeting.
- 5. Enhance Political Engagement:** Strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders, including Ministries of Finance, Planning, line ministries, and oversight institutions, to ensure sustained commitment to WPS objectives.

