

Financing education

How to make national budgets work for education?

Strengthening the link between education sector planning and the budget cycle can improve service delivery for millions of learners worldwide and can help reduce gender disparities.



What's at stake?

7 in 10

children under 10 years old in low- and middle-income countries cannot read a simple story.

224 million

children and youth are out of school globally.

51% of countries

have not achieved gender parity in education.

Why?

- ▶ The annual **financing gap** for education is \$97 billion.
- ▶ **COVID-19** widened the financing gap and insecurity, climate change, inflation, and rising food prices are **adding more pressure on education systems**.
- ▶ Various **global emergencies** are squeezing the level of development aid.
- ▶ Large gender gaps exist in education, often to the expense of girls.

Domestic financing is the most significant and sustainable source of financing for education.

But around a third of this spending is inefficient.

At IIEP-UNESCO, we work with ministries of education and their partners so that resources are efficiently used to promote equitable, quality education for all.

What's the solution?

- ▶ While the size of an education budget matters, governments can improve service delivery by using limited resources more effectively, efficiently, and equitably.
- ▶ Aligning strategic planning and performance-based budgeting can provide more fiscal space.
- ▶ This can be done by linking budget allocations with intended education policy outcomes, cutting inefficiencies in public administrations, reducing leakages, and effectively using information and data for monitoring.
- ▶ Gender-sensitive budgeting can promote gender equality in and through education.

WHAT IS GENDER BUDGETING?

✓ It's about analyzing the distribution of expenditures in terms of gender.
It ensures that public spending benefits men and women equitably.

✗ It's not about developing separate budgets or making budgetary trade-offs between men and women.

Make progress with us

Supporting countries with efficient and equitable education financing

How are budgets aligned to education sector planning processes and goals? How can improved financing promote gender equality in and through education?

These are some of the core questions of a project underway in five countries to improve programme budgeting practices and public financial management in education and to support gender-sensitive budgeting efforts.

Project goals

- ▶ Document the implementation of performance-based budgeting reforms.
- ▶ Analyze how education sector plans and strategies link with education budgets.
- ▶ Facilitate technical dialogue between ministries of education and ministries of finance for improved resource mobilization and efficient and equitable use of resources.
- ▶ Identify opportunities for better gender integration into education budget programming and implementation.

This project is led by the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning and the [Gender at the Centre Initiative](#), with support from the Open Society Foundations. The project will be implemented with participating countries' technical teams of officials from ministries of education and finance in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and the Caribbean.



PRIORITÉ À L'ÉGALITÉ
GENDER AT THE
CENTRE



www.iiep.unesco.org



https://twitter.com/IIEP_UNESCO



www.facebook.com/IIEP.UNESCO



www.linkedin.com/company/iiepunesco