

F3. Common problems in the use of public resources that can be identified by budget analysis:¹

When analysing budgets, budget advocates usually begin with a set of hypotheses or assumptions about the use of public funds, which can be proven or unproven by budget analysis.

- **Wastage:** a programme or department does not produce the best or the most outputs with the money it has at its disposal.
- **Under-spending:** a programme, department or state is not spending the funds allocated to it, which may be due to poor capacity to deliver or other reasons.
- **Under-funding:** a programme, department or state has been allocated too little money. This can be analysed in relation to:
 - other times;
 - other programmes, departments or states;
 - the need to be met;
 - the responsibilities imposed, e.g. by law;
 - some international benchmark or standard; or
 - what is possible with the available resources.

By analysing the common budget issues described above, stakeholders interested in using budget analysis and advocacy to measure whether a country is advancing towards UHC can formulate various hypotheses that can be proven by applied budget analysis.

¹ This information is derived from training materials developed by the IBP in 2013–2014 for a group of budget advocates in Ghana as part of its Partnership Initiative.