

E3. Freedom of information around the world

Budget information is thus an essential element for analysing funding for UHC. The information might include:

- government priorities in health;
- how the priorities are being addressed;
- sources of funding for health;
- allocations for health;
- populations targeted for health policies;
- execution of the health budget; and
- health outcomes and other inputs for monitoring health expenditure over time.

In the previous section, we reviewed some tools for consulting the most important budget documents. The information contained in those documents might not, however, be sufficient for analysing advances towards UHC, and some governments simply do not publish information on performance towards UHC. More detailed information is therefore necessary to make a good analysis.

Some countries have legislation on access to information that allows their citizens to request information. Some, like Mexico, have online platforms on which people can ask for and receive information directly on their computers.

Legislated access to information is an important tool for obtaining relevant information from governments, including UHC-related documents. Another important source is donors' websites and other international resources on health, which might be important in other countries. Adherence to the laws for access to information may, however, be time-consuming, and such research may also be expensive, as some countries charge for copies of certain documents.