

A3. What is the potential impact of budget advocacy?

An important characteristic of budget advocacy is that it is evidence-based. The evidence from budget research and analysis and policy analysis can be used to understand the causes of a problem and propose evidence-based solutions to:

social issues, when the budget is part of the cause or the solution to e.g. service delivery, human rights or equality, because resources are:

- insufficient,
- not spent efficiently,
- not being spent on the main problem or cause,
- being mis-spent or diverted,
- not flowing efficiently from one level of government to another or
- not reaching the target populations or those most in need; and

the budget process, when, for example, the process by which budget distribution is decided:

- excludes citizens and does not consider their needs or proposals or
- is not transparent or accountable.

Successful budget advocacy can have important impacts, which may include the following (87):

- influence decisions on the distribution and use of public resources;
- increase the efficiency and openness of budget processes, decision-making and systems;
- improve the quality of government services for the public;
- contribute to increasing access to (and the quality of) budget information in the public domain;
- improve the capacity of budget implementers to translate public funds into programmes and services;
- strengthen the capacity of budget oversight bodies to monitor and scrutinize disbursement of public funds; and
- increase the capacity of citizens to participate in budget processes, to demand and analyse budget information and to hold leaders to account.