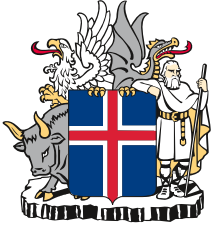


15 June 2023



Formulating budget measures to progress gender goals

A walkthrough the process in Iceland

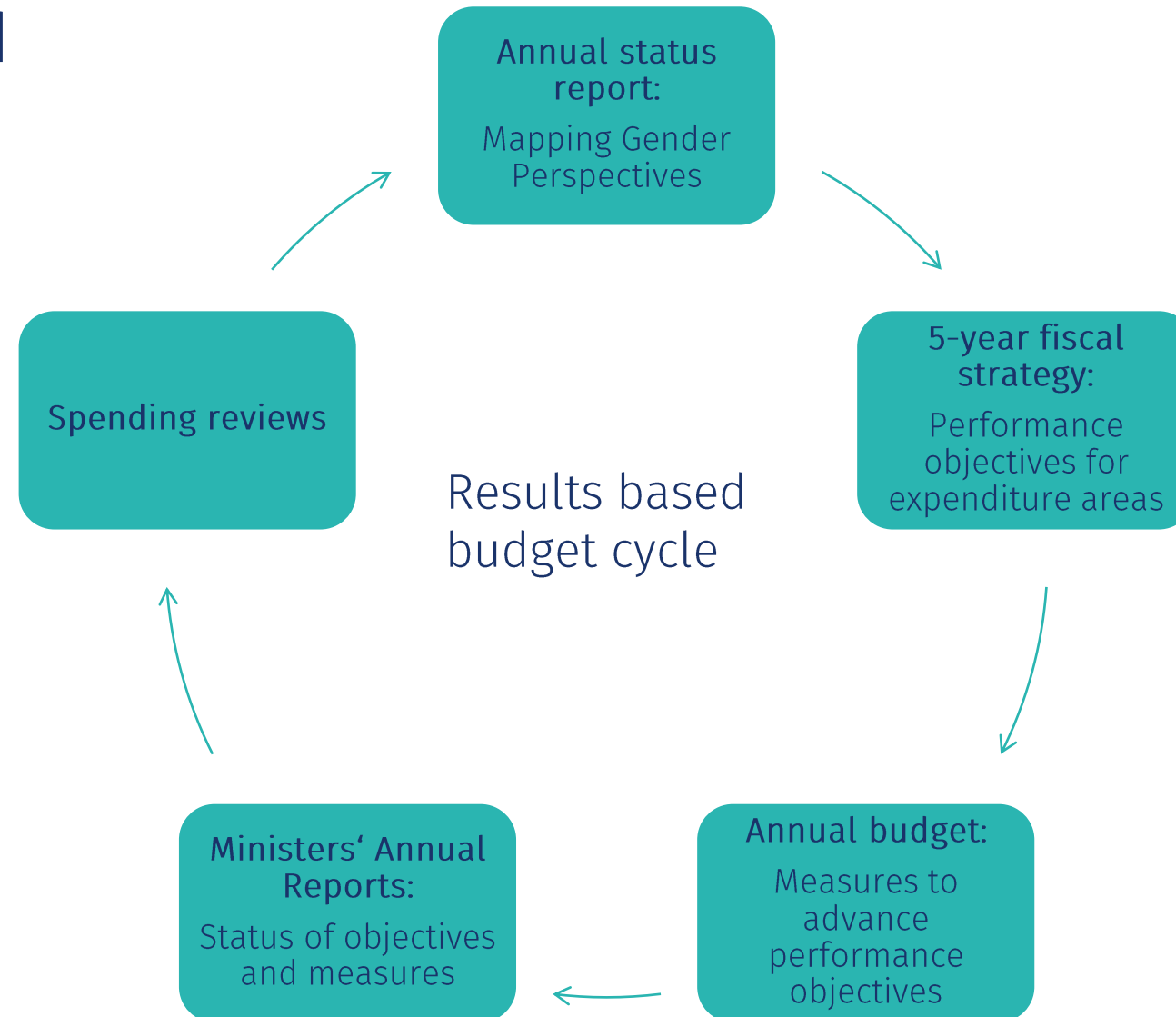
Marta Birna Baldursdóttir

Government of Iceland

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

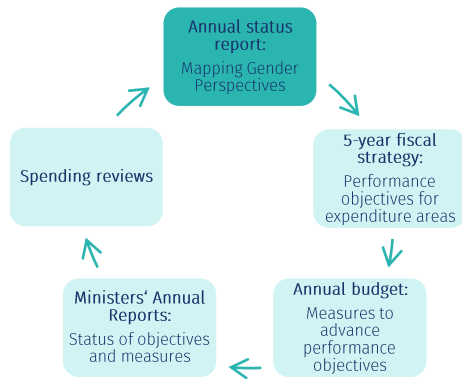


Gender is integrated
in all stages of the
budget cycle





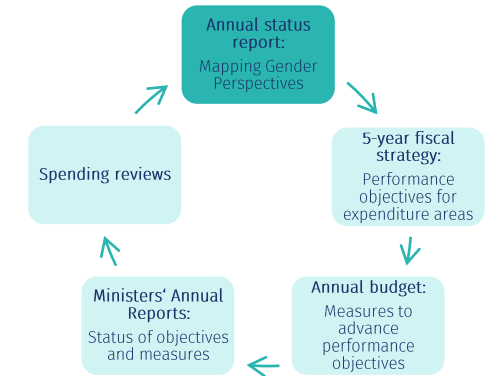
Gender budgeting base report – Mapping gender perspectives



- The first base report was published in March 2019. Updated status reports published in March 2021 and August 2022.
- Gender analysis of most expenditure areas and functions.
- Highlights gender equality challenges that can be address with performance objectives in the 5-year fiscal strategy and measures in the annual budget.
- Informs gender impact assessments.
- The report to be updated annually, and the analysis made more detailed.

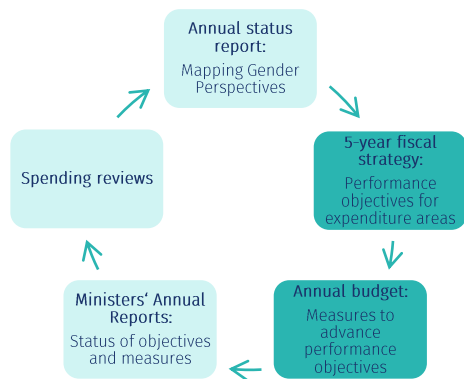
Key findings from the status report

- The Icelandic labour market is gender segregated, both horizontally and vertically.
- On average, women have a lower income than men.
- Women spend more time than men on unpaid household and care activities.
- On average, women live longer than men but have fewer years in good health and are more likely than men to experience health challenges impacting their daily lives.





Strategy formulation for expenditure areas



Guidelines state that the coverage on challenges and opportunities **should include a gender perspective** (e.g. results from the status report).

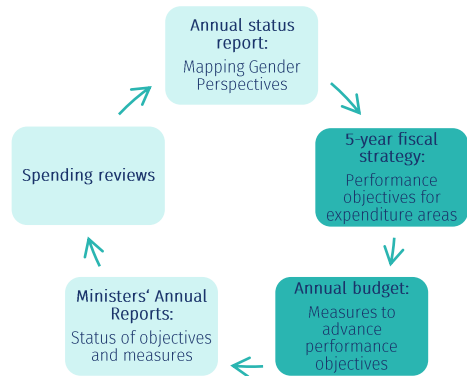
Challenges and opportunities identified should lead to formulation of objectives, indicators and/or actions.

As of 2023 all ministries are required to formulate **at least one gender objective** and corresponding actions.

Impact indicators should be **gender responsive** wherever possible.



Example of strategy formulation - Disability allowance



Challenges: More women receive disability allowances than men, both because women are more likely to have a disability rating and because their other income is generally lower than the disability allowance they receive. Increase in middle aged women getting a disability rating, most commonly due to musculoskeletal disorders.

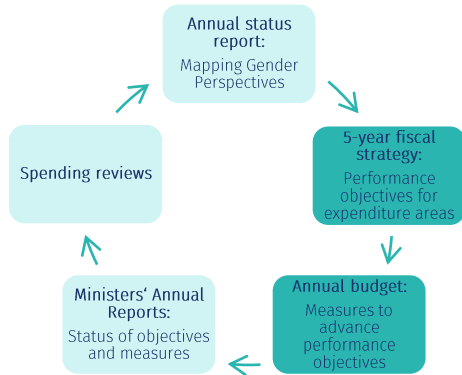
Objective: Increased focus on the ability to participate in the labour market and a more equal gender distribution.

Indicators: Percentage of adult population with a disability rating; percentage of individuals with a disability rating that earn wages, both disaggregated by gender.

Actions: Major legal and payment system reforms to be implemented in 2024 and 2025, where gender and equality are among the considerations.



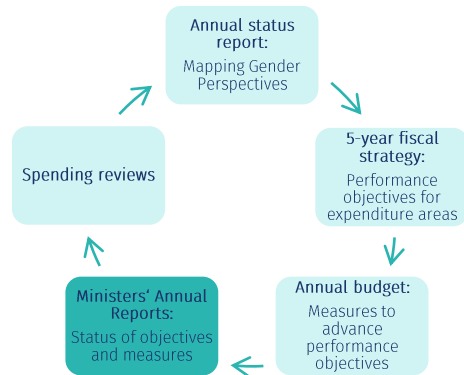
Gender impact assessment – Disability allowance reforms



- The Fiscal Strategy Plan for 2024-2028 includes a **proposal for increased funding for the planned reforms** of the disability allowance system.
- The accompanying gender impact assessment is based on **general gender perspectives** but a more detailed analysis on socioeconomic impact is underway.

Examples of gender perspectives highlighted:

- The social security system contributes to income equality and benefits women more than men, as they generally have lower incomes other than payments from social security.
- Increased focus on work rehabilitation should enable more people to participate in the labour market. Relatively more women are in jobs where wages are low and the risk of dropping out of the labour market seems higher.



Ministers' Annual Reports

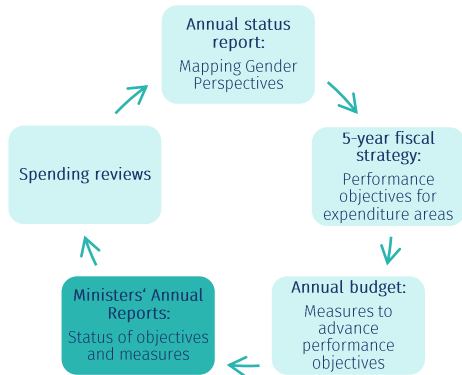
Each minister submits an annual report that presents **expenditure outcomes** for policy areas in the minister's portfolio as well as an assessment of the **impact** of their allocation with respect to set targets and measures.

Gender objectives, targets and measures are a part of the report but **not highlighted specifically**.

The format of the annual reports is currently under review.



Snapshot from Minister of Social Affairs' Annual Report 2021

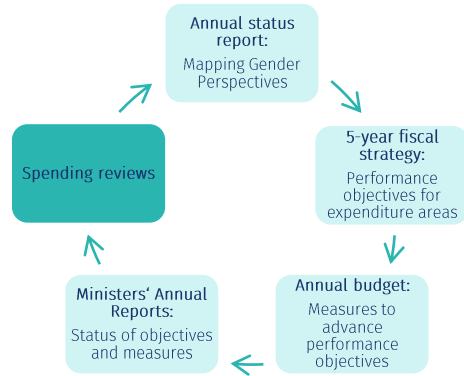


Objective 2: More focus on individuals' ability to work

Indicators	Status 2019	Target 2021	Outcome 2021
Number of individuals that get their first disability assessment per year.	Men: 511 Women: 759	Men: 480 Women: 720	Men: 547 Women: 749
Percentage of individuals with disability assessment of total population, aged 18-66 years.	Men: 5,8% Women: 9,8%	Men: 5,5% Women: 9%	Men: 5,9% Women: 9,8%
Percentage of individuals with a disability assessment that earn wages.	Men: 23,5% Women: 22,7%	Men: 27% Women: 24%	Men: 23,1% Women: 20,85

Key measures	Note on status
A bill on amendments to the Social Security Act with the aim to simplify the disability pension system.	● A part of the reform of the disability insurance system. Consultation is in progress.
Implement a new assessment system for social insurance that is based on an interdisciplinary assessment rather than a purely medical assessment.	● A part of the reform of the disability insurance system. Consultation is in progress.

● Not started
 ● Preparations started
 ● In progress
 ● Near complete
 ● Completed



Spending Reviews

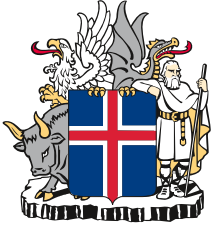
Spending reviews help prioritise and reallocate spending.

The practice is fairly new in Iceland and the general approach to spending reviews is still under development.

The ambition is to incorporate gender perspectives from the beginning.

Building on gender budgeting tools and information already available:

- Gender analysis
- Baseline report
- Gender-disaggregated performance indicators
- Gender impact assessments



Takk!

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[https://www.government.is/
topics/economic-affairs-
and-public-
finances/gender-
budgeting/](https://www.government.is/topics/economic-affairs-and-public-finance/gender-budgeting/)