



Strategic Public Financial Management and Budgeting Training Course

Ref: #AF9472



Course Introduction / Overview:

Effective Public Financial Management (PFM) is the bedrock of good governance, economic stability, and the efficient delivery of public services. This comprehensive training course provides a deep dive into the principles, practices, and modern reform strategies shaping government budgeting and fiscal policy worldwide. Moving beyond theoretical concepts, the program focuses on the practical application of tools and frameworks that enhance fiscal discipline, strategic resource allocation, and operational efficiency. As noted by the distinguished public finance scholar Allen Schick, the transition towards performance-based budgeting requires a fundamental shift in administrative culture and systems. This course, inspired by such insights and contemporary literature like "The International Handbook of Public Financial Management", is designed to equip participants with the skills to navigate this complex landscape. At BIG BEN Training Center, we have developed a curriculum that addresses the entire PFM cycle, from macro-fiscal forecasting and budget formulation to execution, reporting, and oversight. Participants will explore critical topics such as Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEF), Treasury Single Accounts (TSA), and the implementation of Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS), ensuring they can lead and contribute to meaningful fiscal reforms within their organizations.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:



- Finance Ministry and Treasury officials.
- Budget analysts and public sector accountants.
- Government financial managers and directors.
- Public policy advisors and economic planners.
- Internal and external auditors in the public sector.
- Staff of international development organizations and NGOs.
- Parliamentary staff involved in budget oversight.
- Managers in state-owned enterprises.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- National and sub-national government ministries and agencies.
- State-owned enterprises and public corporations.
- International financial institutions and development banks.
- Non-governmental organizations involved in public finance advocacy.
- Consulting firms specializing in public sector reform.
- Academic and research institutions focused on public policy.
- Public utility and regulatory bodies.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Ministry of Finance.
- Budgeting and Planning Departments.
- Treasury and Debt Management Offices.
- Public Procurement and Contracts Departments.
- Internal Audit and Compliance Units.
- Policy and Strategy Departments.
- Economic Planning and Development Units.
- Accounting and Financial Reporting Departments.



Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Analyze the complete government budget cycle from formulation to oversight.
- Develop and interpret a macro-fiscal framework for budget planning.
- Implement principles of Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEF).
- Design strategies for performance-based and program budgeting.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of internal controls in public expenditure.
- Manage public funds effectively through cash management and Treasury Single Account (TSA) principles.
- Enhance fiscal transparency and accountability through robust financial reporting.
- Assess and manage fiscal risks within government operations.
- Apply best practices in public investment and public procurement management.
- Lead and support PFM reform initiatives within their organizations.

Course Methodology:



The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, practical, and highly interactive, ensuring that participants can translate learned concepts into real-world capabilities. We move beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment built on a blend of expert-led presentations, in-depth case study analyses of PFM reforms from various countries, and collaborative group exercises. Participants will engage in practical workshops focused on budget analysis, fiscal risk assessment simulations, and developing components of a Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. Team-based projects will encourage peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of diverse professional experiences, enriching the understanding of complex fiscal challenges. The course emphasizes a problem-solving approach, where participants are encouraged to bring forward real-world issues from their own organizations for discussion and strategic brainstorming. Continuous feedback from the instructor and peers is a core component, ensuring a supportive and constructive atmosphere for professional growth and skill mastery in public financial management.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Public Financial Management

- The role and objectives of PFM in national development.
- Core principles of fiscal discipline, allocation, and efficiency.
- Understanding the macro-fiscal framework and its components.
- The comprehensive government budget cycle explained.
- Key institutions and stakeholders in the PFM ecosystem.
- Introduction to PFM diagnostic tools like the PEFA framework.
- Legal and regulatory frameworks governing public finance.



Unit Two: Strategic Budget Formulation and Planning

- From traditional line-item budgeting to modern approaches.
- Developing a credible Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).
- Principles and practices of program and performance-based budgeting (PBB).
- Techniques for revenue forecasting and analysis.
- Integrating capital and recurrent budgets for effective planning.
- The political economy of the budget process.
- Gender-responsive and climate-responsive budgeting concepts.

Unit Three: Effective Budget Execution and Control

- The role of the Treasury in budget execution.
- Implementing a Treasury Single Account (TSA) for efficient cash management.
- Commitment control and expenditure management systems.
- Public procurement reforms for value for money and transparency.
- Principles of public debt and liability management.
- Payroll management and control in the public sector.
- The function of Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS).

Unit Four: Fiscal Transparency, Accounting, and Oversight

- Government accounting standards (Cash vs. Accrual IPSAS).
- The importance of timely and reliable in-year budget reports.
- Preparing comprehensive annual financial statements.
- Enhancing fiscal transparency, participation, and accountability.
- The role and function of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs).
- Internal audit and internal control frameworks.
- Legislative oversight and the role of public accounts committees.

Unit Five: Advanced PFM Reforms and Contemporary Issues



- Designing and sequencing PFM reform strategies.
- Managing and mitigating fiscal risks.
- Frameworks for Public Investment Management (PIM).
- Fiscal decentralization and intergovernmental fiscal relations.
- Managing natural resource revenues and public wealth.
- The impact of digitalization on public financial management.
- Addressing challenges in fragile and conflict-affected states.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

In an era of increasing fiscal pressures and global uncertainties, how can governments balance the technical rigor of PFM reforms with the political realities and social demands of their citizens?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?



This course distinguishes itself by offering a holistic and integrated perspective on Public Financial Management, moving beyond siloed technical topics to connect fiscal policy, strategic planning, and operational execution. While many programs focus narrowly on specific tools, our curriculum emphasizes the "why" behind the "how", exploring the political economy and institutional context of reform. We provide a unique blend of globally recognized best practices, grounded in the work of leading thinkers, with practical case studies that illustrate the real-world challenges of implementation in diverse country settings. The course content is dynamically updated to include the most pressing contemporary issues, such as digitalization, climate-responsive PFM, and managing fiscal resilience in the face of shocks. Rather than just teaching budgeting rules, we cultivate strategic thinking, enabling participants to design, advocate for, and manage sustainable PFM reforms. The interactive methodology, focused on problem-solving and peer learning, ensures that participants leave not just with knowledge, but with the confidence and analytical skills to drive tangible improvements in public financial governance within their own organizations.