

Frequently Asked Questions

Budget Proposal Hub

About Us

- **What is the Budget Proposal Hub?**

The Budget Proposal Hub is an interactive online platform that enables citizens to engage with Sri Lanka's national budget. It is a space to share ideas, discover and support evidence-based budget proposals, and contribute to a more informed national budgeting process.

- **Who is behind the Budget Proposal Hub?**

The platform is hosted on PublicFinance.lk, which is maintained by Verité Research, an independent research organisation based in Colombo.

- **What is the main goal of the Budget Proposal Hub?**

The primary goal is to foster a more inclusive, transparent, and evidence-based approach to the national budgeting process by enabling the public to share ideas and contribute to well-researched budget proposals.

- **What is the difference between a concept and a proposal?**

A concept is an idea submitted to the Hub. It represents an early-stage recommendation for the national budget. In other words, not a fully fledged budget proposal. It is displayed in the concepts section of the Hub.

A proposal is a fully developed submission that has been refined with guidance from the Verité Research team and meets the required standards. Proposals are displayed in the proposals section of the Hub, where the public can vote on them.

- **Is the Budget Proposal Hub affiliated with the Government of Sri Lanka?**

No. The Hub is an independent initiative run by Verité Research through PublicFinance.lk. It is not affiliated with or endorsed by the Government of Sri Lanka.

Using the Platform

- **How can I find concepts and proposals on the Hub?**

Concepts and proposals are displayed in separate sections on the Hub. You can browse each section by categories such as "Economic Growth," "Governance," and "Justice and Rights," or use the search function to find specific submissions.

- **Who can submit an idea or proposal?**

The platform is open to individuals, civil society organisations, and other groups who wish to contribute ideas for the national budget. There is no restriction based on profession, affiliation, or location.

- **How can I participate in the Budget Proposal Hub?**

There are two ways to contribute:

- **Share an idea via the submission form:** Use the submission form on the website to send us your idea. Your submission will be published in the concepts section of the Hub. If both you and the Verité Research team agree that your idea has the potential to become a full proposal, the team will reach out to provide feedback and guide you through developing it further. Once refined, it will be published in the proposals section of the Hub, where the public can vote on it.
- **Submit a proposal directly via email:** Download the official budget proposal template using the “Download Proposal Template” button, complete it following the submission guidelines, and email it to pf@veriteresearch.org. The team will review your submission and, if it meets the required standards, publish it in the proposals section of the Hub.

- **What information should I include when sharing an idea?**

Your submission should clearly describe the issue you are addressing and the change or solution you are recommending. You do not need to provide a fully researched document at this stage. The submission form will indicate what information is required.

- **What happens after I share an idea through the submission form?**

Once submitted, your idea will be reviewed by the Verité Research team and published in the concepts section of the Hub for public viewing.

If both you and the team agree that your idea has the potential to be developed into a full proposal, the team will reach out with feedback and guidance. This may involve one or more rounds of refinement.

Once the proposal meets the required standards, it will be published in the proposals section of the Hub, where the public can vote on it.

Ideas that are not developed into proposals will remain published in the concepts section of the Hub.

- **What happens after I submit a proposal via email?**

Once received, your proposal will be reviewed by the Verité Research team to assess whether it meets the required standards. If it does, it will be published in the proposals section of the Hub for public viewing and voting. If it does not fully meet the standards, the team will provide feedback for you to revise and resubmit.

- **Will the Verité Research team contact me if my idea is selected for development?**

Yes. If the team identifies your concept as having the potential to become a full proposal, a member of the team will reach out to you using the contact details provided in your submission. Please ensure your contact information is accurate when submitting.

- **What guidelines should I follow when submitting a proposal?**

All proposals submitted via email must meet the following criteria:

- **Use the official template:** All fields in the proposal template must be completed fully and clearly.
- **Cite references properly:** Any data, research, or external sources used must be accurately cited.
- **Be evidence-based:** Your proposal should be grounded in facts, analysis, or case studies that demonstrate its relevance and feasibility.
- **Define the problem and solution:** Clearly explain the issue your proposal addresses and the solution you are recommending.

- **How do I know which stage my submission is at?**

Once submitted, your concept or proposal will move through the following stages:

Received

Your submission has been successfully received and is under initial review by the Verité Research team.

Returned for Revision

Your submission has been sent back to you with comments. You will need to revise and resubmit it based on the feedback provided.

Received with Revision

Your revised resubmission has been accepted and is under review. The team will assess whether it is ready for publication.

Released

Your submission has been published on the Hub—either in the concepts section or in the proposals section.

- **What is the Public Proposal Pipeline, and how do I track my submission?**

The Public Proposal Pipeline is a live tracker on the Hub that shows where each submission stands. It displays the current stage of your submission as it moves through the review process—Received, Returned for Revision, Received with Revision, and Released.

- **Who reviews the submissions?**

All submissions are reviewed by the Verité Research team, who assess whether concepts are suitable for publication and whether proposals meet the standards required for the proposals section of the Hub.

For Voters and General Users

- **How can I show my support for a proposal?**

You can vote on any proposal published in the proposals section of the Hub. Simply click the vote button on the relevant proposal page. Note that voting is available for proposals only—concepts are displayed on the Hub but are not open to voting.

- **Are votes anonymous?**

Yes. Your vote is linked to your account for verification purposes, but individual votes are not displayed publicly. Only the total vote count for each proposal is visible on the Hub.

- **What is the impact of my vote?**

The number of votes a proposal receives reflects its popularity and level of public support, helping to draw the attention of policymakers. Vote counts are publicly visible on each proposal page.

- **Can I share concepts and proposals with others?**

Yes. You can share any published concept or proposal on social media and other platforms to encourage wider public engagement.

- **How can I stay updated on the progress of submissions?**

The platform provides updates on the status of submissions via the Public Proposal Pipeline. You can also follow PublicFinance.lk on social media for further information, analysis, and announcements.

Submission Rules and Logistics

- **Is there a deadline for submitting ideas and proposals?**

Yes. To be considered for Budget 2027, all proposals should ideally be submitted before 30 August 2026 to the National Budget Department. Submitting well ahead of this date is encouraged, as it allows the Verité Research team time to review and vet your submission. Submissions received after this date can still be added to the tracker for consideration in future budgets.

- **Can I edit my submission after it has been submitted?**

Submissions cannot be edited once submitted. However, if you receive feedback and make revisions, you may resubmit the updated version. Only the most recent version will be assessed.

- **Can submissions be made in Sinhala or Tamil?**

Yes. Submissions can be made in Sinhala, Tamil, or English.

- **Is there a word limit for submissions?**

There is no strict word limit. However, submissions should be concise, clearly written, and cover the key points outlined in the submission form or proposal template.

- **Can I submit more than one idea or proposal?**

Yes. You may submit multiple ideas or proposals if you have different recommendations. Each submission will be reviewed independently.

- **Will I be notified about the status of my submission?**

Yes. You will receive a notification once your submission has been reviewed and either published on the Hub or returned for revision. If your concept is identified for further development into a proposal, the team will contact you directly.

- **Will my personal information be shared publicly?**

Your personal contact details will not be displayed publicly on the Hub. However, the name of the submitter or organisation associated with a published submission may be shown alongside it, depending on the information provided in your submission.

- **Who can I contact if I have a question or need support?**

For any questions about the platform or your submission, you can reach the team by emailing pfp@veriteresearch.org.