

Understanding the Outcome Budget

The Outcome Budget in its current form was introduced by the Government of NCT of Delhi in 2017-18. Since then, it has been instrumental in evaluating the benefits derived by the people of Delhi from the various schemes and programmes of GNCTD. It acts as a tool for monitoring and evaluation of government expenditure and instills transparency and accountability in public spending. It has shifted the Government's approach from focusing on tracking "spending" or delivering "outputs" to assessing the success of schemes in terms of the "outcomes" they have achieved.

I. OUTPUT AND OUTCOME INDICATORS

While understanding the Outcome Budget, it is essential to understand the distinction between "output" and "outcome" indicators.

"Output" refers to the tangible infrastructure or services produced as a result of any project or programme e.g., clinics built, toilets constructed, skill training courses conducted etc.

"Outcome" depicts the extent to which people of the NCT of Delhi have benefitted from public infrastructure or services delivered in the short term. These are important to track since the mere presence or delivery of Outputs (e.g. clinics and schools built, toilets constructed etc.) is no assurance of the quality of spending and the extent to which the citizens have benefitted.

Eventually, it is only the successful delivery of these outcomes that will make the realization of "long-term goals" of any government programme such as better learning outcomes, increased life expectancy, open defecation free city, improved employment etc. The following figure illustrates a few examples of how public spending on a programme typically translates to outputs, outcomes and long-term goals. Together, this represents the *Theory of Change* of any programme or intervention.

Link between Public Spending, Outputs, Outcomes and Long term Goals

Programme/ Project	Output	Outcome	Long Term Goal
Building Toilets	Toilets are built	People are using Toilets; find it clean	Open- defecation free city
Providing Skill Training/ Education	Skill training courses conducted	Youth attend the training; receive certification	Improved employment
Building Mohalla Clinics	Mohalla Clinics are built	People are using Mohalla clinics; feel satisfied with its service	Improved health care

II. STRUCTURE OF OUTCOME BUDGET 2021-22

The Outcome Budget 2021-22 of GNCTD covers 21 departments and agencies. Under each department, major programmes and schemes were identified and key Output and Outcome indicators defined against each of them.

Department Overview and Goals: The first page of each department includes a brief overview of the department, its activities and responsibilities and highlights the goals of that department. Each goal is then mapped to a set of schemes of the GNCTD along with the budget allocated to each scheme for FY 2021-22. The outcomes and outputs indicators under each of these schemes are subsequently listed.

Column 2: Name of the programme or scheme being implemented by the department.

Column 3: Brief description of programme objective. In case of large programmes, multiple objectives have been defined and numbered, and specific Output and Outcome indicators aligned with each individual programme objective.

Column 4: Indicates whether it is an Output (OP) indicator or an Outcome (OC) indicator.

Column 5: Output/ Outcome indicators for each programme objective.

Columns 6-9: The baseline or actual values for the 2019-20 and 2020-21, targets for 2021-22 and their status up until the second quarter of 2021-22 for each indicator.

Columns titled "FY 20" mean Financial Year 2019-20, similarly for FY 21 and FY 22. Special care was taken to ensure that the output and outcome indicators selected were SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attributable, Realistic and Targeted) and comparable across similar programmes and schemes within and across departments.

When defining indicators, care was also taken to ensure that reliable data sources exist to generate the data against those indicators. In several cases, where such systems don't yet exist but can be created during 2021-22, indicators have been defined and included with baseline figures marked as NA (Not Available).

This Outcome Budget is an ongoing exercise to more appropriately capture the performance of various departments of GNCTD, and to improve upon the reliability of data reported. Any feedback or suggestions are welcome and can be sent to delhibudget@gov.in.