

# KEY QUESTIONS

the big six

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### What are important decision-making opportunities in South Korea’s annual budget process?

**Overall ODA levels are set by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance between January and April; specific allocations are made between July and October**

- Ministries submit medium-term finance plan:** Until the end of January, each ministry submits a medium-term spending plan to the Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF). On this basis, the MOSF draws up budget guidelines including spending limits for each ministry.
- Ministries develop budgets:** Between May and June, ministries develop their budgets for the coming year, based on the limit set by the MOSF. At this stage, relevant ministries, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), develop proposals for sectoral and geographic allocations of ODA. Key stakeholders are the directors-general of the ministries, as they submit the ministerial budgets for review in June.
- The CIDC debates budget allocations:** Between July and September, ministries negotiate their sectoral and geographic allocations. This process is led by the Committee for International Development Cooperation (CIDC). It includes expert consultations followed by a review by the cabinet.
- The government submits its draft budget:** By the beginning of September, the government submits its draft budget to the parliament (National Assembly) for debate, amendments and approval. Once the budget has been submitted, committees within the National Assembly review the budget draft in detail. The Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee is responsible for the ODA budget. Following the review, the Special Committee on Budget and Accounts conducts an overall review of the budget draft.
- Parliament approves the budget:** in December, the National Assembly votes on the ODA budget in a plenary session.

