

TASK 6.1 ■ ANALYZING HEALTH POLICY IN POLARUS

- 1) Gather in your Polarus groups. Look at the draft advocacy objective that you formulated at the end of Module 5. Restate it here.

Our draft advocacy objective is:

- 2) Which policy goals are implied by your advocacy objective?

- 3) Which standards/norms are articulated in or assumed by your advocacy objective? Why?

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4) Do the Polarus National Health Policy and the priorities of the National Health Strategy support the intervention that you are proposing? How and where? If not, which changes would you recommend in the policy framework?

5) Which other policy areas are important for your advocacy objective? Water? Roads?

TASK 6.2 ■ READING THE POLARUS BUDGET

If you can't read the budget, you can't analyze it.

- 1) Read the following two sections (on pages 45-51) of the Polarus Sourcebook to learn more about who is responsible for what in the Polarus budget:
 - the budget process in Polarus; and
 - center-state fiscal relations.

- 2) Then decide whether each of the following statements is true or false (and be able to explain why):

Statement	True or false?	Page reference
The money used to fund primary schools is part of the national Education Budget.		
The national Minister of Health decides about the size of the Health Budget in South State.		
Capital State can raise taxes to fund housing construction.		
The national government can move money between Happy and Mountain States' Public Works Budgets.		
Sunset State can move money between the line items "Compensation of Employees" and "Machinery and Equipment" in their Housing Budget.		

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- 3) Look at the **Polarus National (Center and State) Budget** on page 72. There are two kinds of figures in budgets: What government *plans* to spend and what it *ends up spending*. What terms are used in the table to refer to these two different kinds of spending?

What government plans to spend is called:

What government actually ended up spending is called:

- 4) Turn to the **National Expenditure** table on page 73. This is another example of a budget that presents an administrative classification. What does “administrative classification” mean?

- 5) What is the difference between the **National Expenditure** on health shown in the table on page 73 and the health spending shown in the **Ministry of Health State Budgets** (on pages 78-80)?

- 6) Are the **Ministry of Finance State Budgets** on page 75 an example of administrative, functional, or economic classification? Justify your answer.

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- 7) For which line item in the **Ministry of Finance State Budgets** (on pages 75-77) do the **Ministry of Health State Budgets** (on pages 78-80) provide more detail on?

- 8) Look at the economic classification of **Ministry of Health State Budgets** in the Polarus Sourcebook (on pages 81-83). What is the difference between economic and administrative classification?

- 9) Under which category in an economic classification of the **Ministry of Health State Budgets** would you find spending on:

Drugs

Nurses' salaries

Maintenance of clinics

- 10) Reflect on your own advocacy objective relating to health care in Sunrise State:

Which level of government is responsible for it?



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Which department(s) is your advocacy objective linked to?

Which program in this department is the most important for your strategic objective? (Look on page 44 of your Polarus Sourcebook for descriptions of programs.)

Now we know which parts of the budget to analyze!

TASK 6.3 ■ WHAT IS CAUSING THE PROBLEM IN SUNRISE STATE?

After reading the transcripts of media interviews with government officials on the health situation in Sunrise State, identify further questions you would like to pose to any or all of the officials in question. Record your questions and findings below.

OFFICIAL FROM THE NATIONAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Possible questions to ask: _____

NOTES

OFFICIAL FROM THE SUNRISE STATE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Possible questions to ask: _____



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NOTES

OFFICIAL FROM THE SUNRISE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Possible questions to ask: _____

NOTES

HEAD OF THE DISTRICT SERVICES PROGRAM, SUNRISE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Possible questions to ask: _____

NOTES

TASK 6.4 ■ WHEN TO INTERVENE?

At which stage(s) of the Polarus budget process would you intervene in if you were advocating about:

	ADVOCACY ISSUE	WHEN IN THE BUDGET PROCESS TO INTERVENE?
1	The total amount being allocated to Sunrise State	
2	Under-spending in the Sunrise State Department of Health	
3	The size of the National Government deficit	
4	Money allocated to primary health care in the health budget	
5	Wastage in the health budget	
6	The total amount of money allocated to States	

In each case, explain your choice!

TASK 6.5 ■ WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

1. Within your Polarus CSO group, recollect the **advocacy objective** that you formulated with regard to the health situation in Sunrise State.

2. Make a list of **all the possible budget decisions** that could cause this problem.

3. Go back to the list you made above and specify **who makes each of the decisions** that you listed.

TASK 6.6 ■ SEEKING A BUDGET SOLUTION

1. Study the table below. It presents selected expenditure items from Sunrise State's budget for 2009, 2010, and 2011. All the items are for Sunrise State only, except for the Office of the Prime Minister, which is a national spending category.

From Sunrise State budget (in D millions)	2009	2010	2011
Primary health care	95	105	115
Salaries of health officials	86	90	95
Training health professionals	43	46	52
Child nutrition project	24	26	30
Office of the Prime Minister	28	32	37
Total	276	299	329

Through your budget analysis and interviews with government officials and other stakeholders, you have been able to establish the following:

- An additional 50 million Dinar would enable the Sunrise State Department of Health to considerably improve primary health care delivery.
 - The proposed allocation for salaries in the health department keeps the current number of officials and only increases salaries for inflation.
 - Sunrise State health workers are under-skilled and in need of training.
 - The nutrition project feeds 500,000 hungry children three mornings a week.
 - The Office of the Prime Minister will spend D19, D22, and D24 million on salaries alone.
2. Now consider the questions on the following page.

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What trade-offs could be made to resolve the health care problem in Sunrise State?

a. Who would need to lose money?

b. How long would it take to solve this problem?
