



Community Participation in Budget process

What does participation in Budgets entail?

- The Government budget focuses public resources towards poor.
- Participation (of communities) ensures agendas (of excluded) in economic policy making as well as accountable governance.
- building information & knowledge base of the citizens.
- Need to connect work around budgets to larger economic political & social processes of peoples struggles.
- The act of participation is itself is empowermentIt sparks a process of social dialogue, and raises awareness of the public on the issues of poverty.

Why Participate in Budgets

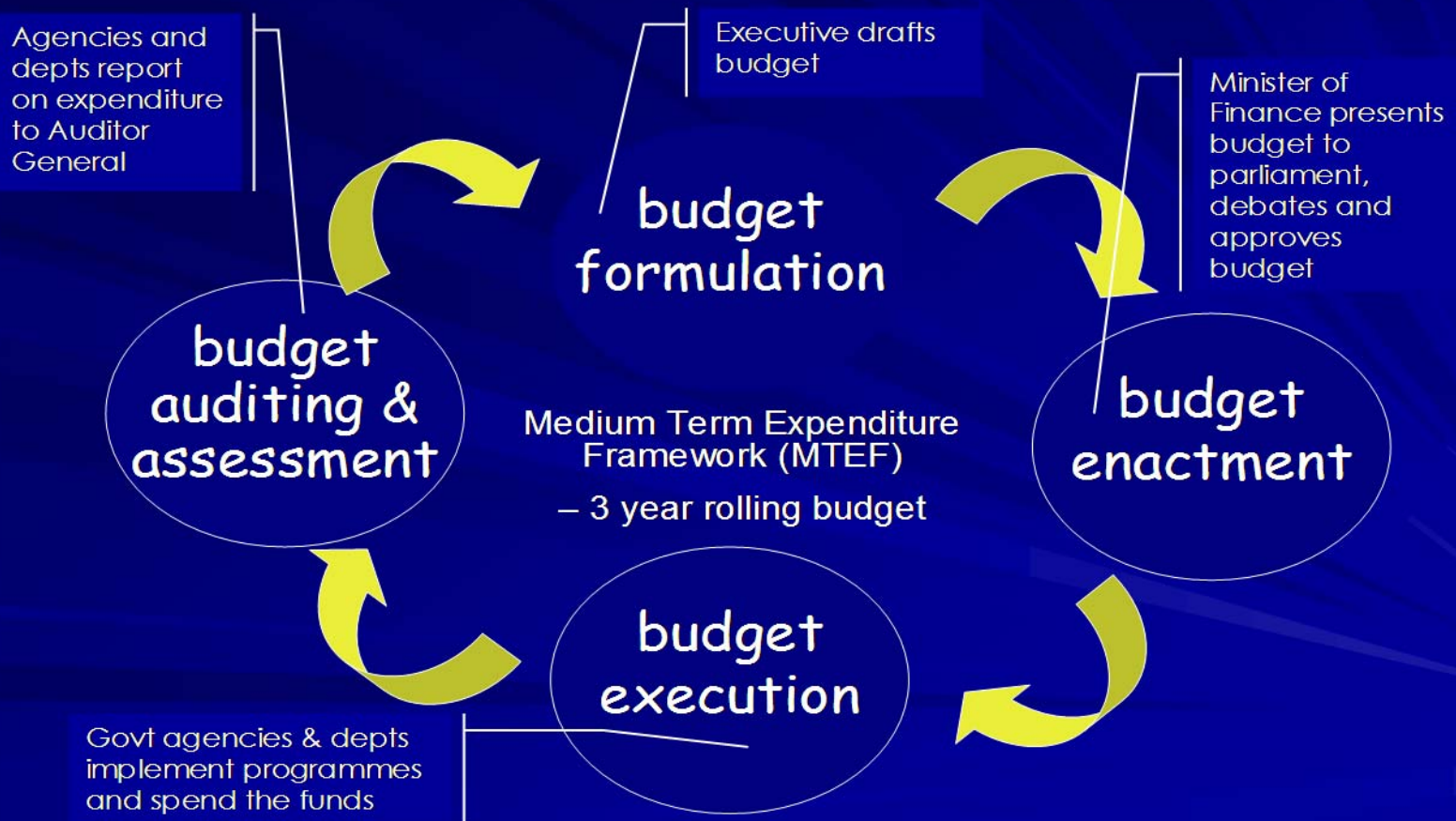
- Need and Right of Information ? - As citizens they need to know- greater transparency and accountability.
- Stakeholders -They are taxpayers
- As part of the political process of change by:
 - having information, control over their own resources
 - having control over their own rights
 - having control over opportunities
 - priority setting - shift in the political programs towards justice and equality
- To make the processes of governance just and democratic
- Effective use of public resources

Is budget making a consultative and participatory process?

- In many countries it is! In many it is constitutionally mandated...
- Who is consulted.....
 - International actors-IMF, World bank
 - Chambers of commerce and industry
 - Industry captains seeking tax holidays and breaks
 - Different ministries, particularly defence and security
 - Planning commissions
- So where do ordinary people fit in the budgets?
What role do communities play?

Budget Cycle and Participation

The general stages of the budget cycle



[Institutional Mechanisms??]

- Community participation in local governance (consultations)
 - On local budgets and how are local budgets articulated
- Parliamentary Review and Approval
 - Members Information base
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[How can communities participate in budgeting process?]

- ways to hold governance to account and set priorities
 - influencing the allocation of revenues
 - tracking and auditing expenditures

Influencing the allocation of revenues

- Participatory budgeting-Porto Alegre, Bangladesh, Bolivia etc....
- Alternate budgets- AFB, Canada
- Public finance analysis Project-Nigeria
- Pre-budget hearings-Kenya
- People's planning commissions-Kerala, India

Tracking expenditures and auditing

- Social auditing and public hearings-MKSS India
- Citizens Report Cards- India
- Community Score cards-Kenya
- Community Based monitoring of Expenditures (CBME)-Uganda
- Peoples vigilance committees-Bolivia
- Transparency boards
- Citizens' juries

People's Budget Initiative, Bangladesh

- PBI in Bangladesh has engaged rural poor in places of Bangladesh with the Local Government (LG) budget to influence it.
- A tripartite relationship between AAIB, LG and the DA partner –for a participatory, transparent and accountable budgeting process
- Opened up an advocacy mechanism with the central government for a functioning and financially more solvent LG where poor people could participate
- The budget prepared by the people and the LGs have been published in public, displayed and discussed in public places, monitored by people's committee.

[PBI-The Process]

- The budget discussion process began with discussions with community around their spending choices. The influencing process has been as below:


February to May: assessment of revenue flow into LG was carried out alongside discussions with communities on budgets.

Beginning May: The advocacy points identified in budget discussions were raised in the meetings with the finance minister

Beginning of June: the figures aggregated and consolidated.


End of June: The budget prepared by the local government was presented and authenticated in presence of the entire community.

And it has been implemented for over next twelve months which has been monitored by the people's committee.

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- A large black left square bracket is on the left side, and a large yellow right square bracket is on the right side. A horizontal line with a light yellow-to-white gradient runs across the top of the slide, positioned between the two brackets.
- Lobbying with the central government has led to the increase of Government allocation from Tk. 8 million in 2003-04 to Tk. 24 million per LG in 2005-06 FY.
 - This is a significant amount considering the fact that there are more than 4500 LGs in the country.

Peoples planning process, Kerala (India)

- The State Planning Board in Kerala, India, resolved to initiate a People's Planning Campaign (PPC) to empower local governing bodies (Panchayats) to draw up a five-year plan within their respective areas of responsibility.
- The main thrust of this approach is that 35-40 percent of plan funds will consist of schemes formulated and implemented from below.
- The Campaign takes place in five phases starting with the identification of people's needs and gaps in local development at the village assembly level.

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- Development seminars' are then held, with representatives, officials and experts to discuss a 'panchayat development report'
 - From this broad statement, 'task forces' set up to incorporate development approaches culminating in the formulation of a "Panchayat Plan".
 - A process of integrating village level plans is then carried out at the block and district levels.

[PPC]

Features of the PPC process

- Each phase of the campaign is accompanied by mass trainings for ‘resource persons’ at state, district and local levels
- Mass organizations, play a vital role in the process, both in contributing volunteers, expertise and in developing innovative mechanisms to aid the process
- The KSSP was instrumental in piloting the ‘neighborhood groups’, collectives of 50 household which meet monthly to discuss the work of the village council

[PPC]

- The campaign harnesses skilled voluntary support and aims to mobilize all resources from the village communities themselves in the form of monetary or labour contribution for development works.
- Retired experts with professional qualifications and experience are encouraged to contribute technical expertise.
- The formation of these 'expert committees' was not planned, and came about through the need to 'projectise' (or technically articulate) the thousands of recommendations that arose from village level consultations.
- The PPC can be seen as a case of people-centered institutions being ushered in on the strength of political motive and will.

[Social Auditing]

- MKSS has demonstrated the power of information as an effective tool to enable citizens to participate in governance.
- The MKSS facilitated social audits and public hearings ensure a systematic discussions among people on government expenditures of public development funds in their communities.
- Effects at unearthing and limiting corruption and the formation of the “Right to Information Act”


[Social auditing....]

Typically, a social audit conducted by the MKSS includes five stages:

- **Gathering Information**
- **Collating Information**
- **Distributing Information**
- **The public hearing**
- **Follow-up to the Public hearing**

[Citizens Score Cards, Kenya]

- CDSC Kenya uses transparency boards and score cards
- This has helped enhance information flow in the public domain about budget allocation to certain public institutions
- raised citizen's awareness about the existence of these public resources and demand accountability and minimise corruption.

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- surveys on ***public services delivery monitoring***
 - surveys provided a chance for a citizen-state dialoguing.
 - The aims of the surveys were:

To assess public agencies performance,

To evaluate service delivery against policy,

To enhance participation in public governance

To promote effective development

To empowering citizens to hold their leaders to account.

Citizens Score Cards, Kenya

Institutional Performance Audit/Score card

	Satisfaction rating			
	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Fair satisfied	Not Satisfied Disappointed
Promotion of transparency and accountability in the institution				
Promotion of social justice, fairness and equity				
Effectiveness and efficiency in use of public resources				
Relevance of the projects implemented				
Access to information from the institution				
Civic leaders Effectiveness in representing peoples voices in council meetings				
Responsive/ empathy with the peoples they serve				
Promotion of peoples civic participation and social inclusion programme delivery				
Promotion of gender empowerment in words and deeds				
Commitment to fight corruption				

10/22/2006

Citizen score Cards-Kenya

Public agencies performance score card

What is your opinion on service provision based on the following parameters/variables	Satisfaction Rating			
	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Not satisfied/disappointed
Accountability and transparency A				
Quality of service delivered B				
Commitment to fight corruption C				
Respect of People's rights D				
Provincial Adm. District Comm.				
District Officer				
Chiefs and Assistants				
Health:: Out patient services				
In patient/maternity				
Lab/X-ray/Theatre				
Security: Regular police				
Traffic police				
CID				
Administration				
Land and housing: Adjudication				
Land registry				
Land Survey				

[Group Exercise]

- You have not seen a local govt. budget document until now. In fact you don't even know if it exists! But you realise that its importance in amplifying local needs into policy making.
- How would you as a CSO facilitate the process of community participation in the planning and budgeting process in your area?

[Points to ponder!]

- What are the challenges in approaching communities with the idea? how would you empower communities to participate in the process?
- What will be your strategy for action and advocacy?

How can communities engage in the budget process?

Community Economic literacy

- Demystifying and democratizing the knowledge on (popular) economics and public finance.
- -Forms structure and practice of injustice
 - Community economic literacy on ownership and control of resources, skewed distribution of resources, govt. welfare programs, rights, entitlements etc.
 - Budgets and public finance systems
 - Public action (audits, hearings, planning)

Planning and Public Action

- Empowering local groups and citizens to carry out micro-planning of resources and expenditure tracking
- Formation of village level auditing and vigilance committees and also planning committees
- Linking these groups/communities with other local/provincial/regional groups

Linking the Micro with the macro

- Local/village level citizens' groups with cluster and provincial level groups.
- Building alliances and networks from the micro-macro level to amplify voices from below into the revenue allocation process
- Networks and coalitions to influence budget making and process at every stage
- Continuous and timely dialogue with policy makers for greater allocation and pro-poor budgeting as amplified by needs from the communities
- Monitoring of key national promises and MDGs at every level of governance