Public Engagement on Public Budgets Pakistan
Omar Asghar Khan Foundation

- An advocacy organization, established in 1999
  - citizenship rights
  - democratic reform
- National focus
- Strongest field presence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
About us

Omar Asghar Khan
1953-2002
Pakistan: times they are a changing

- More public attention on accountability
- Stronger mechanisms for citizen oversight
  - Some strong advocacy groups
  - A vibrant media
  - More information on government websites
  - Enabling laws: Right to Information
….the more they stay the same

- Little capacity to influence budget decisions
- Multiple disasters: poor response
- Insufficient focus on preparing for c.c.
The Foundation & Public Budgets

- Advocating fair and transparent budgets since 2005

- Objectives
  - increased citizen engagement
  - improved public finance decisions
  - transformed lives

- Activities
  - Analyze sub-national budgets
  - Review national/sub-national budget documentation: content, access, timeliness
  - Monitor government performance: social audit
- Not just a research organization
- Gathering, analyzing evidence is critical
- Presenting it in popular forms is also important
- Strongly rooted in local poor communities
- Work with and for people, especially the poor
One example…

- Shows civil society’s role in making public finance more effective
- Draws lessons for climate change financing
- Presents opportunities and challenges faced by civil society
2005 earthquake

- Loss of loved ones and homes
- Injuries including disability
- Trauma, uncertainty, anxiety
- Loss of houses
- Reduced personal space
- Loss of livestock
- ↑ deterioration of roads
- ↓ access to social services
- ↑ environmental hazards
- Water scarcity
Immediately after the disaster….

- Unprecedented opportunity: US$6.2 billion pledged
- Commitment to *Build Back Better*
- National and global focus
- Early warning signs
  - a parallel institution: ERRA
  - off-budget funds
  - weak policy process and framework
  - lack of internal capacity
- Weak accountability mechanisms
- Increasing public discontent and anxiety
Subsidy for house reconstruction

- Biggest chunk of funds
- Strategic: as people were shelter-less
- Owner-driven
- Step-wise process
  - Universal survey: completely/partially/no structural damage
  - One-roof/one-check
  - Disbursement in installments – bank transfers, layered checks
  - Conditional on reconstruction following prescribed design
Subsidy for house reconstruction

- Costs of access – increased burdens
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>House Construction Cost</th>
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<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
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Real value of housing subsidy -- after adjusting inflation: 2006-08

- 2006: $175,000
- 2007: $148,750
- 2008: $83,300
Compelling evidence…but more was needed to affect policy shift

- Snapshots of sustained advocacy
- Different strategies used
Conducted and published research

Living on the Faultline

Surviving on the Faultline
Projected findings
Brokered citizen-state dialogue
Protested
Suggested alternatives: Citizens’ Charter of Demands
Flooded CM’s office: postcards of concerns

Death and destruction wreaked by the 2005 earthquake affected 1.5 million people. The 2011 floods that swept through the length of Pakistan’s Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province claimed 200 million people, including 40 million in Swat and Bajur. Behind these figures is unimaginable human tragedy. Lives were lost, homes destroyed, and livelihoods disrupted. Moreover, this agency, in addition to human resilience, is also about the care of the people struggling to cope.

Sadly, they have little help from the government. Sporadic announcements committing generous state support contrast sharply with government data that show dismal assistance reaching the affected.

The Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority reports that in 2012, seven years after the earthquake, only a little more than half of the planned 14,555 rehabilitation projects are complete. Nearly 40 per cent of education and 43 per cent of health projects are still not complete. This despite the generous US$6.3 billion support pledged.

Government assistance following the 2010 flood is equally disheartening. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s budget for 2011-12 and 2012-13 show that public funds allocated for flood rehabilitation are inadequate and inequitable. According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Khyber, Dera Ismail Khan, and Nowshera are among the worst affected districts at 48%, 43%, and funds allocated were far short of the damage estimates on the basis of number of people affected in each district.

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Every citizen has a right to an equitable share of public resources. It is the government’s role to ensure that communities are protected from disasters. It can also reduce their vulnerabilities to future calamities. Its significance demands that citizens raise their voices, and question:

- Who is in charge?
- How is it going?
- When will it help our rebuilding efforts?
- How will they prepare our future disasters?

It is my money after all!

Name: ________________________
District: _______________________ 
Signature: _______________________

Chief Minister
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Chief Minister Secretariat
Peshawar

Omar Agha Khan Foundation
www.ogkaf.org.pk
Erra chief asks Perra to expedite work in quake-hit areas

Syed Nisar Naryvi

The News International, Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Erra chief asks Perra to expedite work in quake-hit areas

provide the exact data about the rehabilitation. In the education sector, only 18 projects out of 228, while two out of 344 have been completed in environment (building area) in the area.
Results...lessons

- Government relaxed conditionalities
- More people accessed subsidy, faster, with reduced out-of-pocket expenses
- Increased effectiveness of public funds
- Greater benefits, reduced public resentment
Results...lessons

- Cash grants: the preferred policy option
- ATM and telebanking replace bank transfer
- Public funds channeled through existing government structures
- Funds included in main budgets
- Separately identified: more transparent

- Preparedness is as important as response
- Reduce vulnerability from chronic poverty
- Strengthen citizens’ ability to cope
- Focus on poor, women, elderly, children
Results...lessons

- Civil society bridges the distance between policy formulation and implementation
- Helps connect government and the governed
- Needs credible evidence
- Strong roots within communities
- No quick fixes: need sustained advocacy
Thank you

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