CSOs’ ENGAGEMENT WITH CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCING: EXPERIENCE FROM INDIA

- SAUMYA SHRIVASTAVA
CENTRE FOR BUDGET AND GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

4 April, 2016
Kathmandu, Nepal
Governance Structure in India

- Union Government
- State Governments
- Local Governments

Our engagement with the government
Budget Cycle in India

**Formulation**
Budget proposals of various ministries/departments are put together by the Ministry of Finance

**Enactment**
Budget proposals are debated and approved by the Parliament/Assembly

**Implementation**
Budget proposals / government policies are carried out by various government ministries / departments

**Audit**
The actual expenditure of the government under various heads is assessed and audited
CBGA’s Work on Budgets

- Rigorous analysis of budget and policy issues to generate evidence
- Evidence-based advocacy with policymakers
- Identifying ‘champions’ within the Legislature and Government
- Mobilizing popular opinion on relevant issues—Media engagement
- Primers and Capacity Building Workshops for CSOs
- A Platform for CSOs to engage with Budgets—*People’s Budget Initiative*
People’s Budget Initiative (PBI)

• CBGA has been collaborating with several other CSOs focusing on budgets in various States since 2006

• *PBI* is a civil society coalition, which advocates for the inclusion of people's movements, grassroots organisations and NGOs in the policy processes that determine the priorities underlying government budgets in India.

• It serves as the Secretariat of *People’s Budget Initiative (PBI)*;
Civil Society Budget Groups in India
Institutional Space for Engagement

• **Union Government**
  
  – Specific inputs invited by the government on certain issues
  
  – Pre-budget consultations with the Ministry of Finance (on social sector issues from 2010)
  
  – Range of stakeholders, including social sectors and environmental groups

  However, not very effective; (i) timing is an issue (ii) involvement of other ministries, (iii) intent?

• **State Governments**
  
  – Limited formal space for engagement
  
  – CSO engagement only in few states
  
  – Pre-budget consultations in hardly 2-3 states

Impact of CSOs’ engagement in budget making process formally, is not very visible yet
15. CLIMATE CHANGE: MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

Key Policy Asks:

- Need to place equal emphasis on both adaptation and mitigation for reducing the impact of climate change and also balance budgetary priorities for the same.
- Prioritize financial resources such as National Clean Energy Fund for development of renewable energy, particularly for rural application.
- There is a need for higher budgetary allocations for creating evacuation route for vulnerable people during natural disasters.
- Increase the corpus and broaden the scope of the National Adaptation Fund so that it adds value to ongoing "business-as-usual" development programmes and activities in a transparent and measurable manner, rather than fund stand-alone adaptation projects.
- Make climate change adaptation core to India's financial planning for development with all climate sensitive missions, one department earmarking a clear and measurable proportion of their spending towards building resilient components in their programmes.
- Need to improve urban drainage systems and step up funds for installation of extensive "Mini - Regional" Warning Systems.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) should include development of villages that are climate resilient and follow low carbon development interventions.
- Strengthen the environmental monitoring and regulatory institutions such as National Green Tribunal and Central and State Pollution Control Boards for inclusion of environmental considerations in "Make in India" campaign.

The recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) syntheses report highlights the need to integrate climate considerations into planning in developing countries. Hence, it is important that government identifies the minimal interventions required to ensure that development process does not lead to environmental degradation. Interventions to tackle climate change need to be built as integrative
A BRIEF CASE STUDY
ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A collaborative study in 4 states of India

Madhya Pradesh
Uttarakhand
Uttar Pradesh
West Bengal

Women in Climate Change Adaptation
OBJECTIVES

• Engender the State Action Plans on Climate Change
• Track budgets for addressing gender concerns in adaptation to climate change
• Strengthen Gender Responsive Budgeting
• Allocate budgets and institutionalise the process

WHAT WE DID?

• Policy Analysis and Tracking public investment
• Innovative approaches on ground

• Engaging with the Government
  • Nodal persons within the government
  • Bilateral meetings
  • Inter-departmental round tables
  • Submissions

Project Activities

Policy Engagement
What we Achieved?

- Getting relevant departments on board
- Two states engendered their SAPCCs
- Strengthening GRB

What worked?

- Identifying champions within the government
- Receptiveness of the government
- Collaboration
- Presence of local partners added legitimacy to the process
- Presenting other states as examples
**CHALLENGES**

- Low priority for climate change issues among policymakers
- Restricted access to policymakers
- Aligning with local partners: very few CSOs working on issues of climate change financing
- Lack of access to relevant disaggregated information on budgets: a constraint in analysis
LESSONS LEARNT

- Collaborations work: both with the government and with partners
- Champions within the system can take things forward
- Building evidence: data, best practices, innovations, etc.
- Sustained engagement required
- Produce “do-able” action points
- Knowledge sharing: providing relevant inputs as and when required is important
saumya@cbgaindia.org

info@cbgaindia.org

www.cbgaindia.org