Budget Work for Accountability: Role of CSOs
What we will cover in this presentation

• Why CSO work on Budgets is important?
• What have CSOs achieved in Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation?
• What are the key Learnings from such work?
• What it means for Climate Finance Budgeting?
Why Budget Work

• “I am a poor farmer and this is the first time in my life that I have seen a meeting organized by the government in which the powerful and corrupt are being held to account and I have a forum to speak my mind. That is why I am singing in joy” Social audit – public hearing in India
• Public budgets influence service delivery to poor and marginalized communities.
• Civil society budget work aims to improve service delivery to poor and marginalized communities.
Global Trends in Budget Issues/ Work

• Implications of the Changing Global Political Economy
  – Finance Capital and state resources – subsidies, tax expenditures, FTTs, tax havens
  – Tax justice
  – PPPs and off-budget expenditures
  – Extractives: the new arena for global capital and its implications for state revenues
  – ESCR Rights assertion – need for more revenues
  – Climate change and environment impact financing
Working with Budgets

The budget process has four stages:

- Different decisions are made at each stage of the budget process

- You should intervene before the decisions you want to change are being made, not after.
Steps in the Formulation Stage

- Economy modelled
- Revenue estimated
- Department/Agency expenditure ceilings determined
- Department/Agency expenditure budgets formulated
- Approval by Cabinet
Steps in the Approval Stage

- Tabling in Legislature
- Committees consider and report to Chamber
- Amendments
- Budget voted into law
Steps in the Implementation Stage

- Money transferred to spending agencies
- Services delivered
- In-year reports produced
- Year-end reports produced
Steps in the Audit Stage

- Year-end report to Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)
- Audit conducted
- SAI report referred to Legislature
- Legislature refers report to the Public Account Committee (PAC)
- Recommendations of PAC referred back to Chamber.
Strategies in Budget Work

• Global Actions/Campaigns…
  – Global campaigns and partnerships (BTAP, EITI..)
  – Collaborative work across CSOs globally (ESCR, Maternal Health, CDFs..)

• Local and National Initiatives
  – Coalitions
  – Citizen Mobilization
  – Engaging the Executive
  – Litigation
  – Working with Oversight Institutions
  – High Level Working Groups
  – Media
What is Impact in Budget Work?

Contributing to change:

• Allocations and Expenditures
• Transparency, Accountability and Civic Participation
• For Improved Service Delivery and Equitable Access
• Strategies are used in various combinations
Samarthan – India

- Samarthan focused on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)
- Guarantees a minimum of 100 days of unskilled work per year to every poor rural family that needs employment
- NREGA - bureaucratic glitches and widespread corruption.
- Case study examines a Samarthan-led campaign to address problems in NREGA's administration and mobilize people to demand work under the scheme.
Treatment Action Campaign – South Africa

- 2000 South African government allocated a total of R214 million (US$28.5 million) to fight HIV/AIDS.
- 2010 an increase to R3.96 billion (US$528 million) a real increase of over 1,850%.
- Case study examines TACs campaigns for treatment access.
- Combination of strategies that contributed to increase.
- Negotiations with government, mass mobilization and litigation contributed to this increase.
ACIJ – Argentina

➢ Shortage of kindergarten and pre-schools prevented children the right to education. Freedom of information requests and budget analysis informed litigation strategy.

➢ Result: Government legally obliged to take steps to fill shortage of early childhood education facilities.

➢ Set precedent for human rights campaigns to combine budget tools and litigation to hold governments accountable in public finance processes.
KSPPM – Indonesia

- In North Tapamuli district KSPPM with farmers associations each year review district budgets
- Musrenbang (local planning fórums) are captured by elite but the KSPPM work with farmers has given access to latter to Musrenbang
- Initially dialogues and visits and if that fails then Street rallies
- Outcomes: farmers empowered, do Budget analysis and planning, effected changes in Budget allocations as per local needs
OAK Foundation - Pakistan

- Earthquake in NW Pakistan, October 2005
- Donor money for reconstruction & rehabilitation
- 2008 many people still without adequate housing, critical public infrastructure
- Case study describes how a large coalition of CSOs and individuals embarked on a campaign to drive Pakistan’s efforts to rebuild.
- Led by the Omar Asghar Khan Development Foundation.
HakiElimu – Tanzania

➢ Concern for quality of education, education policy, underutilisation of primary education development education funds

➢ Coalition of umbrella organizations strengthened credibility and impact

➢ National media campaign

➢ Case study describes the campaign that led to improvements in Tanzania’s schools.
Teacher Creativity Centre – Palestine

- Poor civic services and corruption
- Project Citizen of the Ministry of Education in which 58 schools participate and with TCC support agree to undertake social audits as part of project
- 4-7 students group from each school list out public projects/services for review and vote for one to be selected for social audit
- TCC with expert support build capacity to do social audits
- Outcomes: builds civic skills, inculcates a culture of integrity, many of the social audits led to improvements like roads, school buildings, street lights, water fountains etc..
Key Learnings

- Transparency and access to information is the first step towards accountability but not sufficient in itself.
- Effective and timely budget analysis is a powerful tool to engage with state actors.
- Cooperation – vertical and horizontal – is critical for impact and changes in budget policies and processes.
- Think tanks to grassroots can engage in budget work.
Key learnings.....

- Wide range of stakeholders – CSOs, journalists, legislators etc. need to work together and establish relationships for change to happen
- Budget work is easily adaptable to various environments and politics
- Transparency is the easier part but structural changes is a long haul task – participation and accountability help complete the circle for good governance & improved service delivery
Lessons for climate finance budgets

• Post Paris Agreement $100 billion per year for mitigation and adaptation to climate change
• Funds should not be off-budget but an integral part of budget so that accountability is possible
• Transparency, accountability and participation mechanisms should be integrated into Climate finance strategies from the word go for which templates should be developed and special budget codes assigned
Lessons.....

• Need to create an index like OBI to track progress and facilitate accountability

• Must learn from mistakes of earlier Funds which have more often than not taken the off-budget route and not been adequately accountable

• Relationship across a wide network of stakeholders needs to be built around climate finance with a centre-stage role for CSOs
THANKS