



# International Budget Partnership

The International Budget Partnership (IBP) is building a world where all citizens claim the right to understand and influence how public money — their money — is raised and spent. We make sure excluded communities have the knowledge, advocacy skills, and political access to influence government decision-makers in ways that lead to fairer public budgets.

## Power in Numbers

Governments around the world spend massive amounts of public money each year, and yet, poverty and inequality persist and even deepen. The problem is often not that governments spend too little, but that public money is spent poorly. Budgets are skewed to benefit the powerful and well-connected. Corporations receive bailouts while critical services such as access to healthcare, clean water, and education are underfunded or worse - public money allocated to improve these services are under-spent, wasted, or squandered.

Multiple global studies confirm that when ordinary people - especially communities that have been historically excluded - have the opportunity to participate in budget discussions and hold their government to account, it's more likely to result in fairer policies that are more responsive to the public's needs and improve service delivery. IBP works side by side with those who have long been denied a 'seat at the table' to advocate for transformational change in their lives.

### **We cannot afford the status quo.**

Many countries (especially in Africa, Asia, and Latin America) are under extreme pressure to finance COVID-19 relief and recovery, pay back spiraling debt, and mitigate the worsening climate crisis. It is more urgent than ever that scarce public resources are managed effectively to face these challenges head on and communities are empowered to push for equitable solutions.



## Budget Advocacy can Change Lives

IBP partners globally with budget analysts, community organizers, and advocates working to advance public budget systems that work for all people, not a privileged few. Together, we generate data, advocate for reform, and build the skills and knowledge of people so that everyone can have a voice in budget decisions that impact their lives.

- **We have core expertise in public finance and budget processes.** IBP is the world's leading non-profit organization of budget experts promoting more responsible, effective and equitable management of public money. We have a deep understanding of country budget systems and how to access budget decision-makers.
- **We have proven methods to strengthen local change agents.** Citizen engagement with government leaders is key to achieving change. IBP deploys our public finance expertise to equip civil society and social movements with the essential knowledge, skills, and connections they need to actively participate in the budget process and leverage improvements to services for those who need them most.
- **Our exceptionally broad network of partners multiplies our effectiveness.** Two decades of results and quality work give IBP credibility and strong relationships at grassroots, national and international levels. This allows us to bridge the distance between citizens' groups and the powerful finance institutions they cannot easily access. That space — where citizens and powerful institutions meet — is where sustainable change happens.

## Achieving Global & Local Impact

### IMPROVING LIVES

Over the last 2 years, working in deep collaboration with our local partners, IBP has contributed to 5.1 million marginalized citizens accessing new or improved services (in the form of COVID-19 relief packages, social protection assistance, water, sanitation, refuse removal services, agricultural inputs, and fuel subsidy assistance). Our work resulted in increased budget allocations across seven countries worth a total of \$351.5 million. **“While we have a 30-year track record in grassroots mobilization and working on community service-delivery issues, IBP offers skills that help us and our communities learn and understand the budgetary reasons for poor services. They also augment our ability to access high-level officials and budget documents that aren’t easily obtained. Together, we develop strategies that draw communities together, while pressuring government to respond to our needs.”** — Shumani Luruli, Program Coordinator, Planact, South Africa

### GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Launched in 2006, IBP’s flagship Open Budget Survey (OBS) is the world’s only regular, independent and comparative assessment of public budget transparency and accountability around the world. The OBS has played an instrumental role in putting budget transparency on the global agenda and influenced the norms and standards of many international organizations including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The OBS is used by governments, the private sector, and donor agencies as a key tool to drive reform and guide investments. **“One of the most valuable programmes we’ve supported (on budget transparency) since 2009 is IBP... When we partner with a government, we want to know how open they are with their citizens, we want to know if there are strong oversight institutions... the [Open Budget Survey] has played an invaluable role in monitoring and incentivizing progress in government budget transparency.”** Harriet Baldwin, former Minister of State for UK Aid Department of International Development, 2018.

### Budgets are at the heart of sustainable solutions.

*Join us in building public budget systems that truly respond to people's needs, strengthen democratic governance and support inclusive development.*

IBP is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and operates a small number of international offices in strategic locations, including Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa — with additional staff based in Brazil, Canada, New York and the U.K. Funding for IBP comes from private foundations, including the

Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as bilateral development agencies such as the U.K. Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Commission. IBP is a registered 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in the United States and has ANBI Charity Status in the Netherlands.

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