WHAT IS A CITIZENS’ BUDGET?

A Citizens’ Budget is a document that highlights key features of the budget in simple and non-technical language. It focuses on information that is of relevance and interest to the broader public.

WHO PRODUCES THE CITIZENS’ BUDGET?

Citizens’ Budgets are produced by the Governments, at the same time as the annual budget.

Budget analyses done by civil society cannot be a substitute.

WHO BENEFITS FROM A CITIZENS’ BUDGET?

Citizens: increases their knowledge of what the government is doing with their money and their capacity to participate in governmental affairs.

Government: increases its legitimacy by demonstrating that it holds itself accountable to the public.
**WHAT ARE THE KEY FEATURES OF THE CITIZENS’ BUDGET?**

**CONSULTATION**

Consultations for Citizens’ Budgets consist of citizens expressing what they would like to know about the Budget as prepared by the Government.

Consultation for the Citizen’s Budget is not participatory budgeting. Participatory budgeting is a process through which people have a say in setting priorities in the Budget itself, such as during pre-budget consultations.

**CONTENT**

- the economic assumptions underlying the budget
- the budget process
- revenue collection
- priorities in allocations and spending
- targeted programs & sector-specific information
- contact information for follow up by citizens

**DISSEMINATION**

A well-conceived Citizens’ Budget will fail its purpose if it is not widely disseminated through a variety of media.

Only if people know about the Citizens’ Budget will they be able to use it to question, influence and steer Government’s priorities.

**WHY IS THE CITIZENS’ BUDGET IMPORTANT?**

**Transparency & Accountability**

Where does the government’s money come from?

How can I influence the budget?

**Citizens’ Empowerment & Participation**

Who makes decisions about the budget?

Where can I find more information?

**Reduced Poverty & Corruption**

How does it impact my life?

Where is the money going?

Citizens’ Budget enable citizens to:

- hold their government to account
- influence the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the Budget
- ask the government informed questions resulting in strengthened democracy
- have a watchful eye on whether the country’s resources are being directed to their priorities & needs
- help fight against poverty by ensuring that resources are not squandered through inefficiency & corruption