**Twinning: Benin and Madagascar**

**Benin**

**Problem:** Each year there is poor service delivery. There are significant delays in the budget formulation process which leads to delays/issues during the budget execution process. Thus, it is difficult for common citizens to understand what services/benefits are included in the budget. Therefore, the link between the budget and their daily lives is almost non-existent. In addition to the delays, there is limited knowledge of the budget process at the national and local level. This knowledge is particularly scarce in the budget execution process.

**Solution**: Participation in the budget execution and auditing stage is the biggest challenge. Currently, an informal dialogue mechanism between the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the MDAs exists which focuses on budget execution. This network is not open to the public.

**Activity**: Open up the dialogue mechanism to the public to solicit inputs and suggestions

**Activity**: Budget Director is to talk to the President about issuing a Decree formalizing the mechanism

**When**: **July 2017**

**Who: Budget Director Chaou- this would be coordinated/monitored by the Budget Directorate and the Reform Directorate**

**Activity**: Improve the accessibility of budget information during the budget formulation stage to better understand the process

Self-evaluation done by the **Budget Directorate by the end of November 2017**

Independent evaluation done by **EU/CABRI/IBP** during the **EU Mission date**

**Problem:** The current legal framework isn’t sufficient because it doesn’t apply sanctions when the law isn’t applied. Also, the legal framework isn’t clear enough on transparency and participation.

**Solution**: Decree/Directive from the Minister of Economy and Finance

Activity: Speak to the **head of the macroeconomic donor coordination group (EU)** regarding some “conditionality” or steps throughout **September and October 2017**

**Madagascar**

**Problem**: Participation during the budget process is passive thus citizens/CSOs often criticize the government. This is due partly to: 1) lack of allocative efficiency of resources; 2) participation during the formulation of the budget with the MDAs isn’t well structured or not sufficient; and 3) there is no consultation with beneficiaries.

**Solution**: Improve the quality of dialogue/participation for FY 2019 by ensuring that CSOs provide useful comments/inputs for budget formulation

**Activity**: The Minister of Finance and Budget issues a message directed to CSOs exhorting them to organize themselves by sector to be involved in the budget formulation process

**Who**: The **Permanent Secretary of the Budget** would speak to the **Minister**

**When**: **July 2017**

**Activity:** Identify sector-specific CSOs to work with MDAs. These would include those CSOs that donors work with

**Who**: The **Reform Office of the Budget Directorate** would liaise with the **Ministry of Communication**

**When**: **July 2017**

**Activity**: Assessment of CSOs’ budget analytical skills

**Who**:  **Reform Office of the Budget Directorate** will ask **UNICEF** to ask **IBP** for technical assistance

**This will focus on a Training of Trainers approach**