



***Piloting Public Participation in the
Budget Process at the National
Level: The FOA Experience***

The Fiscal Openness Accelerator (FOA) Project, 2019 – 2022

- With support from the US Department of State, GIFT and IBP entered into an MoU with Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal & South Africa on the Fiscal Openness Accelerator (FOA) Project in 2020 with the goal of:
 - ✓ Improving fiscal transparency in Benin, Liberia, Nigeria;
 - ✓ Piloting public participation mechanisms in fiscal processes at the national level all five countries.

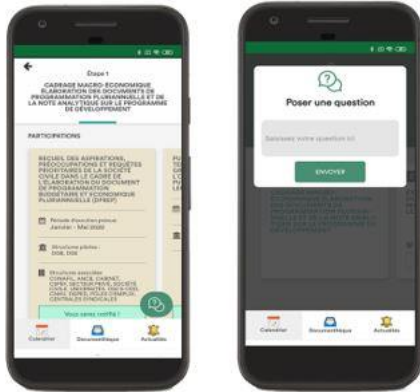


Key elements of the FOA Public Participation Model

- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with **MoF**
- Establishment of a Government-CSO Advisory Group (chaired by MoF)
- Capacity-Building and Peer-Learning
- Design and Implementation of Action Plan to pilot a public participation mechanism in fiscal policy at the national level



FOA Public Participation Mechanisms: Benin



Benin has developed **Bousprob mobile application**, an alert and monitoring tool available freely on the Google Playstore that features a library of budget information, informs citizens on opportunities to engage in the budget process and provides a platform to collect their feedback.

FOA Public Participation Mechanisms: South Africa



South Africa's **pre-budget consultations**:

- **Year 1:** public consultation event that provided a venue for presentation and dialogue on CSO recommendations on budget prioritization and how to deal with challenges of long-term fiscal sustainability.
- **Year 2:** public call for written submissions on a broad range of themes (e.g. fiscal policy, budget reforms, sectoral issues) which will be analyzed by Treasury functional groups and shared with Medium-Term Expenditure Committee (MTEC).

FOA Public Participation Mechanisms: Nigeria



Nigeria implemented a national consultation event in **hybrid format**. The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, presented the **draft 2023-2025 Medium Term Fiscal Framework for citizen inputs**.

During the event, members of the public were also able to ask questions **in-person and virtually**. Responses to citizen inputs were provided by the Minister of Finance herself, the Minister of State, Budget and National Planning; and the Director General of the Budget Office.

FOA Public Participation Mechanisms: Liberia



Under their FOA workplan, Liberia implemented the following activities:

- **Town hall consultations** to solicit citizens' inputs to the **FY2023 National Budget priorities**
- Development and Presentation of **Shadow Budget Options Paper** to the Ministry of Finance and Development

FOA Public Participation Mechanisms: Senegal



Under their FOA workplan, Senegal organized a meeting with civil society on the **Document de Programmation budgétaire et économique pluriannuelle (DPBEP) 2023-2025**. The meeting provided a platform for civil society to provide recommendations and comments on the country's multi-year budget programming document and economic framework, which includes assumptions on expenditure and revenue.



The FOA Project Experience: What did we learn?

What did we learn?

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- High-level Ministry of Finance (MoF) leadership and bureaucratic buy-in
- International, collaborative and peer-to-peer learning environment & peer pressure
- Composition, culture of trust and collaboration among government and CSO members of Advisory Groups, with clarity on rules of engagement
- Resource investment
- International indices measuring the transparency, public participation and oversight

What did we learn?

CHALLENGES

- Weak/ Lack of ICT infrastructure
- Closing the feedback loop
- Inclusion and meaningful participation of traditionally excluded groups and vulnerable communities
- Enabling legal framework and sustainability

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