

i-budget.mo

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ABOUT ANSA-EAP

Launched in 2008, the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA - EAP) is a networking facility that aims to contribute to fostering good governance.

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project brief

A participatory budgeting
initiative



ANSA-EAP





What is participatory budgeting?

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in the funds allocation of the public budget which directly involves citizens on their priorities and spending. The government sets aside a portion of its budget for the PB process and ordinary citizens get to directly develop proposals and to decide on how much money will be allocated or spent for these projects.

How it began

In 1989, the progressive Workers' Party, in Porto Alegre, Brazil, first experimented with PB wherein the government aimed to provide the citizenry with a direct role in the activities of the government. Today, PB has spread across Latin America, Europe, North America, and even Asia.

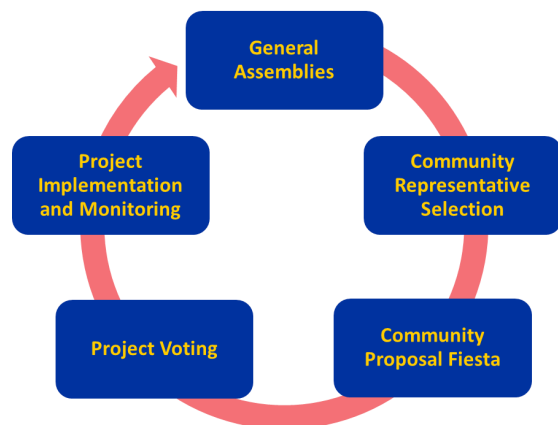
Here in the Philippines, PB exists in isolated pockets. One notable example is in Naga City, with the Naga City People's Council. Participation by the citizens of Naga was maximized to create reforms and to deliver more responsive services for the people.

What is i-budget.mo?

i-budget.mo (IBM) is a PB initiative involving the use of information and communication technology to promote budget transparency and literacy, broaden citizen participation in generating project ideas, facilitate voting on proposed projects, and provide a platform for subsequent citizen monitoring of funded PB project.

It focuses on constructive engagement and citizen monitoring of the local government budget by creating an online platform for community feedback and government response to ensure effective and efficient implementation of PB projects.

Basic PB process:



Capacity Building for PB is done during General Assemblies where citizens will also elect their Community Representatives. A Community Proposal Fiesta will then showcase these different proposals developed by them. The Project Voting will then determine the citizens' choice of projects. Finally, capacity building will also be conducted for Project Implementation and Monitoring to ensure project success and sustainability.

What are the objectives of the project?

The pilot project's main goal is to help ensure that local public spending is responsive to community needs by widening the ambit of citizen participation in local planning and budgeting, through an alternative platform for citizens to influence the use of local budget allocations with the use of both the Internet and mobile technology.

- Formal agreements with government
- Formal agreements with community-based groups
- ICT platform for citizen consensus building
- Documentation of the initiative

Who are behind the project?

The project is spearheaded by the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP Foundation, Inc). It is funded by the Southeast Asian Technology and Transparency Initiative (SEATTI), which is a collaboration between Hivos and the Omidyar Network.

