

IDI Global Summit Remarks – International Budget Partnership

November 18, 2024

Guiding questions:

- Could you tell us about the work you do and how does it relate with inclusion aspects?
- How do you address intersectionality in your work?
- How do you engage with the SAIs in your work?

IBP's Strategic Focus on Marginalized Communities

- At IBP, we partner globally with civil society, community organizers, government champions, and budget analysts. 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.
- Governments can leverage public money as a powerful tool to engage their people and address inequality head on. To restore that vital relationship between governments and their people, we need more space for everyone to influence how public money is raised and spent – especially those who have been systematically excluded from accessing public goods and services. Their valuable insights can help state actors, including SAIs, make better decisions that reflect public priorities. Leveraging their input, state actors can tackle structural inequality and restore people's faith in democracy.
- IBP and our partners prioritize data collection efforts that center on communities facing intersecting forms of marginalization, as this approach is essential for identifying and addressing gaps in basic services.
- Along with our partners, we support data collection and analysis to capture the unique economic and social challenges marginalized groups face, ensuring public resources align with their needs. We believe that inclusive data and engagement between actors on this data is key to driving more equitable government spending.

Partnerships and Local Engagement

- Recognizing that meaningful data collection, as well as evidence-based advocacy using this data, requires grounded local knowledge, IBP collaborates with community organizations to capture the perspectives of groups that are often underrepresented in official data.
- In South Africa, informal settlement residents in major cities are tackling severe basic service shortages through the Asivikelane initiative. For example, the initiative collects data on water and sanitation service provision, mapping GPS coordinates of communal taps and toilets to expedite repairs. This community-driven approach ensures that residents' needs are clearly communicated to local governments, leading to improvements such as fixing leaks and replacing broken facilities. Residents and IBP engage in targeted advocacy and campaigns, including collaborations with government and the Auditor General, securing

improved access to water, sanitation and waste removal services from municipal governments affecting more than 5.2 million people.

- In Senegal, our partners in informal settlements are collecting community data—using proven methodologies like social audits and even drone footage—to provide officials with unique insights into the scale and nature of the problems they face with recurring flooding and related water and sanitation issues. This evidence has allowed government officials to make more informed decisions about how and where to allocate resources. By sharing the data and forging alliances with local and national officials, they have been able to bolster resources to improve flood management and sanitation infrastructure for 880,000 informal settlement residents.

SAI Engagement to Amplify Marginalized Voices

- IBP also advocates for enhanced engagement between SAs and civil society, as this collaboration ensures that audits genuinely reflect public interests, especially those of marginalized groups.
- From Argentina to Nepal and Tanzania, civil society organizations contribute to efforts to ensure that governments implement audit recommendations that would improve the effectiveness of public spending. CSOs have expanded attention to audit findings by expanding awareness and education about audit recommendations, and expanding collaboration between the media, civil society, and underserved communities to ensure change.
- We've been collaborating with national audit offices and international partners, including UNDESA and IDI, to develop and implement guidance for assessing and addressing budget credibility and accountability. This is critical to monitor and ensure progress on the global goals.
- SAs can also directly use the data that is generated from social audits and other CSO analysis on how budget impact marginalized communities. We often cite the powerful example from the Philippines of participatory audits that included social validation methods, like focus groups and community interviews, which capture the direct experiences and needs of marginalized groups. In the Philippines, this approach enabled auditors to address service gaps in underserved areas, such as infrastructure quality and resource allocation in health and education projects, ensuring audit findings were grounded in the realities of those most affected.
- The Philippines participatory audits were also important examples of how SAs and CSOs can collaborate during audits, where roles and responsibilities were formalized through an MOU, and the Commission on Audit and CSOs both went through joint training on value-for-money audits and social validation, which equipped community monitors with skills in audit procedures and data collection. This collaboration allowed for the integration of local insights into technical audits, improving the accuracy and relevance of findings.
- Thank you for this discussion today, and we look forward to continuing our engagement to ensure people resources benefit everyone