Greetings,

IBP Kenya is pleased to share with you our newsletter for the second quarter of 2014.

**National Level Budget Transparency Work**

**Kenya’s Program Based Budgeting (PBB) Forums**

IBP Kenya in collaboration with Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) held a forum on Program Based Budgeting in April. In the year 2013/14, Kenya shifted to a PBB format from line item budgeting, which paradoxically reduced budget transparency. In view of this, the April 2014 forum that was held before the budget estimates were tabled in parliament was intended to engage stakeholders, including parliament, civil society and media, to be able to engage with the new format and to send a message to Treasury about the kind of information they expected. Sector groups that gave presentations included Practical Action (Energy sector) and Kenya Aids NGO Network (KANCO).

Following this event, a group of ten civil society organisations, including IBP submitted a statement to Treasury on the issues that were identified in the 2013/14 PBB and making recommendations for inclusion in the 2014/15 budget estimates that were to be tabled the following week. The Civil Society groups included Development Initiatives, KELIN, HERAF, DSW-Kenya, Family Care International Kenya, I choose Life Africa, KANCO, KCCDHR, IEA, Practical Action and Mobilising Advocates from Civil Society. This statement attracted a positive response from Treasury and some of the requested information was made available in the estimates.

In addition, briefs on Understanding Program Based Budgeting in Kenya and understanding the key sectors that lacked transparency in the 2013/14 PBB were launched. Click here to see the prezi presentation on the same and also read the executive summary for the PBB forum brief here.

The second event was a media briefing after the budget estimates were tabled. This was mainly to inform the media and civil society of the advances and challenges of the 2014/15 Kenyan budget estimates released by Treasury (also in a PBB format). Find some of the media coverage by Nation Television NTV by clicking here.

**Controller of Budget Kenya Training**

Our second main event this quarter was training the Controller of Budget (CoB) representatives from all of the 47 counties on the budget process and analysis of various budget related documents, including County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), county budgets, County Fiscal Strategy Papers (CFSPs) and Programme Based Budgeting. Our training received good feedback from the Controller of Budget herself, who was present at the training, as well as the officers.

**Revenue Sharing Work**

IBP Kenya has been working on promoting effective, transparent and fair distribution of funds across and among levels of government, mainly through engaging the public and civil society in division of revenue discussions (DOR) and also through making submissions to the Commission on Revenue Allocation on the formula for revenue distribution.

On DoR, IBP Kenya together with civil society groups working in the health sector made various submissions to both the Senate and National Assembly on funding for Level 5 hospitals. This follows the removal of the conditional grant allocation to L5 hospitals by parliament this year (instead channeling it through the equitable share formula which could lead to further deterioration of health services in the eleven counties). This work also resulted in IBP working with two journalists from The Star Newspaper on funding of the Level 5 hospitals. The stories can be found here and here.

IBP also attended the public hearings organized by the parliamentary Budget and Appropriations Committee where our memo was submitted to the committee for consideration. We also submitted “What should parliament ask about development spending?” which can be found here.

The Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) invited IBP Kenya to make submissions on the second formula for revenue sharing. IBP made its submission and was invited to talk more about the submission to the committee members.
IBP Kenya facilitated a two day budget training workshop in Taita Taveta County which was organized by World Vision and Action Aid Taita Taveta branch. A number of civil society groups were present, including the non-state actors of the Taita Taveta County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF).

The training workshop focused on discussing the budget process and key documents as well as analyzing the 2014/15 budget proposal that was tabled at the County assembly. After the workshop, the following memorandum was drafted and sent to the County Assembly budget committee before the budget was passed. About 40 representatives from civil society in Taita Taveta County were present.

**Nyero County**

IBP in collaboration with National Tax Payers Association (NTA) held a three day training workshop in Nyero County. The County Accountability Network (CAN) members and civil society organisations working in Nyero were trained on budgets. Some of the CSOs included KANCO and HERAF with whom we have worked at the national level. 26 participants were present on the two days and they were taken through budget analysis sessions, county functions, county planning and budgeting session as well as the County Fiscal Strategy Paper and County Integrated Development Plan sessions. On the last day, the 26 participants together with other civil society organisations in Nyero met to analyze the Nyero 2014/15 budget estimates and submitted a memorandum to the county assembly on the issues that lacked transparency.

**Uasin Gishu (UG) County**

Our work in Uasin Gishu has been through our partner Kerio Center for Community Development and Human Rights (KCCDHR). IBP undertook two trainings in UG. The first was training of KCCDHR and its partners on budget process and analysis of key budget documents. The second training that was carried out in the month of May saw Uasin Gishu County Assembly Members being trained on the budget process and the one day training focused on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper, how the County Integrated Development Plan feed into the budget and the analysis of the 2014/15 budget proposal. They were also taken through Program Based Budget format and what to look out for while looking at the budget proposal. Following this training, our partner and their civil society network submitted their memorandum to the assembly whose recommendations were considered by the budget and appropriations committee during the budget reading on June 30. Click here to read the report.

**Working with the Media**

IBP Kenya in collaboration with Media Council of Kenya and Twaweza Communications held its last two budget training workshops for journalists in Nyanza and Western regions. This is following a series of workshop trainings in the Coastal, Eastern, Central and Rift Valley. Journalists from the counties in each region (namely Kisumu, Siaya, Migori, Homabay, Busia, Kakamega, Vihiga and Bungoma) were trained on budget processes and analysis, thus empowering the local journalists in the regions to engage with budgets and to strengthen their oversight role.

In the month of May 2014, IBP Kenya in collaboration with Media Focus on Africa (MFA) had follow up trainings with the journalists who were previously trained during the first quarter. The follow up training was a one day training where journalists shared stories that they wrote after the budget training and were also taken through analysis of 2014/15 budget proposals. The counties included Taita Taveta, Narok and Nyandarua.

For some of the budget stories written by the journalists we have trained, follow this link or like our Facebook page to get the stories.

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