Revenue Sharing Work

IBP Kenya continued to engage with parliament, treasury, and civil society in the ongoing 2015/16 revenue sharing discussions – both the horizontal sharing (formula) and the vertical sharing (division of revenue).

Kenya’s Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) submitted its recommendations on how to revise the formula for sharing revenue among the county governments last year before the Senate’s Finance and Budget Committee. The Committee sat in January to review the new formula before submitting it to parliament for review. Having received a notice for public hearings on the formula, IBP Kenya submitted its recommendations before the committee which was chaired by Senator Billow Kerrow. Our full analysis on CRA’s new formula can be found [here](#).

Following this, a forum on division of revenue was held in February to encourage continued debate around Kenya’s revenue sharing process. The forum was done in collaboration with Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) and the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) with 100 participants including county executive members for finance, civil society, media, the private sector, CRA, and treasury, attending the forum. Our presentation and a note on the issues arising from the meeting can be found [here](#).

Public Participation and County Budget and Economic Forum

IBP Kenya has been encouraging debate around public participation at the county level with a particular emphasis on the County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF), a body to be established in every county to engage the public in budgeting. In November 2014, IBP Kenya held a national forum on the status of CBEFs, which was attended by the CRA, CIC, and CBEF members from various counties. After the forum, one of the key issues that arose was the lack of guidelines on how the CBEF should operate. In early March 2015, the CRA released a circular to county governments,
Guidelines on the County Budget and Economic Forum. The guidelines were developed as part of a unique collaboration between CRA, IBP Kenya, and The Institute for Social Accountability, and CBEF members in both Busia and Taita Taveta counties.

County Fiscal Strategy Paper and Budget Trainings

IBP Kenya trained Taita Taveta county officers on how to organize public sector hearings forums on the budget. The workshop was made possible by the Taita Taveta County Budget and Economic Forum (TTCBEF). We also provided assistance with drafting the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), which led to a set of new revenue and expenditure tables that bring greater transparency to the document.

In collaboration with the National Tax Payers Association (our partner in Nyeri county), IBP Kenya provided training to the County Executive Committee and County Assembly on reviewing budget implementation reports. Civil society was also present during the workshop. After this training, the Nyeri County Assembly Budget Committee requested our support in understanding the budget and analyzing the County Fiscal Strategy Paper. We then facilitated a one-day workshop in March based on our presentation to the Assembly. Our more detailed analysis of Nyeri’s CFSP is available upon request.

In Uasin Gishu county, IBP Kenya and our partner Kerio Center for Community Development and Human Rights, trained civil society partners in Uasin Gishu and County Assembly on how to read and analyze the County Fiscal Strategy Paper.

Latest Publications and Resources

- Sector Hearings: What Role in the Budget Process?
- Reading Office of The Controller of Budget’s County Reports
- A Measure of Fairness (instructional video on how to share resources)
  - See the data behind this exercise
- How Much Budget Information are Counties Publishing Online?
- Sharing Revenue Among Kenya’s Counties: The First Two Formulas and Beyond (presentation to University of Nairobi)
- Division of Revenue Bill 2015: What Questions Should We Ask?
- Budget Brief No. 29 – Have State Corporations Changed Under Devolution?
- Guidelines on Formation of the County Budget and Economic Forum
- Three Questions to Ask About Each Key County Budget Document

Commissioner Waiganjo Kamotho of CIC moderating at the 25 February Division of Revenue 2015/16 forum.

IBP Kenya submitting recommendations on how to revise the revenue sharing formula to the Senate’s Budget and Finance committee. Pictured is Senator Billow Kerrow, Chair, Senator Zipporah Kittony (L), and IBP Kenya’s Vivian Magero (center).

Jason Lakin, Country Manager, IBP Kenya, training Nyeri county Finance and Budget Committee Assembly members during the County Fiscal Strategy Paper session.