

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TRENDS & PROMISING PRACTICES

*PEMPAL Budget Community of Practice Budget Literacy & Transparency Working Group
Videoconference*

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Outline of Presentation

- Comments on PEMPAL's *Knowledge Product*
- OBS 2019 Findings: some takeaways
- Fiscal Openness Accelerator project
- Public Participation (PP) in times of COVID-19
- GIFT project on transparency for emergency

A new Knowledge Product for our PFM Field

Welcome & Thank You!

- Comprehensive review of literature, international discussion, norms & practices
 - Includes recommendations + a roadmap for implementation
1. Suggestion: consider emphasizing the complementary principle of public participation
 2. Suggestion: PP is a resource for policy effectiveness... From the supply side, it needs a **strategy that identifies the policy objectives and the adequate mechanisms to reach them**
 3. Consider also elaborating on the importance of digital government

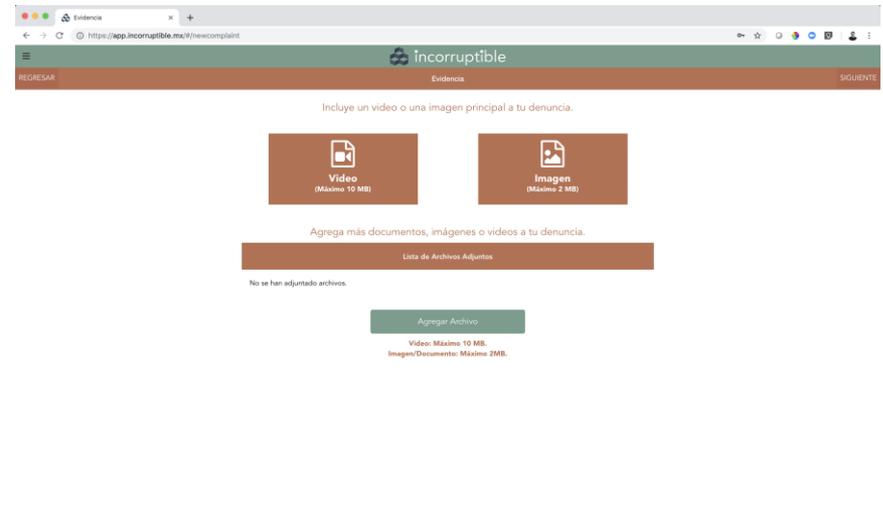
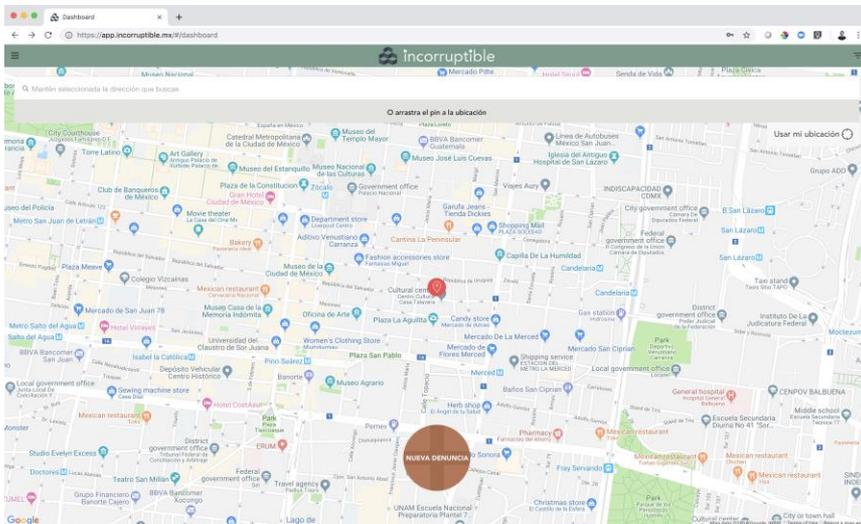
A participation process must be driven
by a shared purpose,
with the nature and scope
of the participation task clearly defined

1. Is there a problem that can be solved through public participation?
2. How will citizens/people/communities inputs be used?
3. Is there room for public influence over the decision?
4. Are their constraints around the decision that limit the ability to engage the public?
5. What will a “successful” decision look like?

1. Policy Objectives of Public Participation

Better **resource allocation** - Subnational transfers in Mexico, with the role of the media and CSOs leading to changes in the criteria for investment projects approval to observe urban sustainable mobility

Revised criteria for agricultural subsidies after beneficiaries exposed by SCOs (correct misallocations)



2. Policy Objectives of Public Participation

Improvement in the **provision** of public services - social accountability / monitoring experiences of sanitation in South Africa

Improvement in attendance of teachers & test scores in Kenya (when supervised by NGOs)



3. Policy Objectives of Public Participation

Better response to the preferences of beneficiaries of services - refining gender subsidies beneficiaries in Mexico

Better attention to public security issues in Honduras

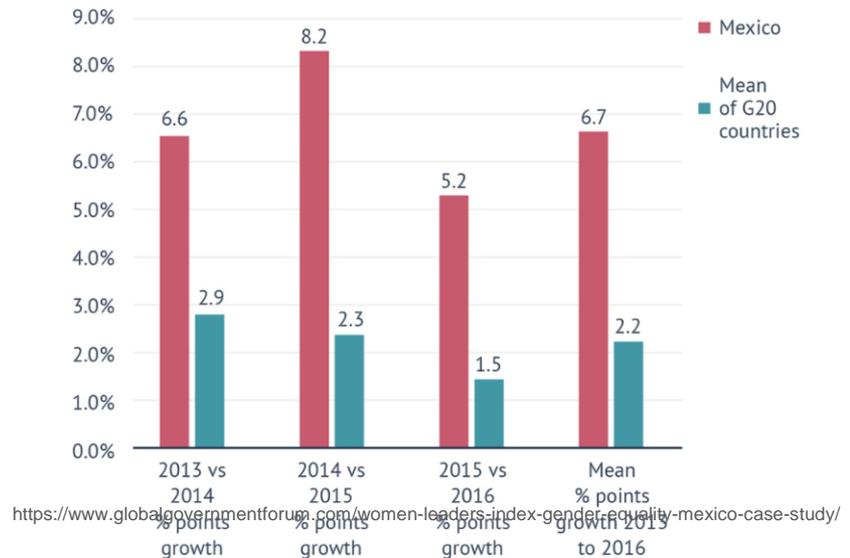


Building an Inclusive Mexico

POLICIES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR GENDER EQUALITY



Annual growth in the proportion of female senior civil servants: Mexico vs G20 mean



4. Public participation for what?

Opportunity for **marginalized** groups to exert some influence in decisions that affect them

- FIJI Consultations provide opportunity to submit written proposals or attend scheduled in-person meetings that are held at multiple locations and are open to anyone interested in attending. Concrete steps to include the vulnerable and under-represented groups of the population, including senior citizens and Fijians living with disability
- Consultations on public infrastructure projects in marginalized communities in various countries
- Refining strategies to poverty alleviation in several countries

5. Public participation for what?

Greater impact of social policies in development sectors: health sector, education, community level public works, etc. (participatory budgeting and social audits in Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, India, Philippines, etc.)

ALL CASES SUMMARY TABLE

CASES COMPILATOR

DOWNLOAD SUMMARY GUIDE

SUBMIT YOURS

BUDGET CYCLE STAGE

BRANCH

ALIGNED TO PRINCIPLE

GOVERNMENT LEVEL

COUNTRY

Map Satellite

Consult the Open Budget Survey 2015 - Public Participation in the Budget Process Scores by Country

Glossary of Terms





OBS 2019 Main Findings on Public Participation

- Most countries surveyed (4 out of 5) have a PP mechanism
- Greater budget transparency is related to more PP in fiscal policies
- Less mechanisms during implementation and audit stages of budget cycle (more on formulation and approval phases)
- Most of the mechanisms assessed are designed in ways that limit public access and awareness (selective and asymmetric mechanisms)
- **But**, new promising forms on public participation have been piloted around the world (**innovation and progress**: Sierra Leone, New Zealand, Portugal, South Korea –**national participatory budgeting**)

OBS 2019 PP Emphasis/Caveats

- Can everyone's voice be heard, with efforts to include vulnerable and underrepresented groups? (**Inclusiveness**)
- Can people find out about the purpose, scope, and intended outcomes for public engagement? (**Openness + Timeliness**)
- Does the government share the feedback they received and how it has been used? (**Depth**)
- Is participation embedded in the budget process to provide regular input into decision-making? (**Sustainability**)
- Measures may overestimate the quality of participation processes and undervalue informal participation mechanisms, that are important in some countries
- Mainly national practices involving the MoF: in some countries with limited national opportunities, there is robust local budget participation

FISCAL OPENNESS ACCELERATOR

Fiscal Transparency for Public Participation for Better Use of Public Resources

Selected countries:

Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal & South Africa

Also followed by: Colombia, Dominican Republic, Indonesia,
Mexico, Philippines

With the support of the US Department of State Bureau of
Economic & Business Affairs (and the OGP Multi-donor Trust Fund
Managed by the World Bank)

<http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/foaproject/>

How is Public Participation Defined

IBP's vision of public participation is one in which the public actively engages in the budget process through both formal and informal state-led and citizen-led processes that encourage to a maximum extent possible, inclusion of poor and marginalized communities acting individually and collectively in meaningful deliberations that hold the potential to influence the formulation and implementation of government budgets.

Rules of engagements for the FOA Project

- Peer learning including CSOs
 - Willing to learn & share experiences
 - Committing, setting goals & working together
-
- We support, we ask, we encourage and we exert pressure

Scope of work with two components

1. Fiscal Transparency Improvements
2. Public Participation Mechanisms

Benin, Liberia, and Nigeria make improvements in meeting the minimum requirements of fiscal transparency in the U.S. Fiscal Transparency Report

Models of Participation:

- Participatory budgeting
- Social audits
- Public councils
- Deliberative budgets

Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa establish meaningful and practical public participation mechanisms in fiscal policies.

Senegal, South Africa, Nigeria, Liberia, Benin

Implementing PP Mechanisms

1) **Memorandum of Understanding** and rules of engagement

2) **Technical Assistance**: build capacity to address transparency goals and to define the purpose, establish the goals, identify the audience, resources, and timeline to design, plan, set and implement a **public participation mechanism**

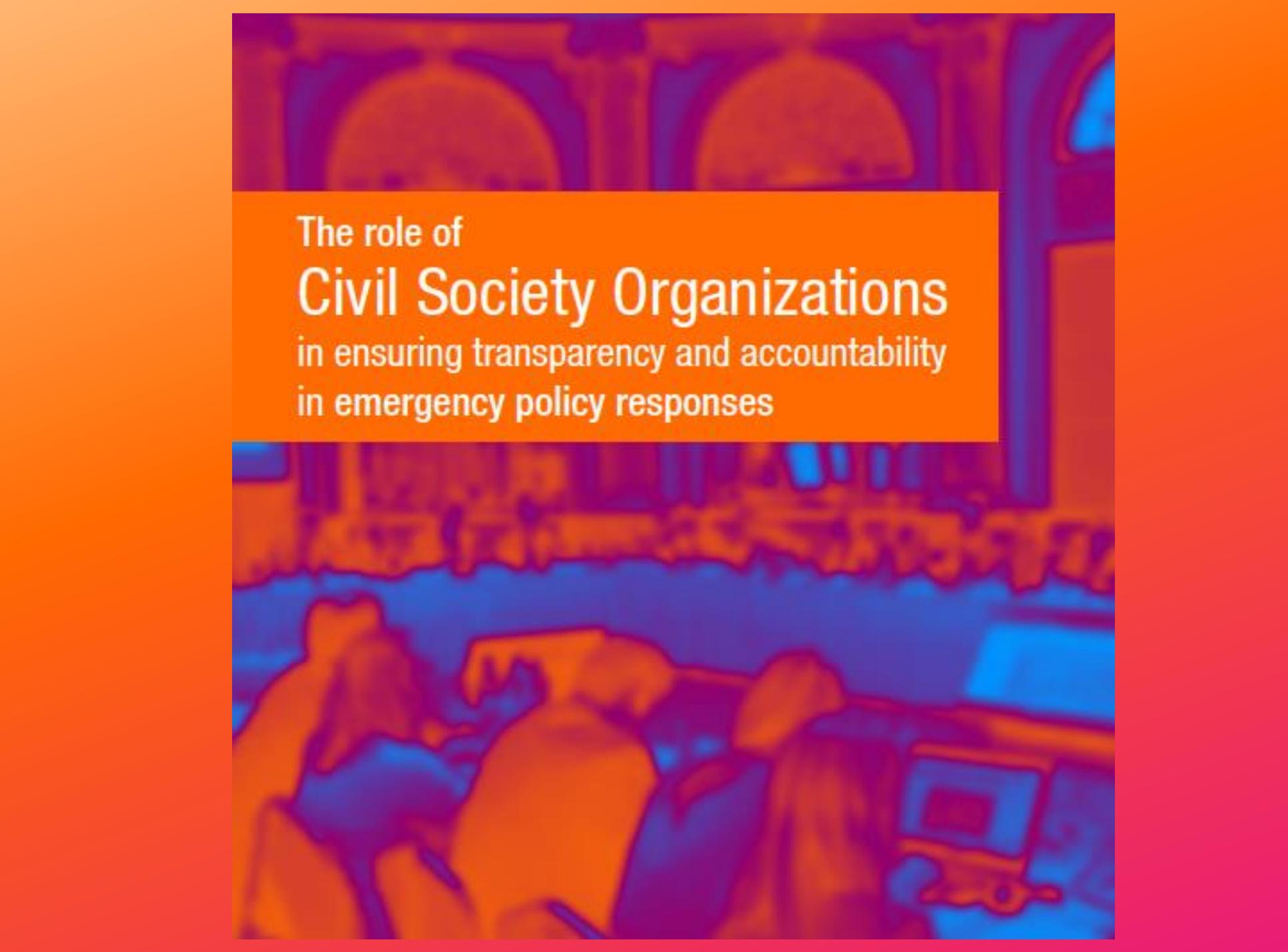
3) **Advisory Group**: government/civil society compact council group for feedback and recommendations for the design and implementation of the participation mechanism and the communication with GIFT/IBP

4) **Work Plan**: outlining concrete steps, roles and responsibilities of the main government authorities that will be involved in implementing activities to improve fiscal transparency, a detailed timeline for disclosing new information, and an action plan with specific steps to establishing a participation mechanism, identifying roles and responsibilities and ensuring inclusiveness, impact, relevance and sustainability

A Central Piece of FOA Strategy

The Advisory Groups

1. Is this about participation, inclusion, impact, sustainability ?
2. Basic role: feedback and recommendations on the selection, design and implementation of the participation mechanism
3. Functions: submit proposals, comments, suggestions, working groups, record keeping, communications + meetings with GIFT/IBP
4. Roles of government officials, CSO, processes, requirements, decisions, observers



The role of
Civil Society Organizations
in ensuring transparency and accountability
in emergency policy responses

CSOs in Emergency Responses

<http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/resourcesfiles/files/20200430162.pdf>

- Note on the role that CSOs in contributing to and supporting emergency policy responses
- PP has complemented and increased the effectiveness of existing governance and accountability systems
- CSOs fulfilling the roles of advocacy, contestation, and bottom-up leadership can generate collective knowledge and press public authorities to serve better
- CSOs have been instrumental for broadening the discussion & policy options, improving the policy responses & implementation, raising awareness for inclusion and addressing the challenge of inequality

More than 30 examples of designing and implementing the support packages

The role of digital tools in COVID-19 responses

Social distancing and home confinement cannot mean budget opacity or lack of accountability. It is crucial to inform about the measures, their rationale, the role of the public in the implementation, the array of relief measures available and how they can be accessed

Digital tools are crucial to disseminate this information, as they can help to:

- Allow data tracing from design to implementation, and further to reporting, monitoring and evaluation
- Target new and specific groups
- Enhance the implementation of processes
- Scale up participation in processes, such as participatory budgeting and citizens assemblies
- Provide feedback, complaint mechanisms and engagement methods

GIFT Transparency Guide for Emergency Response

- Open call to develop a **practical guide depicting emergency response user-centered fiscal transparency data needs**
- The goal is to ensure that emergency responses, economic recovery packages and financial rescue plans include transparency requirements and that the datasets are open by design
- The main objective is to inform and support MoF in processes of identifying what data to collect to trace design and implementation for decision making, and to identify what data needs to be published to enable effective monitoring and oversight

Stay tuned!

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