

VOLUME I: CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES

# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN AFRICA A TRAINING COMPANION

With cases from eastern and southern Africa



# Participatory Budgeting in Africa:

A Training Companion with cases from eastern and southern Africa

Volume I: Concepts and Principles

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Volume I: Concepts and Principles

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## Foreword

**P**articipatory budgeting is emerging as an innovative urban management practice with excellent potential to promote principles of good urban governance. Indeed, participatory budgeting can yield many benefits to local government and civil society alike. It can improve transparency in municipal expenditures and stimulate citizens' involvement in decision-making over public resources. It can redirect municipal investment toward basic infrastructure for poorer neighbourhoods. It can strengthen social networks and help mediate differences between elected leaders and civil society groups.

By broadening and deepening citizen participation in the allocation of public resources, participatory budgeting appears as a positive process for the construction of inclusive cities, where those who are traditionally marginalized are breaking out of the cycle of exclusion. Participatory budgeting can thus become an important tool in the democratization of cities. The practice has expanded from its Latin-American roots and an increasing number of cities worldwide are now adopting it with many local variations.

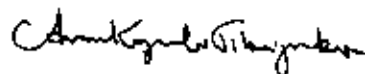
In Africa, participatory budgeting is rapidly gaining attention from governments, civil society, and international development agencies as an innovative platform for strengthening citizens' voice in budgetary processes and in the delivery of public goods and services. It is increasingly recognized that participatory budgeting is not only an effective mechanism for African cities to improve targeting of public resources to the poor, but also a new tool, in support of decentralization and social accountability.

In response to increasing requests from African cities, UN-HABITAT, in partnership with Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde ENDA-Ecopop (Senegal), the Muni-

pal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa (Zimbabwe), and El Centro Internacional de Gestión Urbana (Ecuador), is working toward building the capacity of local governments in Africa for the introduction and application of participatory budgeting.

This Training Companion is one of the results of this interregional collaboration. It is based on concepts and illustrative examples from African cities that recently initiated participatory budgeting. Considering the diversity of subregional settings, two versions of the Companion are published, one each for English- and French-speaking Africa. The Companion provides visibility and resonance to the efforts that have been made by many anonymous women and men of Latin America to improve democracy and construct participatory governance in their own cities. The interregional collaboration in the preparation of this Companion has also generated a process of mutual learning across language groups and regions in Africa as well as in Latin America. The inputs of the various institutions, including sensitization events and pilot workshops, underscore the multiple ownership of the publication.

I hope this Training Companion will serve as a source of inspiration for those decision-makers and urban managers who are committed to introduce participatory budgeting in African municipalities as a tool for innovative local governance. We welcome your views on how to improve this manual including lessons and experiences from the field.



**Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka**  
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