

Make
budgets
public
now

What is BTAP?

The **Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation (BTAP)** is an effort by a broad range of activists and organizations working on public finance and budget accountability issues around the world to achieve human rights. **BTAP** was launched in November 2011 during its First Global Assembly and in which all of its member organizations embraced a cause, expressed in The Dar es Salaam Declaration on Budget Transparency, Accountability, and Participation (November 18, 2011).

While much has improved from the time when governments justified unrestricted budget secrecy, much more can and must be achieved. Progress has been unequal among all countries, and among all levels of government within countries. Progress has also not been sustained –often, the achievements of today come undone tomorrow. Finally, progress has been uneven: it has been easier to gain access to budget information than to advance mechanisms for participation and accountability. As a response to this situation, **BTAP** seeks to improve budget transparency, accountability and participation in every country but especially in those who do not comply with the minimum standards.

At **BTAP** we believe that transparent and inclusive budgets are a key piece to improve service delivery, poverty alleviation, the realization of human rights, social justice, and environmental sustainability. We believe that citizens are entitled to know and influence what governments are doing on our behalf, in our name, and with our money. At the moment, **BTAP** brings together over 130 civil society organizations from more than 60 countries in an integrated and vibrant movement that works at the local, national, and international level.

BTAP's Structure

BTAP is a member-driven initiative. To coordinate and guide its actions, members decided to provide the Movement with a flexible governance structure, which is composed of a Steering Committee, which acts on its behalf while serving as regional nodes. In addition, **BTAP** has a full time Movement Coordinator, Rocio Moreno, who is responsible for coordinating and implementing global advocacy campaigns, fundraising and communications.

Furthermore, thematic Working Groups were created to address specific budget areas and issues. Currently, **BTAP** has three active Working Groups:

- Maternal Health – The group aims to promote the implementation of policies and programs to reduce preventable maternal morbidity and mortality.
- ESCR - The group seeks to answer how governments can best raise, allocate and spend their budget so as to comply with these three key human rights obligations.
- Norms - This group is working towards advancing ideals for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation that would benefit citizens, if countries' authorities agree.

BTAP's Campaign:



At the moment **BTAP** has one active campaign: **Make Budgets Public NOW!** This campaign was launched globally in March 2013 at the World Social Forum. In addition, we also launched 5 national campaigns in Kyrgyz Republic, Vietnam, Fiji, Egypt and Senegal.

The Campaign seeks to advance budget transparency, accountability and participation in countries that have the least transparent budget processes. This situation reduces dramatically citizens' possibilities to participate in and hold government accountable for decision-making processes that have a direct impact on their lives.

The goals of the campaign focus on ensuring that all countries in the world meet the most basic standards for open budgeting. These require that governments:

1. Publish the budget proposal they table in Congress;
2. Publish an independent audit of government progress against this proposal;
3. Allow public hearings during the budget debate in the legislature; and,
4. Publish a citizen's budget

For more information on the campaign, go to:
www.makebudgetspublic.org

For more information on BTAP:

Please refer to BTAP's website (www.globalbtap.org) or you can also contact BTAP's Global Coordinator, Rocio Moreno (rocio@globalbtap.org).

How can I join BTAP?

To join BTAP, organizations are required to formalize their membership by endorsing the Dar es Salaam Declaration. The Declaration is available on BTAP's website and it can be signed online.

