

## About the Rift Valley Budget Hub

The Rift Valley Budget Hub was established in 2021 by Budget facilitators with support from CEDGG and the International Budget Partnership Kenya. The hub is a platform for budget practitioners in the region to build synergy in the county, regional and national level budget engagement. It is also a platform for peer-to-peer learning on best practices in the budget processes.

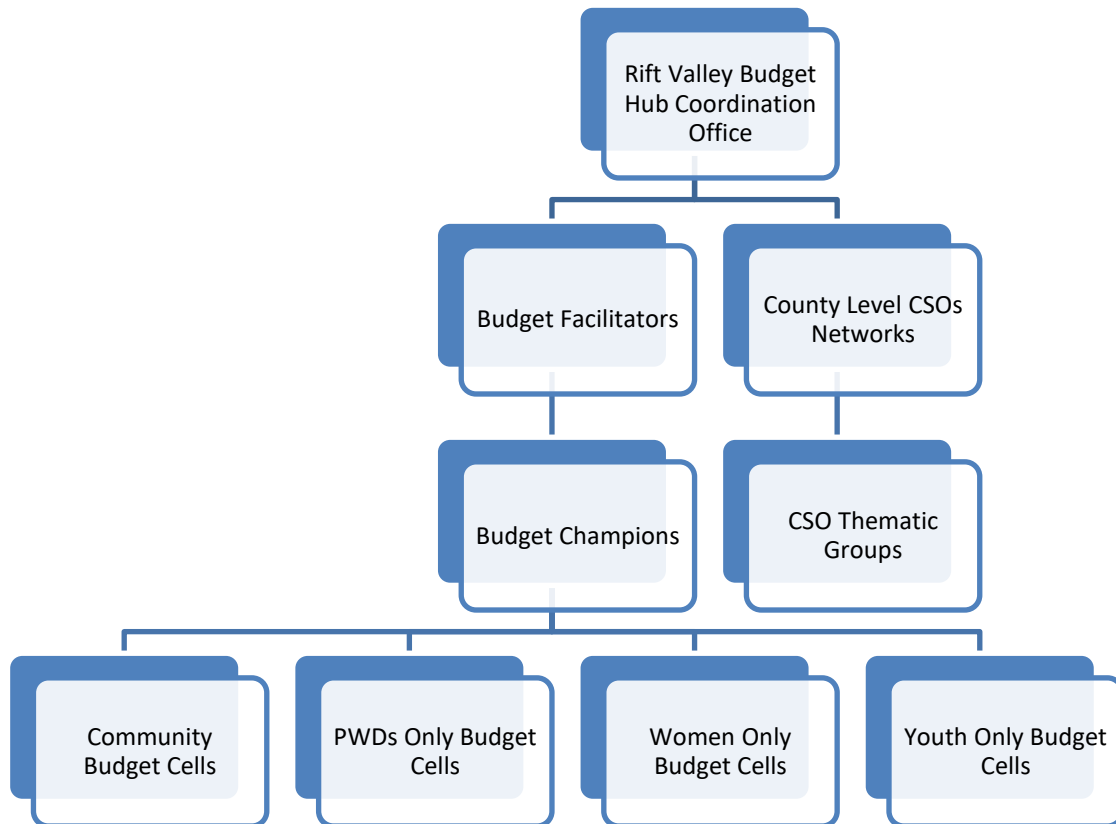
### *The structure:*

The Rift Valley Budget Hub is led by 12 Budget Facilitators. These are individuals drawn from civil society organizations operating in **Baringo, Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet, Kericho, West Pokot, Bomet and Nandi Counties**; who have been trained on budget content and advocacy and work with communities within their counties to engage with national and county budget processes to improve their livelihoods.

Each budget facilitator works with a minimum of **15 Budget Champions** and thus there are more than 180 Budget Champions linked to the hub. For effective policy level advocacy, the Budget Facilitators work with coalitions of Civil Society Organizations at the County level. Some of the CSO networks are further organized into thematic groups that are aligned to public/sectors – Education and Vocational Training, Health, Agriculture, Climate Change and Community Resilience etc.

The budget champions have gone further to form networks below the ward level referred to **Community Budget Cells**. A budget cell comprises of up to 30 local development animators who push the community budget agenda throughout the budget cycle. These include i.e. *Local development Committees (representatives of Health Facility Management Committees, Water Project Committees, Cattle Dip Committees, Climate Change Committees etc) networks of local business persons, religious leaders, traditional leadership structures (council of elders), Self-Help Groups etc.*

To amplify the voice of vulnerable and marginalized the hub has also incubated special budget cells for **women, PWDs and youth**. This is based on the learning that women and PWDs in their own spaces are able to deliberate budgets at their own pace and in their own 'language'; as opposed to conventional spaces, where their voices are drowned in the voices of the other more influential groups. These spaces improve their knowledge, confidence and skills to negotiate on budget matters. They also come up with budget priorities that address their unique needs. Even where, these priorities are similar to those identified by the larger community, their experiences in service delivery provide stronger justifications.



### Why the hub?

In the year 2010 Kenya’s governance took a positive leap through promulgation of a new constitution. Citizen participation was augmented as national value and principle of governance. The constitution requires government to facilitate public participation in all matters of public finance management.

The budget-making process is a complex with multiple actors and multiple decisions taking place either concurrently or feeding into each other. There are also systemic budget issues that restrain credibility of budgets i.e. *revenue underperformance, unsustainable public debt, low budget transparency, slow implementation* among others.

This means that for meaningful participation in the budget process, citizens need to understand *the stages involved in budget-making, the decisions being made at every stage, the key factors being considered for each decision, the actors involved, the timelines and the opportunities for public participation in every stage.*

Devolution

To this end, Uraia Trust and IBPK initiated a programme dubbed, the Kenya County Budget Facilitators Programme. The programme trained 72 Budget Facilitators across the country, in 4 cohorts.

However, it was observed that upon completion of the training, there was very minimal collaboration among the budget facilitators thus limiting the impact of the advocacy. Even where there were good practices

emerging from citizens-led budget engagement, there was no platform for cross-learning among the budget facilitators and budget champions.

Therefore, the hub was established to address low capacity among citizens to engage in budget decisions sustainably. It was also meant to expand spaces for information sharing, inclusive budget deliberations and leaning among actors in especially given the dynamic nature of budget spaces

### ***Our interventions***

- Budget Training, Analysis and Engagement
- Collaborative Budget Research
- Monitoring Budget Implementation
- Incubation of innovative spaces for public deliberations & engagement
- Developing knowledge products on citizens-led budget engagement
- Supporting exchange learning

### **Our key Achievements**

***Capacity Building:*** The hub has trained 12 Budget Facilitators, over 180 Budget Champions and over 1,000 members of the community Budget Cells on the budget processes i.e. Budget decisions, the key timelines, the key actors and the key considerations. As they conduct joint budget analysis and engagement, Budget Facilitators, Budget Champions, and Community Budget Cells continue to grow their budget knowledge, skills, and influence. In addition, our engagement with Government MDAs employs a capacity building approach thus a number of government officials have had their capacity strengthened. The focus has been to equip the duty bearers with knowledge, information and skills needed for them to exercise their obligation to engage citizens in budget decisions e.g. *pillars for effective public deliberations, the principles/ tenets of budget transparency etc*

***Amplified community voice in water sector budget decisions:*** Since its inception, the hub has organized budget deliberations involving CSOs, media, County Governments- Departments responsible for water service delivery, Water Service Providers (government-owned water companies) and the Central and North Rift Water Works Development Agencies on water sector budget priorities, water sector budget implementation and promoting equity in water access. The hub also supports citizens, from the target counties, to engage in the National Government budget spaces including Environmental, Protection, Water and Natural Resources Sector Hearings, National Assembly Budgets and Appropriation Committee Hearings and roundtable with SAGAs in water sector. The hub has influenced budget decisions in the sector, the key gains being progressive allocations and implementation water projects in the Rift Valley Region and more so water scarce locations to promote equitable development.

***Development of infopacks:*** Information generated through budget analysis, budget implementation monitoring, and budget research has been consolidated into infopacks (data base) which are key reference for budget analysis and advocacy. The infopacks are rich with data on historical performance, emerging systemic issues, and possible solutions. Beyond keeping communities informed, the infopacks inform both citizens-led and government-led budget deliberation and builds strong justifications for budget decisions.

**Budget Transparency:** The target counties has performed relatively well in subsequent County Budget Transparency Survey. For instance, County Budget Transparency Survey 2022<sup>1</sup> show an improvement in the Counties of **West Pokot from 71/100 to 78/100 , Baringo from 30/ 100 to 57/ 100 points, Nakuru from 44/100 to 51/100 , Kericho from 12/100 to 34/100, Nandi from 57/100 to 62/100 and Bomet from 46/100 to 53/100.**

All these are attributed to continuous advocacy on budget transparency through highlighting in transparency issues in all our budget memorandum, monitoring the county websites and proffering feedback to the relevant county offices and direct engagement including and not limited walk-in, calls in and sending emails to demand for budget information and sensitization of duty bearers on their obligations to facilitate access to budget information.

**Media engagement:** The hub has informed media content around county and national budget decisions. Budget stories in print and social media have highlighted budget concerns in the region. Media constantly reaches out to the Rift Valley Budget Hub for views on topical budget and related policy issues.

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



### Media Links:

<https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/north-rift-residents-welcome-budget-but-frown-at-housing-tax-4271714>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSD1gjz\\_oWU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSD1gjz_oWU)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_2JQkbhCCxJLLYzNHANaMq43TpQBod8R/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_2JQkbhCCxJLLYzNHANaMq43TpQBod8R/view?usp=drive_link)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://internationalbudget.org/publications/kenyas-county-budget-transparency-survey-2022/#:~:text=The%20survey%20evaluates%20the%20availability,2022%20compared%20to%20CBTS%202021.>

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/rift-valley/2021-07-31-budget-absorption-challenge-for-water-departments-in-rift-valley/>

<https://nakurunews.co.ke/lobby-groups-decry-low-public-participation-on-national-budget-process/>

<https://businesstoday.co.ke/why-clean-water-for-all-remains-a-pipedream/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BaringoNews/videos/2649911378594674>

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1923341397797105&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1923341397797105&ref=watch_permalink)

<https://www.facebook.com/BaringoNews/photos/a.695797717132551.1073741828.695588333820156/1310293535682963/?type=3&theater>

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/rift-valley/2019-11-14-three-of-10-trek-30-min-daily-for-water-in-baringo/>

<http://www.riftnews.co.ke/news/civil-society-group-call-for-speedy-implementation-of-bppa-2015/>

<http://www.kenyanews.go.ke/public-interest-to-run-supreme-in-baringo-projects/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BaringoNews/photos/a.698901973488792/2546124568766514/?type=3&theater>