

## **State of Budget Transparency in Pakistan**

### **Terms of Reference**

Pakistan's dismal performance on Open Budget index in the recent years have raised many questions on the state of budget transparency and citizens participation in budget making process. The Open Budget report is based on federal budget and does not take into account the sub-national (provincial) governments.

After the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment to the constitution of Pakistan, majority of financial resources have been devolved to the provinces. It is very important to keep an eye on the state of budget transparency at provincial as well federal level and at same time engaging with the governments for more openness in the process.

CPDI has strived for openness in the budget at every level. For the past decade, CPDI has been gauging the transparency of district budgets all over the Pakistan. During the recent years, the focus of the exercise is at national and provincial level. This short-term consultancy opportunity is for devising and implementation of methodology for measuring the state of budget transparency in Pakistan. The methodology will also test the strength of right to information regime in Pakistan to get the budget related information.

The methodology to gauge the budget transparency at federal and provincial level has already been devised and reviewed. The methodology has two main parts: A) Testing the openness of government departments during the budget making process. This phase will be implemented by writing information requests to finance and at least 5 randomly selected line departments/ministries and sending them the information requests.

The second part consists of a detailed questionnaire. This questionnaire covers the following aspects: 1) Comprehensiveness and availability of enacted budget documents, ii) Citizens participation in budget making process, iii) Legislative oversight of executive in budget making process. iv) Public availability and contents of Citizens budget

This study will provide answer to the following question:

- a. What is the departmental response to right to information requests about budget making?
- b. How comprehensive are budget documents in Pakistan and how it can be compared with international best practices?
- c. Are budgets in Pakistan presented with the specific lens of gender, minorities, PWDs and children?

### **Activities**

#### **A. Developing Methodology**

1. Development of methodology for sending RTI requests. This include
  - a. Selection of Ministries/Departments at federal and provincial level
  - b. Developing survey questionnaire for feeding RTI request data
  - c. Methodology for grading the questions and ranking
2. Development of Methodology for The state of Budget Transparency in Pakistan. This include:
  - a. Gauging the comprehensiveness of budget documents
  - b. Citizens' budget and its contents

- c. Legislators' oversight of executives during budget making process
- d. Impact of Budget on marginalized communities
- e. Citizens Participation of Budget Making process

**B. Survey and Review of Budget Documents**

- a. Sending RTI requests to the selected departments and ministries
- b. Recording the result of RTI requests
- c. Comprehensive study of budget documents to fill the survey form for all provinces and federal government
- d. Ranking of the provincial and federal government for transparency, comprehensiveness of budget documents, legislative oversight of budget.

**C. Report Writing**

- a. Compiling all the results in one report
- b. Recommendations

**Qualification**

1. At least Master's degree in relevant discipline with more than eight years of experience of budget analysis and budget advocacy
2. Excellent understanding of budgetary issues including budget cycle, resource allocations and budget transparency
3. Excellent writing and presentation skills
4. Capability of in-depth budget analysis

**Timeline for Completion of the Assignment**

1. Maximum 30 days from the signing of the contract.
2. Assignment Person days:18 days

**How to apply:**

Interested individuals/firm can share their CV along with financial proposal [hr@cpdi-pakistan.org](mailto:hr@cpdi-pakistan.org) . Last date to apply is 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2021.