

The 'People's Budget' and Budget Effectiveness: the Case of Local Governments in Uganda

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Abstract · All over the world, participatory budgeting is being advocated. This is based on the belief that stakeholders' participation in the budgeting process improves transparency, accountability and service delivery. Using evidence from 105 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Kabalore and Kamwenge district local governments, therefore, this study set out to analyse the participation of CSOs in the budgeting process and the effectiveness of the budget process, as a result of such participation. The findings were that the participation of CSOs in the budgeting process is still very low and that the relationship between this participation and effectiveness of the budget process is very weak (Spearman's correlation coefficient = .08). Therefore, it is recommended that relevant organisations build the capacity of CSOs to participate in the budgeting process, to secure the benefits of budget effectiveness associated with such participation.

Keywords · Participatory budgeting · Civil society organizations · Democratic governance

*Le 'Budget du Peuple' et l'efficacité du Budget : Cas de Gouvernements Locaux en Ouganda · Résumé · Partout au monde, la campagne pour la participation dans le processus du budget est entrain être propagée. Ceci repose sur la croyance selon laquelle la participation par toutes les concernes parties dans le processus du budget augmente la transparence, la capacité d'être tenu responsable, et livraison de services. Usant l'évidence à partir 105 Organisations de la Société Civile (OSC) dans les gouvernements locaux de districts de Kabalore et Kamwenge, il en découle que cette étude reste déterminée à analyser la participation d'OSC dans le processus du budget et l'efficacité de ce processus, comme retombée d'une telle participation. Les résultats ont montré que la participation d'OSC dans le processus du budget reste très minime et que la relation entre cette participation et l'efficacité du processus du budget est tellement faible (le coefficient de corrélation de Spearman = .08). C'est ainsi qu'il est recommandée que d'importantes organisations façonnent la capacité d'OSC à participer dans le processus du budget afin d'assurer les profits de l'efficacité du budget associés avec une telle participation. **Mots Clé** · Participation dans le processus du budget · Organisations de la société civile · gouvernance démocratique*

Introduction

The budget is one of the main instruments of the public sector to achieve society's goals. Broadly and normatively defined, it is a representation of society's preferences and priorities (Cameron 2009). However, the process of arriving at a budget often involves difficult political decisions on how resources should be raised and allocated across various competing uses (Blair, 2009). In

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addition, budgets are the product of an iterative process revolving around the budget cycle, which covers preparation, drafting, approval, implementation and monitoring and evaluation (Brautigam 2004). Any meaningful analysis of the budget should focus on this entire process, rather than just on the actual allocations. The current trend in the government budgeting process therefore seems to emphasise on opening budgets for public participation and more especially involving civil society organization in the budgeting process (Gomez et. al., 2004).

This research has analysed CSO's participation in the budgeting process and the effectiveness on the budget process as a result of such participation in Kabalore and Kamwenge district LGs.

The evidence collected in this research is helpful in strengthening advocacy for financing and expanding participative budgeting in Local Governments (LGs). Besides this, this evidence can be used in mainstreaming participative budgeting in public finance policy.

Problem

Despite signs of success, the direct contributions of participative budgeting by civil society and NGOs in helping enhance public finance policy is not yet well researched, nor recognized in the public finance sphere. A principal challenge is that formal empirical evidence on the effect of participative budgeting on budget effectiveness is scarce.

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the level of civil society participation in the budgeting process.
2. To establish the relationships between Civil Society Participation and the effectiveness of the budgeting process.

Hypothesis

Civil society participation will not significantly improve the effectiveness of the local government budgeting process.

Literature Review

According to article 38 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, every Ugandan citizen has the right to participate in the affairs of government, individually or through his or her representatives in accordance with the law. Article 38 (2) of the constitution goes further to stipulate; "Every Ugandan has the right to participate in peaceful activities to influence the policies of government through civic organizations."

The engagement of civil society in the budget formulation process is increasingly being viewed important for strengthening people's empowerment. The United Nations Human Development report (2003), describes civic engagement as a "process, not an event that closely involves people in the economic, social, cultural and political process that affect their lives". This implies that civic or citizen engagement is an ongoing process that requires continuous participation.

Budgeting institutions should be able to draw policy input from the grassroots that includes traditional leaders, church groups and other organisations working closely with the grassroots. The civic engagement should provide policy space for the grassroots to demand transparency and accountability from their leaders (Breta 1996).

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is the process by which citizens deliberate and negotiate over the distribution of public resources. Participatory Budgeting programmes are implemented at the behest of governments, citizens, NGOs and civil society organisations to give citizens a direct role in deciding how and where public resources should be spent. These programmes create opportunities for engaging, educating, and empowering citizens, which can foster a more vibrant civil society. Participatory budgeting also helps to promote transparency, which has the potential to reduce government inefficiencies and corruption. Participative budgeting creates new ways of thinking, educates, and leads to cultural changes. It both recognizes the importance of group participation and encourages individual citizens to claim her or his rights. It demands a decentralized form of governance, creating a direct relationship between key government staff and the community.

The LG Budget

A local government budget is the detailed plan of how a local government plans to spend funds in line with its objectives, needs and priorities. The three main tools that enable integrated planning and budgeting are (LG Budget Committee, 2003);

- The District Development Plan (DDP) which constitutes the overall, integrated, planning tool that incorporates the plans of lower local governments, and sector departments, and includes all activities to be undertaken by local government, whether funded by the centre, local revenue, unconditional grants, or donors.
- The LG Budget Framework Paper (BFP) which articulates a Local Government's 3 year budget strategy, and through integrating planning and budgeting helps ensure that the budget decisions reflect a LG's long term objectives.
- The Budget, which alongside the annual work plan make the integrated annual performance and financial plan for the coming financial year, sets out in detail the expected revenues available to the LGs, and the allocation of funds to the different parts of the local government for the achievement of the activities and outputs set out in the annual work plan in details.

District Local Governments have the right and obligation to formulate, approve and execute their budgets and plans under Section 78 of the Local Governments Act 1997, but their plans and budgets need to reflect priorities and objectives set out in national policies, plans and budgets. The district local government budget process is divided in three stages as detailed below.

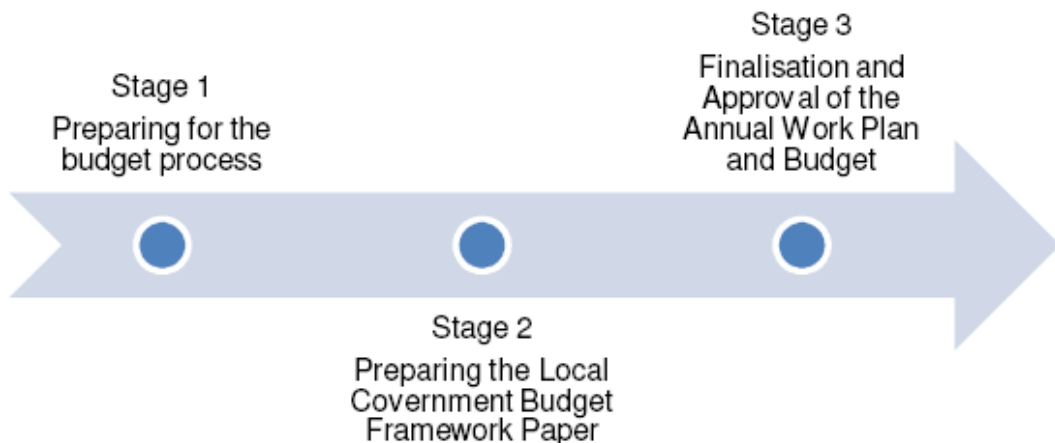


Figure1: Stages in the Budget Process

Stage 1: Preparing for the Budget Process

The Local Government Budget Committee will meet and review the local government performance in the previous financial year and agree upon modalities and conditions for the planning and budgeting process, including – among other things the flexibility for reallocation between and within sectors.

The ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development also holds a National Budget Conference whose purpose is to discuss and communicate national policies, overall sector budget ceilings, and local government sector allocations. Thereafter it holds Regional Local Government Budget Framework Paper workshops primarily for members of the Local Government Budget Desk, heads of departments and key politicians. These workshops inform local governments about the budget ceilings for both recurrent and development grants.

It is upon the information received from the above workshops that the budget desk prepares a Local Government Budget call circular which it circulates to all stakeholders involved in the budget preparation. The budget call sets out the timing of events in the budget process and what is expected of key stakeholders involved.

Stage 2: Preparing the LG Budget Framework Paper

This stage starts by having the Lower LGs (LLG) reviewing their performance against the previously planned, and identifying the activities they wish to carry out under sector development grants over the medium term and compiling development plans. It is the interest of this research to establish whether these plans take into account, the views and aspirations of civil society organisations operating at this level.

The planning unit then compiles the LLG plans, and the combined LLG sector allocations are distributed to sectors. Departments then review the planned LLG sector investment decisions, and allocate the district share of sector grant allocations and Local Development Grant. They then prepare the sector element of the development plan, and identify and prioritise any un-funded sector investments, in line with the Budget Call identification of priority areas. Sectors then review performance against previous work plans, and budgets against expenditure. They then prioritise expenditures within the indicative budget ceilings providing to them, justifying allocations in terms of medium term objectives, past performance and expected outputs.

Sector committees review sector input to the budget framework paper, and development plan including past sector performance, preliminary sector allocations, and un-funded priorities. The budget desk then compiles the draft budget framework paper, and the planning unit then completes the compilation of the draft DDP. These are then submitted to the Technical Planning Committee, who together with the budget desk undertakes a technical examination of the contributions from outstanding committees. The technical examination aims to ensure that the budget proposals are realistic and consistent with council's policies, the available resources and national policies.

A meeting of the Executive, Chairpersons of Sector Committees and Heads of Department is then convened to review and discuss the draft BFP and DDP, and prioritise sector expenditures. The meeting reviews the ranking of the un-funded priorities proposed by sector committees in the BFP and takes preliminary decisions on what should and should not be funded from the available pool of funds. This includes agreement on which sector investments to be funded using the district share of the Local Development Grant.

The budget desk will on the basis of the output of the budget conference make a final draft of the BFP and prepare the medium term budget to be presented to the Executive Committee, who in turn upon endorsement of the document submit it to the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development by the deadline specified in the National Budget Call, which is usually 31st December.

As seen from above, this stage is perhaps the most crucial in the budget process, as it is during this time that the widest consultations on the LG's Budget strategy takes place, and prioritisation of expenditures and programmes are made. The process of sector prioritisation and setting of performance targets, alongside the lower local government planning process helps inform the prioritisation process carried out by Council in the Budget Conference.

It therefore sounds logical to take on board civil society organizations when writing the budget as they may provide a useful input especially while assessing the external environment especially the population needs, wants, characteristics etc. Their contribution to, and understanding of the whole process may help in coming up with more realistic outputs and inputs in the budget. The interest of this study once again is to assess civil society participation, local government officials' managerial expertise and the effectuality of the budgeting process at this stage.

Stage 3: Finalization and Approval of the Annual Work plan and Budget

According to the LG Budget guidelines, the third and final stage of the budget preparation is the finalization of the work plan and budget, and the presentation to and approval of the budget by

council. After the budget conference, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development reviews local governments BFPs, checks that conditional grant allocations are consistent with the minimum allocations, and reviews LDG allocations. Upon completion of the review, issues are incorporated into the LGBFP and amendments to grant allocations integrated into the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The National Budget Framework Paper (BFP) is submitted to cabinet, and once it has been passed, the local governments will receive final budget ceilings, thus enabling them finalizing their annual work plan and budget estimates.

Once comments and final budget ceilings have been received from the Ministry of Finance the Budget Desk informs heads of departments and sector committees, and lower local governments of changes to the grant ceilings for their final input to the process. By the beginning of June, heads of departments will have finalized their work plans and the sector committees will then review the final draft work plans and draft budget estimates assisted by the budget desk. Similarly LLG will have revised their development plans. The input from the sector committees serve as a final input to the meetings to be held in the Finance and Planning Committee and the Executive Committee respectively.

In the beginning of June, the Executive committee assisted by the Budget Desk, finalizes the annual work plan and budget to be read in a council meeting to be held at the latest 15th June. Section 83(4) of the LG Act requires that LGs pass a budget not later than 15th June.

At the council meeting for the reading of the budget, the chairperson will present the development plan, the annual work plan and budget to the council. This meeting gives all councillors the opportunity to debate the budget proposal, and the prioritisation of those activities to be incorporated in the budget. If possible any outstanding issues on the budget should be resolved and the budget should be approved at the meeting.

Since the final approved budget is a legally binding document, it is very important that it reflects the views and aspirations of all stakeholders in the district. This will not only ensure its success, but the ownership, transparency and accountability of the budgeting process.

As already mentioned this study is meant to establish the extent of civil society participation, managerial expertise and effectuality of the budgeting process at this stage.

Comparison of the District Local Government Budget Process with the generic budget process

The generic budget process normally has all the three stages mentioned above, plus two others that include budget Implementing and Monitoring (Blair 2000). For the purpose of this study, the budgeting process will be considered to include the following stages.

1. Preparing for the budget process
2. Preparing the Local Government Budget Frame work Paper
3. Finalisation and Approval of the budget
4. Budget Implementation, and
5. Budget monitoring and evaluation.

Having already discussed the first three stages above, this section concentrates on the last two that deal with budget implementation and monitoring.

Stage 4: Budget Implementation

Once approved, the budget is a legal document by which the council authorizes the Local Government Administration to spend money on its behalf in order to carry out council programmes. The District Development Plan (DDP), National BFP, annual work plan and budget are all linked so that at any stage an activity can be identified in the DDP. The approved budget is legally binding and should be communicated to the public.

The budget can be disseminated through displays on official notice boards, printing and publishing simplified versions, holding disseminations workshops, etc. Civil society can be of great help at this stage as some may have developed expertise to do these kinds of activities.

During implementation in-year reports should be regularly produced and these should help to make a comparison between actual and budgeted revenues and expenditures so that corrective

action is taken before the year ends. These reports help to inform the public and civil society on the progress of implementation of the budget.

Stage 5: Budget Monitoring and Evaluation

It is vital that you monitor a budget by checking what actually happened against what you budgeted to happen, investigating the reasons why there are discrepancies, taking corrective action, and then assessing how you could improve your budgeting in the future.

Civil society organizations are on the ground and they are the intended recipients of the services provided by local governments. They can therefore provide a very good mechanism for monitoring local government budget performance. The important question here is whether Civil Society Organisations have the expertise, and know-how to do this, and whether they are provided with enough information to guide them in the monitoring process. This study therefore will make an attempt in answering these questions.

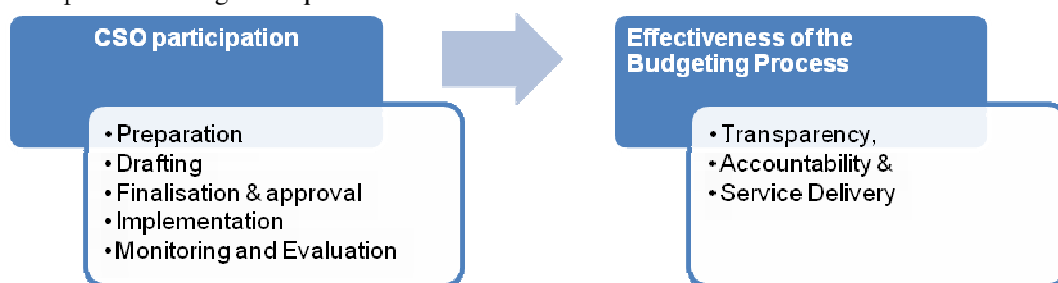


Figure 2: Civil Service Organisation Participation and Effectiveness of the Budgeting Process
 Source: Adapted from Local Government Budget Committee (2003) and Cameron (2009)

The independent variable is civil society participation in the budgeting process of local governments. This looks at civil society participation in all the five stages of the budgeting process, and Indicators of participation will include among other things meetings attended, resource contributions made individually or through a network organisation, etc. It is termed so because of what we have just described in the theoretical framework above.

The dependent variable is Effectuality effectiveness of the budgeting process. Indicators of effectiveness will include transparency, accountability, and quality of service delivery by the district local government.

Methodology

The research was conducted as an analytical, cross-sectional study of the relationships between civil society participation and the effectiveness of the budgeting process in the two randomly selected districts.

Primary data was collected from Executives of district and civil society organizations. A literature review in search of secondary data in the areas of planning, budgeting and budget implementation was undertaken with specific reference to the local governments planning processes as recommended by the ministries of LG and Finance, the local government budget committee and the local government finance commission.

The population frame used to select the sample was obtained from the districts' NGO forum registers of civil society organizations working in each of the districts under study. Each organisation in the sample was treated as the unit of analysis.

A sample of 105 civil society organizations in the districts of Kabalore and Kamwenge was selected using simple random sampling techniques.

Structured questionnaires using a five point likert scale were developed, pre-tested, and administered by the researcher to collect data on civil society participation and the effectiveness of the budgeting process. A Cronbach's coefficient alpha of 0.91 for civil society participation and 0.78 for effectiveness of the budgeting indicate that the tool used was reliable since Sekaran (2003)

considers a coefficient of 0.5 to be adequate. The developed instrument was shared with research experts in Local Government and budgeting who commented on the clarity and appropriateness of the instrument. The data collected was analysed using SPSS version 16.

Findings

Nature of Activities for the Civil Society Organisations

Most of the civil society organisations are engaged in training and community based activities. A number of them are engaged in advisory and advocacy activities, and counselling and research. The nature of activities organisations engage in vary from one to many, and therefore the range of choices given were not mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive. The research instrument was designed in such a way that it offered a wide range of the nature of activities that organisations undertake. Table 1 shows the distribution of activities among the civil society organisations in the sample.

Table 1: Distribution of Activities among the Civil Society Organisations

S/No	Nature of activities	Number of organizations	% of total (105)
1	Training	50	48
2	Community based services	50	48
3	Advisory	29	28
4	Advocacy	29	28
5	Counselling	24	23
6	Research	22	21
7	Business services	9	9
8	Direct service delivery	7	8
9	Direct Funding	6	5

Civil Society Organisations' Coverage

Most (62%) of the organisations in the sample operate in Kabalore district while 40% in Kamwenge district. Table 2 gives the geographical coverage of the organisations in the sample.

Table 2: Geographical Coverage of the Civil Service Organisations

S/No	Geographical coverage	Number of organizations	% of total (105)
1	Kabalore	65	62
2	Kamwenge	40	41

Descriptive Statistics

The variables of LG Participation, and Effectiveness of the Budgeting Process were assessed on a five point Likert scale: 1) Strongly disagree; 2) Disagree; 3) Undecided; 4) Agree; and 5) Strongly agree. A general score for each of the above variables was calculated and the results are detailed in Table 3.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of LG participation and Effectuality of the Budgeting Process

Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max	Skewness	Kurtosis
Participation	105	2.33	0.50	1.00	3.39	-0.028	3.225
Effectiveness of budgeting process	105	3.12	0.44	1.05	3.71	-1.804	8.833

From the above results the mean for participation is 2.33 meaning that all responses on this variable lie between disagree and undecided. The mean for effectiveness of the budgeting is 3.12 meaning that respondents were either undecided or agreed with the statements in the scales. The standard deviations of 0.5 for participation and 0.4 for effectiveness of budgeting indicate that the respondents are very close to the mean.

Civil Society Participation in the Budgeting Process

Twenty eight items in the survey required respondents to express the extent of their agreement to the different statements measuring the level of civil society participation.

The respondents mostly did not agree with the statement that: Civil Society organisations regularly attend the national budget conference organised by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. On the other hand they mostly agreed with the statement that: We have participated in implementing programmes and decisions by cooperating in specific organisations activities.

As already mentioned, a respondents' general opinion score on the scale was calculated and had a mean of 2.33 and standard deviation of 0.5. The mean score indicates that respondents answers were mostly between disagree and undecided. The minimum of 1 on the participation scale indicates that some civil society organisations don't participate at all, while the maximum of 3.39 indicates that there are very few that participate in the local governments budgeting process.

In order to get a full understanding of civil society participation at each of the five stages of the budgeting process, descriptive statistics were calculated for each of the stages, and the findings are elucidated below.

Preparing for the Budget Process

Nine items measured civil society participation during this stage. The alpha reliability for this scale was 0.7886 with an average inter item covariance of 0.279686. The items' means and standard deviations ranged from 1.78 to 2.91, and 0.62 to 1.2 respectively, as detailed in Table 4.

For all the nine items, a score was calculated yielding a mean and standard deviation of 2.42 and 0.60 respectively. The mean indicates that respondents either disagreed or were undecided that civil society participates in the budgeting process at this stage. The minimum score of one means that some organizations don't participate, while the maximum of four means that others participate in the "Preparing for the budget process" stage of the budgeting process.

Table 4: Participation in the Preparation for the Budget Process

S/N	Item	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
	Preparing for the budget process	2.42	0.60	1.00	4
1	Our organisation is represented during the preparations for the local government budgeting and planning process	2.63	1.17	1	5
2	We regularly attend the national budget conference organised by the ministry of finance	1.78	0.62	1	4
3	We regularly attend the regional Local Government Budget Framework Paper workshops.	2.04	0.84	1	4
4	We have ever been specifically asked for an input into the local government budgeting and planning process	2.78	1.20	1	5
5	We have developed budget training expertise that is directed at augmenting the analytical and advocacy capacity of other CSOs, legislature and the media.	2.54	1.00	1	5
6	Our organisation has ever carried out budgeting & planning related training of Local Government Staff.	2.28	0.91	1	5
7	Our organisation has ever carried out budgeting & planning related training of members of other civil society organisations.	2.91	1.02	1	5
8	Our organisation has ever undertaken research of interest to Local Governments budgeting and planning processes.	2.47	0.92	1	4
9	Our organisation's members have ever been trained by the Local Governments in budgeting/planning	2.31	1.00	1	5

Preparing the Local Government Budget Framework Paper

As detailed in Table 5, five items measured civil society participation during this stage. The alpha reliability for this scale was 0.7113, and the average inter-item covariance was 0.334899. The items means and standard deviations ranged from 2.18 to 2.76, and 0.86 to 1.13 respectively.

For all the five items, a score was calculated yielding a mean and standard deviation of 2.49 and 0.69 respectively. The mean indicates that respondents either disagreed or were undecided on whether civil society participates during the “Preparing the Local Government Budget Framework Paper” stage. The minimum score of one means that some organizations don’t participate at all, while the maximum score of four means that others participate in the “Preparing the Local Government Budget Framework Paper” stage of the budgeting process.

Table 5: Participation in Preparing the LG Budget Framework

S/N	Item	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
	Preparing the Local Government Budget Framework Paper	2.49	0.69	1.00	4.00
1	Our organisation is represented in the local government budget policy development meetings	2.50	1.13	1	5
2	We have ever presented a paper, during the local government planning and budgeting meeting.	2.18	0.86	1	4
3	We collaborate with government departments in respect of the local governments budgeting and planning processes	2.76	1.11	1	5
4	Based on our initiative and networks, we make both formal and informal interventions at the drafting stage.	2.59	1.01	1	4
5	Through our network, we prepare alternative budgets (citizens budget)	2.40	0.90	1	4

Finalisation and Approval of the Budget

Table 6 shows that three items measured people’s opinion on civil society participation during this stage. The alpha reliability for this scale was 0.7664, and the average inter-item covariance was 0.642791. The items means and standard deviations ranged from 2.41 to 3.18, and 1.05 to 1.17 respectively.

For all the three items, a score was calculated yielding a mean and standard deviation of 2.67 and 0.92 respectively. The mean indicates that respondents were more undecided than disagreed on whether civil society participates in the budgeting process at this stage. The minimum score of one means that some organizations don’t participate at all, while the maximum of 4.33 means that others tend to fully participate in the “Finalisation and Approval of the budget” stage of the budgeting process.

Table 6: Participation in the Finalisation and Approval of the annual Work Plan

S/N	Item	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
	Finalisation and approval of the annual work plan and budget	2.67	0.92	1.00	4.33
1	Our organisation is represented in the local government budget policy approval meetings	2.41	1.05	1	4
2	We actively debate during the local government budgeting and planning meetings.	2.43	1.10	1	5
3	We know what to do during the local government budgeting and planning meetings.	3.18	1.17	1	5

Budget Implementation

As detailed in Table 7, five items measured people’s opinion on civil society participation during budget implementation. The alpha reliability for this scale was 0.7793, and the average inter-item covariance was 0.460031. The items means and standard deviations ranged from 2.35 to 3.24, and 0.96 to 1.12 respectively.

For all the five items, a score was calculated yielding a mean and standard deviation of 2.71 and 0.77 respectively. The mean indicates that respondents were more undecided than disagreed on whether civil society participates in during the budget implementation stage. The minimum score of one means that some organizations don’t participate at all, while the maximum of 4 means that others participate in the “Budget Implementation” stage of the budgeting process.

Table 7: Participation in Budget Implementation

S/N	Item	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
	Implementation	2.71	0.77	1.00	4.00
1	Our organisation is represented in the local government policy implementation process	2.53	1.07	1	4
2	We have participated in implementing programmes and decisions by contributing resources	3.01	1.11	1	5
3	We have participated in implementing programmes and decisions by cooperating in specific organisations activities	3.24	1.12	1	5
4	We simplify the budgets for popular consumption	2.43	1.00	1	4
5	We regularly disseminate budget information.	2.35	0.96	1	4

Budget Monitoring and Evaluation

Details in Table 8 show that six items that measured people's opinion on civil society participation during budget monitoring and evaluation. The alpha reliability for this scale was 0.7258, and the average inter-item covariance was 0.230846. The items means and standard deviations ranged from 1.87 to 2.85, and 0.71 to 1.05 respectively.

For all the five items, a score was calculated yielding a mean and standard deviation of 2.30 and 0.56 respectively. The mean indicates that respondents were more in disagreement than undecided on whether civil society participates during the budget monitoring and evaluation stage. The minimum score of one means that some organizations don't participate at all, while the maximum of 4 means that others participate in the "Budget monitoring and evaluation" stage of the budgeting process.

Table 8: Participation in Budget Monitoring and Evaluation

S/N	Item	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
	Monitoring and evaluation	2.30	0.56	1.00	3.33
1	Our organisation is represented in the local government budget policy monitoring process	2.22	0.93	1	4
2	We get copies of audit reports of local governments.	1.87	0.60	1	4
3	We regularly get reports from the DLG on budget Implementation	1.97	0.71	1	4
4	We collaborate with and defend the actions of anti corruption state agencies	2.81	1.04	1	5
5	We normally conduct public opinion surveys, and public hearings whose findings are disseminated to the relevant stakeholders.	2.85	1.05	1	5
6	We have ever pursued the findings of the auditor general and other anti corruption agencies.	2.07	0.78	1	4

From the foregoing analysis it clear that though minimal, civil society mostly participates in the implementation stage (mean 2.71); and least participates in the evaluation stage (mean 2.3) of the local government budgeting process. Overall the participation of civil society in the budgeting process of the two local governments is very low.

Relationship between Participation and Effectiveness of the Budgeting Process

The results of spearman's correlation indicate a low un-substantiated positive relationship of 0.0803 between the above variables. It was conceptualised that civil society participation has an effect on the effectiveness of the budgeting process of local governments. From the above results, there is not enough evidence to confirm association of these two variables. The null hypothesis is stated as follows: Civil society participation will not significantly explain the variability in the effectiveness of the local government budget process.

The results of the regression of the effectiveness of the budgeting against civil society participation are detailed in the Table 9.

Table 9: Regression of Civil Society Participation and Effectiveness of the Budget Process

Source	SS	df	MS		
Model	0.582	1	0.582		
Residual	12.385	66	0.188		
Total	12.967	67	0.194		
Number of obs=	68				
F (1, 66)=	3.1				
Prob > F=	0.083				
R-squared=	0.045				
Adj R-squared=	0.030				
Root MSE=	0.433				
Effectiveness budgeting process	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P>t	[95% Conf. Interval]
Civil society participation	0.185	0.105	1.760	0.083	-0.025 0.395
_cons	2.691	0.251	10.740	0.000	2.191 3.192

From Table 9, the calculated value of F is 3.1. The table value of F with (1, 66) degrees of freedom at the given significance level of 0.05 is 4.00. Since the calculated value of F (3.1) is less than the table value of F (4.00), the null hypothesis is accepted. The adjusted R² value of 0.030 means that the resultant regression model explains only 3% of the variance in civil society participation.

This result augments the earlier spearman's correlation results that found no significant association between civil society participation and the effectiveness of the budgeting process. In conclusion therefore we are 95% confident that effectiveness of the budgeting process does not vary depending on civil society participation in the two local governments under study.

Discussion

From the findings of the study, it is clear that the participation of civil society in the budgeting process of the two local governments of Kabalore & Kamwenge is still very low. Despite the associated advantages, the general score of 2.33 means that civil society organisations in this region are far from actively participating in the budgeting process of local governments. This is not only true for the entire budgeting process, but also at the different stages of the process.

It was theorised that the participation of civil society has a relationship and indeed explains the variance in the effectiveness of the budgeting process (Breta1996, Cameron 2009). The findings confirm this theory by the evidence of association revealed between civil society participation and the effectiveness of the budget process.

Though not substantiated, the results of the linear regression model show that civil society participation explains only 3% of the variation in the effectiveness of the Budgeting Process. The correlation matrix also revealed an association between these two variables. This means that civil society participation is beneficial and any measures to enhance it will bear a good result in as far as the effectiveness of the budgeting process is concerned.

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