



The Asia Foundation

Launching the Citizen's Budgets at the State/Region Level: Tanintharyi in Myanmar

*Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
January 2018*

1. What is a Citizen's Budget?

A Citizen's Budget is a government-produced budget document designed to communicate important public finance information to citizens using everyday language and easy-to-understand graphics. Citizen's Budgets convey a broad range of technical topics without requiring extensive financial knowledge. These budget documents are developed as accessible gateways to more information, and are geared toward informing and equipping the public to participate in the budget process and hold the government accountable.

2. What format do Citizen's Budgets come in?

Citizen's Budgets come in a variety of formats, from traditional reports or pamphlets to comic books. Some examples include: posters, infographics, picture books, etc.

3. What is the history of Citizen's Budgets in Myanmar?

Throughout the early years of Myanmar's transition, civil society organizations and non-government organizations have responded to demands for more information through public documents, covering a range of topics including public financial management. More recently, the Union of Myanmar has begun taking increased ownership over such communication and has released three consecutive Citizen's Budgets beginning with the 2015/2016 fiscal year. This year, State and Region governments have followed suit, producing their own Citizen's Budgets for the first time.

4. Why is the release of the first Citizen's Budget at the state and region level significant?

Citizen's Budgets are critical to the relationship between the government and its people as they equip citizens with important information and help facilitate their participation in the budget cycle. Increasing fiscal transparency and social accountability in the States and Regions will encourage citizens to actively participate in government decisions that directly impact their lives. Citizen's Budget are thus particularly important at the sub-national level, as the distance between citizens and their government bodies is much shorter.

5. What topics are covered in these Citizen's Budgets?

Citizen's Budgets cover many topics central to public financial management, including overall economic performance, breakdown of revenue and expenditure, where taxes are spent and more.

6. What does The Asia Foundation do in Myanmar?

In Myanmar, the Foundation works with partners in government, the private sector, and civil society to support the country's political and economic transitions and to promote prospects for peace. Our work focuses on strengthening institutions and processes of democratic governance, supporting political and fiscal decentralization, contributing to key issues related to the peace process, promoting women's empowerment, enabling economic governance and increasing public access to information.

7. Who should I contact for more information?

Please contact the Foundation's Myanmar office at myanmar.general@asiafoundation.org

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