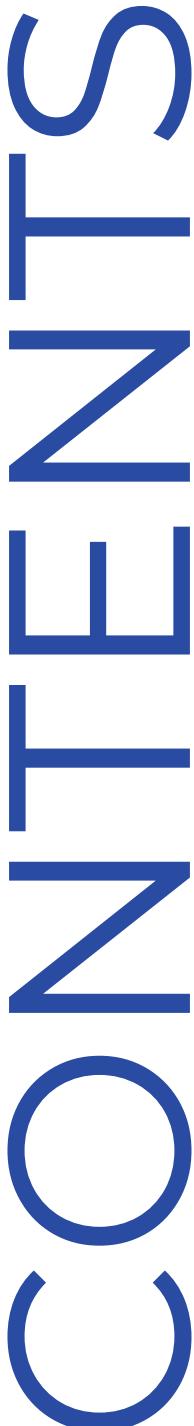




# Egypt's Participatory Budgeting Model

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND  
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT UNIT -  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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## Foreword

### 01.

#### **Introduction to Participatory Budgeting**

- 1.1 Definition and Purpose of Participatory Budgeting
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- 1.3 Operational Framework of Egypt's Participatory Budgeting Model

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- 2.2 Key Partners in Egypt's Participatory Budgeting Model
- 2.3 Institutional Framework of Egypt's Participatory Budgeting Model
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# FOREWORD

Through its Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit, The Ministry of Finance aims to achieve high rates of fiscal transparency, communication, governance contributing to combatting corruption and improving the livelihoods and quality of life of Egyptian citizens, which is the ultimate goal of all development efforts undertaken by the government. That is in light of the government's work plan and keenness to raise awareness among all segments of society, especially youth, about the government's efforts in terms of the provision of a decent life for citizens and driving sustainable development. Additionally, this aligns within the framework of the Ministry of Finance's vision to ensure the efficiency of public spending, the optimal utilization of resources, and the sustainability of reforms to be reflected into improved quality of life for Egyptian citizens.

As per Law No. 944 of 2023, the Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit is heading the steering committee for the nationwide dissemination of Egypt's Participatory Budgeting Model across the 27 governorates. That is in partnership with the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Local Development, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and civil society organizations to implement the concept of participatory budgeting. The latter is based on capacity building and awareness raising on the government's most important plans and the Ministry of Finance's fiscal policy. That is such that the citizen becomes a core partner in the sustainable development process and a primary decision-maker in the budget preparation process at the local level. This process enhances transparency and increases citizen satisfaction, which is one of the pillars of Egypt's Vision 2030.

Within the scope of the Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit's mandate, which was established by Ministerial Decree No. 574 of 2018 (knowing that its scope of work has begun since 2015) as the first specialized unit to work on improving fiscal transparency and enhancing participatory budgeting tools. The FTCE Unit works on promoting the principles of transparency and fiscal disclosure, engaging citizens, and cooperating with government agencies and civil society organizations. Additionally, it develops mechanisms for disseminating of fiscal information and ensuring budget data comprehensiveness by issuing research and reports related to the formulation and follow-up of the implementation of the general budget. These are prepared in accordance with global transparency standards, maintaining the progress that Egypt has achieved over the past 8 years.

# FOREWORD

Amidst the ongoing global challenges that are placing additional strain on the government's resources, there is an urgent need to improve the efficiency of public spending and to engage citizens in addressing these challenges. In this context, participatory budgeting becomes increasingly important as it provides a platform for dialogue and enables all segments of society to participate in public and economic affairs, thereby fostering a sense of belonging and responsibility among citizens.

In light of presidential directives regarding the Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement unit's mandate and work plan, which is mandated with the aforementioned objectives with numerous partners and relevant ministries, the unit has empowered a large number of Egyptian youth to become community leaders at the local level in a number of governorates.

Additionally, through its university student activities, the FTCE unit has empowered youth to become Active citizenship club members and ambassadors for the Ministry of Finance participating in all the unit's activities and events. This was achieved through coordination with a number of universities from various governorates, including Alexandria University, the American University in Cairo, Cairo University, Fayoum University, October University for Modern Sciences and Arts, and Misr International University. The FTCE unit aims to expand its activities to Assiut University, the German University in Cairo, Helwan University, and Beni Suef University.

The FTCE unit aims to reach all universities in order to organize various events throughout the year to engage university students in a wide range of activities. This is in line with the numerous directives received by the unit within the framework of the government's various strategies within Egypt's Vision 2030, the Government's Work Program and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

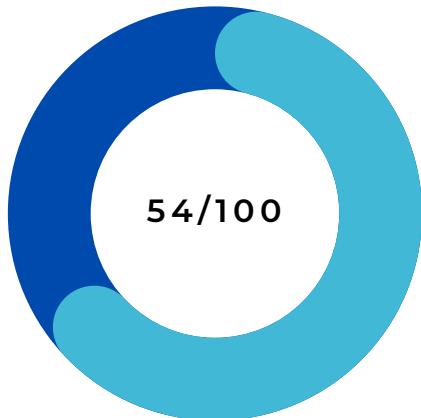
Acknowledging that active citizen participation in the planning, implementation, and monitoring processes has become essential to ensure the achievement and sustainability of the aforementioned goals, the Ministry of Finance is directing its efforts and encouraging community participation to serve the local community and solve local problems. That is to ensure the optimal utilization of available resources from all parties, whether it be the 's executive apparatus, the private sector, or civil society. In addition, involving citizens through the dialogue spaces created by participatory budgeting mechanisms enables them to be part of the solution to local problems, ensuring the highest level of success and sustainability of implemented projects. International experiences have proven that the participatory approach is the best approach when it comes to achieving local development.

# EGYPT'S OPEN BUDGET SURVEY (OBS) SCORE

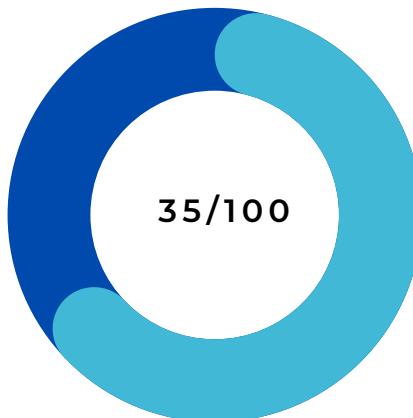


The Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit's participatory budgeting efforts have contributed to securing Egypt the top score in the Public Participation sub-index of the OBS score published by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) across Middle Eastern countries. Growing significantly by 27 points between 2015 and 2023, Egypt's Public Participation score jumped from 8/100 in 2015 to 19/100 in 2021, reaching 35/100 in 2023. Currently, Egypt's score is above the global average by 20 points, ranking at the 9th place across the 125 surveyed countries. Additionally, Egypt's oversight sub-index score jumped to 54/100 in 2023 up from 44/100 in 2021. As for Egypt's fiscal transparency sub-index score, it reached 49/100 in 2023, up from 43/100 in 2021. Overall, it grew by 36 points between 2012 and 2023.

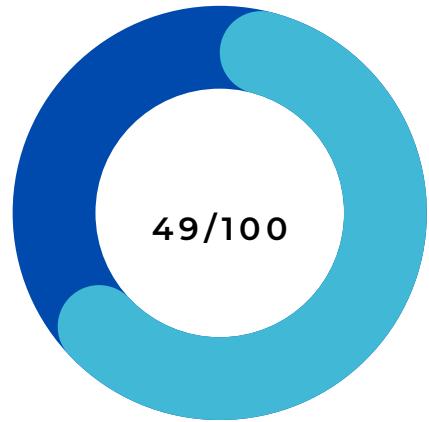
## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



## BUDGET OVERSIGHT



## TRANSPARENCY



### PREVIOUS SCORES:

2021:44/100  
2017:39/100  
2015:42/100

### PREVIOUS SCORES:

2021:19/100  
2017:15/100  
2015:8/100

### PREVIOUS SCORES:

2021:43/100  
2017:43/100  
2015:16/100

# 1.1 DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING:

## 01 DEFINITION

**Participatory budgeting (PB)** is a policymaking approach and a process of democratic deliberation and decision making that establishes a direct link between governmental service providers and service recipients such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individual citizens. By involving local citizens in decision-making regarding public spending priorities and empowering them to monitor the process, PB aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure.

PB is “*a process through which citizens participate directly in budget formulation, decision-making and monitoring of budget execution. It creates a channel for citizens to give voice to their budget priorities.*” (World Bank, 2018)<sup>1</sup>.

## 02 PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Egyptian participatory budgeting model is the empowerment of Egyptian citizens as core decision makers in the budget preparation process at the local level, and subsequently, their empowerment as core stakeholders in the sustainable development process. The implementation of PB stems from a belief that citizens should be actively engaged in addressing their community problems in light of available public resources at the local level.

## 03 WHY PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

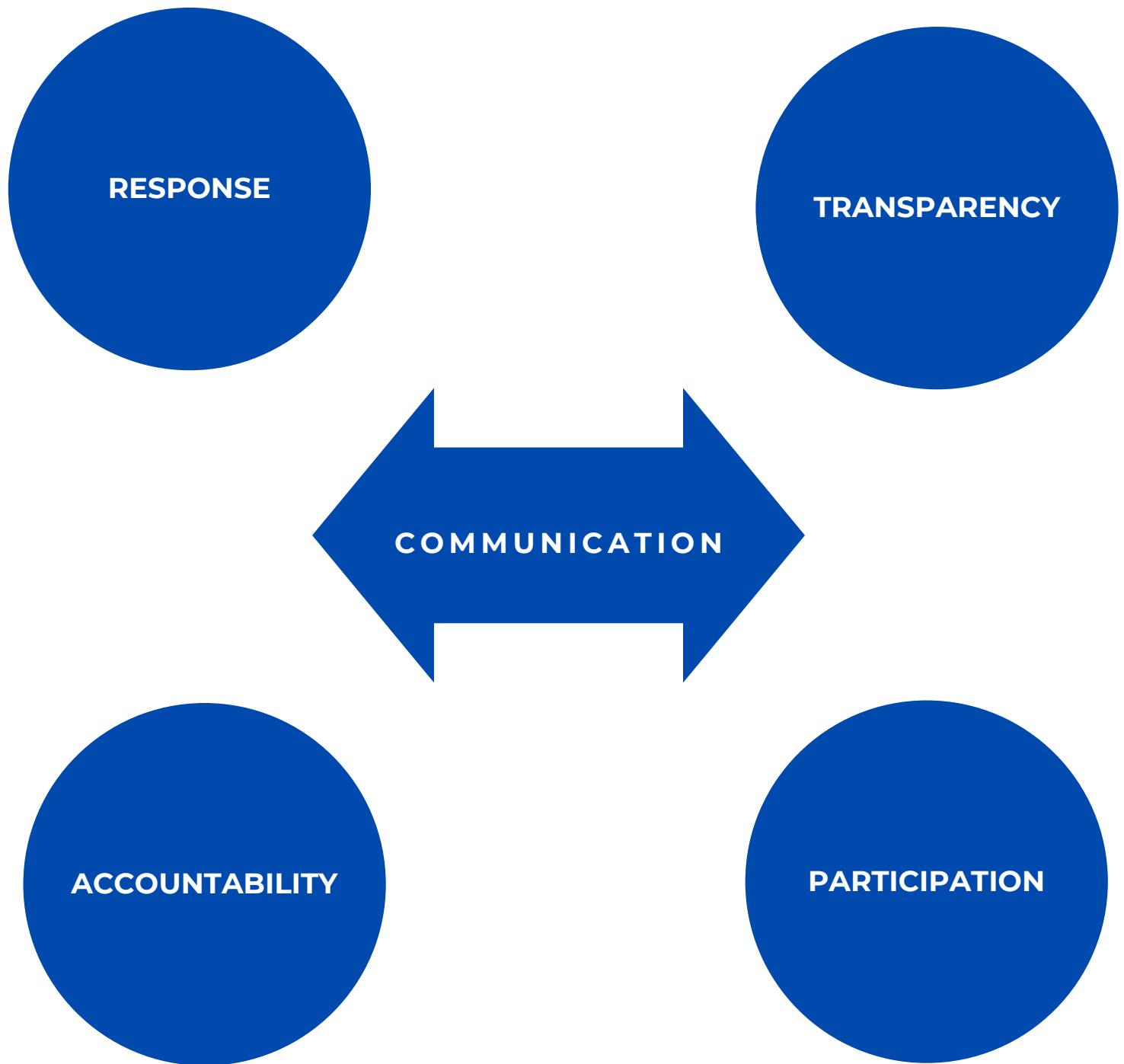
Through this mechanism, PB directly contributes **to addressing local challenges from the roots**. Among the latter:

1. The discrepancies between the public resources granted to local units and neighborhoods and the increasing needs of the governorates.
2. Rapid population growth and the subsequent insufficiency of available public resources to meet the needs of local citizens.
3. Absence of community leaders qualified to raise local issues to government authorities.
4. Lack of a mechanism for effective community participation.

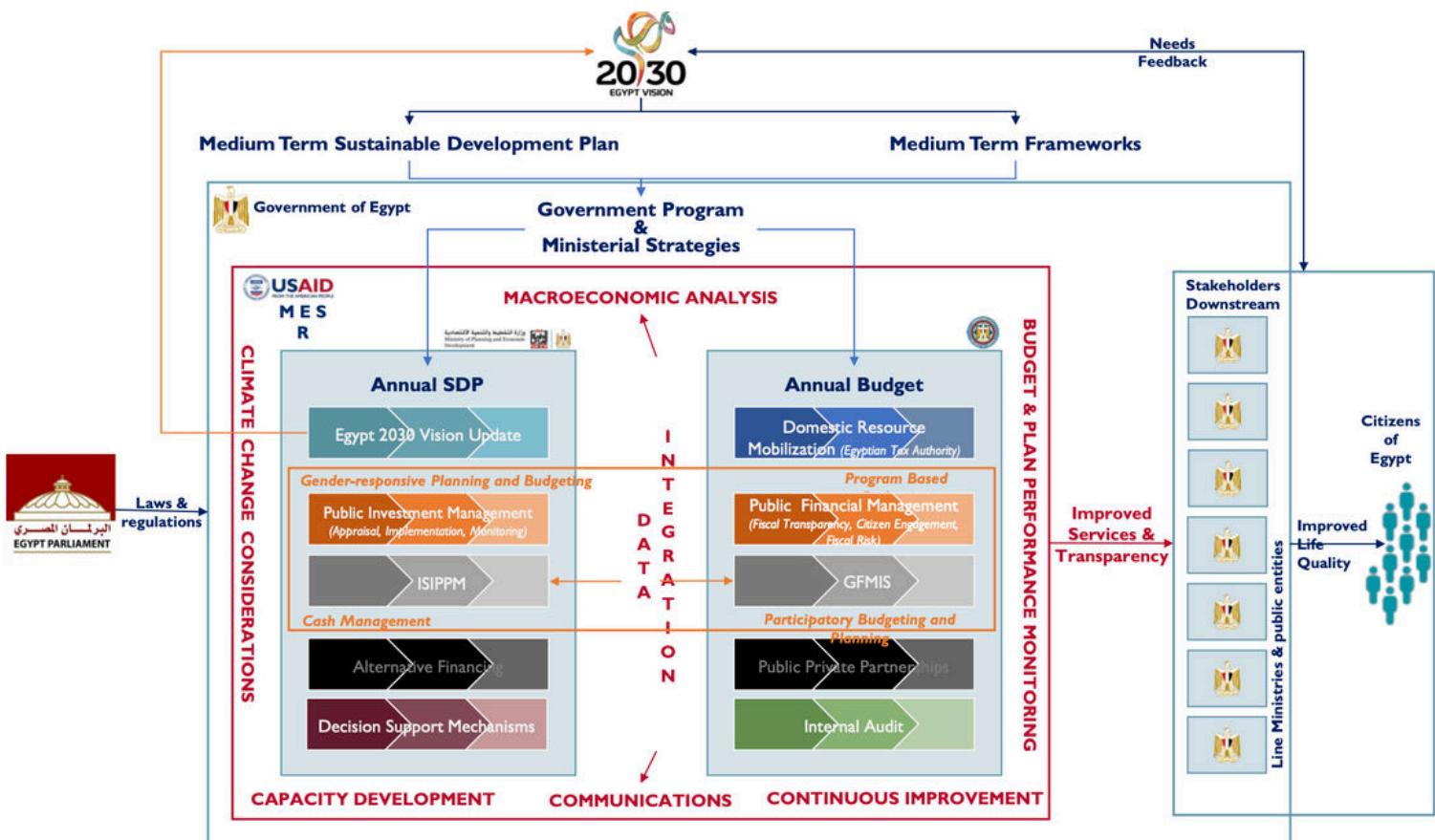
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<sup>1</sup> Hall, Jeremy Andrew Buchyzia; Wanjiru, Rose Ruth. *Participatory Budgeting Manual (English)*. Washington, D.C: World Bank Group. (page 3)

# 1.1 DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING:



# 1.2 ALIGNMENT WITH EGYPT'S VISION 2030:



As depicted by the macro-framework above, Egypt's PB model is guided by the overarching national agenda and long-term sustainable development plan, **"Egypt Vision 2030"**. In accordance with and guided by the latter, Medium Term Fiscal Frameworks are developed by the Ministry of Finance and Medium Term Sustainable Development Plans are developed by the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation. In line with the Ministry of Finance's Medium Term Framework, Public Financial Management and Government Financial Management Information Systems entail participatory budgeting and program-based budgeting translating into improved services for citizens.

Adopting a participatory approach and focusing on fostering citizen engagement, Egypt's PB model aims to establish local leaders capable of identifying, prioritizing, and finding solutions to their local community problems. Through capacity building, direct communication, and continuous improvement, Egypt's PB model aims to improve the life quality and satisfaction of Egyptian citizens through improved public services.

# 1.2 ALIGNMENT WITH EGYPT'S VISION 2030:

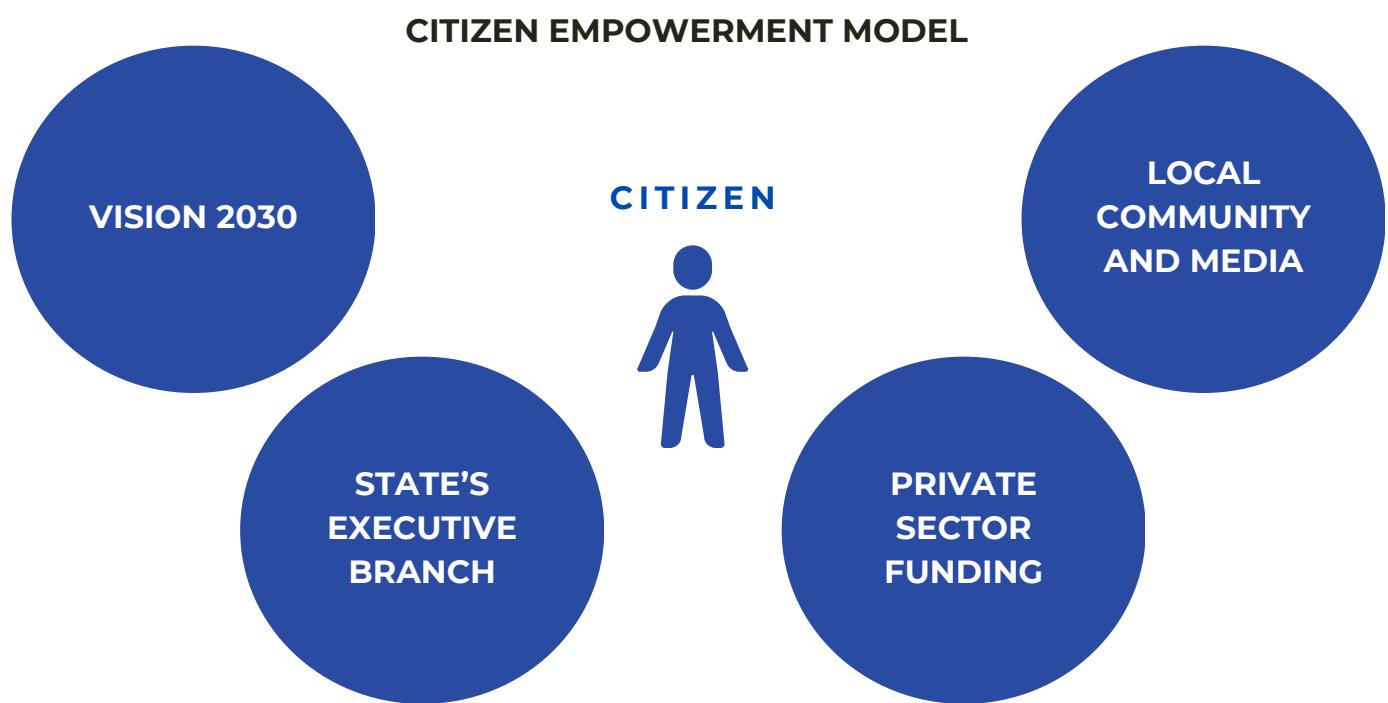
The design of Egypt's National Participatory Budgeting model is directed by the guiding principles of Egypt's Vision 2030 and directly contributes to the accomplishment of its strategic objectives.

## **Human-Centered Development:**

*"Egypt's Vision 2030 recognizes that the engine of development is propelled by the citizens, and that development strategies should align with the ambitions and desires of Egyptian citizens. The success of visions is measured by the degree to which every Egyptian reaps the benefits of the development process."*<sup>2</sup> By placing citizens at the crux of the decision making process, Egypt's PB model contributes to the achievement of human-centered development.

## **Equity and Accessibility:**

*The principle "signifies that all citizens, especially the most vulnerable and in need of care, enjoy all their rights on all levels; political, economic, social, civil, and cultural" and "involves ensuring equal opportunities for accessing all public services".*<sup>3</sup> Through the political and social inclusion of low-income and marginalized citizens as core decision-makers incorporated in the policymaking process, Egypt's PB model is guided by the "Equity and Accessibility" principle of Egypt's Vision 2030. This is exemplified by its targeting of Decent Life villages and low-income local municipalities, ensuring that the needs of poorer citizens are heard and translated into the provision of public services and projects.

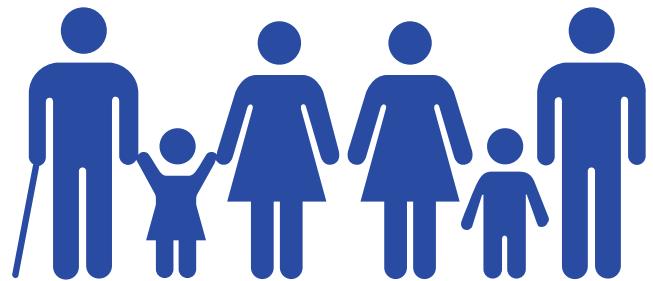


<sup>2</sup> Egypt's Vision 2030 page 13

<sup>3</sup>. Idem page 15

# 1.2 ALIGNMENT WITH EGYPT'S VISION 2030:

The design of Egypt's National Participatory Budgeting model is directed by the guiding principles of Egypt's Vision 2030 and directly contributes to the accomplishment of its strategic objectives.



## **Egypt's Vision 2030 Strategic Goals**

### **Alignment with Egypt's PB Model**

#### **Improve Egyptians' Quality of Life and Raise their Living Standards**

By training local calibers in low-income municipalities within governorates and equipping them with the necessary leadership and technical skills to identify and provide solutions for their community issues through the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme, Egypt's PB model enables citizens to actively improve their living standards.

#### **Social Justice and Equality**

Egypt's PB model is guided by the overarching principle of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, "Leave No One Behind". Aiming to leave no one behind in the development process, Egypt's PB model's core objective is the social inclusion and the empowerment of segments of society that are traditionally excluded in the decision making process such as women, elderly citizens, youth, and the disabled.

#### **Governance and Partnerships**

One of the core operational framework pillars of Egypt's PB model is stakeholder collaboration. Partnerships developed by the FTCE unit with governmental entities, civil society and international organizations are foundational to the success and sustainability of Egypt's PB model.

# 1.3 ALIGNMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S WORK PROGRAM 2024/2025-2026/2027

Egypt's PB model aligns with the achievement of the government's work program (24/25-26/27). It particularly aligns with its second pillar: **“Build the Egyptian Citizen and Enhance His Well-Being”** and its strategic goals.

## Pillar 2 Strategic Objective

### Alignment with Egypt's PB Model

#### Strategic Objective 6: Youth as Today's Partners and Tomorrow's Leaders

Through its focus on fostering youth empowerment, Egypt's PB model is aligned with the primary program **“Youth Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment”**, and especially its first sub-program **“Enhancing Youth engagement and Involvement in Community and Political Work”**. Egypt's PB model is focused on building the capacity of Egyptian youth to become local leaders within their communities who can effectively identify community problems and propose feasible solutions for them, enhancing their community engagement in the political sphere.

#### Strategic Objective 7: Empowering Women and Promoting Equal Opportunities in All Fields

Through its focus on fostering youth empowerment, Egypt's PB model aligns with the primary program **“Women's Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment”**, and its third sub-program **“Enhancing Women's Political Participation”**. Egypt's PB model contributes to the creation of female local leaders able to participate in the social and economic development of their local municipalities.

# 1.4 OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

The operational framework of Egypt's PB model relies on three core pillars that directly contribute to the sustainable development process.

01

## Citizen Empowerment

Egypt's PB model focuses on the poorest segments of society and marginalized citizens to enhance their abilities to identify and propose solutions to their community issues, becoming active actors in improving their livelihoods.

02

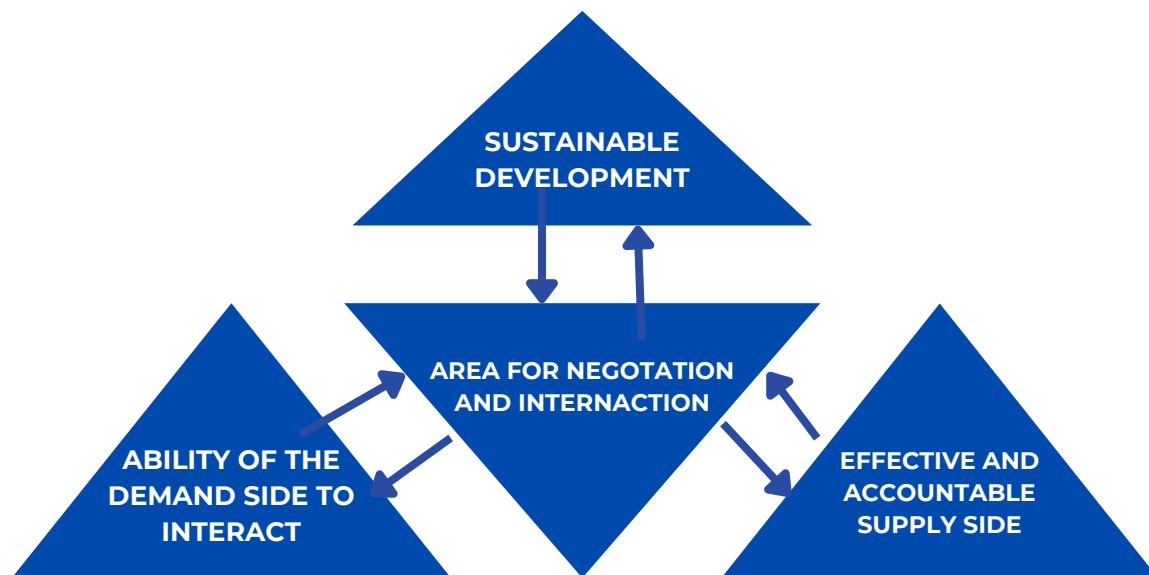
## Dialogue between Citizens and the Government

By creating a direct communication link between citizens and policymakers, Egypt's PB model reinforces the government's response to citizen's needs and fosters social accountability.

03

## Partnerships and Stakeholder Collaboration

Egypt's PB model relies on the collaboration between a comprehensive network of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders created by the FTCE Unit **in collaboration with the Decent Life Foundation and the General Diwan of governorates.** Governmental stakeholders include the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Local Development, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity. Additionally, the FTCE Unit directly collaborates with several civil society organizations and international organizations in the implementation of the PB model such as UNICEF, USAID, UN WOMEN, CARE, and the World Bank.



## 2.1 HOW DID THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE REACH EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL?

The model was meticulously designed through visits conducted to various countries (South Africa, South Korea, Brazil, Portugal, India, and Mexico) over an eight year period in partnership with international organizations involved in transparency and citizen public engagement. These visits informed the identification of the most suitable participatory budget model.

In 2019, the Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit collaborated with expert Giovanni Allegretti to design a participatory budgeting model adapted to Egypt's context.

Subsequently, to ensure a deep understanding and effective implementation of participatory budgeting techniques, the Ministry of Finance then held a series of budget workshops, utilizing a train-the-trainer (ToT) approach. Four other ministries and civil society organizations participated in these workshops.

Mr. Allegretti presented four different participatory budgeting models implemented in 52 countries, explaining the characteristics of each model and its implementation mechanisms. Then, four working groups were formed, each group including representatives from all the concerned authorities and ministries mentioned above with the objective of selecting the most suitable model to be implemented across Egyptian governorates.

Mr. Allegretti is an International Lecturer and a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal. He was co-chair of Tuscany's Regional Authority for the Promotion of Participation (APP) for 5 years. He worked as an International Project Coordinator for the EMPATIA project, Enabling Multichannel Participation through ICT Adaptations for Participatory Budgeting. Additionally, he is a member of the URBiNAT project which focuses on the regeneration of social housing in underserved urban neighborhoods through the co-creation of participatory nature-based solutions. He worked as a consultant for the World Bank, the European Council, GIZ, and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. He has worked on designing and evaluating participatory budgets in more than fifty countries. He has authored several books and articles in his area of expertise, and has also co-authored a video documentary titled "A Quiet Revolution: Participatory Budgets from a Portuguese Perspective".

## 2.2 KEY PARTNERS IN EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

An ecosystem of stakeholders composed of governmental entities, academia, civil society, and international organizations is foundational to the success of Egypt's PB model.



### GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation  
Ministry of Communication and Information Technology  
Ministry of Social Solidarity  
The Egyptian Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC)  
Ministry of Higher Education  
Ministry of Education and Technical Education  
Ministry of Youth and Sports  
Ministry of Local Development  
Ministry of Tourism and Antiques  
Ministry of Environment  
Central Bank of Egypt  
The Egyptian Exchange  
The Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI)

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNICEF  
UN Women  
World Bank  
USAID  
International Budget Partnership  
The Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency

### ACADEMIA

Modern Sciences and Arts University  
Alexandria University  
Misr International University  
American University in Cairo  
Cairo University  
Helwan University

### NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CARE  
Orman Association  
The Egyptian Foundation for Strategic Studies and Research  
General Federation Of NGOs  
EBSM – Egyptian Banking System Model

# 2.3 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## NATIONWIDE IMPLEMENTATION

Following the successful implementation of the National PB model in Fayoum governorate, Prime Ministerial Decree No. 944 issued in March 2023 mandated the Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit to implement the national participatory model across all 27 governorates. The gradual implementation of the model will rely on the following institutional framework:

### LAW NO. 944 OF 2023

#### Institutionalizing the process of Transparency and Public participation within the state's legislative and executive framework

Ministerial Decree No. (574) of 2018 regarding the establishment of the Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit



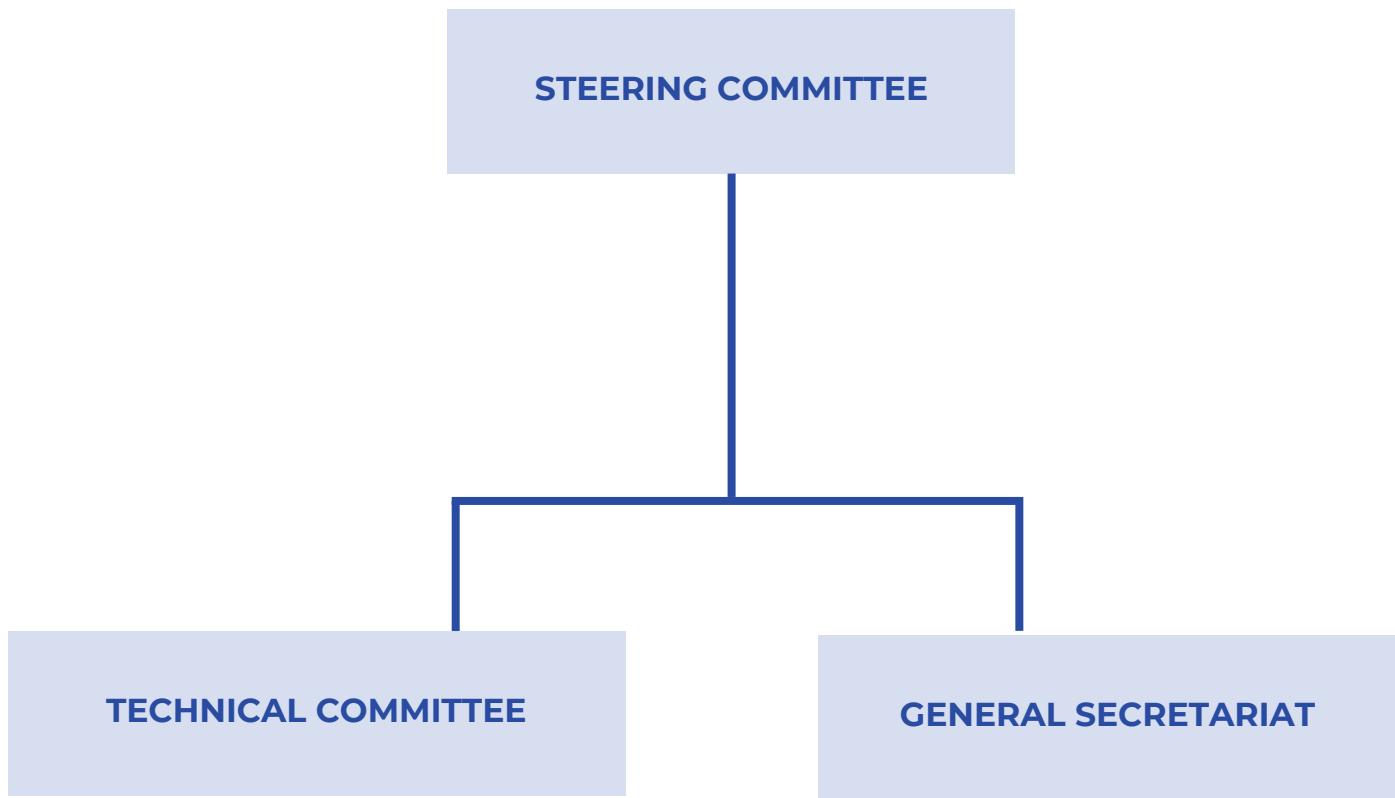
Cabinet Decree No. (944) of 2023 regarding circulating the participatory budgeting model in all governorates



The Unified Public Finance Law  
February 2022



## 2.3 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL



The institutional framework includes all relevant ministries and consists of three committees, namely a ministerial-level Steering Committee chaired by the Minister of Finance and including the Ministers of Local Development, , Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, and Social Solidarity. That is along with a Technical Secretariat and a General Secretariat, with a clearly defined mandate for each.

# 2.3 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## STEERING COMMITTEE MANDATE

- Developing a strategy for implementing the Presidential directives on participatory budgeting.
- Developing a policy for launching participatory budgeting, whether sequentially or in parallel between governorates and identifying priority governorates.
- Reviewing the work plan presented by the Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit, which includes training packages and media campaigns for rapid dissemination among youth.
- Following up on the various ministries' roles in developing, approving and implementing the participatory budgeting system.
- Following up on the steps to disseminate participatory budgeting across all governorates.
- Following up on the annual implementation plan to overcome bottlenecks that hinder the FTCE unit from implementing the model.
- Replicating successful participatory budgeting practices at the governorate level and shedding light on them through knowledge exchange activities.
- Promoting social accountability at the governorate level by integrating existing complaint systems with participatory budgeting.
- Establishing clear linkages between community participation methods, consultation sessions, the complaint systems at their different levels, and the participatory budgeting system.
- Convening with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, upon need.



## 2.3 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



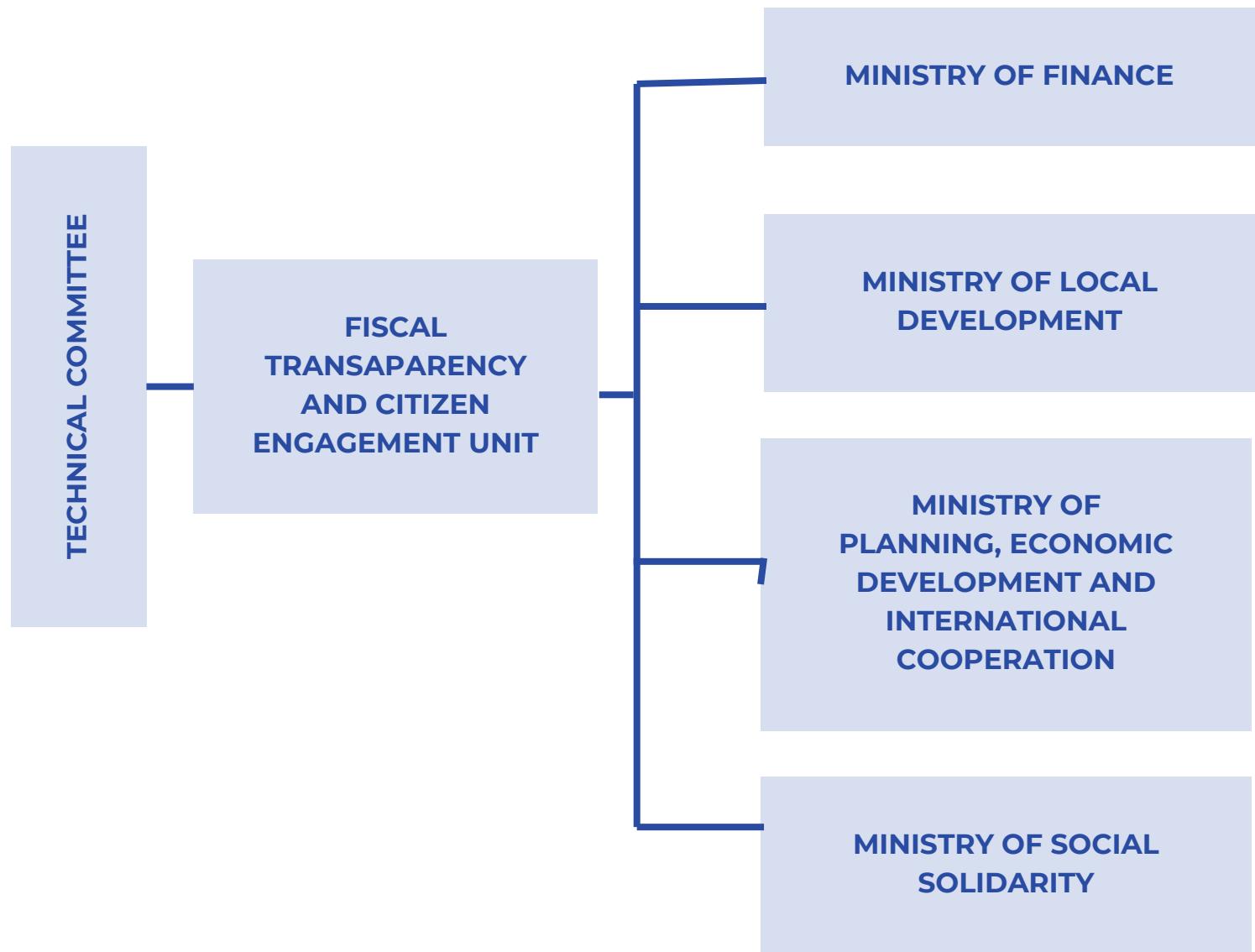
- The Minister of Finance will issue a decision outlining the composition and responsibilities of the technical committee. This committee will be led by the director of the Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit and will include representatives from relevant ministries.
- Each ministry's mandate will be guided by a cooperation protocol establishing clear roles and responsibilities for each ministry involved in the Technical Committee.

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MANDATE

- Developing agendas related to the ToT for the national participatory budgeting model.
- Facilitating communication and collaboration among relevant ministries and other stakeholders.
- Finalizing and implementing the action plan to disseminate participatory budgeting across all governorates.
- Offering technical expertise and logistical support for smooth implementation of the model within the time frame.

## 2.3 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE (4)



4. Refer to Annex 1 for details on the technical committee's mandate.

# 2.3 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MANDATE

### FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT UNIT

Serves as the central coordinating body for the implementation of Egypt's PB model and builds capacity among government officials and civil society, and fosters public engagement in budget processes.

### MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Provides technical expertise, financial resources, and coordination among stakeholders to empower local communities in budget decision-making and resource allocation.

### MINISTRY OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Coordinates and implements participatory budgeting programs at the governorate level, building capacity of local officials, and promoting citizen engagement through training, technical support, and incentive-based competition.

### MINISTRY OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Builds capacity, integrates citizen priorities into budgeting processes, and supports the implementation of participatory budgeting initiatives at the governorate level.

### MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

Facilitates citizen participation in participatory budgeting, supports civil society engagement, and builds capacity within government and community organizations to implement and sustain the process.

## 2.4 EXECUTIVE FRAMEWORK OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

01

### TRANSPARENCY AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

- Availability of budget information (from the to in-year report)
- Use of visual data to simplify information for citizens.
- Establishing information focal points comprised of local NGOs and youth centers to interpret budget data, simplify it, and disseminate it among their communities.



02

### ACTIVE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- Leveraging diverse platforms and channels of communication to disseminate information.
- Raising public awareness and building knowledge on the public budget, its significance, and societal implications.
- Creating a network of local groups comprising citizens, civil society organisations representatives, and local administration officials as well as parliamentarians. The latter would raise awareness and share knowledge about public finances among the local community.

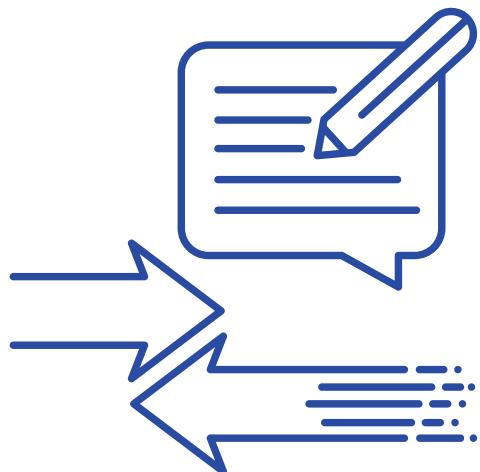
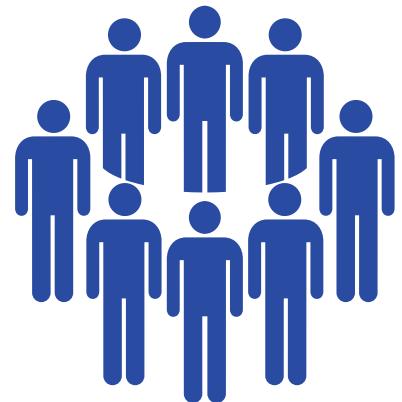


# 2.4 EXECUTIVE FRAMEWORK OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

03

## COMMUNITY SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- Compile comprehensive information on the overall budget, specific projects, and their implementation status.
- Facilitate open dialogue with government officials at all levels to address public inquiries and concerns.
- Leverage civil society networks to provide information and support to citizens.
- Organize inclusive public hearing sessions to gather diverse perspectives on budget priorities.
- Propose evidence-based recommendations to enhance budget performance and address shortcomings.



04

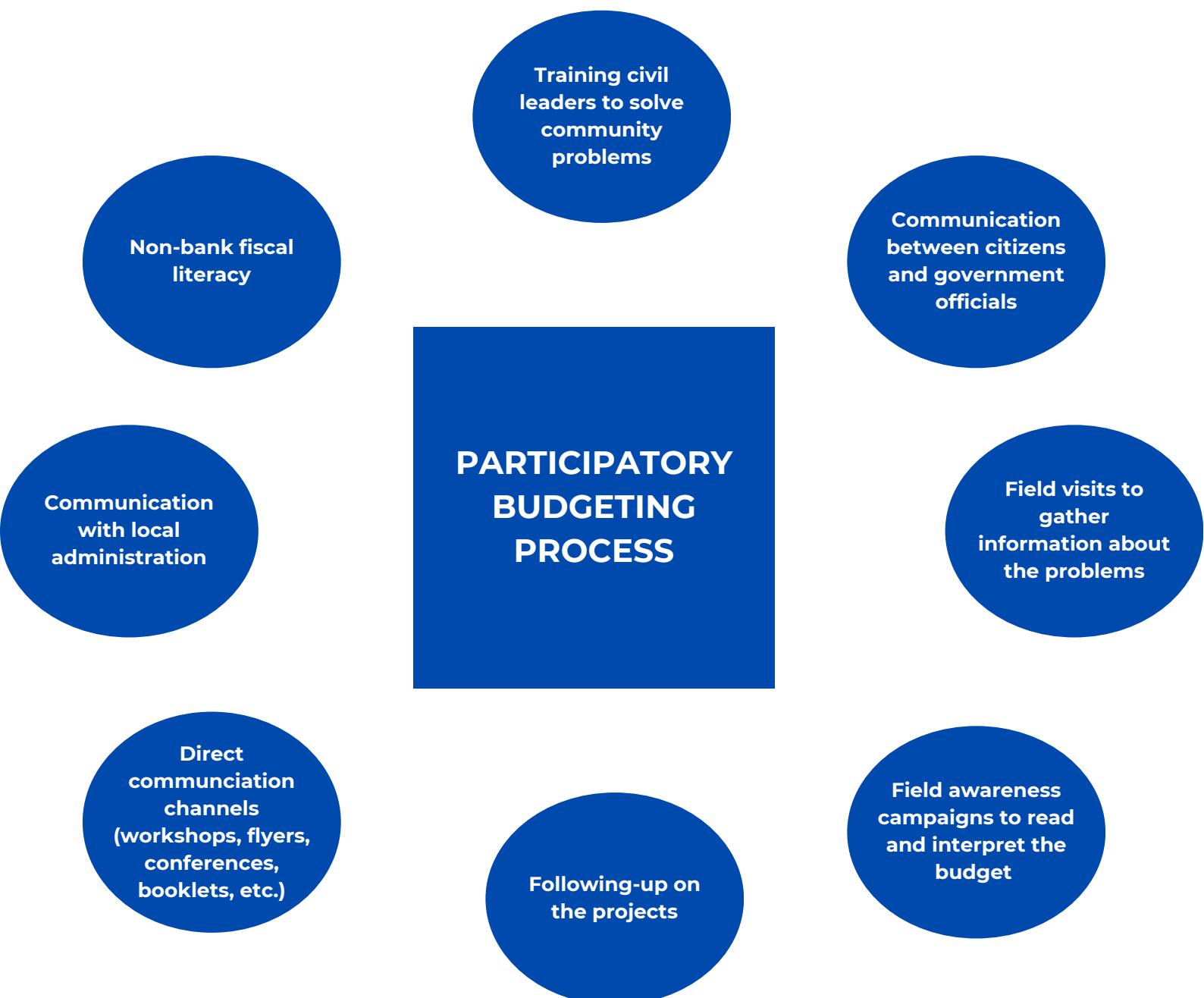
## RESPONSE

- Amplify transparency efforts through consistent communication across all relevant channels.
- Establish a sustainable feedback loop to continuously improve the participatory budgeting process through iterative application and refinement of its core components.

# 2.5 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

The Egyptian PB model constitutes a successive process consisting of a preparatory phase followed by the implementation of the participatory budgeting cycle. Following an incremental approach, the process constitutes:

1. **A preparatory phase is initiated** through a comprehensive stakeholder mapping and networking with core actors involved in the implementation of the PB model. Additionally, this phase aims to promote and enhance civic engagement through public learning. Participatory budgeting programs serve as "citizenship schools", empowering citizens to effectively read, understand, and analyze the budget and governmental plans.
2. Subsequently, **in the participatory budgeting cycle**, citizens are enabled to actively participate in suggesting local projects as well as in monitoring and following up on their implementation.



# 2.5 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

## A) PREPARATORY PHASE IN EACH GOVERNORATE

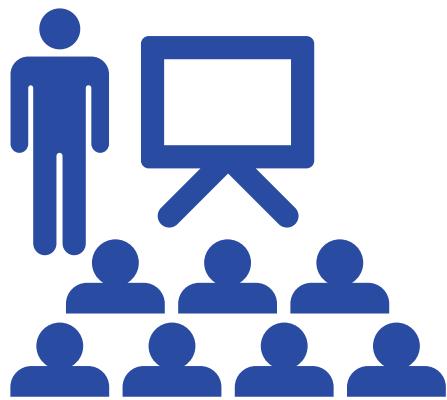
### A.1) Stakeholder Mapping and Local Awareness Building for Community Empowerment and Citizen Engagement:

The participatory budgeting model entails the gradual establishment of a network of key stakeholders including civil society organizations, governorate representatives , ministries, and local authorities. The establishment of this network has a primary objective of increasing citizens' awareness of the Egyptian model of participatory budgeting.

With a focus on social and political equality, seminars are organized in Decent Life village centers and low-income local municipalities to discuss with citizens projects that can raise their standard of living and improve their livelihoods.

Through the established network of stakeholders in each governorate, calibers are selected to participate in their governorate's PB cycle, and through increased awareness of the budget process, citizens become core decision makers in the process and primary stakeholders in the sustainable development process.

Participant selection in the participatory budgeting process is based on **competency-based selection and segmentation** which employs specific criteria to ensure an equal representation of all community segments.



#### ToT Eligibility Criteria

- **Age:** 18 to 50 years old.
- **Egyptian Nationality and Resident of the Governorate**
- **Education:** Preparatory Stage Qualification - High School Diploma- University Qualification.
- **Previous Experience:** One or more years of experience in social fieldwork (through involvement in student activities, NGOs, development organizations, or political parties). Preferably with a general knowledge of social accountability and participation mechanisms.
- **Skills and Expertise:** Influence, Continuous Improvement, Accountability, Results Focused.

# 2.5 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

## A) PREPARATORY PHASE IN EACH GOVERNORATE

### Awareness Raising and Information Building Efforts by the FTCE Unit:

Objectives	Information Dissemination Channels and Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>-Informing and engaging citizens with a clear understanding of the National Participatory Budgeting Model.</b></li><li><b>- Enhancing collaboration between communities, universities, and government institutions.</b></li><li><b>- Developing a culture of active citizenship fostered among students and young adults.</b></li></ul>	<p><b>Youth Empowerment through Targeted Outreach to Students and Universities:</b></p> <p><b>Engagement with Universities:</b> Partnerships are established with universities to conduct presentations, workshops, and seminars for students and faculty members.</p> <p><b>Incorporation of Participatory Budgeting into Curricula:</b> Working to integrate participatory budgeting concepts into relevant courses and programs.</p> <p><b>Organization of Student Competitions:</b> Hosting competitions and challenges for students to encourage innovative ideas and solutions related to participatory budgeting.</p> <p><b>Print and Audio-Visual Media:</b> Clear and accessible budget literacy materials are developed. The latter include brochures, leaflets, and infographics.</p>

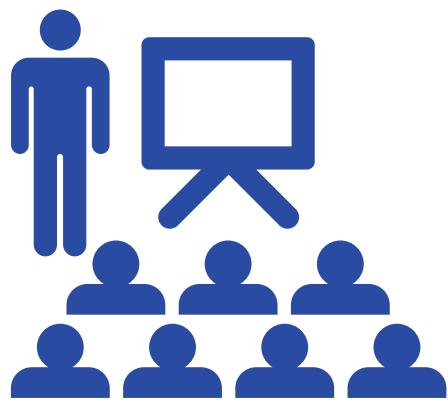
## 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

### A) PREPARATORY PHASE IN EACH GOVERNORATE

#### A.2) Capacity Building for the Effective Implementation of the Participatory Budgeting Model:

On the basis of the aforementioned set of criteria, a number of trainees are selected. The trainees comprise cadres from governmental and non-governmental entities as well as representatives from the various committees in charge of the implementation of the PB model. Through various workshops, trainers undergo a training of trainers (ToT) in which they are trained to develop the necessary skills to effectively monitor, analyze, and develop solutions for local community problems in their respective governorates.

These workshops are conducted in the presence of representatives from the established network of entities concerned with the implementation of the model. These entities include the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Local Development, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, along with other ministries involved in the implementation of the model. They also include Governorate Directorates and civil society organizations present in the governorate.



# 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

## A) PREPARATORY PHASE IN EACH GOVERNORATE

### A.2) Capacity Building for the Effective Implementation of the Participatory Budgeting Model:

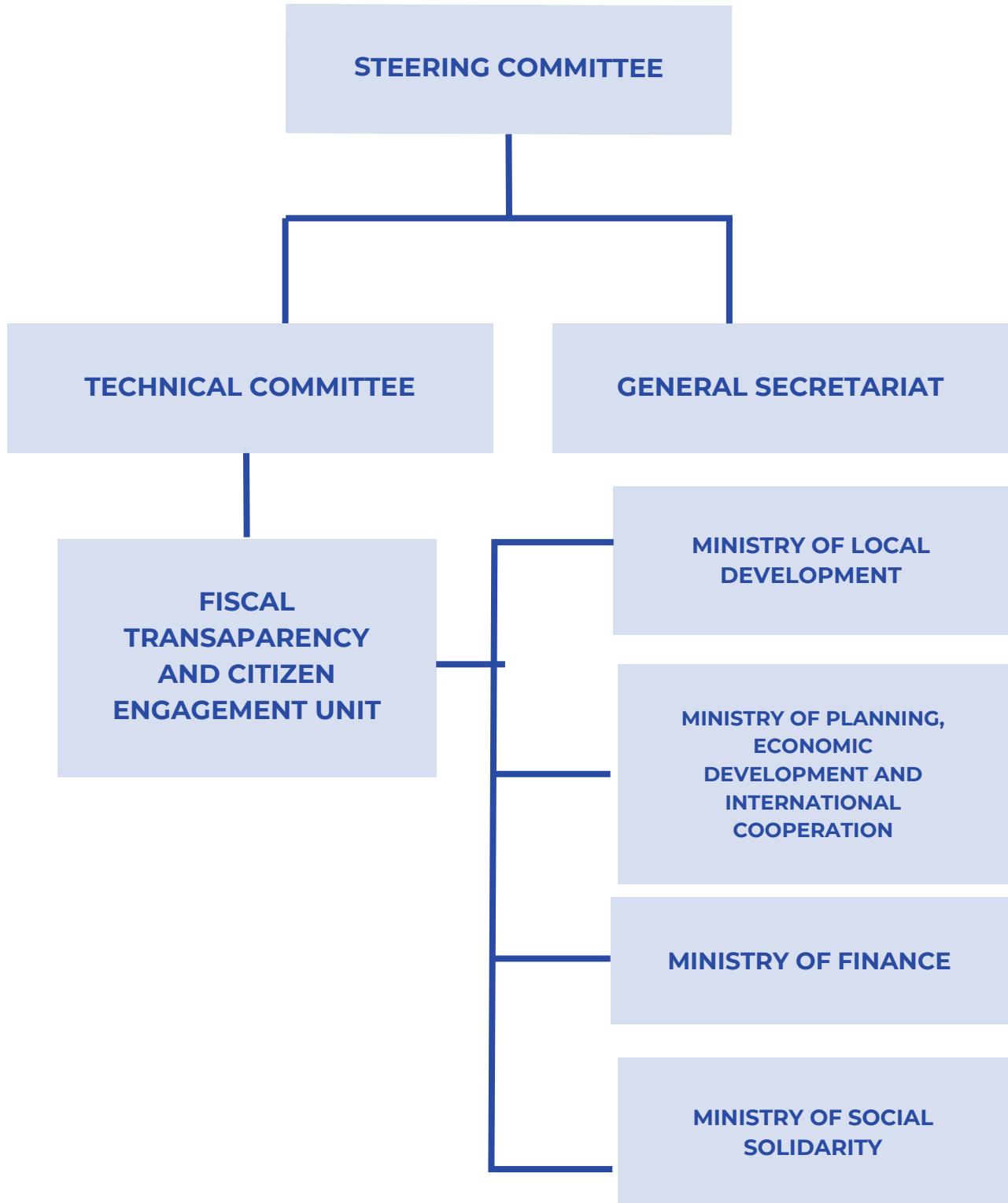
**Training of Trainers (ToT):** The ToT's core objective is capacity building for government, non-governmental, and committee representatives on the implementation mechanisms of the national participatory budgeting model.

#### PEDAGOGICAL CONTENT

- **Budget Literacy:** Equip participants with the skills to effectively read, understand, and analyze the national budget and raise awareness on the impact of public participation and volunteering on local development. Concepts include: participatory budgeting, accountability mechanisms, community participation, program budgeting, and gender-responsive budgeting.
- **Government's Vision Egypt 2030 Awareness:** Provide a comprehensive understanding of the government's reform vision and plan for Egypt 2030 as well as local investment plans.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation of Local Programs and Projects:** Develop skills in monitoring and evaluating local programs and projects at the governorate level.
- **Community Monitoring and Accountability:** Enhance understanding of community monitoring and accountability principles.
- **Public Hearing Facilitation:** Equip participants with the skills to facilitate public hearings.
- **Fieldwork Training:** Provide hands-on fieldwork training.
- **Data Tracking, Field Visits, and Report Writing:** Impart knowledge of data tracking, field visits methodologies, and report writing techniques.
- **Leadership and Community Participation Skills:** Enhance leadership, teamwork, and community participation skills
- **Critical Thinking Skills**
- **Citizen and Government Official Communication Skills:** Cultivate effective communication skills for interacting with citizens and government officials.
- **Identification and Analysis of Local Problems:** Train participants to identify, analyze, and develop comprehensive solutions for local problems.
- **Problem-Solving Skills: Solution Proposal and Submission to Local Units and Neighborhoods:** Equip participants with the ability to propose and submit solutions to local problems for inclusion in local planning files (e.g., lighting, paving, parking, environment, sanitation, roads, etc.).
- **Training on an Integrated Workflow for Monitoring, Analysis, and Recommendation:** Provide training on an integrated workflow for monitoring, analyzing, and formulating recommendations

# 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

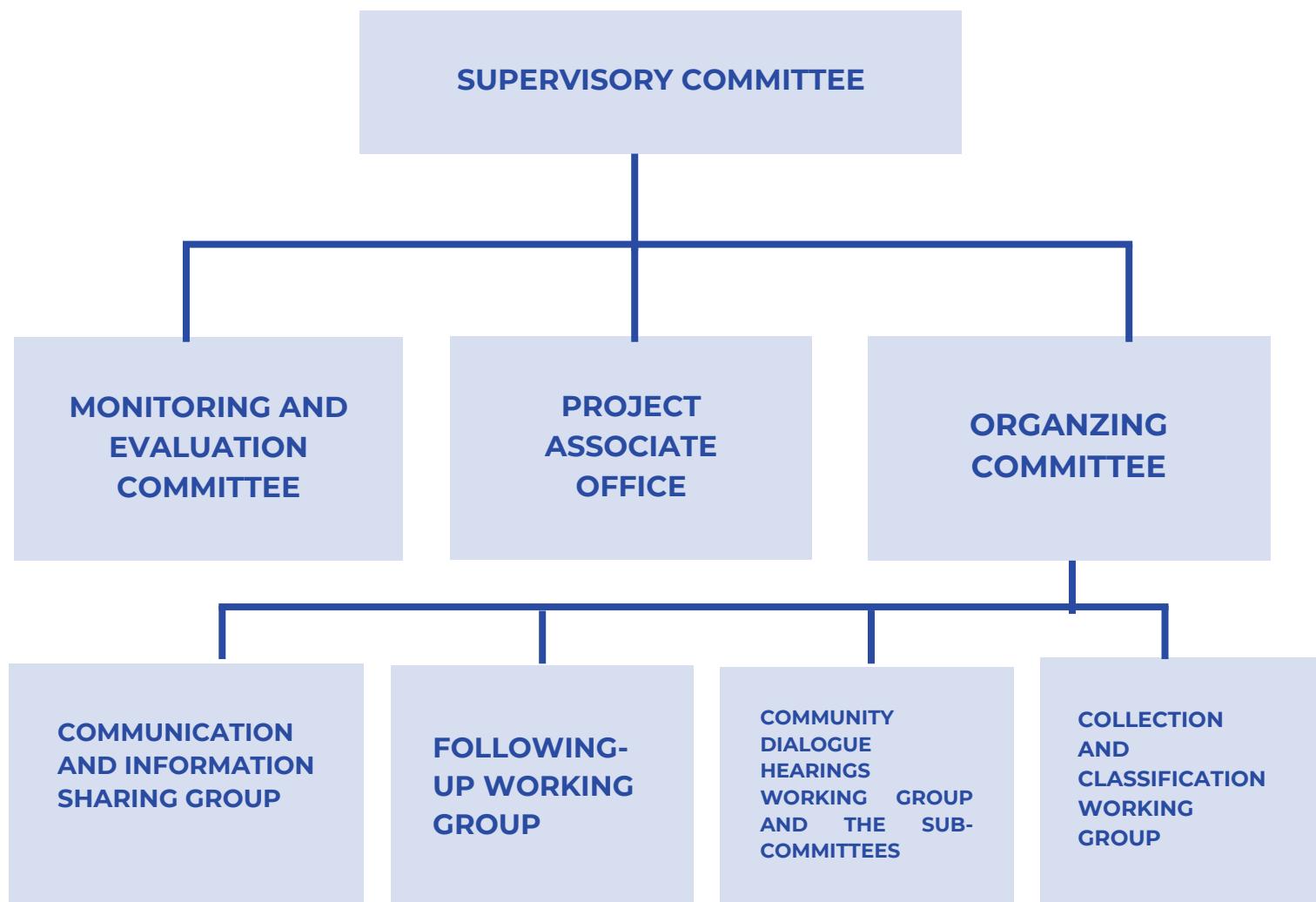
## HIGH LEVEL DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE FOR NATIONWIDE DISSEMINATION



# 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

After termination of the ToT in each governorate, a supervisory committee is formed to spearhead the implementation of the model. Those who excelled in the graduation project will be eligible to be within this structure at the governorate level.,



## 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



The Supervisory Committee is responsible for setting the general and strategic framework within which the National Model for Participatory Budgeting operates. It is under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance and operates in the presence of representatives of the concerned ministries: the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Local Development, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and the Deputy Governor in each governorate, in addition to representatives of civil society in the governorate.

#### **Supervisory Committee Responsibilities:**

- Leading the national model of participatory budgeting and coordinating with all stakeholders involved in the model.
- Developing selection criteria on the basis of which to prioritize and select the projects submitted by citizens, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Assessing the proposed projects submitted by neighborhood representatives.
- Creating a map to visualize the model's implementation across different directorates and regions within the governorate.
- Determining a standardized general communication framework for effective public engagement.
- Obtaining political support and any required approvals from the Minister of Finance and the Governor.
- Approving the guiding steps for all information and rules related to the flow of the process.

## 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS



The Organizing Committee is composed of top graduates from the National Participatory Budgeting Model's ToT in each governorate who have excelled in applying the skills acquired throughout the training program.

### **Organizing Committee Responsibilities:**

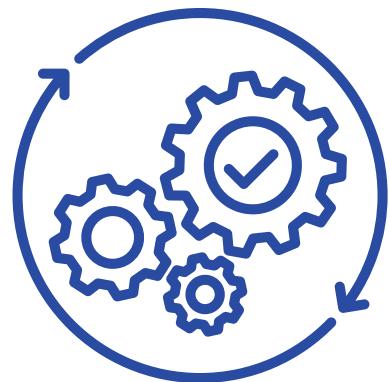
- Ensuring continuous coordination with the Supervisory Committee and the Project Associate Office.
- Documenting progress through reports and seeking solutions to overcome challenges that arise.
- Assessing citizen project proposals for feasibility, with reports generated on the findings. In the first year of implementation, the Organizing Committee may propose projects as well.
- In coordination with all stakeholders in the governorate, raising public awareness on the national participatory budgeting model through training courses for the Project Associate Office and citizens while working towards increasing the ambassadors of the PB model within the governorate.

### **The Organizing Committee oversees the work of four sub-committees:**

1. Communication and Information Working Group
2. Community Dialogue Hearings Working Group and the Subcommittees
3. Collection and Classification Working Group
4. Follow-up Working Group

## 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



The Project Associate Office handles the operational aspects of the National Participatory Budgeting Model to ensure its smooth and timely implementation.

#### **Project Associate Office Responsibilities:**

- Manage communication with the public by leveraging several communication channels, technological or otherwise, and making information available to the public.
- Managing the logistical aspects of model implementation, including scheduling consultative meetings, securing venues, coordinating invitations, and ensuring their timely delivery to participants.
- Documenting meetings through written reports and photos.
- Arranging the agenda for each meeting and ensuring that the meetings are conducted in accordance with the desired goals.



## 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

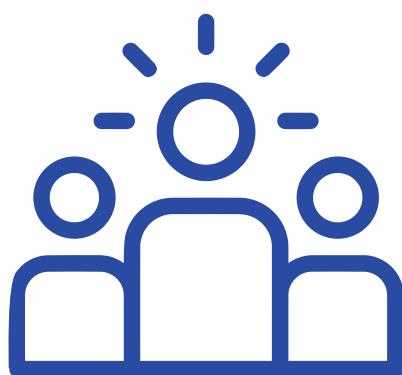
### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



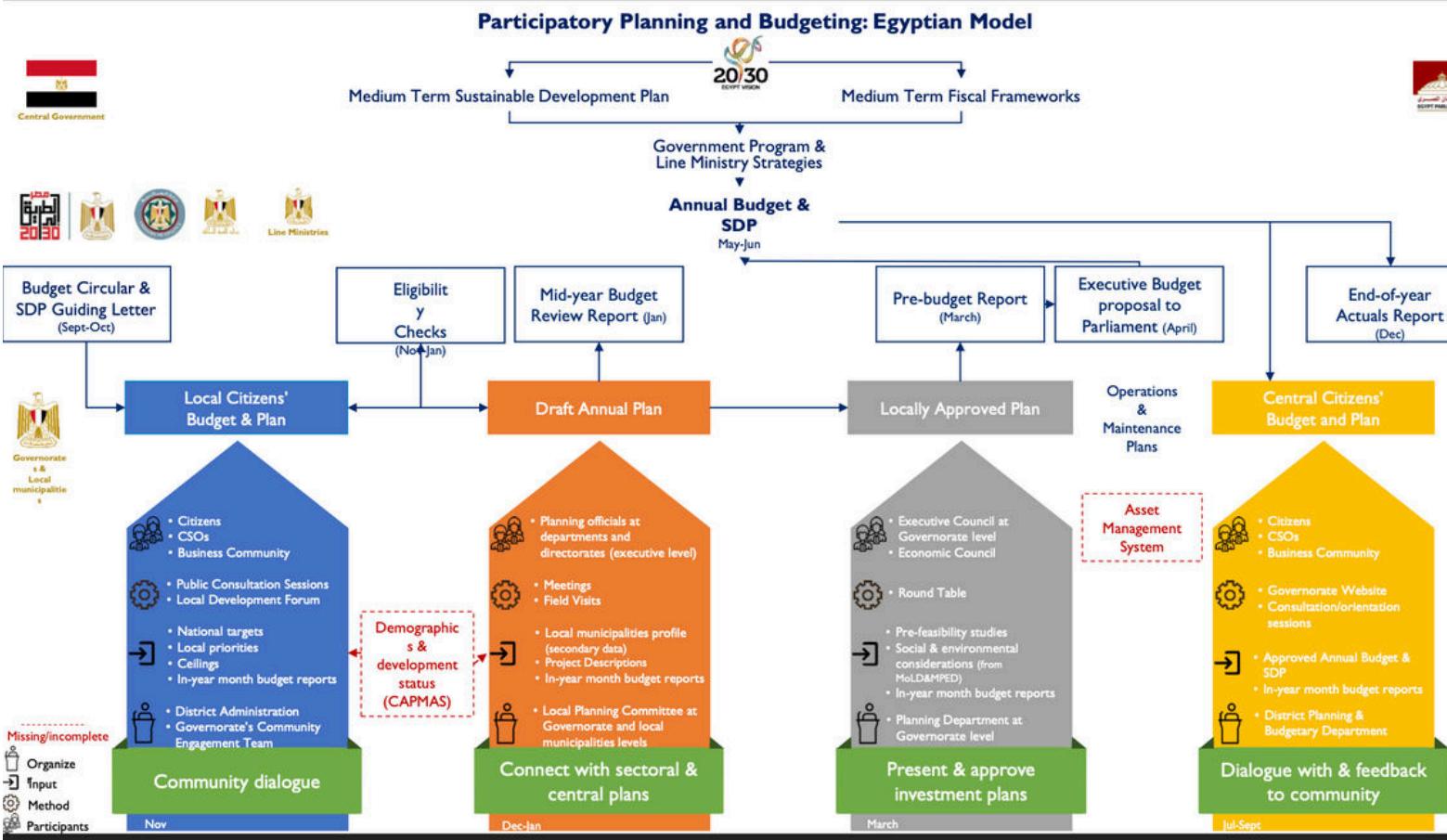
The Monitoring and Evaluation Committee oversees all stages of model implementation, issuing periodic reports on achievements and alignment with desired outcomes. The reports are discussed within the Organizing Committee to develop suitable action mechanisms.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Responsibilities:**

- Monitoring and following up on all stages of the National Model for Participatory Budgeting.
- Producing periodic progress reports on the model's outcomes, evaluated and compared against objectives.
- Presenting the reports to the Organizing Committee for discussion.
- Improving the implementation mechanisms of the national PB model and providing advisory support to the Organizing Committee.
- Documenting all the model's stages through reports and photos and creating an archive of achievements



# 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS



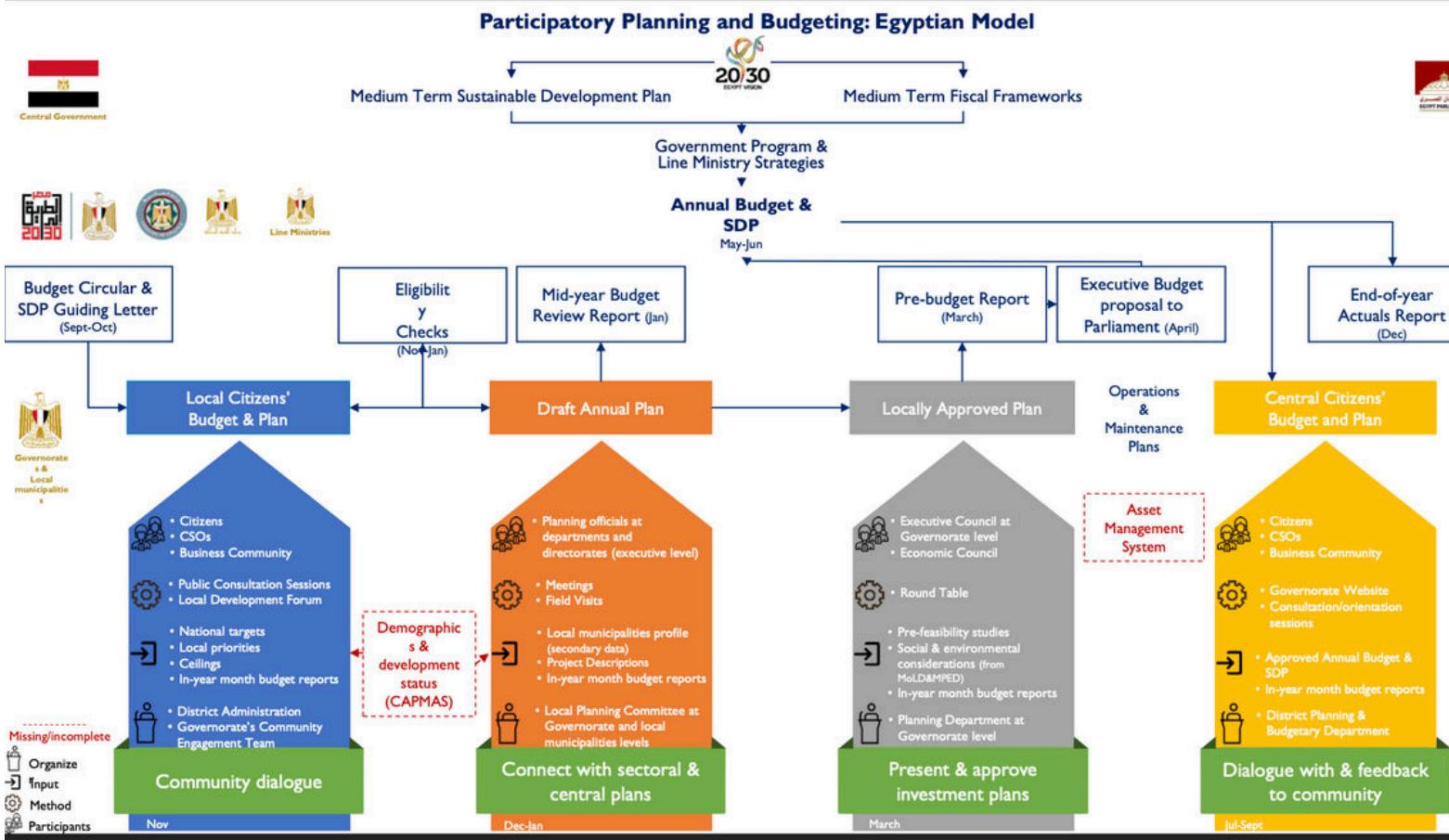
## Formulation Phase:

In the formulation phase of the budget, through community dialogue facilitated through the PB model's consultation sessions and public hearing sessions, the **Local Citizens' Budget and Plan** are developed incorporating citizens' local needs. That is through public consultation sessions and local development forums, and community dialogue with citizens, civil society organizations, and the business community with the Direct Administration Governorate's Community Engagement team. In the following stage, local priorities are matched with sectoral and central plans.

Local priorities are identified taking into account national targets and budget ceilings. In the following stage, the **Draft Annual Plan** is developed with planning officials at departments and directorates through meetings and field visits in collaboration with the Local Planning Committee and local municipalities within the governorate.

These two stages are conducted utilizing demographic data produced by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

# 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS



## Implementation Phase:

Building upon the previous stages, the Executive Council and Economic Council within the governorate develop **the Locally Approved Plan**. That is done through round tables conducted with local leaders who assess and select the projects on the basis of pre-feasibility studies that take into account social and environmental considerations in collaboration with the Planning Department in the governorate.

**The Central Citizens' Budget and Plan** are developed in collaboration with the District Planning and Budgetary Departments through dialogue with and community feedback. The annual plan and sustainable development plan are approved by the Parliament. Following their approval, public hearing sessions are conducted in the governorate where approved projects are announced.

# 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

## B) Participatory Budgeting Cycle (5)

SUB-STAGE	DESCRIPTION
<b>1. Continuous Community Dialogue and Consultation Sessions</b>	Facilitate ongoing community dialogue and consultation sessions to gather project proposals from neighborhoods and centers, prioritize them, and submit them to the Collection and Classification Working Group
<b>2. Public Hearing Sessions on the Budget</b>	Organize public hearings on the fiscal year's budget in cooperation with the Governor's office.
<b>2.A Local Needs Identification</b>	Through a collaborative effort with the Governor's office, conduct a comprehensive needs assessment in local communities. This involves surveying local residents to identify their development needs.
<b>2.B Project Proposals Preparation</b>	Leveraging the expertise of Ministry of Local Development specialists, develop comprehensive project proposals. This entails developing detailed technical designs, conducting financing needs assessments, and carrying out environmental and social impact studies for the projects.
<b>3. Project Assessment</b>	<p>Conduct a rigorous sorting and evaluation process for projects identified through community dialogue sessions in collaboration with Ministry of Local Development specialists. The assessment is conducted by the Communication and Information Working Group and takes into account:</p> <p><b>Assessment Criteria Include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Project Suitability:</b> Assess the technical, financial, and timeframe feasibility for each project</li></ul>

5. Refer to the macro-framework in the figure above.

# 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

## B) Participatory Budgeting Cycle

SUB-STAGE	DESCRIPTION
3. Project Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Relevance and Alignment:</b> The degree to which the project addresses identified local needs and priorities.</li><li><b>Community Engagement and Support:</b> The level of community participation and ownership in project design, implementation, and monitoring.</li><li><b>Project Timeline and Efficiency:</b> The clarity and feasibility of the project timeline, as well as its potential to be implemented within the allocated time frame.</li><li><b>Beneficiary Targeting and Impact:</b> The precision in identifying target beneficiaries and the project's potential to create a significant positive impact on the community.</li><li><b>Community Impact:</b> Projects will be prioritized based on their effectiveness in addressing the most pressing local issues identified in community dialogues.</li></ul>
4. Project Selection	<p>On the basis of the comprehensive screening , the proposed projects are selected; whereby project selection takes into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Feasibility:</b> Projects are selected based on feasibility assessments.</li><li>Alignment with Egypt's Vision 2030 and the Government's Working Plan or with a 70% completion rate.</li><li><b>Alignment with the governorate's strategic plan:</b> Projects contribute to the governorate's sustainable development strategic plan.</li><li><b>Financial considerations:</b> Projects are chosen within the constraints of available financing resources.</li></ul>
5. Public Hearing Sessions Following Parliamentary Approval of the Budget	5. Public Hearing Sessions Following Parliamentary Approval of the Budget Hold public hearing sessions in which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Approved projects are announced.</li><li>An explanation for the postponement of certain projects is provided, outlining the reasoning behind these decisions</li><li>The following year's participatory budgeting cycle is officially launched.</li></ul>

# 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

## Operating Rules

### 01 Community Ownership and Beneficiary-Centric Approach



**Local Contribution:** To encourage citizen engagement and a sense of ownership, civil society organizations are involved in fostering local community contributions. This could involve voluntary donations from individuals or social responsibility initiatives undertaken by businesses. These contributions will help cover the total project cost.

**Participant Satisfaction:** Ensure that participants feel valued and supported throughout all stages of the proposal development process.

**Consultation and Feedback:** Prioritize incorporating the results of consultations, along with beneficiary opinions, into the project design and implementation. This will be measured by the percentage of beneficiaries and their extent of satisfaction with the projects across all implementation aspects.

### 02 Inclusion and Equal Participation

Ensure participation from women, people with special needs, and disadvantaged groups to ensure a representative decision-making process.



### 03 Government Oversight

Ensure that a government official is present at the dialogue sessions to review the proposals and explain why a particular proposal is accepted or rejected. This is being done in coordination with the Governor's office and the executive committees responsible for the Decent Life Initiative in governorates.



# 2.4 EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL PROCESS

## Operating Rules



04

### Open Dialogue and Transparency

- Following the projects' screening process by the coordination committee, approved project proposals undergo a transparent and fair process of free, secret voting by beneficiaries.
- Efficient use of technology will ensure clear communication and announcements regarding each project stage and its results.

05 Youth Empowerment and Civil Society Involvement



#### Civil Society Organizations:

- Engage with community leaders and nominate a number of them to participate in the National Participatory Budgeting model's ToT.
- Conduct community engagement sessions to identify local priorities and challenges. Document and prioritize these needs for subsequent presentation to the governorate. This process initiates the participatory budgeting cycle by ensuring that citizens' concerns and suggestions are integrated into the budget formulation process.

#### Ministry of Finance Ambassadors and members of the Active Citizenship Club in Egyptian public and private universities:

- Conduct ongoing monitoring and analysis to identify emerging issues and challenges.
- Provide timely feedback and develop actionable recommendations within resource constraints.
- Prepare comprehensive proposals, including alternative solutions, for identified issues.
- Compile and prioritize suggestions based on community impact and feasibility, and present them to relevant officials.

# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## I) INITIATION STEPS:

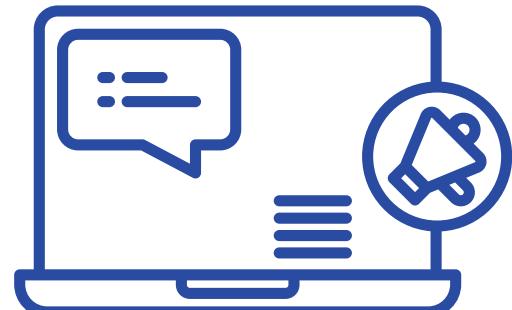
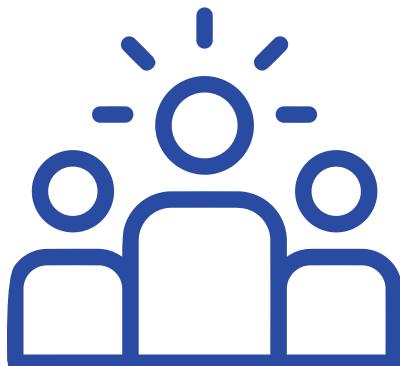
### INITIATION WORKSHOPS



To initiate the widespread adoption of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) model across governorates, the Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit conducted two foundational workshops in Cairo (April 2019) and Alexandria (February 2020). These workshops brought together key stakeholders from governmental entities and civil society organizations to identify potential participants for subsequent training.

To establish a strong foundation for PB implementation, representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, and Ministry of Local Development, along with governorate directorates, finance departments, and civil society organizations in Alexandria, Fayoum, and Beni Suef (Phase 1 governorates) were invited to participate in workshop sessions. These sessions covered:

- Diverse participatory budgeting models and their implementation challenges.
- Successful examples of participatory budgets from different countries and the challenges in their implementation.
- The development of an adapted Egyptian participatory budgeting model for Alexandria.



# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## I) INITIATION STEPS:

### PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH



- Strategic partnerships were forged with relevant ministries and civil society organizations to facilitate the PB model's implementation.
- In collaboration with the the Decent Life Foundation and the General Diwan of governorates, the FTCE Unit engaged in high-level discussions with the Governors of Alexandria and Fayoum, the Deputy Governor of Qalyubia, and representatives from Assiut and Beni Suef governorates to initiate pilot projects in West and Montazah neighborhoods in line with the governorate's investment plan and to address discrepancies between public resources and local citizens' needs. Additionally, periodic meetings were conducted with Senators to ensure ongoing policy alignment.
- To build capacity for participatory budgeting, introductory workshops were conducted in multiple universities and governorates targeting district heads and representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations. These sessions served as a foundation for selecting 100 trainees from each governorate to undergo comprehensive training and become PB ambassadors.
- A participatory budgeting seminar was conducted for Master's students at the English Department, Faculty of Commerce, Alexandria University in November 2020.

# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## III) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOT PROGRAM IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE IN AUGUST 2022:

### 2.1) CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES:

#### LAUNCH OF THE “YOUR GOVERNORATE...PROBLEM + SOLUTION” YOUTH COMPETITION

To increase youth participation in the government's development efforts, the FTCE Unit launched a competition to target Fayoum's youth under the title “Your Governorate ... Problem + Solution”. That is to present a summary of projects aimed at finding solutions and ideas for local issues faced by Fayoum Governorate. The competition received a large number of contestants who submitted their ideas where the competition reached 161,389 young people from Fayoum Governorate. 11,511 young people interacted with the campaign, while 41 others reposted the campaign on their social media accounts.

Through collaborative efforts with government agencies and civil society, the first cohort of 85 Fayoum residents successfully completed the participatory budgeting training program. These trainees applied their newfound knowledge to develop impactful local initiatives and graduation projects. From a pool of over 500 submissions, the top five projects from Egyptian universities were selected to showcase the success of Egypt's participatory budgeting model.

#### COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITIES

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the FTCE unit identified the top-five youth initiatives from public and private Egyptian universities. That is with the aim of integrating fiscal policy and the budget into student activities in schools and universities, increasing students' engagement with the Ministry of Finance's efforts.



# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## II) IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPT'S NATIONAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE:

### FAYOUM'S TOT GRADUATION PROJECTS

#### WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS

##### **Shrimp Peeling Women Empowerment Project:**

This initiative focuses on enhancing the livelihoods and health of women engaged in shrimp peeling in Shakshuk village. By providing medical services and promoting economic opportunities within the shrimp industry, in collaboration with the National Council for Women and the Fayoum Governorate, the project aims to create a safe environment for women. Additionally, a partnership with MSMEDA is exploring alternative small and medium enterprises to diversify income sources and improve overall living standards.



##### **Kufuf Project (Small Business Incubators):**

Providing mentorship, training, and market access support to women artisans.

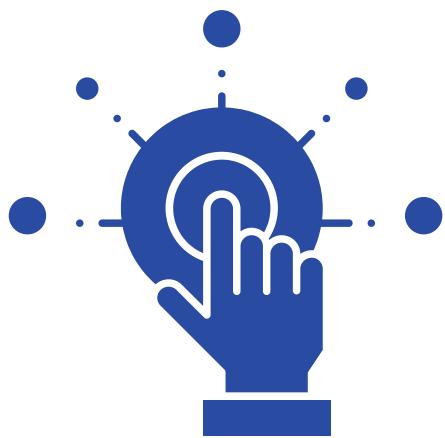
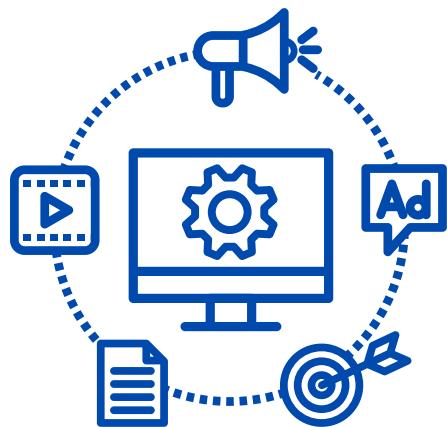
# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## II) IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPT'S NATIONAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE:

### FAYOUM'S TOT GRADUATION PROJECTS

#### AWARENESS BUILDING PROJECTS

**The Sustainability Ambassadors Initiative:** aims to foster community ownership of Decent Life projects through outreach activities. By conducting door-to-door campaigns, workshops, and training sessions. The initiative seeks to enhance public awareness about project sustainability and preservation strategies.



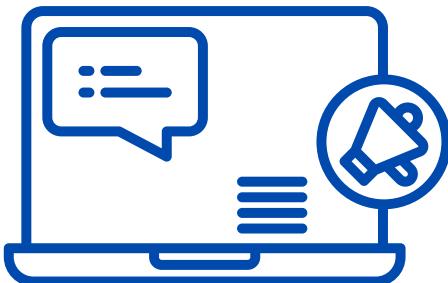
**Your Right is Your Right Initiative:** Empowering citizens through knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in collaboration with civil society organizations.

# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## II) IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPT'S NATIONAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE:

### FAYOUM'S TOT GRADUATION PROJECTS

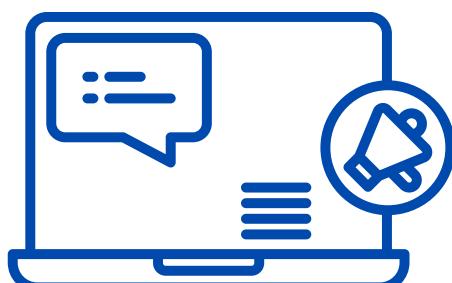
#### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS



##### **Digital Fayoum" Initiative (Digital Egypt Platform):**

It aims to raise citizens' awareness about the services provided by the Digital Egypt platform and digital transformation services.

**Digital Literacy Initiative:** Aims to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Digital Egypt platform and its digital transformation services.



**Raise Your Awareness Initiative:** This digital transformation project aims to enhance the financial literacy and capabilities of target beneficiaries, specifically pensioners and Takaful and Karama Program recipients, enabling them to utilize ATMs for transactions.

# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## II) IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPT'S NATIONAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE:

### FAYOUM'S TOT GRADUATION PROJECTS

#### CHILD PROTECTION PROJECTS

**The Together to Protect Our Children project, implemented in partnership with the Child Protection Committee:** The project aims to raise public awareness about child protection laws, the role of child protection committees, and the importance of reporting child abuse. The project emphasizes the confidentiality of whistleblowers and provides clear guidance on intervention strategies.



# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

## II) IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPT'S NATIONAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE:

### FAYOUM'S TOT GRADUATION PROJECTS

#### BUDGET LITERACY PROJECTS

**Care Project:** This project adapts the participatory budgeting process for individuals with hearing impairments, facilitating their engagement in community decision-making and promoting their role as advocates for inclusive budgeting within their families.



**Participatory Budgeting Project for Youth Centers:** Aims to raise awareness among members of the general assemblies and visitors of the targeted youth centers (Dessa - the governorate) about participatory budgeting topics, monitoring final accounts, and budget plans.

#### GREEN ECONOMY PROJECTS



**Green Neighborhood Initiative:** This project seeks to eliminate waste within a designated neighborhood. If successful, the model will be expanded to other neighborhoods.

**"Preserve It to Find It Project":** To enhance water use efficiency and expand cultivated areas, this initiative aims to raise farmers' awareness about the benefits of canal lining and the adoption of modern irrigation systems. By minimizing water losses through canal lining and optimizing water distribution, farmers can increase agricultural yields and productivity.

# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

## II) IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPT'S NATIONAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE:

### 2.2) PUBLIC HEARING SESSIONS:

To expand the reach of participatory budgeting across governorates, the FTCE Unit conducted extensive public hearing sessions in which the national PB model was explained. These engagements included a meeting with Fayoum Governor Dr. Ahmed Al-Ansari in December 2020 to initiate the participatory budgeting process in the governorate. In partnership with relevant ministries and civil society organizations, the FTCE Unit facilitated public hearing sessions in multiple centers in Fayoum (Etsa, Youssef Al-Siddiq in 2021, Tamia and Fayoum Center in 2022) and in Alexandria (Montazah Awal). For more details, please visit the link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/hwA6qkwnRWbCdJS4/?mibextid=w8EBqM&startTimeMs=1000>



The FTCE unit organized public hearing sessions both prior to and following the Ministry of Finance's fiscal policy announcements and before and after the publishing of the fiscal year's Financial Statement and Citizen Budget. Awareness efforts by the FTCE unit included the dissemination of audio-visual content explaining the Citizen Budget report through the ministry's social media channels.

Public hearing sessions have been conducted in order to discuss the 2024/2025 budget in June 2024 prior to its presentation to and discussion with the Parliament. That is in order to take into account the demands of citizens to be integrated in the State budget for the fiscal year 2025/2024. For more details, please visit the link: [https://youtu.be/jhOs79gs\\_SY?si=VM\\_ZxGPPecgmUt2x](https://youtu.be/jhOs79gs_SY?si=VM_ZxGPPecgmUt2x)

Prior to drafting the public hearing sessions report, workshops were conducted with diverse stakeholders to gather comprehensive data on public budget concerns to be included in the report. The public hearing sessions were filmed and disseminated on the ministry's website and social media platforms, accompanied by press releases to maximize public awareness.

Following the report's release, awareness campaigns will be conducted in Egypt's most disadvantaged governorates, targeting traditionally excluded demographics including women, youth, and the elderly. These initiatives will be complemented by filming and disseminating conference proceedings on the ministry's website and social media platforms, accompanied by comprehensive press releases.

# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

## II) IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPT'S NATIONAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE:

### 2.3) IMPLEMENTING A COMMUNITY MONITORING TOOL

To enhance transparency and accountability, a community monitoring tool is being activated in villages participating in the Decent Life initiative in Alexandria and Fayoum. Aligned with international best practices, this tool will utilize methodologies from organizations like the **International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Survey and Transparency's Global Corruption Parameter** to enable citizens to track project progress.

Key features of the tool include:

- Community evaluation cards: To measure citizen satisfaction with services.
- Participatory budgeting training: To empower citizens to actively engage in the budget process.
- Project monitoring: To ensure projects are implemented effectively and efficiently.

By leveraging these tools, the initiative aims to strengthen citizen engagement and improve the delivery of public services.



# 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

## II) IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPT'S NATIONAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE:

### 2.4) SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY PHASE:

The second phase of the national participatory budgeting model has been initiated in Fayoum Governorate with a focus on social accountability. This phase aims to monitor the effectiveness of public services and large-scale national projects, seeking to improve public spending efficiency through collaboration with government agencies and civil society organizations.

Similar to successful models implemented in Assiut under the Takaful and Karama programs and the Social Fund for Development. This initiative seeks to ensure that support reaches those who truly need it and to uncover any instances of corruption. This leads to improving Egypt's position in the field of accountability and monitoring of the budget cycle.

The Community Accountability Program, led by the FTCE Unit, is part of the broader Joint Cooperation Protocol between the Egyptian government, the United Nations, and civil society organizations. This protocol focuses on sustainable development over the next five years (2023-2027).

Through public hearing sessions conducted in Fayoum Governorate, the FTCE Unit identified the needs of citizens in various centers (e.g: Etsa, Fayoum, Youssef El Sedik, Tamya). These needs have been incorporated into the community monitoring and accountability project to ensure that projects are implemented effectively. Examples of projects being monitored include sewage systems, electricity, fiber optic networks, gas infrastructure, health insurance, and educational programs. For more details on specific projects in each center, please visit: [https://budget.gov.eg/?post\\_type=other-reports](https://budget.gov.eg/?post_type=other-reports)

## 3.2) INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MODEL

**The success of Egypt's Participatory Budgeting model has been recognized by several international organizations.**

Egypt has been featured in the Participatory Budgeting World Atlas 2019 report which includes 11690 to 11825 Participatory Budgeting cases in the 71 countries.



### Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Egypt's successful PB model is to be featured in the OECD's "Egypt's Public Governance Review"



### International Budget Partnership (IBP)

Egypt's successful PB model is to be featured as a case study by the IBP



# ANNEX 1: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MANDATE

## **FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT UNIT MANDATE**

- Coordinating efforts between ministries and following up on the implementation of their roles.
- Raising awareness on the idea and concept of participatory budgeting across all entities, whether governorates or the ministries or that are involved in the implementation of the national model of participatory budgeting.
- Acting as the technical secretariat and technical support office to develop the final conceptualization of the implementation of the action plan for the dissemination of participatory budgets among all entities, and is responsible for providing technical and logistical support within this framework.
- Acting as the reference focal point for all ministries and governorates in developing the mechanisms and action plan for the implementation and application of the national model of participatory budgeting.

## **MINSITRY OF FIANANCE MANDATE**

- Assisting in the preparation of participatory budgets in governorates through its team of public finance experts and providing training to local government officials, empowering them to actively participate in the preparation of participatory budgets for their local communities.
- The Ministry of Finance can directly fund priority projects identified through participatory budgeting, particularly those related to Operations and Maintenance (Chapter II of the public budget ), to support their implementation.
- Integrating local budgets in the participatory budgeting process, through collaboration with ministries, ensuring technical and financial support for local implementation of PB within municipalities.
- Ensuring maximum utilization of all resources , especially from the private sector and civil society organizations, in cooperation with the relevant ministries to document and disseminate best practices in applying the national model of participatory budgeting.

# ANNEX 1: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MANDATE

## MINISTRY OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT MANDATE

- Coordinating with the governorates to implement participatory budgeting and ToT programs according to the approved and consolidated work plan.
- Continuously assessing the impact of ToT programs conducted on participatory budgeting for both government and non-government personnel.
- Providing the necessary technical support to the governorates to provide innovative solutions aiming to promote the participatory budgeting system within it.
- Participating in training programs and training local cadres on participatory budgeting, whether implemented in the governorates or the Local Development Center in Saqqara.
- Organizing collaborative competitions among local administration units, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, that aim to improve citizen engagement in the budget process, through various incentives.
- Directing governorates to activate the role of socio-economic councils and local planning committees to implement participatory budgeting mechanisms.
- Training government personnel in governorate information centers and website management to operate participatory budget applications and publish budget and participatory budgeting plans information on governorate websites.

## MINISTRY OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MANDATE

- Participating in capacity building through the participatory budgeting TOT programmes.
- Adopting the governorate's plan by prioritizing a set percentage of citizen-proposed projects in light of budgetary constraints.
- Guiding governorate service directorates and central ministries to prioritize citizen proposals that are feasible for implementation

# ANNEX 1: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MANDATE

## MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY MANDATE

- Facilitating the participation of civil society organizations in the national model of participatory budgeting activities.
- Organizing volunteer operations and participating in the activities of the model within the framework of the National Strategy for Volunteering that the Ministry has finalized.
- Supporting the activities of the National Model for Participatory Budgeting through the Public Service Commission in Fayoum Governorate.
- Facilitating the registration of community initiatives proposed by youth groups within the ministries, adhering to Law No. 249 of 2019 and its executive regulations.
- Supporting the activities of citizens' groups' projects through the cooperatives administration in the Ministry.
- Supporting awareness-raising efforts and activities by utilizing the efforts of the Ministry's female social pioneers.