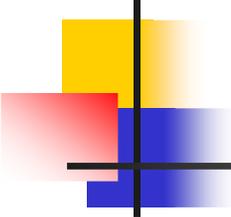
The background is a textured, light brown surface with faint, hand-drawn sketches in black ink. On the left, there are figures of people, one holding a sign with some illegible text. On the right, there are more sketches of people and what looks like a building or structure. The overall style is that of a rough, hand-drawn sketch on a piece of paper.

ELBAG

ECONOMIC LITERACY
&

BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GOVERNANCE

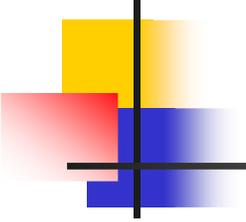


Context

- Drawn from experiences of working with communities to support peoples actions to claim citizenship and rights and use of participatory methodologies and tools - the PRA and REFLECT approaches, PVA and STAR etc.
- Economics, a key area of policy making, has largely remained out of the reach and realm of the poor and excluded people's action in their effort to seek justice
- To firmly establish people centered rights based governance at the local level, there is a strong need to politicize economic decision making process and place it squarely within the domain of people's agencies and public action.
- The need to hold government and its institutions accountable.
- Understanding that bottom up processes lead to democratisation of local, national and international level public policy making processes.

What is this?





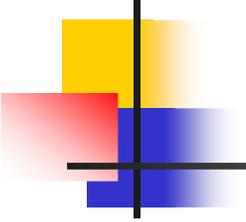
1.5 What is ELBAG ?

- Economic Literacy and Budget Accountability for Governance, ELBAG, is a process and methodological framework that combines
 - organising people,
 - developing grassroots
 - monitoring mechanisms, democratising knowledge (particularly political economy and economics) and
 - using participatory tools and methods for building public accountability and transparency to initiate people centered advocacy processes.
- It creates space where people can discuss economics and use it as an entry point to build inclusive, democratic and just governance.

Objectives

- seeks to address the disconnection between local, national and international level.
- facilitate empowerment of people, ensure participation of poor and excluded.
- Reduce corruption, increase accountability in the processes of governance and policy making, particularly with regards to budget formulation, economic planning and government decision making that impact their lives.
- support the realisation of the rights of the poor and excluded people by upholding people centric governance at different levels.
- Encouraging the democratisation of national level policy making





1.6 What does ELBAG involve?

- ELBAG is about politicisation of knowledge and experiences.
- It is about understanding how economic processes operate, asking questions about political economy and about taking action.
- Economic literacy, thus, builds on existing knowledge of the communities.
 - *How are revenue generated?*
 - *Why do these revenues, collected by the governments, not find their way to development benefits?*
 - *How are budgetary allocations made and whose priorities usually count?*
 - *How are budgetary allocations spent?*
 - *Why is spending information not shared?*
- Similarly, at the local level too people would like to ask many questions with their local governments.
 - Why do the schools not have enough resources to hire teachers?
 - Why do Primary Health Care Centers not have medicines and trained personnel?
 - Why are there no good roads?
 - Why are local government officials getting rich and fat?



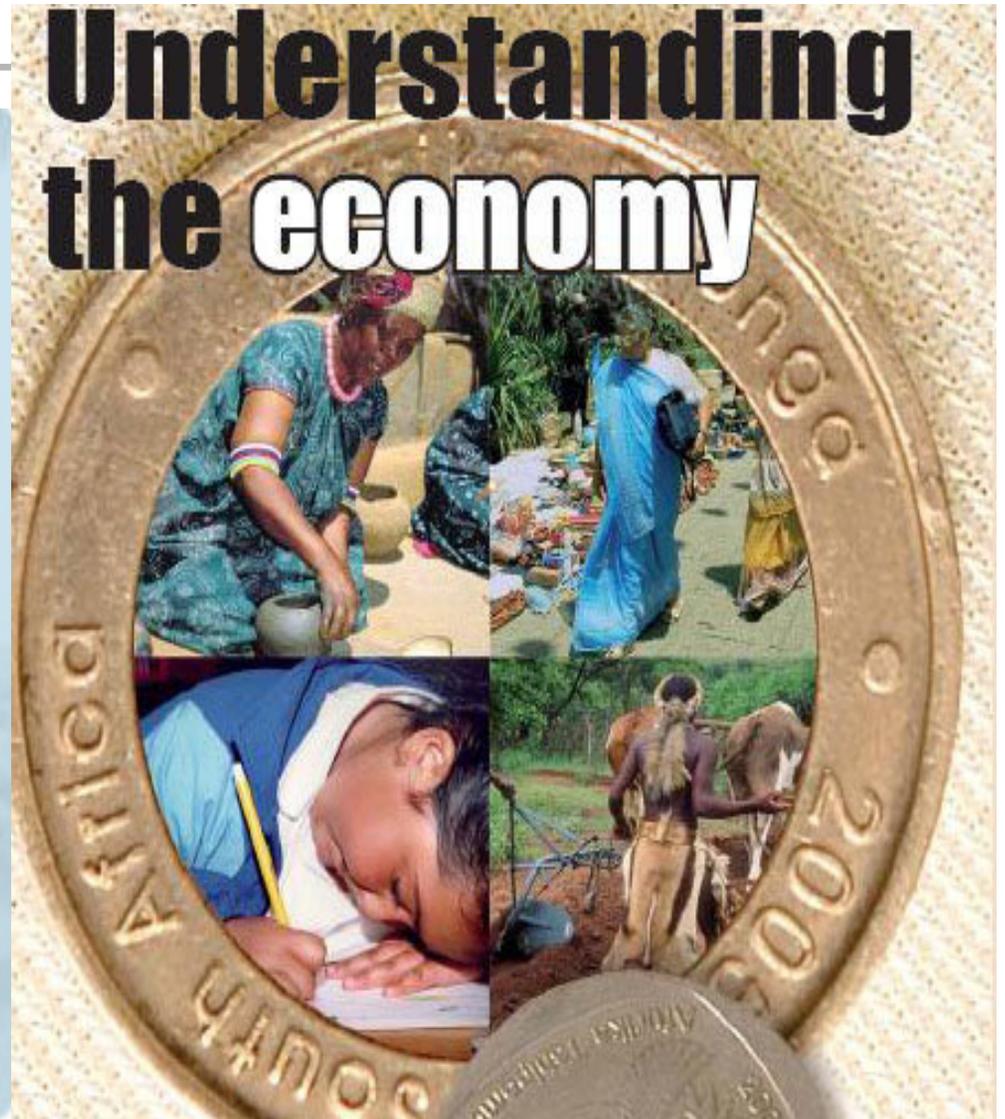
What does ELBAG consist of

- Social mobilization for monitoring governance and rights at the local level
- Democratization of knowledge and policy (through capacity building, public education and alternative media)
- People-centered advocacy to make governance work at the local level for the poor
- Methods and strategies to ensure people's participation and public accountability

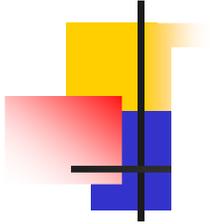
Fundamentals – Economic Literacy

Why Economic Literacy?

- Development is about resources
- Resources are inequitably distributed
- The reasons lie in the structure of the political economy – how policies are made and how resources are allocated and used
- The role of the governments is critical in this – how and from whom they collect resources, how they decide priorities and how they spend the resources
- The Budget reflects all this and therefore we have to understand and analyze it
- Equipment to challenge economic injustice



Fundamentals of ELBAG – Community rooted



Fundamentals - Participation

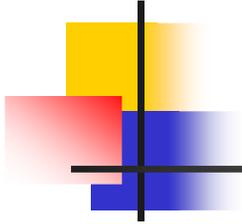


Fundamentals ... Budget Advocacy

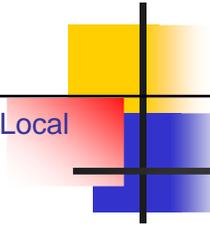
Budget Advocacy

- Budgets reflect public policy and priorities
- Often policies may be progressive but they fail because appropriate budget allocations are not made to realize its objectives
- Economic and political elites have regularly advocated to influence budget allocations and hence policies favour them
- We have to do the same for the cause of the poor





-
- Citizens Reports Cards,
 - Social Audits,
 - Public Hearings
 - Social audit
 - And ensure public accountability through participation

<p>Elbag Process: Pathway of progress</p> 	<p>Conscientisation Mobilisation and Platforms: integrate/support Popular Struggle</p>	<p>Issues to be Responded to:</p>	<p>Building Consolidating knowledge/ Research</p>	<p>Capacity and Leadership processes</p>	<p>Methodology development</p>
<p>Local</p>	<p>Community Elbag/reflect Circles, Community Forums, and Issue based platforms/ Peoples Activism</p>	<p>Peoples Issues: Power dimensions eg Land, Labour, Emplt, Issues: Welfare state role- tracking democratic deficits at local Local Economy regeneration</p>	<p>Peoples Reports and Assessments, Research on regeneration of Local Economics</p>	<p>Mentoring, Facilitators, Community Ec Literacy sessions,</p>	<p>Citizens Reports Cards, Social Audits, Public Hearings</p>
<p>National</p>	<p>Peoples Budget Initiatives, CSO platforms, and Oversight Groups (media, academics, Elected Reps, NGOs) , Peoples Planning Commissions</p>	<p>National Budget Tracking, Constitutional analysis Finance Flows, domestic Economic Policy and Revenue National policy advocacy</p>	<p>Political Economy and domestic financing, Research on Public Investments and goods, Work on Budget Processes Promise monitoring - Citizens Reports</p>	<p>National Training programmes Supporting Institutions -Centres of elbag Learnings (Nigeria, Brazil, India, Vietnam)</p>	<p>Peoples Audits/Citizens Budgets, Economics Commentary-Policy Dialogues, Parliamentary Interfaces, and media Sensitisation.</p>
<p>International</p>	<p>South South Solidarity Forum, International Networks on EL, Issue based alliances, IDEAS, Auditors Network, Finance Ministers Forums?</p>	<p>International Finance Flows (Aid, Trade, Debt, MWR, Capital Flights, - Issues of Capital Control)</p>	<p>Theoretical knowledge base on finance flows, Report on State of State</p>	<p>International Leadership Development Programme, Resource Materiel, Mentoring –activist team</p>	<p>International Reports – FFD process – Policy Reports- dialogues at international forums (eg EC forum,)</p>

Points To Remember



- ☑ ELBAG is a mechanism, which facilitates our understanding of development issues from the context of economics and budgets.
- ☑ Empowered with economic literacy and budget analysis, capacity development social actors can mobilize civil society groups and people's organisations they work with to demand economic justice and accountability for just and democratic governance.
- ☑ The criticality of the role of the government in the economy and shaping of public/social policies that leads to economic justice.
- ☑ Budget is only one of the tools within the ELBAG mechanism which facilitates the understanding of policy implementation and just governance.
- ☑ Budget advocacy is a critical instrument in the process of social audits and advocacy for accountability and governance.