



**Africa Systems Change
Community of Practice**
Engage, Learn, Impact

SMALL PRACTICE EXPERIMENT: “FOLLOW ONE BUDGET DECISION”

PURPOSE

To better understand how budget decisions are actually made and identify one possible entry point for engagement.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION (30 MINUTES OR LESS):

Choose **one current issue your organisation cares about** (for example: maternal health funding, girls' education, water services, etc.).

1. **Identify the stage of the budget cycle:** Is this issue mainly shaped during budget formulation, approval, execution, or oversight?
2. **Focus on one decision:** What specific decision affects this issue?
Example: allocation of funds to district health services.
3. **Identify 1–2 key actors:** Who influences that decision?
Examples: Ministry of Finance official, parliamentary committee member, district finance officer.
4. **Think about incentives:** What might motivate or influence their choices?
Examples: political priorities, donor requirements, pressure from citizens, election dynamics.
5. **Spot one opportunity:** Based on this, what is one small engagement opportunity your organisation could explore?
Example: meeting a parliamentary staffer before the budget debate, or presenting data during a district planning meeting.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE NEXT SESSION

Come prepared to share **one insight or surprise** from this exercise.