

# Participatory Budgeting learning from the Global South



by

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## The birth of PB in Porto Alegre - Brazil

- Participatory Budgeting took its first formal shape in the neighborhoods of Porto Alegre in the aftermath of dictatorship in Brazil.
- The PB democratic innovation was first implemented in 1989.
- Since its birth, to well over 3000 experiences in over 45 countries from all regions in the world.



## What is Participatory Budgeting?

- Participatory budgeting is a process of democratic decision making, where ordinary community members decide how to allocate part of a public budget through a series of local assemblies and meetings.
- The system strives to involve the general populace in the prioritization and allocation of municipal resources outlined in the yearly city budget.
- With the goal of redistributing these resources from the advantaged to the disadvantaged.
- The PB process is rooted in three principles:
  1. All citizen's can participate;
  2. Participation is governed by direct and representative rules decided by the participants;
  3. Investment resources are allocated based on
    - a) general criteria established by citizens, and
    - b) technical criteria (viability of projects) established by the executive.

## PB in Chengdu, China

- Since 2009 Chengdu, invested over US \$1.2 billion in over 50 000 PB projects reaching 15 million people.
- As a way to reduce the economic and social gaps that exist between the urbanized and the peri-urban areas of the fourth largest city in China.
- Related to collective land use rights of villagers and security of tenure, both for housing and for agriculture, which are seriously under threat as urban areas expand.
- Projects eligible are primarily *public services that can be delivered and monitored by local residents including infrastructure for local economic development: roads, drainage, gardens and water supply valued up to US\$ 80,000 or 500,000 RMB.*
- Communities can apply for a loan, to allow them to finance the scaling up of larger projects, up to 7 times the value to the original PB project.



## From right to the city to participatory budgeting



- *The right to participation .... as distinct from the right to property ... are implied in the right to the city* (Henry Lefebvre 1968)



- *"a process of direct, voluntary and universal democracy, through which the population can discuss and define the budget and public policies. The participatory budget combines direct and representative democracy"* (Ubiratan de Souza 1998)



- *"Participatory Budgeting stands as one of the very few real democratic innovations over the last 30 years"* (Yves Cabannes 2017)



- *"Participatory budgeting ... affords all residents the right to provide better infrastructure to their own community ... to create more transparency and less corruption"* (Zhuang Ming 2019)

## Participatory Budgeting in Canada

- A few Canadian municipalities have attempted to increase citizen participation in the city budgeting process.
- In these cases, public input was generally obtained through consultative mechanisms such as public forums, citizen advisory committees and community surveys.
- In Canada, participatory budgeting projects have funded playground improvements; neighbourhood beautification; pedestrian safety initiatives and traffic calming; lighting and murals in public spaces; and improvements to common areas in publicly owned buildings.
- These processes have most often been initiated by a municipalities.
- In 2001 the TCH (Toronto Community Housing), the largest social housing provider in Canada, used participatory budgeting to allow tenants to decide how to spend a portion of TCH's capital budget. More than 6,000 residents allocated \$18 million in funds.
- Participatory budgeting projects have also been piloted in Montreal, Guelph and Vancouver



## Angola Municipal Development Forums

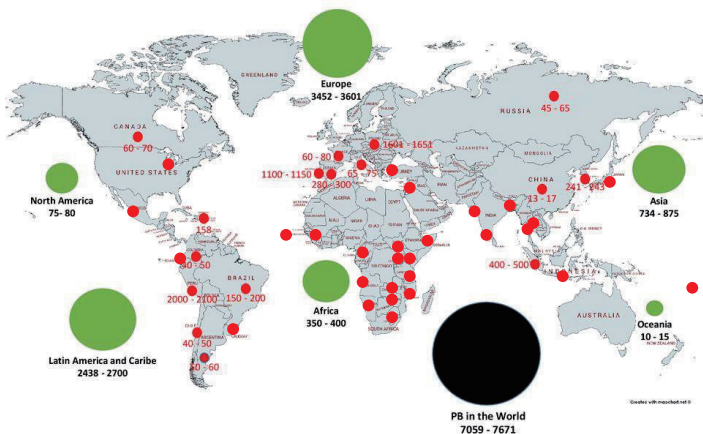
- The first Municipal Development Forum was launched in Kilamba Kiaxi on 14 Sept 2001, and are now regularly held in all Luanda's municipalities
- The Forum model of a non-state municipal institution has been replicated across the country in all other provinces, including;
  - Socio-Economic baseline studies
  - Participatory municipal planning
  - Monitoring of municipal development budgets
- In July 2019 Participatory Budgeting legislation was passed in anticipation of the first municipal elections in 2020.



## PB Process & Annual Cycle

- 1) The municipality is divided into regions to facilitate meetings and the distribution of resources;
- 2) A "Quality of Life Index" is created by the government to serve as the basis for the distribution of resources based on need;
- 3) Meetings are held for residents to identify local needs;
- 4) Residents brainstorm ideas about how the money should be spent;
- 5) Delegates are elected to represent a neighborhood;
- 6) Budget delegates develop proposals based on the community's initial ideas;
- 7) Delegates and public officials piece together a final list of proposals;
- 8) The community is invited to vote on their top projects;
- 9) The government implements the winning projects;
- 10) Residents monitor implementation.

## PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORLDWIDE, TODAY



Thirty years of Participatory Budgeting from South to North