



With support from



Integrated National Financing Frameworks & Open Budgets for Sustainable Development in Africa

27-30 September 2022 – Abuja, Nigeria

Background

Throughout 2020 and 2021, as the Covid-19 pandemic dealt shocks to both the sustainable development outlook and the means for financing recovery and medium- to long-term progress, interest in integrated national financing grew. The African continent has been leading in the number of countries volunteering to join the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) initiative. Currently, more than 40 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are now using the approach.

Integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) were first introduced by UN Member States in the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a country-led approach for strengthening public and private financing for sustainable development. INFFs offer a framework for bringing together the policies used to mobilise and govern public and private financing. They help governments align and strengthen the contribution of financing policies toward implementation of national development plans. They deepen the connections across financing policy areas and help build greater collaboration between public and private actors.

National processes to tailor and operationalise INFFs through national institutions are advancing. A growing number of countries is reaching the defining stage of articulating an INFF Roadmap. By the end of this year, 22 countries will have developed a Financing Strategy that identifies reforms associated with budgeting, taxation, public debt, investment, development cooperation, private sector development, diaspora investment, remittances, etc.

One of the strategic pillars of the INFF process is linked with monitoring and oversight of financing¹, with a particular focus on promoting transparency throughout the budget cycle. Budget openness in SSA has seen significant progress over the last decade. The recently launched [Open Budget Survey 2021](#) reported that the average transparency score received by countries in the region was at its highest level since the survey was

¹ This includes links with Building Block 3 (monitoring and review) and 4 (governance and coordination) of INFFs



founded in 2006. For the 16 countries assessed in every round between 2008 and 2021, the average transparency score increased by 16 points (or a jump of about 70%), making SSA one of the best regional improvers in the world over that period. These improvements have been achieved from a low base, however, and much work remains as confirmed through the different INFF-related roadmaps.

A growing body of evidence shows that countries that have more open budgeting systems have stronger democracies, greater equity and better development outcomes.² Higher levels of transparency are also associated with lower debt levels and improved debt management, more accurate revenue projections and better credit ratings, which, in turn, can help attract investment and reduce sovereign borrowing costs. Increased public participation in budgeting can also lead to more efficient and effective expenditures of public resources towards SDG-aligned priorities. It is clear that improving progress on human capital and sustainable development requires improving budget transparency, mechanisms for the public to contribute to budgeting processes, and Parliamentary and audit oversight.

Decisions regarding expenditures directed to national recovery affect whether and how governments build back more equitable economies and societies that are also resilient to climate change and deliver on the SDGs. In Africa, as elsewhere in the world, efforts to promote open budgeting practices—through systems that are transparent, open to public engagement and scrutiny, and that receive strong oversight from independent institutions—have contributed to more efficient spending and improved outcomes in human capital.

In this context, beginning on Day 3 of the workshop, government officials will be joined by the Open Budget Survey civil society researchers from their countries. Together, they will take stock of countries' investments in human capital and the openness of their budgets. They will also develop draft country-level action plans to improve budget openness and to increase support for social sectors and efforts to combat climate change.

Two and a half years from the initial commitments made by INFF pioneers to operationalise the INFF approach, and at a time when many countries will launch their financing strategies and introduce specific public or private related financing reforms, it is important to gather again, reflect and plan forward. The proposed four-day regional workshop, conducted within the framework of the INFF Facility and the regional budget transparency initiative, will bring the African INFF community of practice together with other senior decision makers to share ongoing experiences in drafting Financing Strategies, setting up SDG Financing Dialogues and implementing open budget reforms. The event will also discuss emerging topics – disaster risk management and the green/climate agenda, fiscal decentralization, fostering a human-centred and green recovery amidst multiple shocks (the pandemic, climate events, conflict, macroeconomic volatility, fiscal austerity), etc.

Workshop goals

1. Strengthen the capacities of government officials, UN staff and other stakeholders with special focus on setting up SDG Financing Dialogues, developing Financing Strategies and promoting budget openness.³
2. Promote knowledge-sharing among countries, including brainstorming around lessons learned and the dos and the don'ts.
3. Generate a regional dialogue around emerging trends and issues that affect the rollout of INFFs and open budget reforms.

Methodology and evaluation

² IBP (2022) [Open Budget Survey 2021](#).

³ As per the Building Block 2, Building Block 3 and Building Block 4 of the INFF Methodology respectively.



The workshop will be held over four days in a hybrid format. Participants will be provided with access to a virtual learning environment prior to the workshop, and Zoom video conferencing details will be shared in due course. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French and Portuguese. All recordings, modules and materials will be made available online to participants at the end of the workshop.

Assessments will be conducted at the beginning and end to ascertain the specialized knowledge acquired by participants. Participants will also be invited to provide feedback on the sessions at the end of the workshop.

Target audience

The workshop has been designed primarily for senior officials and INFF focal points from governments in SSA, including those working at ministries of finance, planning and economic development. Researchers from academic institutions, other regional stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, IFIs and EU and representatives of civil society will also benefit from the workshop. Invitations to nominate government participants will be sent via Resident Coordinator Offices while invitations to regional partners and CSOs will be sent via ECA, UNDP, UNICEF and International Budget Partnership (IBP) focal points.

For further information, please contact Ms. Orria Goni (orria.goni@undp.org), Ms. Farzana Sharmin (sharmin@un.org), Mr. Matthew Cummins (mcummins@unicef.org) and Mr. David Robins (drobins@internationalbudget.org).



Integrated National Financing Frameworks & Open Budgets for Sustainable Development in Africa

Day 1 – Tuesday, 27 September 2022	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration and Coffee/Tea
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Matthias Schmale, UN Resident Coordinator Nigeria • Mr. Mohamed Yahya, UNDP Nigeria Resident Representative/Ayodele Odusola, Africa Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP • UNICEF Representative Nigeria • Mr. Adam Elhiraika, Director of Macroeconomics and Governance Division, UNECA • Ms. Sharon Spiegel, Chief of Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UNDESA • Representative from INFF Facility (EU delegate TBC) <p>Welcome Remarks by Host Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Ms. Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed, Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria • Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, SSAP-SDGs, Federal Republic of Nigeria <p>Review of the Agenda</p> <p><i>Moderator: Orria Goni (UNDP)</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Setting the Development Financing Stage in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financing outlook: Gamal Ibrahim, Chief, Economic Governance and Public Finance Division, UNECA • The INFF landscape: Orria Goni, UNDP • The INFF facility: Tom Beloe, UNDP • Working groups and Q&A: Moderator <p><i>Moderator: Natalia Aristizabal Mora (UNDESA)</i></p>
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Country Experiences in the INFF Inception Phase and Roadmaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botswana TBD • Burkina Faso TBD • Guinea TBD • Working groups and Q&A: Moderator <p><i>Moderator: Farzana Sharmin (UNECA)</i></p>
15:00 – 15:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
15:15 – 16:30	<p>SDG Financing Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: Yanis Kuhn Von Burgsdorff, UNDESA • Country experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comoros TBD ○ Nigeria TBD ○ Malawi TBD ○ Tanzania TBD • Working groups and Q&A: Moderator <p><i>Moderator: Tom Beloe (UNDP)</i></p>



16:30 – 17:30	<p>Preparation of the Country INFF Marketplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each country prepares a “stand” to showcase their INFF process – summarizing key steps and milestones achieved, proposing expertise on one area for further south-south exchange (where the country could lead), and identifying what they would like to learn from other countries <p><i>Facilitators: Ankun Liu, Ana-Maria Beldiga and Desma Natome (UNDP)</i></p>
17:30 – 17:45	<p>Wrap Up <i>Orria Goni (UNDP)</i></p>
GROUP DINNER	
Day 2 – Wednesday, 28 September 2022	
9:00 – 10:30	<p>INFF Marketplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be one country representative at the “stand” while the others rotate <p><i>Facilitators: Ankun Liu, Ana-Maria Beldiga and Desma Natome (UNDP)</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Thematic Discussions: Integrating Climate into the INFF Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INFF and Climate Change Deep-Dive Report: Natalia Aristizabal Mora (UNDESA) COP 27 – Africa Climate Week key takeaways: Gabon (host country) NDC financing strategies: Jean Paul Adam (UNECA) – case of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Eswatini Working groups and Q&A: Moderator <p><i>Moderator: Daisy Mukarakate (UNDP)</i></p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Thematic Discussion: Unlocking Private Capital as part of the Financing Strategies and INFF process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rwanda Green Investment Fund: Rwanda Reflecting IOA in Financing Strategies (Investors Mapping): Malawi and Nigeria SDGs Investment Fairs – Pipeline Building: Ghana Working groups and Q&A: Moderator <p><i>Moderator: Sonia Essobmadje (UNECA)</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Thematic Discussion: Debt Management and Debt Instruments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG bonds: Benin Green and diaspora bonds: Nigeria Social bonds: Cabo Verde Debt restructuring: Zambia Working groups and Q&A: Moderator <p><i>Moderator: Oliver Schwank (UNDESA)</i></p>
15:00 – 15:30	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
15:30 – 16:30	<p>Thematic Discussion: Tax-related Reforms as part of INFF processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MTRS and INFF Deep-Dive: Rwanda (TBC) Tax for SDGs: Tanzania DRM reforms: ECA/UNCTAD IBP Nigeria Working groups and Q&A: Moderator <p><i>Moderator: Orria Goni (UNDP)</i></p>
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Thematic Discussion: Local Finance and Decentralisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building SDG Ambassadors at district level in Sierra Leone The Devolution Project in Kenya TBC What partners can bring on board - FMDV Working groups and Q&A: Moderator



	<i>Moderator: Bob Muchabaiwa (UNICEF)</i>
17:30 – 17:45	Wrap Up
Day 3	Thursday, 29 September 2022
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Open Budgets to Deliver the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Moderator (10 mins) • Regional perspectives: UNICEF and David Robins, IBP, including a group activity focused on SDG budgeting (20 mins) • Country perspectives: Gambia (10 mins) • Civil society perspectives: Mary Afan, SWOFON and Austin Ndiokwelu (10 mins) • UNDP ongoing country level work on SDG Budgeting in the INFF context: Nohman Ishtiaq (10 min) <p><i>Moderator: Matthew Cummins (UNICEF)</i></p>
10:00 – 10:30	GROUP PHOTO & COFFEE OR TEA BREAK
10:30 – 12:30	<p>Open Budget Survey (OBS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Moderator (5 mins) • The Open Budget Survey research process: IBP (15 mins) • Regional budget openness trends and good practices: IBP (30 mins) • Q&A: Moderator (25 mins) • Country-specific results: IBP, including a group activity (45 mins) <p><i>Moderator: Paul Quarles Van Ufford (UNICEF)</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30 – 15:30	<p>Reforms and Innovations to Improve Budget Openness for Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Moderator • The link between PFM and SDGs: Kouakou Constant Joël Yoboué, Social Justice, Côte d'Ivoire • Open budget processes for SDGs: Direction Générale du Budget and Social Watch Benin (TBC) • Government and civil society working together to sustain open budgets: Uganda • Improving budget credibility for SDGs: Ghana • Q&A <p><i>Moderator: Nohman Ishtiaq (UNDP)</i></p>
15:30 – 16:00	COFFEE OR TEA BREAK
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Open Budget Reform Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives of Host Government: Nigeria DG Budget • Zimbabwe: Using the Open Budget Survey as a tool to drive reform including Programme-Based Budgeting • South Africa: National Treasury's new pre-budget consultations • Civil society perspectives: Iniobong Usen, BudgIT Nigeria <p><i>Moderator: Orria Goni (UNDP)</i></p>
17:00 - 17:15	Wrap Up <i>IBP</i>
	GROUP DINNER
Day 4	Friday, 30 September 2022
9:00 – 9:15	<p>Recap</p> <p><i>Natalia Aristizabal (UNDESA)</i></p>



9:15 – 12:00	<p>Action Planning to Enhance Budget Openness and Investment in Human Capital and a Green Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in country groups to develop a draft action plan to improve open budget practices and their linkages to ongoing INFF process <p><i>Moderator: Michael Castro (UNICEF)</i></p>
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 14:15	<p>Action Plan Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Moderator (5 mins) • The country pulse: 3 countries (30 mins) • Challenges and opportunities going forward: UNICEF and IBP (20 mins) • Q&A: Moderator (20 mins) <p><i>Moderator: Alex Kreko (IBP)</i></p>
14:15 – 14:30	COFFEE BREAK (rapid)
14:30 – 15:45	<p>Global Financing and Transparency Perspectives and Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Moderator (5 mins) • UNICEF: Natalia Winder-Rossi (8 mins) • IBP: David Robins (8 mins) • IMF: TBD (8 mins) • EU: TBD (8 mins) • Wrap up: Moderator (5 mins) <p><i>Moderator: Tom Beloe (UNDP)</i></p>
15:45 – 16:00	<p>Closing remarks <i>Government of Nigeria</i></p>

*All times given are from the Location of the workshop

