

Budget Literacy Key to Promoting Accountability and Transparency

Islamabad. 19th November, 2015: A consultative session titled ‘Citizens’ Budget--Promoting Transparency and Accountability’ was organised by the Sub-National Governance Programme at a local hotel today. The session was attended by representatives from donor agencies and civil society organizations, government officials, as well as members of the academia and the media.

Speakers at the session described the rationale and process behind the development of the Citizens’ Budget booklets. The governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa produced simplified versions of the annual budgets for financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16, containing key information of interest and relevance to common citizens.

Senior Public Financial Expert, Mr. Akmal Minallah commended the SNG Programme and the governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for taking the lead in developing these documents at the sub-national level. Commissioner, Punjab Information Commission, Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali described Citizens’ Budget as a significant achievement in promoting social accountability and bringing budgetary information out of the domain of technocrats and into the reach of the general public.

The session ended with an open discussion on the role of Citizens’ Budget in promoting accountability and transparency. The participants gave their feedback on the contents of the booklets and expressed their appreciation for the initiative.

About SNG

The Sub National Governance (SNG) Programme in collaboration with provincial governments of the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa aims to improve public services through a combination of strengthened local governance and the promotion of innovative service delivery approaches. The SNG Programme receives financial support from UK Aid. Find more information at: www.pk-sng.org