

# THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF GHANA

*Presented by*

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# OUTLINE

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# INTRODUCTION

- Around the world today, countries are looking for the best possible ways to efficiently manage their public finances.
- According to the Addis Ababa Action plan of 2015, every sovereign country is responsible for the effective, efficient and transparent use of its finances.
- An absence of an effective public financial management system in place mostly results in deterioration of public services and fiscal imbalances (Baltaci and Yilmaz, 2007).



# INTRODUCTION cont'd

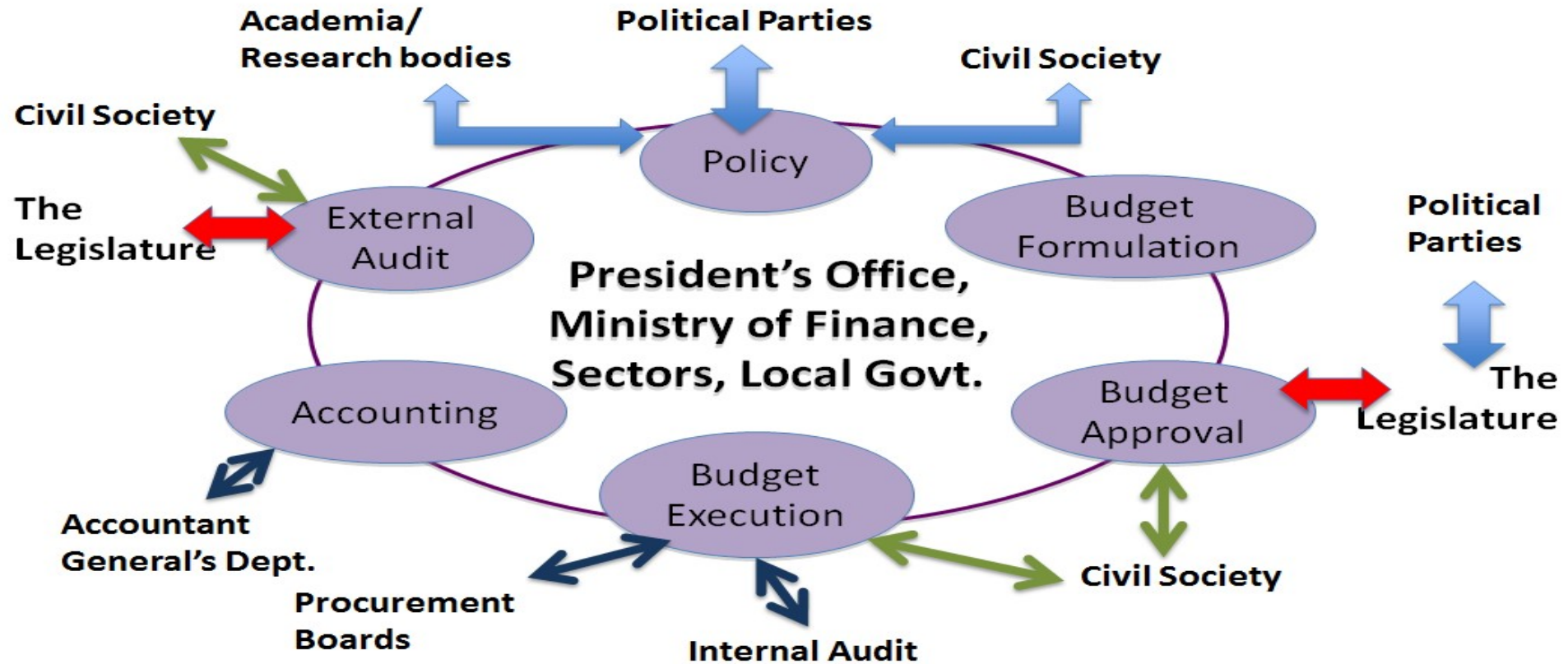
- Developing countries like **Ghana** with few financial resources are more particular about the use of their financial resources..... **BUT**

Year	Financial Mismanagements
2011	GH¢173 million (Auditor-General report, 2011; Adei, 2013)
2012	GH¢363,957,174.99 (Auditor-General report, 2012, p.5)
2015	GH¢47,629,013.32 (Auditor-General report, 2015, p.5)

- The capacity of the state has proven inept in dealing with some of these instances, there is the need for other actors to fill the gap (Salamon et al., 1999).
- To ensure an effective use of financial resources, different stakeholders come together to play different roles in the public financial management process (Andrews et al., 2014; Lawson, 2015).



# INTRODUCTION cont'd



*Source: Lawson (2015)*

# INTRODUCTION cont'd

- Each of these stakeholders has an important contribution to the public financial management process.
- Attention is however particularly being drawn towards the role of civil society organizations in the public financial management process (Khan, 1998; Salamon et al., 2000; Carlitz, 2013).
- Civil society organizations in the public financial management process would help improve and make public financial management transparent and accountable (World Bank, 2002; Ramkumar and Krafchik, 2007).



# RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

To assess the role of civil society organizations in the public financial process of Ghana.

# Civil Society Organizations and Public Financial Management

- Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) and the Development Initiatives for Social and Human Action (DISHA) in India perform a **budget review and analysis functions** (World Bank 2002).
- DISHA - **unpacking and demystifying the data in the budget** to enable the legislators, media, and citizens to be able to quantify the allocations made.
- IDASA - **Improving the budget literacy** through training, community radio, newspapers and the internet.
- Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) in India - **Social audit scheme** (Carlitz, 2013)





# METHODOLOGY

## ***Research Approach***

This paper is a qualitative study

## ***Sample***

Ten Civil Society Organizations

## ***Data Collection Instrument***

Interview guide and documentary review

## ***Data Analysis***

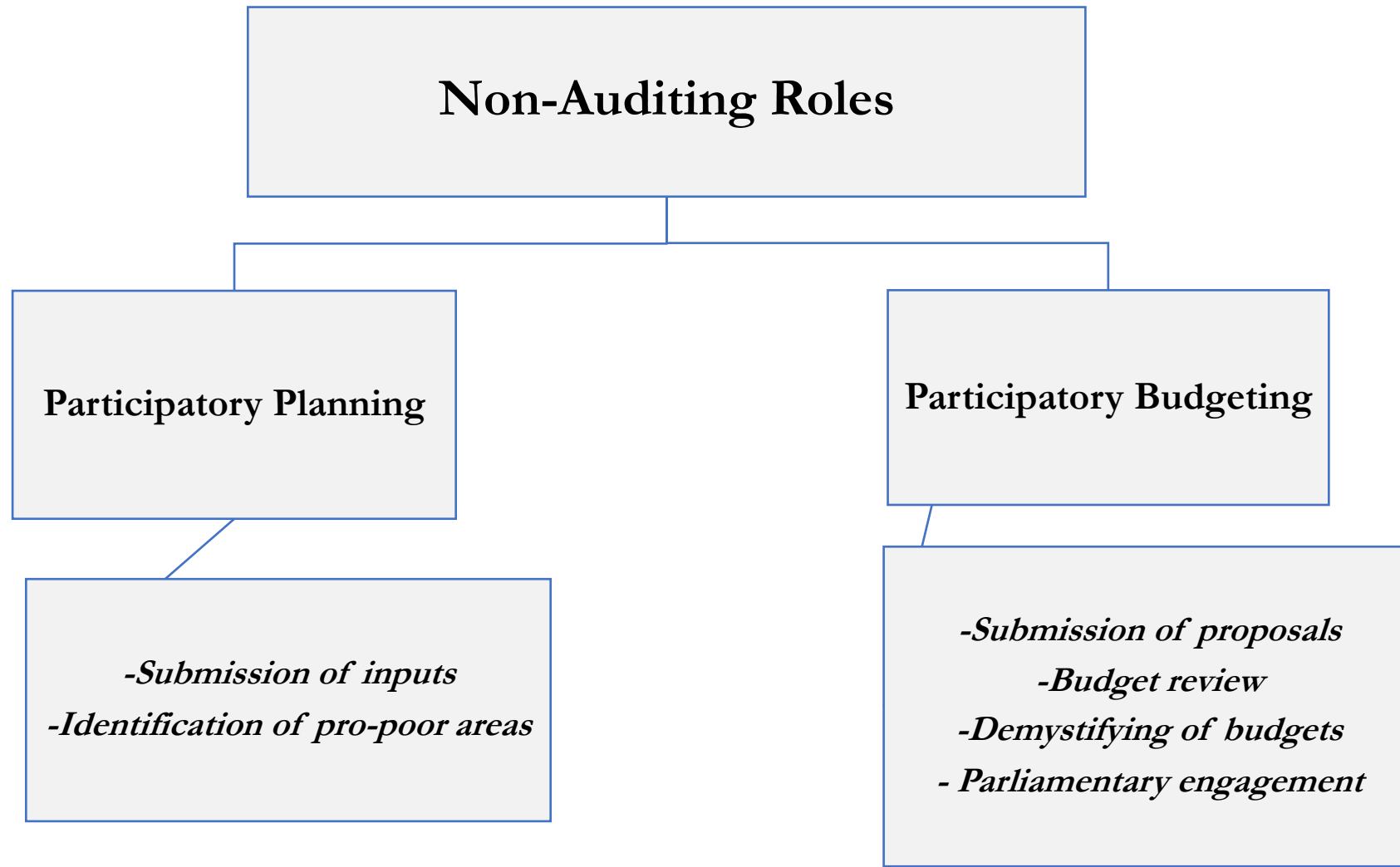
Thematic analysis



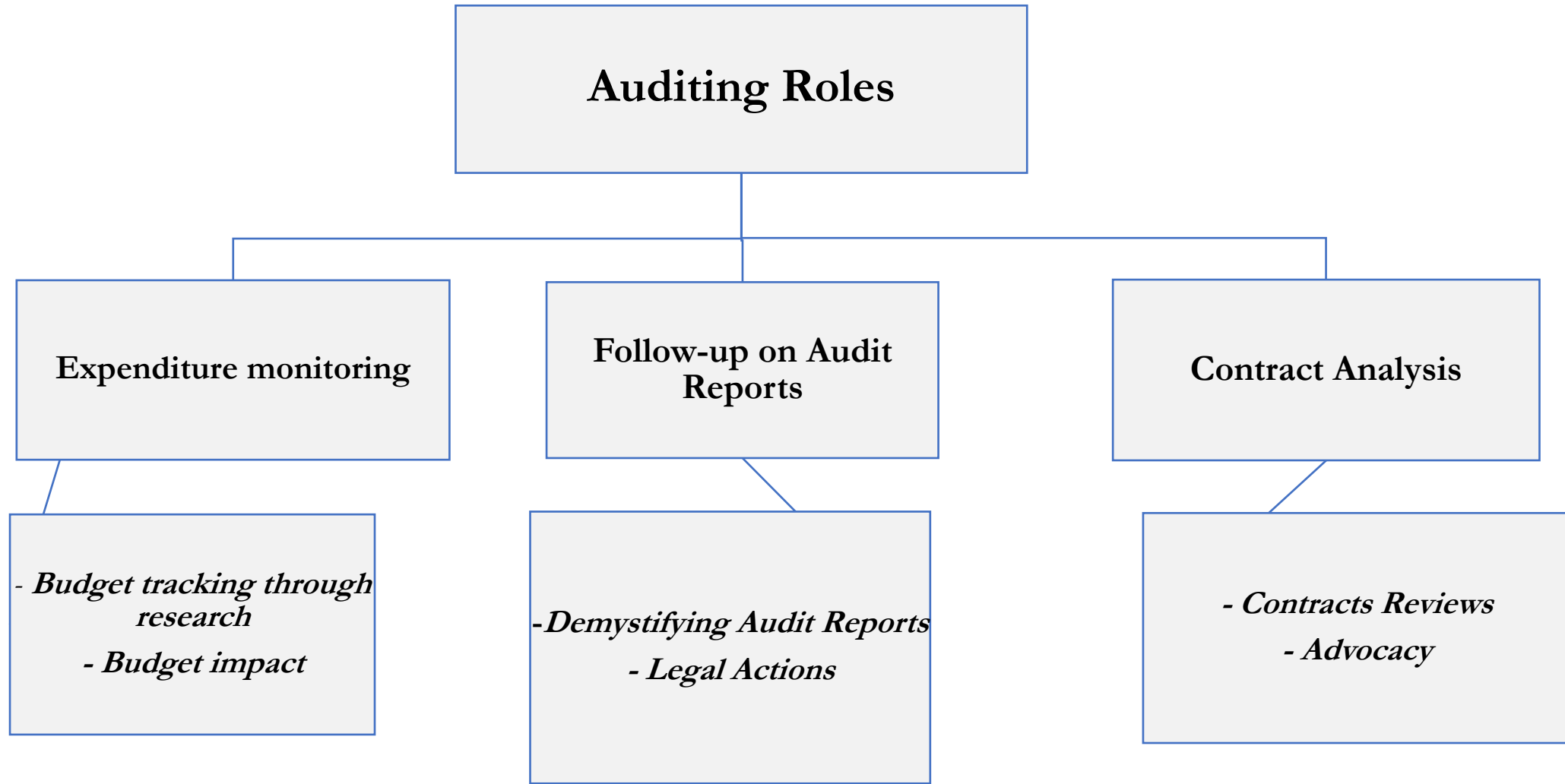
# ORGANIZATIONS

<b>Name of civil society organizations</b>
1. African Center for Energy Policy (ACEP)
2. Center for Economic Policy and Analysis (CEPA)
3. Center for Local Governance Advocacy (CLGA)
4. Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)
5. Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)
6. IMANI Center for Policy and Education (IMANI-Ghana)
7. Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS)
8. Integrated Social Development Center (ISODEC)
9. Occupy Ghana®
10. SEND Ghana

# FINDINGS



# FINDINGS



# CONCLUSION

- The paper presents findings from Ghana to support the assertion that even though civil society organizations are not mandatory stakeholders, they still have a role to play as permissive stakeholders in the management of public finances.
- The paper identified that civil society organizations as permissive stakeholders use participatory approaches in the non-auditing roles. In the auditing roles, the study identified that civil society organizations use their own activities to play these roles.
- The paper concludes that if civil society organizations persist and sustain the momentum, there will be likely qualitative improvement in the public financial management process of Ghana.

# RECOMMENDATION

To qualitatively improve the PFM process of Ghana to effectively include civil society organizations, the study recommend that:

- Civil society organizations should be accorded official recognition and integrated into the public financial management process.
  - Indeed, official recognition and integration would empower them to work freely without any form of interference and intimidation from state institutions.
  - By so doing, they will see their role more of an obligation than a responsibility.

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# END OF PRESENTATION

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