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Understanding the Relationship Between Services and Fiscal Management

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Introduction

- What are public services?
- Services provided by government to the public (e.g., education, healthcare, waste management)
- What are local finances?
- Financial resources managed by local governments
- Why this matters:
- Strong link between service quality and financial management

Types of Public Services

- Essential services:
- Education
- Healthcare
- Social services
- Transportation
- Public safety
- Infrastructure and utilities:
- Water
- Waste collection
- Electricity (in some contexts)

Sources of Local Government Revenue

- Taxes:
 - Property tax
 - Local income or business taxes
- Transfers:
 - National government grants
 - EU or international funds
- Fees and charges:
 - Service fees (e.g., public transport, licenses)
- Other income:
 - Fines
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs)

Local Budgeting Process

- Budget planning and approval
- Revenue forecasting
- Prioritizing expenditures
- Public participation and transparency

Expenditure Allocation

- How funds are typically spent:
- Education
- Health and social care
- Infrastructure
- Salaries for public workers
- Balancing short-term needs and long-term investment

Challenges in Local Financing

- Fiscal constraints
- Unfunded mandates from national government
- Inequities between regions
- Pressure for cost-efficiency vs. service quality

Case Studies / Examples

- Briefly present 1–2 local government cases:
- Successful cost-saving strategies
- Innovative financing for services
- Public-private collaboration

The Role of Citizens

- Importance of civic engagement
- Citizens' role in co-creating and monitoring services
- Transparency tools (e.g., open budgets, dashboards)

Conclusion

- Strong public services depend on sound local finances
- Need for sustainable, inclusive, and accountable governance
- Opportunities for innovation and reform

Thank you for your attention!