

Open Budget Survey 2021

Questionnaire

Liberia

May 2022

Country Questionnaire: Liberia

PBS-1. What is the fiscal year of the PBS evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2020-21 FY 2020-21

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/departement-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The Budget Framework Paper was made available to the public on July 22, 2020 under the "Reports" section of the ministry's website and not under the "Budget Framework Paper" section.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is a budget framework section under the "reports" section - where all the past Pre-Budget statements or Budget framework papers can be found. There is no separate "Budget Framework Paper" section. <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/departement-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-2. When is the PBS made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for a PBS to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration. If the PBS is not released to the public at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the PBS.

Answer:

d. The PBS is not released to the public, or is released less than one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced to the legislature

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/departement-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

<https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/2020-21-national-budget-submitted-76-days-late/>

Comment:

The Executive Budget Proposal (Draft Budget) was submitted to the Legislature on July 15, 2020. However, both Executive Budget Proposal and Pre Budget Statements (Framework Paper) were made publicly on July 22, 2020 warranting the "d" option.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There seem to be two Budget framework papers - 1) <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/fdocument?Itemid=9999> - published on 22nd July 2020 for the FY 20/21 and 2) <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/budget-framework->

paper-fy2021/fdocument?Itemid=9999 published on May 25th 2021 - this may have been published after the researcher finishes her/his review. However, this latest one published on 25th May is called the "Special Budget framework paper" which seems to outline a shift to a new timeline of budgeting - going from July - June towards a calendar year cycle in 2021 - proposing a 6 month budget from July 2021 to December 2021. Therefore they published a BFP for 6 months called the "Special Budget Framework paper" to address this transition period from shifting timelines. The next budget cycle will run from January to December 2022. Whereas the first document seems to take stock of the budget performance as of April 2020 and projects the budget for FY 20/21.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-3a. If the PBS is published, what is the date of publication of the PBS?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
22/7/2020

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:
The date listed on the document as submitted to the Legislature is 30th April 2020. The researcher was not able to verify this. What the Researcher has been able to verify is that the PBS was made publicly available on July 22, 2020

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Yes the original BFP was published on July 22 2020; However the BFP was submitted to the legislature on 30th April, as indicated in the document.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the PBS.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
I determined the date of publication of the PBS according to IBP's Open Budget Survey Guidelines on the Public Availability of Budget Documents that the budget document must be published free of charge on the official website of the government body. On the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning's website, the date the document is uploaded for public consumption is noted.

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:
You will find this information under the heading "Departments/Department of Budget and Planning/Reports/Budget Framework Paper."

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks> That is correct each budget framework paper has a date of online publication next to it

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-4. If the PBS is published, what is the URL or weblink of the PBS?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Source:

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning's website: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/budget-framework-fy2020-2021?Itemid=0>

Comment:

Published too late.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Correct - I checked the link and it works <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-5. If the PBS is published, are the numerical data contained in the PBS available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) or HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the PBS is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The publicly available version is published online in pdf.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We have often said the Government of Liberia has not adopted a policy on these types of document formats. However I will make it a priority target for the coming years.

PBS-6a. If the PBS is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the PBS is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question PBS-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question PBS-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

a. Produced but made available online to the public too late (published after the acceptable time frame)

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Made available on July 22, 2020, 7 days after submission of the EBP to the Legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question PBS-6a, please specify how you determined whether the PBS was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question PBS-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-7. If the PBS is produced, please write the full title of the PBS.

For example, a title for the Pre-Budget Statement could be "Proposed 2021 State Budget" or "Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Plan and Budget for 2020/21."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

BUDGET FRAMEWORK PAPER FOR FY2020/2021

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the PBS?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

There is no "citizens version" to the PBS

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EBP evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2020-21

Source:

IBP's Open Budget Survey Guidelines on the Public Availability of Budget Documents

Comment:

Fiscal year of survey is determined by IBP.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The documents for review for fy 20/21 fall within the IBP cut off 31 dec 2020

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-1b. When is the EBP submitted to the legislature for consideration?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
15/7/2020

Source:
<https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/2020-21-national-budget-submitted-76-days-late/>

<https://kmtvliberia.com/finance-ministry-summits-2020-2021-draft-national-budget/>

<https://es-es.facebook.com/mofrl/videos/hon-samuel-d-tweah-jr-minister-of-finance-and-development-planning-presents-fy-2/201262157970139/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: I verified the links and the last two are valid. the submission was on July 15th

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Submission was late due to lockdown occasioned by COVID-19. Additionally, the negotiations under the new IMF programme on fiscal framework contributed to the delay. Hence, the President requested extension for the new deadline.

EBP-2. When is the EBP made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EBP to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public while the legislature is still considering it and before the legislature approves (enacts) it. If the EBP is not released to the public before the legislature approves it, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EBP.

The OBS definition of an Executive's Budget Proposal is a document(s) that (i) the executive submits to the legislature as a formal part of the budget approval process and (ii) the legislature either approves or on which it approves proposed amendments.

The OBS will treat the Executive's Budget Proposal as "Not Produced," in the following cases:

- *The executive does not submit the draft budget to the legislature; or*
- *The legislature receives the draft budget but does not approve it or does not approve recommendations on the draft budget;*
- *The legislature rejects the draft budget submitted by the executive, but the executive implements it without legislative approval; or*
- *There is no legislature, or the legislature has been dissolved.*

Answer:
c. Less than two months in advance of the budget year, but at least in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Technically, although the EBP was released to the public while the Legislature was still reviewing it, it was made available well into the budget year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The EBP was made available to the public on July 22, 2020 - which is the online publication date. This is 21 days after the start of the Budget year - July 1, 2020. However, it was made public before the legislature approved it.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Despite the COVID-19 lockdown and prolonged negotiations with the IMF, submission was made 15 days in the fiscal year.

EBP-3a. If the EBP is published, what is the date of publication of the EBP?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their date of publication.

Answer:

22/7/2020

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Published while the Legislature was still reviewing it.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EBP.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Using criteria set by IBP, I determined the date of publication of the EBP by researching and referencing the date the EBP was uploaded on the official website of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-4. If the EBP is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EBP?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their URL or weblink.

Answer:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Source:

The official website of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning of the Republic of Liberia www.mfdp.gov.lr

Comment:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-5. If the EBP is published, are the numerical data contained in the EBP or its supporting documents available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the EBP is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Its a pdf version uploaded on the website.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Same comments related to PBS

EBP-6a. If the EBP is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EBP is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EBP-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EBP-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EBP-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EBP was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EBP-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-7. If the EBP is produced, please write the full title of the EBP.

For example, a title for the Executive's Budget Proposal could be "Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for BY 2020-21, produced by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development."

If there are any supporting documents to the EBP, please enter their full titles in the comment box below.

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

DRAFT NATIONAL BUDGET Fiscal Year 2020/2021 FOR THE PERIOD: JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EBP?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizens-guide-to-the-draft-national-budget-fy2020-21/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Published on 1st September 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2020-21

Source:

Open Budget Survey Guidelines on the Public Availability of Budget Documents

Comment:

The fiscal year evaluated is determined by IBP

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-1b. When was the EB approved (enacted) by the legislature?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
14/10/2020

Source:
<https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/senate-concurs-with-hor-on-2020-2021-national-budget/>

Comment:
The House of Representatives passed the budget on Thursday October 8, 2020 and it was approved by the senate on the 14th. The Senate's action is the last act needed for legislative endorsement of the fiscal instrument.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question
Comments: I cannot verify this link as it no longer exists. Page ix of the Act 1.1 in the National Budget shows the date to be Oct 14th.
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/viewdocument>

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-2. When is the EB made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EB to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public three months after the budget is approved by the legislature. If the EB is not released to the public at least three months after the budget is approved by the legislature, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EB.

Answer:
c. More than six weeks, but less than three months, after the budget has been enacted

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:
The Budget was approved by Legislature on October 14, 2020 and publicly available on December 2, 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-3a. If the EB is published, what is the date of publication of the EB?

*Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.
Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.*

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
2/12/2020

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/national-budget-fy-2020-2021?Itemid=0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
According to the IBP guidelines, on the date it was made available on the official website of the government and free of charge. In this case, the date the budget document was uploaded is December 2, 2020.

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-4. If the EB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Source:

The website of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Republic of Liberia

Comment:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/national-budget-fy-2020-2021?Itemid=0>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-5. If the EB is published, are the numerical data contained in the EB available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the EB is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Only available in the pdf format.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-6a. If the EB is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EB is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EB-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EB-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:
e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EB-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EB-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

EB-7. If the EB is produced, please write the full title of the EB.

For example, a title for the Enacted Budget could be "Appropriation Act n. 10 of 2018."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
NATIONAL BUDGET Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EB?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Apart from this, I saw that there were various awareness initiatives held by the government through the open budget initiative with citizens, regionally as well.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-1. What is the fiscal year of the CB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for each CB please indicate the document the CB simplifies/refers to, and the fiscal year.

Answer:

FY 2020-21

Source:

Evaluation criteria is determined by IBP in the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on the Public Availability of Budget documents

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: But there are two versions of the CB was produced and published for FY2020/21: Executive Budget Proposal and Enacted Budget

CB-2a. For the fiscal year indicated in CB-1, what is the public availability status of the CB?

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document (Executive's Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget) you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its public availability status.

Remember that publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology
Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.
Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.
Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.
Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21?Itemid=0>

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/citizens-guide-to-the-draft-national-budget-fy2020-21?Itemid=0>

Comment:

Both the Citizens Guide to the Draft National Budget and the Citizens Guide to the National Budget were published on time.

The Citizens Guide to the Draft National Budget (CB for the EBP) was published on 1 September 2020, while the legislature was still considering the draft budget.

The Citizens Guide to the Draft National Budget (CB for the EB) was published on 26 November 2020, within three months of the budget being approved.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes both those dates are correct and I verified the links to the publications as well.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-2b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question CB-2a, please specify how you determined whether the CB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question CB-2a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

CB-3a. If the CB is published, what is the date of publication of the CB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its dates of publication.

Answer:
26/11/2020

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21/download>

Comment:
Both the Citizens Guide to the Draft National Budget and the Citizens Guide to the National Budget were published on time.

The Citizens Guide to the Draft National Budget (CB for the EBP) was published on 1 September 2020, while the legislature was still considering the draft budget.

The Citizens Guide to the Draft National Budget (CB for the EB) was published on 26 November 2020, within three months of the budget being approved.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I confirmed the dates. IT is worth noting that the CB was published for a COVID 19 recast budget as well on 1st September 2020 - <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide?start=5>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the CB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
The date of publication was determined by the listed date the document was made available on the official website of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning free of charge.

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-4. If the CB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the CB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its URL or weblink.

Answer:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21?Itemid=0>
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/citizens-guide-to-the-draft-national-budget-fy2020-21?Itemid=0>

Source:
The website of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning www.mfdp.gov.ir

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-5. If the CB is produced, please write the full title of the CB.

For example, a title for the Citizens Budget could be "Budget 2020 People's Guide" or "2021 Proposed Budget in Brief: A People's Budget Publication."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for the other CB, indicate the document the CB refers to and, next to it, its full title.

Answer:
Citizen's Guide to the National Budget Fiscal Year 2020/21

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.ir/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-6. If the CB is produced, please indicate which budget document it corresponds to.

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and which budget document it simplifies.

Answer:
It corresponds with the Enacted National Budget FY 2020-21.

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.ir/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21/download>

Comment:
There is also a citizens version of the draft national budget as well.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: There are 3 Citizens Budget documents published on the following dates and corresponding to FY 20/21 budget 1) draft national budget citizens budget published on 1/09/2020 2) Enacted national budget citizens budget published on 26/11/2020 3) recast covid 19 national budget published on 01/09/2020

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IYRs-1. What is the fiscal year of the IYRs evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2019-20 & 2020-21

Source:
IBP Guidelines

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IYRs-2. When are the IYRs made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for IYRs to be considered publicly available, IYRs must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends. If at least seven of the last 12 monthly IYRs, or at least three of the last four quarterly IYRs are not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the IYRs.

Answer:
c. At least every quarter, and within three months of the period covered

Source:
FY 2019-20

Q1: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-1st-quarter-fy-2019-2020/download>

Q2: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020/download>

Q3: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

Q4: Not Published

FY 2020-21

Q1: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

Q2: Not yet published. Assessment falls within the timeframe

Comment:
FY 2020-21

Q1: Due date: September 30, 2020. Published November 20, 2020

Q2: Due date: December 31, 2020. Not yet published

FY 2019-20

Q1: Due date: September 30, 2019. Published December 18, 2019
Q2: Due date: December 30, 2019. Published December 31, 2019
Q3: Due date: March 31, 2020. Published May 28, 2020
Q4: Due date: June 30, 2020. Not published.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-fa/quarterly-financial-statement?start=0> This page has all the links mentioned by the researcher. After the cut off deadline of 31 dec, 2020 - Q2 and Q3 Consolidated Financial Statements have been published on 15th Feb and 4th June 2021, respectively

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-3a. If the IYRs are published, what are the dates of publication of the IYRs?

Specifically: if quarterly In-Year Reports are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least three of the last four IYRs that were publicly available. If monthly IYRs are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least seven of the last 12 IYRs that were publicly available.

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD Month YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05 September 2020. If the document is not published or not produced, please mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

FY 2020-21

Q1: 20 November 2020

FY 2019-20

Q1: 18 December 2019

Q2: 31 December 2019

Q3: 28 May 2020

Q4: Not published.

Source:

FY 2029-20

Q1: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-1st-quarter-fy-2019-2020/download>

Q2: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020/download>

Q3: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

Q4: Not Published

FY 2020-21

Q1: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: All correct for FY 2019/20 For FY 20/21 - Q2 - 15th feb 2021; Q3 - 4th June 2021

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The date of publication is determined by the date the material upload to the official website of the authority and becomes available to the public free of charge

Source:

FY 2029-20

Q1: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-1st-quarter-fy-2019-2020/download>

Q2: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020/download>

Q3: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

Q4: Not Published

FY 2020-21

Q1: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-4. If the IYRs are published, what is the URL or weblink of the IYRs?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Researchers should provide the weblink to the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the weblinks to older IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

Source:

FY 2029-20

Q1: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-1st-quarter-fy-2019-2020/download>

Q2: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020/download>

Q3: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

Q4: Not Published

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: All IYRs can be found here <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-fa/quarterly-financial-statement?start=0>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-5. If the IYRs are published, are the numerical data contained in the IYRs available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the IYRs are not publicly available, therefore their machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: As I have previously mentioned, the government will address "machine readable" format in the future.

IYRs-6a. If the IYRs are not publicly available, are they still produced?

If the IYRs are not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question IYRs-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question IYRs-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-fa/quarterly-financial-statement?start=0>

Comment:

This Open Budget Survey examines the following four Quarterly Financial Statements:

Q1 2020/21: Published on time

Q4 2019/20: Not published

Q3 2019/20: Published on time

Q2 2019/20: Published on time

As three of the four assessed IYRs are publicly available, answer choice "e" has been selected.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IYRs-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question IYRs-6a, please specify how you determined whether the IYRs were produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question IYRs-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IYRs-7. If the IYRs are produced, please write the full title of the IYRs.

For example, a title for the In-Year Report could be "Budget Monitoring Report, Quarter 1" or "Budget Execution Report January-March 2020."

If In-Year Reports are not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Researchers should provide the full title of the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the full titles of older IYRs.

Answer:

1. GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA Financial Statements of the Consolidated Fund Account QUARTER ONE Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-fa/quarterly-financial-statement?start=0>

Comment:

1. GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA Financial Statement of the Consolidated Fund Account QUARTER ONE
Fiscal Year 2019/2020

2. GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA Financial Statements of the Consolidated Fund Account QUARTER TWO
Fiscal Year 2019/2020

3. GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA Financial Statements of the Consolidated Fund Account QUARTER THREE Fiscal Year 2019/2020

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IYRs-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the IYRs?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is a citizens guide section where all the citizens reports are and it does not have the IYRs.

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide?start=0> - however the Ministry of Finance's facebook page has updates on year to date fiscal budget execution report posted often but not regularly.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-1. What is the fiscal year of the MYR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019-20

Source:

IBP Guidelines

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-2. When is the MYR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an MYR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends (i.e., three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year). If the MYR is not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the MYR.

Answer:

d. The MYR is not released to the public, or is released more than three months after the midpoint

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

The Mid-Year Budget Execution Report is a "new" document and has not previously been produced. While I agree with you that it does not meet the standard for consideration as a Mid-Year Budget because of its lack of a comprehensive assessment of the government's fiscal performance (forecast of budget outcome, review of economic assumptions, financial and non-financial assets, etc.), worthy of note is that the section 18(3) of the PFM Act requires that "The Minister shall submit to the Legislature a mid-fiscal year review of the implementation of the Budget in the middle of February each year, including an analysis of revenue collections and expenditure performances in the first six months of the fiscal year, and, if necessary, a proposed supplementary budget for approval by the Legislature."

It seems much focus was placed on "an analysis of revenue collections and expenditure performances in the first six months of the fiscal year," I think we may have to give the government a slack on this and provide feedback for future improvement.

The same section 18 of the PFM Act states that the Mid-Year Review is prepared for legislative assessment. I was not able to ascertain whether it was submitted to the Legislature and no, the report is not accompanied by supporting documents.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The mid year budget review was published on 20 march 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional review, the "Mid-Year Budget Execution Report" does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review for use in the Open Budget Survey. As the researcher notes, it is missing updated fiscal and macroeconomic projections. Answer changed to "D."

MYR-3a. If the MYR is published, what is the date of publication of the MYR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

00/00/0000

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

The Mid-Year Budget Execution Report was published on 20 March 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the MYR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Determination of the date of publication made by noting the date the document was uploaded on the Ministry's website and could be accessed by the public free of charge

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-4. If the MYR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the MYR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

As noted in MYR-2, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a MYR for use in the OBS 2021.

MYR-5. If the MYR is published, are the numerical data contained in the MYR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the MYR is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment
Answer changed to "d" for cross country comparability.

MYR-6a. If the MYR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the MYR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question MYR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question MYR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:
c. Produced for internal purposes/use only

Source:
<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment
After additional review, the "Mid-Year Budget Execution Report" does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review for use in the Open Budget Survey. As the researcher notes, it is missing updated fiscal and macroeconomic projections. Answer changed to "c."

MYR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question MYR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the MYR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question MYR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: no answer is given

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-7. If the MYR is produced, please write the full title of the MYR.

For example, a title for the Mid-Year Review could be "Semi-annual Budget Performance Report, FY 2019/20" or "Mid-Year Report on the 2020 National Budget."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

The Mid-year Budget Execution Report (July 1-December 31, 2019) does not meet the standards to qualify as a MYR.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the MYR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-1. What is the fiscal year of the YER evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2018-2019

Source:

IBP

Comment:

The FY 2018-2019 ran from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. The YER for this fiscal year was due 30 June 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: The OBS methodology document states that the for year end report will be 2018/19 if the fiscal year from july - june.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-2. When is the YER made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an YER to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than one year after the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the YER is not released to the public within one year after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the YER.

Answer:

a. Six months or less after the end of the budget year

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

The Year-End Report for FY 2018-19 was published on 18 December 2019, within six months of the end of that budget year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I checked the link and confirm the date of publication.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-3a. If the YER is published, what is the date of publication of the YER?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

18/12/2019

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the YER.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The date of publication is the date the document was uploaded to the Ministry of Finance's website and available to the public free of charge

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-4. If the YER is published, what is the URL or weblink of the YER?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/fy2019-2020-consolidated-financial-statements/download>

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-5. If the YER is published, are the numerical data contained in the YER available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the YER is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:
c. No

Source:
<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:
Published in PDF only.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-6a. If the YER is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the YER is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question YER-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question YER-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:
e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:
<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question YER-6a, please specify how you determined whether the YER was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question YER-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-7. If the YER is produced, please write the full title of the YER.

For example, a title for the Year-End Report could be "Consolidated Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2020" or "Annual Report 2019 Published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Financial Statements of the Consolidated Fund Account Fiscal Year 2018/2019

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: checked and verified

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the YER?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now

evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: the YER isnt there in the citizen's section of the budget reports. <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide?start=0>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-1. What is the fiscal year of the AR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2018-19

Source:

IBP

Comment:

OBS methodology and international practice gives SAIs 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to publish an Audit Report. This means that the deadline for publishing the Audit Report for FY 2018-19 was 31 December 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I checked the guidelines in the OBS methodology and this is correct.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-2. When is the AR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an AR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the AR is not released to the public at least 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the AR.

Answer:

d. Does not release to the public, or is released more than 18 months after the end of the budget year

Source:

<https://gac.gac.gov.lr/reports/>

Comment:

The latest audit report of the consolidated fund online is for the period June 2015

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: the last audit report of the consolidated funds is FY 2017/18 which can be found here, which was published in December 2020 -

<https://gac.gov.lr/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AGs-Report-on-the-Financial-Statement-Audit-of-Consolidated-Fund-Account-for-Fiscal-period-July-1-2017-to-June-30-2018.pdf> all the reports are - <https://gac.gov.lr/reports/> From this

https://fiscaltransparency.net/documents/TimelyPublication_Liberia_180620.pdf report i see that the audit report should be made available by 9 months after the end of the fiscal year. Section 37 of the PFMA establishes deadlines: 1. The Minister shall prepare the unaudited Final Account of the National Budget and submit it to the Auditor General no later than four (4) months after the end of the fiscal year. 5. The Auditor General shall review the Final Account of the National Budget produced by the Minister and forward an audit report, along with the Final Account, to the Legislature no later than four (4) months after receipt of the unaudited Final Account from the Minister (...) 6. The Auditor General shall publish the audit report in the Official Gazette and make it available to the Legislature and the public within one month of the completion of said audit report. The General Auditing Commission Act 2014 Section 4.2: "(C) The audit report including the opinion of the Audit General on the Government's consolidated financial statements shall be submitted to the Legislature no later than three months after receiving the unaudited financial statements from the authorized Minister of the Executive Branch." (f) Immediately upon audit reports being submitted and received by the Legislature with copies to the President of the Republic, they shall be made public

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

IBP was unable to verify that the Audit Report for FY 2017/18 was published online before the research cut off date of 31 December 2020. The URL cited by the peer reviewer suggests a publication date of April 2021. Regardless, OBS standards give SAIs 18 months after the end of a fiscal year to publish an Audit Report. This means that the Audit Report for FY 2018/19 was due on 31 December 2020, and is thus the correct version to assess in this Survey. Answer choice "D" confirmed.

AR-3a. If the AR is published, what is the date of publication of the AR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

No audit report for the period

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The last one was published on December 2020 for FY 17/18

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

IBP was unable to verify that the Audit Report for FY 2017/18 was published online before the research cut off date of 31 December 2020. The URL cited by the peer reviewer in AR-2 suggests a publication date of April 2021. Regardless, OBS standards give SAIs 18 months after the end of a fiscal year to publish an Audit Report. This means that the Audit Report for FY 2018/19 was due on 31 December 2020, and is thus the correct version to assess in this Survey. Answer choice "D" confirmed.

AR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the AR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-4. If the AR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the AR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-5. If the AR is published, are the numerical data contained in the AR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the AR is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

AR-6a. If the AR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the AR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question AR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question AR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IBP Comment

OBS standards give SAIs 18 months after the end of a fiscal year to publish an Audit Report. This means that the Audit Report for FY 2018/19 was due on 31 December 2020, and is thus the correct version to assess in this Survey. Answer choice "D" confirmed.

AR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question AR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the AR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question AR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

By checking the official website of the General Auditing Commission (GAC) and the audit report is not publicly available on their site. I also interviewed auditors of the GAC who complained of lack of financial resources to perform their statutory mandate.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: I cannot verify this

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

AR-7. If the AR is produced, please write the full title of the AR.

For example, a title for the Audit Report could be "Annual General Reports of the Controller and Auditor General." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

AR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the AR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:
b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

GQ-1a. Are there one or more websites or web portals for disseminating government fiscal information? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

GQ-1a asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where fiscal information can be found. For example, in New Zealand the Treasury website (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/>) hosts important budget-related information, including the Pre-Budget Statement, the Executive's Budget Proposal, the

Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, the Mid-Year Review, and the Year-End Report. In addition, New Zealand's Parliamentary Counsel Office (<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>) posts the Enacted Budget while the Controller and Auditor-General website (<http://www.oag.govt.nz/>) publishes the annual Audit Report. The New Zealand researcher would provide the links to each of these sites. Other countries have developed portals that include fiscal information, though not in the "documents" format. For example, these portals have been created by Mexico (<https://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/>) and Brazil (<http://www.portaltransparencia.gov.br/>). Some countries have both a website and a portal. The Brazilian government, for example, apart from the Transparency Portal, has a dedicated website for the federal budget, where all key documents and other information can be found (www.orcamentofederal.gov.br). Researchers should include details about all of the relevant websites and/or portals that can be used to access budget information.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/documents/reports/special-report>

<https://www.gac.gov.lr/reports.php>

<https://www.emansion.gov.lr>

<https://revenue.lra.gov.lr/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The mfdp website hosts all the documents reviewed for the purposes of this questionnaire, except the audit report, which was not published (the GAC has the audit report); The MFDP also has a facebook page where it posts summarised information -

<https://www.facebook.com/mofrl/photos/pcb.4905326729479190/4905324649479398/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1b. On these websites/portals, can revenue and/or expenditure data for the current fiscal year be downloaded as a consolidated, machine readable file (or set of files)? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation. For more information on machine readability, see: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

GQ-1b, GQ-1c, and GQ-1d ask about whether governments publish specific types of content on their websites/portals: (a) consolidated files that contain disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure information for the current fiscal year; (b) consolidated files that contain disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure information for multiple years in consistent formats; and (c) infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis. Researchers should provide the links to relevant webpages and some explanations of what they contain.

Answer:

d. No, neither expenditure or revenue data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: They are only PDFs.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1c. On these websites/portals, can disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure data in consolidated, machine readable files be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation. For more information on machine readability, see: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Answer:

d. No, neither expenditure or revenue data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: the reports are not machine readable. but they are mostly available in a time consistent manner since 2015 or 2016

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1d. On these websites/portals, are infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Some infographics are available on MFDP's facebook website

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-2. Are there laws in place guiding public financial management and/or auditing? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where the law(s) contains specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

GQ-2 asks about the existence of any national laws governing public financial management and auditing. These may include a public finance act, a section of the constitution, or an organic budget law. In some countries, fiscal responsibility legislation may also be relevant. For example, the Kenya researcher may include the link to its Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (<http://kenyalaw.org:8181/exist/kenyalex/actview.xql?actid=No.%2018%20of%202012>), and the Macedonian researcher may include a link to its State Audit Law (<https://www.finance.gov.mk/files/u11/Audit%20law.pdf>). Researchers should provide links to websites where such laws are published, if possible, or an electronic copy of the law itself. They should also indicate if and where (e.g. which article) these laws include specific provisions for budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/docs/acts/amendment-and-restatement-of-the-public-financial-management-act-of-2009/download>

(Liberia 2009 PFM Law, section 1, pg 1, purpose and scope); Liberia 2009 PFM Law, Section 37. Final Account of the National Budget and External Auditing, pg 19

Comment:

Section 2 (1) Accountability (7) Transparency/ page 2

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Verified the researcher's source and this link also has all information summarised for Liberia
https://fiscaltransparency.net/documents/TimelyPublication_Liberia_180620.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-3. Is there at least one additional law regulating: (1) access to information; (2) government transparency; or (3) citizens participation? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where these laws contain specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

The third and last question asks researchers to list any additional laws regulating access to information, transparency, or citizens' participation that are relevant for the promotion of budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes. These might include legislation related to access to information, to planning processes, or to public administration more generally. India's Right to Information Act of 2005 (<https://www.ncess.gov.in/facilities/central-public-information-officer/rti-act-details.html>) is an example of this type of law. More information on access to information legislation (constitutional provisions, laws, and regulations), including examples of model laws, can be found here: <http://www.right2info.org/laws/constitutional-provisions-laws-and-regulations#section-1>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/104012/126692/F1739999472/LBR104012.pdf>

Comment:

The 2009 PFM Law, Section 14, count 1 & 2, clearly state that:

"Section 14. Public Access to the Budget

1. The Proposed Budget will be made available to the public immediately following its submission to the Legislature.

2. The Approved Budget will also be available to the public immediately following its publication into handbill,

Although there is no time frame but it calls for public access to the document

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I. The Citizen's Budget is mandated in the PFMA regulation: "1.A (4) Ministries, agencies and state-owned enterprises shall arrange for effective public consultation during the development of their annual budget estimates. This shall include the publication of citizens' budgets which explain and summarise the budget proposals in simple nontechnical terms." Additionally Liberia also passed the freedom of information act in 2010 - <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/liberia/commitments/LR0008/> "n 2010, Liberia passed the Freedom of Information (FOI) Law, establishing that each public agency and government ministry must have a Public Information Officer (PIO) to handle access to information requests from the public.[Note7: <http://www.liberianembassyus.org/uploads/documents/Liberia%20Freedom%20of%20Information%20Act%202010x.pdf>] In addition, persons denied information or dissatisfied with a response can seek an appeal from the Information Commissioner, or request an internal or judicial review."

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

1. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 1 addresses the presentation of expenditure by administrative unit. This information indicates which government entity (ministry, department, or agency, or MDAs) will be responsible for spending the funds and, ultimately, held accountable for their use.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all administrative units, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the administrative units shown individually, in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation, must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. In other words, the sum of the expenditures assigned to the

individual MDAs (education, health, infrastructure, interior, defense, etc.) must account for at least two-thirds of the total expenditure budgeted for that particular year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents administrative units that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by administrative unit.

Answer:

a. Yes, administrative units accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Section 1.10 Summary by Spending Entity. Page xlv

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: verified

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

2. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by functional classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 2 addresses the presentation of expenditure by functional classification. This classification indicates the programmatic purpose, sector, or objective for which the funds will be used, such as health, education, or defense. Administrative units are not necessarily aligned with functional classifications. For instance, in one country all functions connected with water supply (which fall into the "Housing" function) may be undertaken by a single government agency, while in another country they may be distributed across the Ministries of Environment, Housing, and Industrial Development. In the latter case, three ministries have programs addressing water supply, so three ministries contribute to one function. Similarly, some administrative units may conduct activities that cut across more than one function. For instance, in the example above, some programs of the Ministry of Environment would also be classified in the "environmental protection" function.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by functional classification.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.7 Sector Summary. Page xxxviii

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Section 1.8 on page xl has detailed functional classification

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: 1.7 Sector Summary refers to Government's grouping of ministries, departments and agencies by common function for the MTEF programme purposes. Additionally, expenditures also aligned to the Government Finance Statistics 2014 of the IMF. See 1.8 Classifications by Functions of Government. Page xxx <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb?start=5>

3. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by functional classification, is the functional classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 3 asks whether a country's functional classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's functional classification must be aligned with the OECD and the UN's Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), or provide a cross-walk between the national functional presentation and COFOG.

The OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency can be viewed at <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/Best%20Practices%20Budget%20Transparency%20-%20complete%20with%20cover%20page.pdf>

COFOG can be viewed at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_84E.pdf or at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/ch6ann.pdf>.

Answer:

a. Yes, the functional classification is compatible with international standards.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.8 Classification of Expenditure by Functions of Government. Page xl

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The larger categories are all compatible (at a 3 digit level) but the sub categories are not all there. For ex. TRANSFERS OF A GENERAL CHARACTER BETWEEN DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT is not under the General public services category.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

4. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by economic classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 4 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification. Economic classification provides information on the nature of the expenditure, such as whether funds are being used to pay for wages and salaries, capital projects, or social assistance benefits. Please note that a presentation of expenditures by current and capital expenditures without additional disaggregation or detail will not qualify as an economic classification.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by economic classification.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.5 Fiscal Table page xxxv

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Its table 1.6 Summary of Economic classification on page xxxviii

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

5. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by economic classification, is the economic classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 5 asks whether a country's economic classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's economic classification must be consistent with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2001 Government Finance Statistics (GFS). The GFS economic classification is presented here: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>. To learn more about Government Finance Statistics also refer to the entire IMF 2001 GFS manual (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf>).

Answer:

a. Yes, the economic classification is compatible with international standards.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.5 Fiscal Table page xxxv

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Section 1.6 on page xxxviii gives the classification. but the domestic and foreign liabilities is included in this which is not a part of the economic classification, but "Classifications of Flows and Stocks in Assets and Liabilities" according to the IMF document given here for reference

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: But the wrong table is referenced. Kindly see 1.6 Summary by Economic Classification, pp. xxviii

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb?start=5>

6. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 6 asks whether expenditures are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should treat the term "program" as meaning any level of detail below an administrative unit – that is, any programmatic grouping that is below the ministry, department, or agency level. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaille. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Budget decisions for the upcoming year can also affect the parameters of future budgets. It is therefore useful to estimate revenues and expenditures for multi-year periods, understanding that these estimates might be revised as circumstances change. Sometimes referred to as a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), a three-year period – that is, the budget year plus two more years – is generally considered an appropriate horizon for budgeting and planning.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

For example see MINISTRY OF HEALTH Summary by Policy Area/Department. Pages 210-223 providing budgetary allocations for curative services, preventive services, health and vital statistics, Global Fund, Coronavirus, etc. Also see the Ministry of Youth and Sports pages 254-265 providing for

Youth Services, Sports Services, Monrovia Vocational Training Center, Direction and Management, Youth Agricultural Training Center, Business and Domestic Occupation, Youth-on-the-Job Training Administration and Management.

Whilst this is so, other areas of the budget account for only administration and management. See the LIBERIA REFUGEE REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT COMMISSION on page 266 and the NATIONAL COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES on 269.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I verified this for both the health and education sector and they have broken up their budget by programs. for ex. for education - "Curriculum development"; "Monitoring and evaluation"

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

7. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 7 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," multi-year expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Multi-year estimates are presented two years beyond the budget year. FY 2021-22, 2022-23. 1.5 Fiscal Table on page xxxv. for economic classification, 1.8 Classification of Expenditure by Functions of Government on page xl-xli, 1.10 Summary by Spending Entity on page xliv-xlvi for administrative classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: one correction for economic classification the table is 1.6 on page xxxviii ; Table 1.8 for Functional classification- page xl; Table 1.10 by spending entity - page xliv - all these tables have projections uptill FY 2022/23

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

7b. Based on the response to Question 7, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for a multi-year period in the Executive's Budget Proposal?

Answer:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: see comment on Q7

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

8. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by program?

GUIDELINES:

Question 8 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures over the multi-year period. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if multi-year estimates are not presented by program.

Revenues generally are separated into two major categories: "tax" and "non-tax" revenues. Taxes are compulsory transfers that result from government exercising its sovereign power. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes. The category of non-tax revenues is more diverse, ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services. Note that some forms of revenue, such as contributions to social security funds, can be considered either a tax or non-tax revenue depending on the nature of the approach to these contributions. Particularly because different revenues have different characteristics, including who bears the burden of paying the tax and how collections are affected by economic conditions, it is helpful when estimates for revenues are disaggregated and displayed based on their sources.

For more information, please refer to the 2001 GFS manual, in particular Appendix 4 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>).

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

For example see MINISTRY OF HEALTH Summary by Policy Area/Department. Pages 210-223 providing budgetary allocations for curative services, preventive services, health and vital statistics, Global Fund, Coronavirus, etc. Also see the Ministry of Youth and Sports pages 254-265 providing for Youth Services, Sports Services, Monrovia Vocational Training Center, Direction and Management, Youth Agricultural Training Center, Business and Domestic Occupation, Youth-on-the-Job Training Administration and Management.

1.5 Fiscal Table on page xxxv. for economic classification, 1.8 Classification of Expenditure by Functions of Government on page xl-xli, 1.10 Summary by Spending Entity on page xliv-xlvi for administrative classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: All spending entities have budget projections upto FY 2022/23

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

9. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 9 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all tax revenues are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.4 Revenue Table. page xxxiii-xxxiv

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for all tax revenue are presented.

Comments: 1.4 Revenue Table. page xxxiii-xxxiv - looking at this table, the other" or "miscellaneous" revenue accounts for three percent or less of all tax revenue. This is because the "Other Taxes" has a bracket saying SDF - which stands for social development fund. I have worked on the revenue budget in Liberia and I am aware that this is broken down further. I believe it would be helpful if the SDF acronym is expanded upon.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for all tax revenue are presented.

Comments: Revenue is disaggregated and classified into major categories and sub-categories <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb?start=0>

10. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of government-produced goods and services) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 10 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "non-tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The category of non-tax revenues is diverse, and can include revenue ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of non-tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all non-tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of non-tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all non-tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of non-tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of non-tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of non-tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, non-tax revenues are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.4 Revenue Table. Page xxxiii. In comparison to the 2018/19 Draft Budget, non tax revenue sources like royalties and rent are no longer disaggregated (which is the reason for decline in grading (A to B) from the last survey..

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for all non-tax revenue are presented.

Comments: I disagree with the researcher - the revenue table presents all the sub categories of royalties and rent - Forestry, Agriculture etc. Moreover, the non tax revenue is further broken down to "Property Income, Administrative Fees, Fines penalties and profits, and Misc (which is less than 1% of all non tax revenue)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for all non-tax revenue are presented.

Comments: Again, revenue is disaggregated and classified into major categories and sub-categories <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb?start=0>

11. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 11 evaluates whether revenue estimates are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year) by "category," that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of revenues classified by category for at least two years following the budget year in question.

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates of revenue are presented by category.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.4 Revenue Table page xxxiii

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

12. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates for individual sources of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 12 evaluates whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented for a multi-year period.

Answer:

c. Yes, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of revenue are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.4 Revenue Table. Page xxxiii. In comparison to the 2018/19 Draft Budget, non tax revenue sources like royalties and rent are no longer disaggregated (Reason why grading is down from a B to a C from last survey).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented.

Comments: please see comment to Q10 - the revenues are disaggregated for all years till FY 2022/23

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented.

Comments: No true. Once the major categories are forecasted for multi year, it's obvious for the sub-categories. Kindly refer to the link below again:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb?start=0>

13. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 13 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt that the budget should include:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies no information on borrowing and debt is presented for the budget year.

Answer:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Annex 1. Interest payments on the outstanding debt in Table 1 of Annex 1. page ii

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree, total debt stock and interest payments are covered in the table in Annex 1. Net new borrowing is not explicitly calculated and mentioned. However, on page xxxv, table 1.5 - fiscal table - there is a line item that mentions "Unfunded Gap/Surplus" - which indicates the amount of borrowing required for that fiscal year which is usually balanced through contingent external resources (IBRD loans etc); The Consolidated statement of funds for the Q1 of FY 20/21 on page 35 includes a table (Table 21) with projected borrowing for FY 20/21 at USD 112 million.

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/1st-quarter-consolidated-financial-statements-fy2020-2021/fdocument?Itemid=9999> The Budget framework paper includes a detailed narrative on this on pages 37-40

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: But also included is the total debt stock, same page: Annex 1, page ii

IBP Comment

Answer choice B confirmed: The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year: presented on page xxxv as "Unfunded Gap/Surplus" which is accepted as a proxy. The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year: the total debt stock is only presented as of the end of May 2020, not the end of the fiscal year (2020/21), which would be the end of June 2021. The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year: Annex 1

13b. Based on the response to Question 13, check the box(es) below to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year
The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Annex 1 page ii

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: two of the three components are presented in table 1 of annex 1 - page ii - The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year = total debt stock at the end of May 2020 at 1.5 billion dollars The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year - debt service payments for FY 20/21 at USD 26.6 million

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

IBP Comment

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year: presented on page xxxv as "Unfunded Gap/Surplus" which is accepted as a proxy. The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year: the total debt stock is only presented as of the end of May 2020, not the end of the fiscal year (2020/21), which would be the end of June 2021. The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year: Annex 1

14. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year?"

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 14 focuses on the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*

- whether the debt is domestic or external.

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 13, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens, banks, and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding at the end of the budget year.

Answer:

d. No, information related to composition of total debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Total outstanding debt is noted at US 1.5 billion and the maturity profile of the debt is stated on page ii of Annex 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the composition of the total debt outstanding.

Comments: Debt Maturity profile on page ii of Annex 1 - Average interest rates - 17.3% (this is a different figure in the budget framework paper (4.1 %) on page 39, table 16; and a different figure in the National budget - (4.7%) page 9 of the preface section 1.3) Maturity profile of debt with grace period and payback periods - External or domestic - this classification exists for the debt service not the total debt stock - on page i of annex 1

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the composition of the total debt outstanding.

Comments: More information include domestic and external creditors, interest rate, grace period, maturity period, debt/GDP, total debt stock. Please refer to 1.3 Preface, pp. xxx.

IBP Comment

For cross country comparability, answer choice "D" has been selected. While Annex 1 does provide some information on average interest rates and the range of grace periods and payback periods, it only covers total debt stock as of the end of May 2020. This question asks about the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year, which in this case would be the end of June 2021.

14b. Based on the response to Question 14, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the composition of the total debt outstanding are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Annex 1: Public Deb page i. Maturity profile of debt Annex 1 page ii

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: All three are present - please see comment to previous question. Interest rates on the debt Maturity profile of the debt Whether the debt is domestic or external

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: It captures information on all of the first items above (interest rate, maturity profile, domestic and external, information beyond core elements such creditors, grace period, debt/GDP.)

Researcher Response

Agreed

IBP Comment

For cross country comparability, answer choice "none of the above" has been selected. While Annex 1 does provide some information on average interest rates and the range of grace periods and payback periods, it only covers total debt stock as of the end of May 2020. This question asks about the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year, which in this case would be the end of June 2021.

15. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?"

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 15 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the budget's revenue and expenditure estimates, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- *nominal GDP level;*
- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

While the core macroeconomic information should be a standard feature of the Executive's Budget Proposal, the importance of some types of macroeconomic assumptions may vary from country to country. For example, the budget estimates of some countries are particularly affected by changes in the price of oil and other commodities.

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short and long-term interest rates; rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.3 Preface macroeconomic outlook and context page xxiv presenting information on nominal GDP, real GDP, the consumer price index

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: interest rates are given in the budget framework paper - Table 1 page 19 ; Consumer price growth maybe the measure of inflation - but not explicitly mentioned; The Budget framework paper discusses the macroeconomic outlook in detail, page 16 onwards. Global economic outlook, commodities prices are discussed which would impact the Budget estimates; sectoral GDP is also discussed

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Comments: all of the core information are available in the Pre-budget statement, which is a supporting documentation, except that forecast for multiple years are not captured because the Central Bank of Liberia did release the information. Please also see Budget Framework Paper, pp. 19. <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/budget-framework-fy2020-2021?Itemid=0>

Researcher Response

Revised to (b) accepting Government review feedback

15b. Based on the response to Question 15, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Nominal GDP level
Real GDP growth
Inflation rate
Interest rates

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.3 Preface macroeconomic outlook and context page xxiv presenting information on nominal GDP, real GDP, the consumer price index (inflation)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/fdocument?Itemid=9999> page 19 of the Budget framework paper - Table 1: Selected macroeconomic indicators include the following: Nominal GDP level Inflation rate Real GDP growth Interest rates Information beyond the core elements (please specify) - commodity prices; sectoral GDP growth

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Nominal GDP level Inflation rate Real GDP growth Interest rates

Researcher Response

Agreed

16. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget?"

(The core information must include estimates of the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 16 focuses on the issue of whether the Executive's Budget Proposal shows how different macroeconomic assumptions affect the budget estimates (known as a "sensitivity analysis"). It asks whether "core" information related to a sensitivity analysis is presented, estimating the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for:

- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

A sensitivity analysis shows the effect on the budget of possible changes in some macroeconomic assumptions, and is important for understanding the impact of the economy on the budget; for instance, what would happen to revenue collections if GDP growth were slower than what is assumed in the budget proposal? Or what would happen to expenditure if inflation were higher than estimated? Or how will revenue be affected by a decrease in the price of oil?

As noted for Question 15, changes in certain macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil and other commodities, can have a significant impact on the budget estimates. As a result, some sensitivity analyses may also examine the impact on the budget estimates of changes in assumptions such as the

price of oil that are beyond the core elements of the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to a "sensitivity analysis" as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to a "sensitivity analysis" is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on "sensitivity analysis" is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to different macroeconomic assumptions is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Only the original estimates are presented. There are no different scenarios.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

17. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how some but not all new policy proposals affect expenditure is presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The information presented in the preface pages xxvii-xxviii only presents comparisons between FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21 for expenditure which is sufficient for a C answer.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The narrative does include some focus which impacts expenditure - for example., the public sector investment plan and its focus on infrastructure increases expenditure, In transparency and accountability sector - the expenditure increase is attributed to senatorial elections - all on page xxvii - but not sufficient information

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

18. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Prior-year information constitutes an important benchmark for assessing the proposals for the upcoming budget year. Estimates of prior years should be presented in the same formats (in terms of classification) as the budget year to ensure that year-to-year comparisons are meaningful. For example, if the budget proposes shifting responsibility for a particular program from one administrative unit to another – such as shifting responsibility for the training of nurses from the health department to the education department – the prior-year figures must be adjusted before year-to-year comparisons of administrative budgets can be made.

Typically, when the budget proposal is submitted, the year prior to the budget year (BY-1), also known as the current year, has not ended, so the executive will provide estimates of the anticipated outcome for BY-1. The soundness of these estimates is directly related to the degree to which they have been updated to reflect actual expenditures to date, legislative changes that have occurred, and anticipated changes in macroeconomic, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

The first year that can reflect actual outcomes, therefore, is generally two years before the budget year (BY-2). Thus the OECD recommends that data covering at least two years before the budget year (along with two years of projections beyond the budget year) are provided in order to assess fully the trends in the budget.

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how some but not all new policy proposals affect revenues are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

There is no such analysis.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how some but not all new policy proposals affect revenues are presented.

Comments: ON page XXX - 7. Budget reforms and transparency initiatives mention how National Remuneration and Standardisation Act was implemented and led to revenue savings for both FY 19/20 and projected for FY 20/21. One page XXIV - 2. Composition of revenue - additional revenue from a new excise tax policy on petroleum is mentioned

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how all new policy proposals affect revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: Please see Draft Budget Book, 1.3 Preface, composition of revenue, pp. xxiv

Researcher Response

Revised for (c) answer.

19. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 19 asks if expenditure estimates for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) are presented by one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends

the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-1 by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-1 must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.5 Fiscal Table on page xxxv. for economic classification, 1.8 Classification of Expenditure by Functions of Government on page xl-xli, 1.10 Summary by Spending Entity on page xlv-xlvi for administrative classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes, the Budget for FY 2019/20 is there by all classifications.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

20. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 20 asks if expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-1. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-1. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-1.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

21. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 21 asks whether the expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) have been updated from the original enacted levels. Updates can reflect actual experience to date; revised estimates due to shifting of funds by the executive, as permitted under the law; enactment of supplemental budgets; and revised assumptions regarding macroeconomic conditions, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

Answer "a" applies if the estimates have been updated; answer "b" applies if the original estimates are still being used.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Yes, the fiscal outturn for FY 2019-2020 budget year is noted.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Since this draft budget is formulated during the BY-1 year, the total actual outturn for the end of BY-1 isn't there but an estimated outturn is there both on revenues and expenditure on page xxxv - 1.5 Fiscal table. The actual outturn for BY-2 is there

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

22. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 22 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any of the three classifications

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.5 Fiscal Table on page xxxv. for economic classification, 1.8 Classification of Expenditure by Functions of Government on page xl-xli, 1.10 Summary by Spending Entity on page xliv-xlvi for administrative classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: The actual outturn for BY-2 (FY 2018/19) is present but the estimated Budget for BY-2 is not there - only actuals are there.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

22b. Based on the response to Question 22, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year in the Executive Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: None of the above - because BY-2 estimates are not there

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

23. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for more than one year preceding the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 23 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year before the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-2 and prior years. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-2 and prior years. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program for BY-2 and prior years.

Comments: see comments to previous question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

24. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 24 asks for which year the actual outcomes for expenditures are shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated all its expenditure data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Actual outcomes for FY 2018-2019 budget year is noted

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: BY-2 actual outcomes are there

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

25. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 are presented by category.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.4 Revenue Table. page xxxiii-xxxiv

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Approved 2019/20 revenue budget is there

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

26. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

b. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue for BY-1 are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

In comparison the the 2018/19 Draft Budget, non tax revenue sources like royalties and rent are no longer disaggregated (which is the reason why it went from a B to a C).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-1.

Comments: See comments to Q9 and 10 - applies to this question too

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-1.

Comments: Please refer to Draft national budget book, 1.4 Revenue Table, pp. xxxiii

Researcher Response

Revised for (b)

27. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have the original estimates of revenue for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated to reflect actual revenue collections?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

b. No, revenue estimates for BY-1 have not been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The FY 2019-2020 budget is still at estimate level. 1.4 Revenue Table page xxxiii. Instead of actuals, the government included the recast budget (which is still estimates).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: FY 2019/20 revenue estimates exist in the revenue table but not the actual since the budget year BY-1 isnt concluded yet

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Comments: Please refer to Draft national budget book, 1.4 Revenue Table, pp. xxxiii

28. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for more

than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.4 Revenue Table. Page xxxiii

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: The BY-2 actuals are there but not estimates; ACTUALS for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

29. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

c. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.4 Revenue Table Page xxxiii. In comparison the the 2018/19 Draft Budget, non tax revenue sources like royalties and rent are no longer disaggregated (which is the reason why it went from a B to a C).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: See previous question's comment- individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-2 for ACTUALS not estimates

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Comments: Please refer to Draft national budget book, 1.4 Revenue Table, pp. xxxiii. In fact, royalty and rents are further broken down into subcategory.

30. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.4 Revenue Table. Page xxxiii

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

31. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?"

(The core information must include the total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1; the amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1; interest payments on the debt; interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 31 focuses on prior-year debt information, rather than on prior-year expenditures or revenues, asking whether "core" information is provided on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1).

The "core" information includes:

- total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1;
- amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1;
- interest payments on the debt;
- interest rates on the debt instruments;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether it is domestic or external debt.

This core information for BY-1 is consistent with the budget year information for borrowing and debt, which is examined in Questions 13 and 14. Please note that for the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

In addition, some governments provide information beyond the core elements, such as gross new borrowing required during BY-1; currency of the debt; whether the debt carries a fixed or variable interest rate; whether it is callable; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for BY-1 as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on government borrowing and debt for BY-1.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Annex 1: Public Debt. Page i

total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1= US 1.5 billion

amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1=no

interest payments on the debt=yes

interest rates on the debt instruments = no
maturity profile of the debt=no
whether it is domestic or external debt=no
1.5 Fiscal Table net borrowing requirement for BY-1. xxxv

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree with choice c but not entirely with the researcher's comments - please see my difference below total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1; Yes agreed with researcher amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1; not sure since the category is funding gap (see comment in QQuestion 13) interest payments on the debt; Yes - agreed with researcher, page iv, Annex 1 interest rates on the debt instruments; No maturity profile of the debt; and; No whether it is domestic or external debt. Yes , Page iv, Annex 1

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

32. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 32 asks for which year the actual outcome for total debt outstanding is shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated its debt data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

It is essential that all government activities that may have an impact on the budget – in the current budget year or in future budget years – be fully disclosed to the legislature and the public in budget documents. In some countries, for instance, entities outside central government (such as public corporations) undertake fiscal activities that could affect current and future budgets. Similarly, activities that can have a significant impact on the budget, such as payment arrears and contingent liabilities, sometimes are not properly captured by the regular presentations of expenditure, revenue, and debt.

Answer:

d. No actual data for government debt are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Comments: Page iv of Annex 1 - actual debt service payments are given, disaggregate by domestic and foreign liabilities for BY-2;; - the question is unclear - debt outcomes can include debt services payment as well. but specifically the total debt stock as of BY-2 is not mentioned.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Comments: Please refer to draft budget book, Annex 1, Debt Classification Table, pp. iv.

33. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on extra-budgetary funds for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund; and complete income, expenditure, and financing data on a gross basis.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 33 focuses on extra-budgetary funds, asking whether “core” information related to these funds, which exist outside the budget, are presented. These core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund (i.e., why was a particular fund set up? what is it used for?); and
- estimates of its income, expenditure, and financing. (These estimates should be presented on a gross basis so that it is possible to tell how much money flows through each extra-budgetary fund.)

In most countries, governments engage in certain budgetary activities that are not included in the central government’s budget. Known as extra-budgetary funds, they can range in size and scope. For example, countries frequently set up pension and social security programs as extra-budgetary funds, where the revenues collected and the benefits paid are recorded in a separate fund outside the budget. Another example of an extra-budgetary fund can be found in countries dependent on hydrocarbon/mineral resources, where revenues from producing and selling those resources are channeled through systems outside the annual budget.

In some cases, the separation engendered by an extra-budgetary fund serves a legitimate political purpose, and the finances and activities of these funds are well documented. In other cases, however, this structure is used for obfuscation, and little or nothing is known about a fund’s finances and activities.

The availability of information related to extra-budgetary funds is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the government’s true fiscal position. In addition to the core information, other information about extra-budgetary funds is also desirable. Such information includes a discussion of the risks associated with the extra-budgetary fund; expenditures classified by economic, functional, or administrative unit; and the rules and procedures that govern the operations and management of the extra-budgetary fund.

For more information about extra-budgetary funds, see the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 2.1.1 of the IMF’s Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer “a,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to extra-budgetary funds as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. A “b” answer applies if the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation presents all of the core information. Answer “b” is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A “c” answer applies if some information related to extra-budgetary funds is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer “d” applies if no information is presented on extra-budgetary funds.

Please provide in the comments a list of all known extra-budgetary funds.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some extra-budgetary funds.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1.3 Preface. Page xxxi. The National Road Fund. Information on purpose, income, expenditure and financing are provided.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all extra-budgetary funds.

Comments: In addition, funds for fiscal decentralisation are proposed - through country development funds, also mentioned on page xxxvi in the preface. The core elements of income and appropriation of these funds are mentioned in the preface. The Budget Framework paper and the National budget both present information on the Road fund (Page 5 and 6 of Section 1.1 The Act)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

34. Does the Executive’s Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 34 asks whether the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documents present the finances of the central government on a consolidated basis, showing both its budgetary and extra-budgetary activities. Virtually all of the questions in the OBS questionnaire focus on budgetary central government – the activities of the ministries, departments, or agencies of central government. In addition, Question 33 asks about extra-budgetary funds, such as social security funds that are not included in the budget.

Coverage is an important aspect of fiscal reporting. Budget documents should cover the full scope of government’s financial activity. In many countries, extra-budgetary activities are substantial, and can represent a sizable share of the central government’s activities. To get a full picture of the central government’s

finances, therefore, it is necessary to examine both activities that are included in the budget and those that are extra-budgetary. This question asks whether such a consolidated presentation of central government finances is provided.

The central government is only one component of the overall public sector. The public sector also includes other levels of government, such as state and local government, and public corporations. (See Box 2.1 under Principle 1.1.1 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018): <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>). For the purpose of answering this question, please consider only the central government level.

In order to answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year.

Answer:

b. No, central government finances are not presented on a consolidated basis.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

There is no such information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, central government finances are presented on a consolidated basis.

Comments: All government's budgetary income goes through the consolidated revenue account at the central bank prior to onward distribution to spending entities.

35. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of intergovernmental transfers for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 35 asks about intergovernmental transfers. In many cases, the central government supports the provision of a good or service by a lower level of government through an intergovernmental transfer of funds. This is necessary because, independent from the level of administrative decentralization that exists in a given country, the capacity for revenue collection of a local government is unlikely to be sufficient to pay for all its expenses. However, because the activity is not being undertaken by an administrative unit of the central government, it is unlikely to receive the same level of review in the budget. Thus it is important to include in the budget proposal a statement that explicitly indicates the amount and purposes of these transfers.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all intergovernmental transfers and a narrative discussing these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all intergovernmental transfers are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, intergovernmental transfers (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

7.3 Fiscal decentralization transfers page xxx. providing for transfer to counties in the form of social development funds, county development funds, county service centers and under the Ministry of Internal Affairs at page 94 county budgets Summary by Policy Area/Department.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The section 7.3 (page XXX) present adequate information on the government's decentralisation plan and IGTs with some narrative.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

36. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region) to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 36 asks about "alternative displays" of expenditures that highlight the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens. As discussed above, expenditures are typically presented by at least one of three classifications – administrative, functional, and economic classifications (see Questions 1-5) – and by individual program (Question 6). In addition, governments can provide alternative displays to emphasize different aspects of expenditure policies and to show who benefits from these expenditures.

For the purpose of answering this question, the alternative presentation must differ from the presentations (such as administrative, functional, or economic classifications or presentation by program) used to answer other questions. The alternative display can cover all expenditures or only a portion of expenditures. For instance, it can show how all expenditures are distributed according to geographic region or it can show how selected expenditures (such as the health budget or the agriculture budget) are distributed to different regions. But such a geographic display must be something different than the presentation of intergovernmental transfers used to answer question 35. One exception is when a country includes a special presentation of all policies intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (and is used to answer Question 52) then that can be considered an alternative display for purposes of answering this question as well. Finally, brief fact sheets showing how proposals in the budget benefit particular groups would be insufficient; only more detailed presentations would be considered.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?" (<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of the importance of alternative displays of budget information and provides a number of examples. For instance,

- Bangladesh in its 2017-18 Budget included a detailed supplementary Gender Budgeting Report, which presents the spending dedicated to advancing women across various departments. (<https://mof.portal.gov.bd/site/page/3bb14732-b5b1-44df-9921-efedf1496295>).
- The UK's 2017 budget included a supplementary analysis that provided a distributional analysis of the budget by households in different income groups (see https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661465/distributional_analysis_autumn_budget_2017.pdf)
- South Africa's 2017 Budget Review goes beyond the standard presentation of intergovernmental transfers, discussing the redistribution that results from national revenue flowing to the provinces and municipalities and presenting the allocations on a per capita basis (see chapter 6, <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2017/review/FullBR.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least three different presentations that illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least two different alternative displays of expenditures. A "c" applies if only one type of alternative display of expenditure is presented. Answer "d" applies if no alternative display of expenditure is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, one alternative display of expenditures is presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

IGT in the Ministry of Internal Affairs budget on page 93 (page 117 of the PDF)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: there is an alternative display through a Gender responsive Budgeting section presented in Annex 6 which proposes a plan to incorporate Gender responsive budgeting by committing resources in different government departments, with indicated costs.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

36b. Based on the response to Question 36, select the box(es) below to identify which types of alternative displays are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Other displays of expenditure (please specify)

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Expenditure on county administration and social and county development funds. pages xxx & 94

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Distribution of health expenditures by geographic region - page 209 Distribution of education expenditures by geographic region - 293 Ministry of Internal Affairs - geographic distribution - page 93 MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION - geographic distribution - page 279; The citizen's guide to the national budget also has details on county level expenditure

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Maintain that distribution of the budget by indicators above can be improved and transfers to individual schools or health facilities do not tell the full picture of how much or what percentage of the budget serves each indicator.

37. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of transfers to public corporations for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 37 asks about transfers to public corporations. It is often the case that governments have a stake in enterprises that manage resources that are particularly relevant for the public good (such as electricity, water, and oil). While these public corporations can operate independently, in some cases the government will provide direct support by making transfers to these corporations, including to subsidize capital investment and operating expenses.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all transfers to public corporations and a narrative discussing the purposes of these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all transfers to public corporations are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, transfers to public corporations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented.

Please provide in the comments a list of all known public corporations.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Annex 2. page vi. Liberia Water and Sewer corporation and the Liberia Electricity corporation. Pages 390-391. Yet not all corporations are listed such as the Liberia Maritime Authority and the Liberia Telecommunications Authority.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For each State owned enterprise - the percentage share of government support to their budget is indicated in Annex 2 of the executive budget proposal / Draft National Budget

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: also included is the Liberia Airports Authority. Not all corporation are being subsidized by government.

38. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity and the intended beneficiaries.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 38 focuses on quasi-fiscal activities, asking whether "core" information related to such activities is presented. These core components include:

- A statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity (i.e., what is the reason for engaging in this activity?);
- The identification of intended beneficiaries of the quasi-fiscal activity.

The term "quasi-fiscal activities" refers to a broad range of activities that are fiscal in character and could be carried out through the regular budget process but are not. For example, a quasi-fiscal activity could take place if, instead of providing a direct subsidy through the budget for a particular activity, a public financial institution provides an indirect subsidy by offering loans at below-market rates for that activity. Similarly, it is a quasi-fiscal activity when an enterprise provides goods or services at prices below commercial rates to certain individuals or groups to support the government's policy goals.

The above examples are policy choices that may be approved by the government and legislature. However, quasi-fiscal activities can also involve activities that violate or circumvent a country's budget process laws or are not subject to the regular legislative approval process for expenditures. For example, the executive may issue an informal order to a government entity, such as a public commercial enterprise, to provide the executive with goods and services that normally would have to be purchased with funding authorized by the legislature. All quasi-fiscal activities should be disclosed to the public and subject to public scrutiny.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about quasi-fiscal activities, including for example: the anticipated duration of the quasi-fiscal activity; a quantification of the activity and the assumptions that support these estimates; and a discussion of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the activity, including the impact on the entity carrying out the activity. Principle 3.3.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) provides examples of quasi-fiscal activities that can be consulted as needed. And more details on quasi-fiscal activities can be found in the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to all quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to quasi-fiscal activities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on quasi-fiscal activities.

If quasi-fiscal activities do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question.

Answer:

d. No, information related to quasi-fiscal activities is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

There is no such information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

39. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets, and an estimate of their value.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 39 focuses on financial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. These core components include:

- A listing of the financial assets; and
- An estimate of their value.

Governments own financial assets such as cash, bonds, or equities. Unlike private sector businesses, however, few governments maintain balance sheets that show the value of their assets and liabilities.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about financial assets, including for example: a discussion of their purpose; historical information on defaults; differences between reported values and market values; and a summary of financial assets as part of the government's balance sheet.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to all financial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to financial assets is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on financial assets held by the government.

Answer:

d. No, information related to financial assets is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

There is no such information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some financial assets.

Comments: The quarterly consolidated financial statements are there for the 3 quarters of FY 20/21 of which the 1st Quarter was published in Nov 2020. <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-fa/quarterly-financial-statement?start=0> This contains the balance sheet on page 45. ; For BY-1, the full consolidated financial statement can be found on page 28 of the document FY2019-2020 Consolidated financial statements_annual. Therefore for FY 20/21, the annual financial statement would be published later.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Maintain that no information related to financial assets is present

40. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on nonfinancial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets by category.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 40 focuses on nonfinancial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. The core information is a listing of nonfinancial assets, grouped by the type (or category) of asset.

Nonfinancial assets are things of value that the government owns or controls (excluding financial assets) such as land, buildings, and machinery. The valuation of public nonfinancial assets can be problematic, particularly in cases where the asset is not typically available on the open market (such as a government monument). In these cases, it is considered acceptable to provide summary information in budget documents from a country's register of assets. But, in some cases, governments are able to value their nonfinancial assets; some present a summary of nonfinancial assets as part of their balance sheets. For an example of how nonfinancial assets are presented in one of the many supporting documents to the New Zealand Executive's Budget Proposal, see the Forecast Financial Statement 2011, Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued), Note 14, accessible here: <https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2011-05/befu11-pt6of8.pdf>.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year a listing by category of all nonfinancial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to nonfinancial assets is presented, but some nonfinancial assets are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on nonfinancial assets held by the government.

Answer:

d. No, information related to nonfinancial assets is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Information on acquisition of non financial assets is included but not non financial assets currently held by government.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all nonfinancial assets.

Comments: Non financial assets details are on page xxxiv of Annex 5 which has details on expenditure items. moreover, each spending entity has its details of non financial assets. for ex. page 32 - General services agency - Non financial assets - Other fixed assets (no further detail given), page 76 - Ministry of Finance - Non financial assets - Furniture's, machinery, ICT etc

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Option (d) is maintained. The non-financial asset stated in the EBP is listed as "other fixed assets" with qualifying what the "other fixed assets" is or are.

41. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure arrears for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 41 asks about estimates of expenditure arrears, which arise when government has entered into a commitment to spend funds but has not made the payment when it is due. (For more information see sections 3.49-3.50 of the IMF's GFS Manual 2001, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf> (page 29)). Though equivalent to borrowing, this liability is often not recorded in the budget, making it difficult to assess fully a government's financial position. Moreover, the obligation to repay this debt affects the government's ability to pay for other activities.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all expenditure arrears and a narrative discussing the arrears. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all expenditure arrears are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, expenditure arrears (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of expenditure arrears are presented. Answer "d" also applies if information is only available for the changes in arrears, and not the stock or balance of arrears.

If expenditure arrears do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question. Public expenditure management laws and regulations often will allow for reasonable delays, perhaps 30 or 60 days, in the routine payment of invoices due. Expenditure arrears impacting a small percentage of expenditure that are due to contractual disputes should not be considered a significant problem for the purpose of answering this question.

Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of all expenditure arrears are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

this answer is selected in terms of cumulative arrears to domestic and foreign debts and not debts assumed over the prior fiscal year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all expenditure arrears are presented.

Comments: I am not sure what the researcher is pointing to. some ministries and departments have a domestic arrears component in the "Use of goods and services" section - page 78, Ministry of finance. But arrears are not presented systematically

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

42. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities, such as government loan guarantees or insurance programs, for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability; the new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments (the gross exposure) at the end of the budget year.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 42 focuses on contingent liabilities, asking whether "core" information related to these liabilities is presented. These core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability;
- the new contingent liabilities for the budget year, such as new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and
- the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments at the end of the budget year. This reflects the gross exposure of the government in the case that all guarantees or commitments come due (even though that may be unlikely to occur).

Contingent liabilities are recognized under a cash accounting method only when the contingent event occurs and the payment is made. An example of such liabilities is the case of loans guaranteed by the central government, which can include loans to state-owned banks and other state-owned commercial enterprises, subnational governments, or private enterprises. Under such guarantees, government will only make a payment if the borrower defaults. Thus a key issue for making quantitative estimates of these liabilities is assessing the likelihood of the contingency occurring.

In the budget, according to the OECD, "[w]here feasible, the total amount of contingent liabilities should be disclosed and classified by major category reflecting their nature; historical information on defaults for each category should be disclosed where available. In cases where contingent liabilities cannot be quantified, they should be listed and described."

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about contingent liabilities, including for example: historical default rates for each program, and likely default rates in the future; the maximum guarantee that is authorized by law; any special financing associated with the guarantee (e.g., whether fees are charged, whether a reserve fund exists for the purpose of paying off guarantees, etc.); the duration of each guarantee; and an estimate of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the guarantees.

For more details on contingent liabilities, see *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and page 59 (Box 11) and Principle 3.2.3 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to contingent liabilities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to contingent liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on contingent liabilities.

Answer:

d. No, information related to contingent liabilities is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

43. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present projections that assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term?

(The core information must cover a period of at least 10 years and include the macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used and a discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 43 focuses on government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer-term, asking whether "core" information related to

these issues is presented. These core components must include:

- Projections that cover a period of at least 10 years.
- The macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used in making the projections.
- A discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections. Good public financial management calls for budgets to include fiscal sustainability analyses.

The IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) recommends that governments regularly publish the projected evolution of the public finances over the longer term (see Principle 3.1.3.). Future liabilities are a particularly important element when assessing the sustainability of public finances over the long term. Future liabilities are the result of government commitments that, unlike contingent liabilities, are virtually certain to occur at some future point and result in an expenditure. A typical example consists of government obligations to pay pension benefits or cover health care costs of future retirees. Under a cash accounting system, only current payments associated with such obligations are recognized in the budget. To capture the future impact on the budget of these liabilities, a separate statement is required.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about the sustainability of their finances, including for example: projections that cover 20 or 30 years; multiple scenarios with different sets of assumptions; assumptions about other factors (such as the depletion of natural resources) that go beyond just the core macroeconomic and demographic data; and a detailed presentation of particular programs that have long time horizons, such as civil service pensions.

For more details on future liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of government finances over the longer term as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to future liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on future liabilities and the sustainability of government's finances

Answer:

d. No, information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of finances over the longer term is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

There is no such information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

44. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 44 asks about estimates of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind assistance. Such assistance is considered non-tax revenue, and the sources of this assistance should be explicitly identified. In terms of in-kind assistance, the concern is primarily with the provision of goods (particularly those for which there is a market that would allow goods received as in-kind aid to be sold, thereby converting them into cash) rather than with in-kind aid like advisors from a donor country providing technical assistance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all donor assistance and a narrative discussing the assistance. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all donor assistance are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, donor assistance (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if the sources of donor assistance are not presented, but the total amount of donor assistance is presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of donor assistance are presented. Select answer "e" if your country does not receive donor assistance.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all sources of donor assistance are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Annex 3: External Resource Projections. page xvii

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This information is present in all the three documents - Pre budget statement, Draft National Budget, and National Budget. The BUDget framework paper has extensive details on the page 24 under the section - "Development Partner's Report"

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

45. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on tax expenditures for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each tax expenditure, the intended beneficiaries, and an estimate of the revenue foregone.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 45 focuses on tax expenditures, asking whether "core" information related to these tax preferences is presented. These core components must include for both new and existing tax expenditures:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale;
- a listing of the intended beneficiaries; and
- an estimate of the revenue foregone.

Tax expenditures arise as a result of exceptions or other preferences in the tax code provided for specified entities, individuals, or activities. Tax expenditures often have the same impact on public policy and budgets as providing direct subsidies, benefits, or goods and services. For example, encouraging a company to engage in more research through a special tax break can have the same effect as subsidizing it directly through the expenditure side of the budget, as it still constitutes a cost in terms of foregone revenues. However, expenditure items that require annual authorization are likely to receive more scrutiny than tax breaks that are a permanent feature of the tax code.

*Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about tax expenditures, including for example: the intended beneficiaries by sector and income class (distributional impact); a statement of the estimating assumptions, including the definition of the benchmark against which the foregone revenue is measured; and a discussion of tax expenditures as part of a general discussion of expenditures for those program areas that receive both types of government support (in order to better inform policy choices). For more details on tax expenditures, see *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 1.1.4 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).*

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, all of the core information related to tax expenditures as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to tax expenditures is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on tax expenditures.

Answer:

d. No, information related to tax expenditures is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

There is no such information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This information is not in the Executive Budget's proposal but it is mentioned in LRA's annual report - <https://revenue.lra.gov.lr/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/LRA-Annau-Report-FY2019%EF%80%A2-2020.pdf> - page 84 Appendix B1: Exemptions on General Goods and Appendix B2: Exemption on Petroleum Products - not all core elements are present but some tax exemptions and tax expenditure accruing from that is mentioned.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

46. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of earmarked revenues for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 46 asks about estimates of earmarked revenues, which are revenues that may only be used for a specific purpose (for example, revenues from a tax on fuel that can only be used for building roads). This information is important in determining which revenues are available to fund the government's general expenses, and which revenues are reserved for particular purposes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all earmarked revenues and a narrative discussing the earmarks. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all earmarked revenues are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, earmarked revenues (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of earmarked revenues are presented. An "e" response applies if revenue is not earmarked or the practice is disallowed by law or regulation.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all earmarked revenues are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all earmarked revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: Page xxx and xxxi in the Preface section 7.3 and 7.4 talks about ear marked revenues for fiscal decentralisation where for FY 20/21 earmarked transfers for devolved functions for the operations of counties service centres. National Road fund from fuel levies for the building and maintenance of roads.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: 1.3 preface, 7.4 Earmarked Expenditure - National Road Fund, pp. xxxi

Researcher Response

Revised to (C) for estimates of earmarked revenue for the Road Fund.

47. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government's policy goals for the budget year is presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizens-guide-to-the-draft-national-budget-fy2020-21/download>

Comment:

Page 7 of the Citizen's Guide to the National Budget on Public Sector Investment Plan

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Progress on PAPD implementation. <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide?start=5>; page 6 shows expenditure by policy priority. Additionally, the Budget Framework paper has a section on "Policy Agenda" on page 15 but no linkage to budget estimates

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

48. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

d. No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals for a multi-year period is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

There is no such information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

49. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on inputs to be acquired for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 49 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on inputs for the budget year. (Nonfinancial data on outputs and outcomes are addressed in Question 50.)

The budget should disclose not only the amount of money that is being allocated on a program but also any information needed to analyze that expenditure. Nonfinancial data and performance targets associated with budget proposals are used to assess the success of a given policy. For example, even when allocated funds are spent according to plan, there remains the question of whether the policy delivered the results that it aimed to achieve.

Nonfinancial data can include information on:

Inputs - These are the resources assigned to achieve results. For example, in regards to education, nonfinancial data on inputs could include the number of books to be provided to each school or the materials to be used to build or refurbish a school.

Outputs - These are products and services delivered as a result of inputs. For example, the number of pupils taught every year; the number of children that received vaccines; or the number of beneficiaries of a social security program.

Outcomes - These are the intended impact or policy goals achieved. For example, an increase in literacy rates among children under 10, or a reduction in rates of maternal mortality.

In addition, governments that set performance targets must use nonfinancial data for outputs and outcomes to determine if these targets have been met.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program is organized by functions. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on inputs for all administrative units or all functions, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on inputs are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on inputs is presented.

Answer:

d. No, nonfinancial data on inputs are not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

While the budget provides the "objectives" for most programs, there is no information on inputs.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, nonfinancial data on inputs are presented for some programs and/or some administrative units (or functions).

Comments: Annex 6 of the Draft National Budget shows the output targets for Gender Responsive budgeting. ; The citizens budget includes information on some inputs and outputs achieved on page 7, but the Budget itself does not have targets.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

50. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on results (in terms of outputs or outcomes) for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 50 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 49).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on results for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on results for each individual program is organized by functional classification. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on results for all administrative units or all functional classifications, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on results are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on results is presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, nonfinancial data on results are presented for all administrative units (or functions) but not for all (or any) programs.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

A typical non-financial data produced by a ministry or agency could be the objective of the Liberia Institute for Public Administration. Page 61

.Achievements (FY2019-20):

"Conducted capacity needs assessment for 9 Spending entities performance management system; Sent seven civil servants to Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) to obtain Master Degree in Public Sector Management; Revision and amendment of LIPA's strategic plan; Revision of LIPA's Re-brand features; Establishment of LIPA's regional office in Buchanan; Improved assets inventory and management process of LIPA's assets (Assets management and control); Regularize LIPA's electrification process via re-connection with LEC"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The citizens budget includes information on some inputs and outputs achieved on page 7, - Example Education: Provided daily hot meals to 262,227 kids in 1,185 schools; take home rations for 4,000 girls in 176 schools; paid fees for 39,887 12th graders and 43,409 9th graders. Trained 1,249 teachers, 70 school supervisors, 578 principals and 14 Master Trainers.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

51. Are performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results in the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation?

GUIDELINES:

Question 51 asks about performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. The question applies to those nonfinancial results shown in the budget, and that were identified for purposes of Question 50.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to all nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to a majority (but not all) of the nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget. A "c" response applies performance targets are assigned only to less than half of the nonfinancial data on results. Answer "d" applies if no performance targets are assigned to nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget, or the budget does not present nonfinancial results.

Answer:

c. Yes, performance targets are assigned to some nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Objectives for the Ministry of Health on page 209 (page 231 in the PDF): "4. To reduce maternal mortality to 49/100,000 life birth by 2023 and reduce under-five mortality 57/1000 life birth by 2023, reduce stunting to 22% by 2023 and reduce malaria prevalence to 20% by 2023 within Health Sector PAPD."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

52. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations in at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 52 asks whether the budget highlight policies, both new and existing, that benefit the poorest segments of society. This question is intended to assess only those programs that directly address the immediate needs of the poor, such as through cash assistance programs or the provision of housing,

rather than indirectly, such as through a stronger national defense. This information is of particular interest to those seeking to bolster government's commitment to anti-poverty efforts. For purposes of answering this question, a departmental budget (such as the Department of Social Welfare) would not be considered acceptable. In general, this question is asking whether the EBP includes a special presentation that pulls together estimates of all the relevant policies in one place. However, if the country uses "program budgeting," where programs are presented as expenditure categories with specific and identified objectives, and it identifies anti-poverty programs within each administrative unit, then that is also acceptable for this question.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?" (<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of countries that have provided information on how its policies affect the poor.

For instance, Pakistan provides a detailed breakdown of pro-poor expenditure as part of its 2017-18 budget proposal. In one document, the government sets out policy priorities, expected outputs, and estimates of past and future spending for several programs aimed at poverty alleviation. Another supporting document provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing policies, including a chapter on social safety nets, covering both financial and performance information of poverty alleviation schemes over a period of eight years. (http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/mtbf_2018_21.pdf and http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey_1718.html).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must for at least the budget year both present estimates covering all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations and include a narrative discussion that specifically addresses these policies. (For countries using program budgeting that breaks out individual anti-poverty programs, there should be a separate narrative associated with each such program.) Answer "b" if a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented. Answer "c" if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" if no estimates of policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The Ministry of Gender and social Protection provides transfers to orphanages and other disadvantage groups. Page 279. The Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment provides better housing facilities for limited rural community people through special presidential projects. Page 275

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

53. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 53 asks about the budget timetable. An internal timetable is particularly important for the executive's management of the budget preparation process, in order to ensure that the executive accounts for the views of the different departments and agencies in the proposed budget. The timetable would, for instance, set deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. So that civil society is aware of the various steps in the budget formulation process, and when opportunities may exist to engage the executive, it is essential that this timetable be made available to the public.

To answer "a," the executive must prepare a detailed budget timetable and release it to the public. A "b" answer applies if the timetable is made public, but some details are not included. A "c" response applies if the timetable is made public, but many important details are excluded, reducing its value for those outside government. Answer "d" applies if no timetable is made available to the public. As long as a timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal is released, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Executive's Budget Proposal is not made publicly available.

Answer:

a. Yes, a detailed timetable is released to the public.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-call-circular/budget-call-circular-bcc-fy2020-21/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: verified

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

54. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 54 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- *nominal GDP level;*
- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short- and long-term interest rates; the rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The Budget Framework Paper does not meet the Open Budget standard of timeliness. It was published on July 22, 2020, 7 days after been submitted to the Legislature.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Apart from the timeliness issue, the question here is about the content of the PBS - and there is a macroeconomic outlook presented along with details on sectoral performance outlook. Please see my comment to Q15.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Comments: budget framework paper, table 1, pp. 19

55. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities and an estimate of total expenditures.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 55 focuses on the government's expenditure policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total expenditures.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed programmatic proposals (such detailed information is typically only presented in the budget itself), it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least total expenditures associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can include some detail, for instance, estimates provided by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The Budget Framework Paper does not meet the Open Budget standard of timeliness. It was published on July 22, 2020, 7 days after been submitted to the Legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: but the content of the PBS does include some core elements of policy priorities (page 15) and expenditure estimates (page 29)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

56. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's revenue policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of revenue policies and priorities and an estimate of total revenues.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 56 focuses on the government's revenue policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of revenue policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total revenue.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed revenue proposals, it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can also include more detail, for instance, with estimates provided by revenue category – tax and non-tax – or some of the major individual sources of revenue, such as the Value Added Tax or the income tax.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The Budget Framework Paper does not meet the Open Budget standard of timeliness. It was published on July 22, 2020, 7 days after been submitted to the Legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

57. Does Pre-Budget Statement present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 57 asks whether the Pre-Budget Statement includes three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- the amount of net new borrowing needed in the upcoming budget year;*
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the upcoming budget year; and*
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the upcoming budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt for at least the upcoming budget year. For a "b" answer, the Pre-Budget Statement must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the PBS must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the PBS.

Answer:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The Budget Framework Paper does not meet the Open Budget standard of timeliness. It was published on July 22, 2020, 7 days after been submitted to the Legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: But the relevant information is included on page 37

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

58. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present estimates of total expenditures for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 58 asks about multi-year expenditure estimates in the Pre-Budget Statement.

To answer "a," expenditure estimates for at least two years beyond the upcoming budget year must be presented. The estimates must be for at least total expenditures, but could include more detail than just the aggregate total.

Answer:

b. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/departement-of-budget-reports/budget-frameworks/budget-framework-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

The Budget Framework Paper does not meet the Open Budget standard of timeliness. It was published on July 22, 2020, 7 days after been submitted to the Legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

59. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 59 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of the three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Economic classification is in 1.5 Fiscal Table page xxvi, Functional classification is in 1.8 Classification of Expenditure by Functions of Government on pages xxx-xxxi, Administrative classification is in 1.10 Summary by Spending Entity on pages xxxiv-xxxvi.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

59b. Based on the response to Question 59, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Enacted Budget:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Economic classification is in 1.5 Fiscal Table page xxvi, Functional classification is in 1.8 Classification of Expenditure by Functions of Government on pages xxx-xxxi, Administrative classification is in 1.10 Summary by Spending Entity on pages xxxiv-xxxvi.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

60. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 60 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all programs, which account for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

61. Does the Enacted Budget present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 61 asks whether revenue estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

See both revenue and expenditure tables. Pages- xxv-xxvi

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: 1.4 Revenue Table, 1.5 Fiscal table

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

62. Does the Enacted Budget present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 62 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Enacted Budget. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue that account for less than two-thirds of revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Revenue Fiscal Table. Pages xxv-xxvi

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Comments: See comments to Q9 and 10 - applies to the enacted budget document too since the table is the same

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Comments: See 1.4 Revenue Table

Researcher Response

Maintain that not all sources of revenue is provide for. For example, the budget lists "other tax revenue" without qualifying the source of the revenue.

63. Does the Enacted Budget present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget

year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 63 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year;*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Enacted Budget must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Enacted Budget must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Amount of net new borrowing required during 2020-2021: US \$69 million page xxi (Not fully explained in the budget narrative)

Interest payments. Annex 1 on Table 1: Medium Term Debt Forecast on page ii (495 of the PDF)

Annex 3 presents the amount of external financing (grants and loans) in the budget for FY 2020/21. After reviewing the economic classification on pages iv and v, under domestic and foreign liabilities, we essentially see the interest payment.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

64. What information is provided in the Citizens Budget?

(The core information must include expenditure and revenue totals, the main policy initiatives in the budget, the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based, and contact information for follow-up by citizens.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 64 focuses on the content of the Citizens Budget, asking whether "core" information is presented. These core components include:

- *expenditure and revenue totals;*
- *the main policy initiatives in the budget;*
- *the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based; and*
- *contact information for follow-up by citizens.*

To answer "a," the Citizens Budget or supporting documentation must present all of the above core information as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Citizens Budget must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core

elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if the Citizens Budget includes some of the core components above, but other core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if a Citizens Budget is not published.

Answer:

a. The Citizens Budget provides information beyond the core elements.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21/download>

Comment:

The Citizen's Guide provides expenditures and revenue totals. Page 3-4

Budget Policy Initiatives. Pages 5, 6, 8.

Macroeconomic forecast. Page 2

Contact information consisting of physical address and emails but not phone numbers. Page 14

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: in addition, achievements on outputs is also mentioned on page 7

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

65. How is the Citizens Budget disseminated to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 65 asks how the Citizens Budget is disseminated to the public. Citizens Budgets should be made available to a variety of audiences. Therefore paper versions and an Internet posting of a document might not be sufficient.

To answer "a," the executive must use three or more different types of creative media tools to reach the largest possible share of the population, including those who otherwise would not normally have access to budget documents or information. Dissemination would also be pursued at the very local level, so that the coverage is targeted both by geographic area and population group (e.g., women, elderly, low income, urban, rural, etc.). Option "b" applies if significant dissemination efforts are made through a combination of two means of communications, for instance, both posting the Citizens Budget on the executive's official website and distributing printed copies of it. Option "c" applies if the Citizens Budget is disseminated through only posting on the executive's official website. Option "d" applies when the executive does not publish a Citizens Budget.

Answer:

b. A Citizens Budget is published by using at least two, but less than three, means of dissemination, but no other dissemination efforts are undertaken by the executive.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21/download>

Comment:

The OBI uses social media and radio programs in the counties. https://web.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=239939624129906&ref=watch_permalink

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is also an OBI FAQ page that answers some common questions on the Budget for citizens -

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/open-budget-initiative-frequently-asked-questions?Itemid=0>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. A Citizens Budget is disseminated widely through a combination of at least three different appropriate tools and media (such as the Internet, billboards, radio programs, newspapers, etc.).

Comments: We used internet, newspapers (in the form of budget factsheet), community radio programme, town halls, intellectual discourses.

Researcher Response

Maintain option (b) as internet, and newspaper penetration through the country is very limited. Say under 30%.

66. Has the executive established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information prior to publishing the Citizens Budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 66 asks whether the executive has established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information before publishing a Citizens Budget. What the public wants to know about the budget might differ from the information the executive includes in technical documents that comprise the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget; similarly, different perspectives might exist on how the budget should be presented, and this may vary depending on the context. For this reason the executive should consult with the public on the content and presentation of the Citizens Budget.

To answer "a," the executive must have established mechanisms to consult with the public, and these mechanisms for consultation are both accessible and widely used by the public. Such mechanisms can include focus groups, social networks, surveys, hotlines, and meetings/events in universities or other locations where people gather to discuss public issues. In countries where Citizens Budgets are consistently produced and released, it may be sufficient for the government to provide the public with contact information and feedback opportunities, and subsequently use the feedback to improve its management of public resources.

Option "b" applies if the executive has established mechanisms for consultation that are accessible to the public, but that the public nonetheless does not use frequently. That is, the public does not typically engage with the executive on the content of the Citizens Budget, even though the executive has created opportunities for such consultation. Option "c" applies if the executive has established mechanism for consultation with the public, but they are poorly designed and thus not accessible to the public. Option "d" applies if the executive has not created any mechanisms to seek feedback from the public on the content of the Citizens Budget.

Answer:

d. No, the executive has not established any mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget.

Source:

https://web.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=239939624129906&ref=watch_permalink

https://web.facebook.com/Open-Budget-Initiative-Govt-of-Liberia-354192398023885/?_rdc=1&_rdr

Comment:

Most of these engagements are limited to providing information for citizens on what is contained in the citizen's budget rather than actively engaging with citizens to gather feedback on what they want contained in the Citizen's Guide.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

67. Are "citizens" versions of budget documents published throughout the budget process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 67 asks if "citizens" versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget process. While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle.

To answer "a," a citizens version of at least one budget document is published for each of the four stages of the budget process (budget formulation, enactment, execution, and audit) – for a total of at least four citizens budget documents throughout the process. Option "b" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process. Option "c" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least one of the four stages of the budget process. Select option "d" if no "citizens" version of budget documents is published.

Answer:

b. A citizens version of budget documents is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizens-guide-to-the-draft-national-budget-fy2020-21/download>

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/department-of-budget-reports/citizen-s-guide/citizen-s-guide-to-the-national-budget-fy-2020-21/download>

Comment:

The citizen's guide is published for only the enactment phase of the budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

68. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 68 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," actual expenditures must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if actual expenditures are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by any of the three classifications in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020>

Comment:

Yes, economic classification is on page 4, but administrative isn't. Administrative classification is on pages 25-31 (pages 33-39 in the PDF). Functional classification is in Table 24 on page 41 (49 in the PDF).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: The document I have referred to is the first quarter consolidated financial statement for fy 20/21 (BY) published on November 2020. <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/1st-quarter-consolidated-financial-statements-fy2020-2021/fdocument?Itemid=9999> The economic classification is Table 19, page 25; Appendix 1 page 26 - administrative classification; Pages 18 -24, 46 economic classification

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

68b. Based on the response to Question 68, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the In-Year Reports:

Answer:

Administrative classification
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020>

Comment:

Yes, economic classification is on page 4, but administrative isn't. Administrative classification is on pages 25-31 (pages 33-39 in the PDF). Functional classification is in Table 24 on page 41 (49 in the PDF)

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

69. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 69 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by program in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program.

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020>

Comment:

Reports are limited at the ministry and agency levels

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

70. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date expenditures with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 70 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual expenditures to-date with either the enacted levels or actual expenditures for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date expenditures in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast expenditures (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020>

Comment:
STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNT (CONSOLIDATED FUND). Pages 5-6. Comparisons are for actual, allotted and approved budgets for the quarter.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes, for BY - Page 25 onwards in <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/1st-quarter-consolidated-financial-statements-fy2020-2021/fdocument?Itemid=9999>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

71. Do In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 71 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual revenues by "category" – that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category.

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020>

Comment:

Report made on tax and non-tax receipts: STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (ALL PUBLIC FUNDS). Page 3

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Page 43 of <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/1st-quarter-consolidated-financial-statements-fy2020-2021/fdocument?Itemid=9999> for BY

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

72. Do In-Year Reports present the individual sources of revenue for actual revenues collected?

GUIDELINES:

Question 72 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual collections of individual sources of revenue (such as income taxes, VAT, etc.). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue collected, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue that account for less than two-thirds of all revenue collected. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of actual revenue are not presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue.

Source:

1. <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>

2. <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/1st-quarter-consolidated-financial-statements-fy2020-2021/download>

3. <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/2nd-quarter-consolidated-financial-statement-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

1. Disaggregated revenue receipts on property, goods and services, international trade, income and profit, Fines Penalties, Interests and Forfeits, administrative fees etc.. Pages 11-17
2. Disaggregated revenue receipts on property, goods and services, international trade, income and profit, Fines Penalties, Interests and Forfeits, administrative fees etc. Pages 12-17
3. Disaggregated revenue receipts on property, goods and services, international trade, income and profit, Fines Penalties, Interests and Forfeits, administrative fees etc. Pages 19-25

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: Disaggregated revenue receipts from page 12 - 17 in <https://docs.google.com/viewer?>

url=<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/1st-quarter-consolidated-financial-statements-fy2020-2021/fdocument?Itemid=9999>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for all revenue.

Comments: All revenue sources are presented consistent with revenue table. It's important to note that reporting does not necessarily have to be as detailed same as budget planning.

Researcher Response

maintain option (b)

73. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date revenues with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 73 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual revenues to-date with either the enacted levels or actual revenues for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date revenues in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast revenues (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

1. <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/financial-statements-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-3rd-quarter-fy2019-2020/download>
2. <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/1st-quarter-consolidated-financial-statements-fy2020-2021/download>
3. <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/2nd-quarter-consolidated-financial-statement-fy2020-2021/download>

Comment:

Comparisons are made for the same period in the previous year.

1. STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020. Pages 11-14
2. STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (ALL PUBLIC FUNDS) FOR THE FIRST QUARTER ENDED 30TH September 2020. Pages 4-7
3. STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (ALL PUBLIC FUNDS) FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020. Pages 3-6

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes, for example on page 12 - Table 1 we have FY 20/21 Q1 - actuals, projections, approved budget, FY 2019/20 actuals

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

74. Do In-Year Reports present three estimates related to actual government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing; the total debt outstanding; and interest payments?

GUIDELINES:

Question 74 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year;
- the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year; and
- the interest payments to-date on the outstanding debt.

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, In-Year Reports must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, IYRs must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

c. Yes, one of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020>

Comment:

Table 16 - Note 15a Interest & Loan Repayment: Domestic Debt for Quarter 2FY 19/20 page 21.

Table 17 - Note 15b Interest & Loan Repayment: Foreign Debt for Quarter 2 FY 19/20 page 22

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Page 49, Section 10. Total Public Debt in Q1 Fy 20/21 consolidated financial statements. This has, · the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year; and · the interest payments to-date on the outstanding debt. · the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year; Page 33, Appendix 2 - |Borrowing during the period|= 71 million USD

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

75. Do In-Year Reports present information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding?

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 75 focuses on the composition of government debt, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 74, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens and banks and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt to-date as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, information related to composition of total actual debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/quarterly-financial-statement/fund-account-2nd-quarter-fy-2019-2020>

Comment:

No information is provided for interest rates on the debt and maturity profile of the debt.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Comments: Only one core element is provided - page 49 - whether the debt is domestic or external. for BY

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

76. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 76 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated macroeconomic forecast and explain all of the differences between the initial forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the updated forecast. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the macroeconomic forecast must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated forecasts are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the macroeconomic forecast has not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have not been updated.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

Actually just one indicator in the Executive Summary. Page 3 on nominal GDP: "When the current budget was being formulated (2019), the growth rate or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was initially projected at 4.7 percent but later revised downwards to 0.4 percent. It is expected to remain well below 2 percent into the medium-term due to projected contraction in the mining and non-mining sectors."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional review and consultation, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review. As the researcher notes, there is only one macroeconomic indicator that has been updated (nominal GDP growth rate), but this is not enough to qualify as updated macroeconomic forecast.

77. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 77 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of expenditure for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated expenditure estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. The expenditure estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated expenditure estimates, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

While there is a comparison between the first semester of 2018/19 and 2019/20, there is no updated estimates for the first semester of 2019/20.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional review and consultation, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review. Answer choice "D" confirmed.

78. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 78 asks if expenditure estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

There are no updated expenditure estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional review and consultation, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review. Answer choice "D" confirmed.

78b. Based on the response to Question 78, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Mid-Year Review:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

There are no updated expenditure estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional review and consultation, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review. Answer choice "none of the above" confirmed.

79. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 79 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by program for the budget year underway. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer

applies if the Mid-Year Review presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

There are no updated expenditure estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional review and consultation, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review. Answer choice "D" confirmed.

80. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 80 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of revenue for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated revenue estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the revenue estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated revenue estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the revenue estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, revenue estimates have not been updated.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

The revenue component of the MYR, Table 1: FY2019/20 Summary Mid-Year Revenue Performance only shows actual revenue intake up to the Mid Year Review and not updated estimates for the budget year. Page 6

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional review and consultation, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review. Answer choice "D" confirmed.

81. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 81 asks whether revenue estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

As with the question 80, the MYR does not contain updated tax and no-tax estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents revenue estimates by category.

Comments: Please refer to Table 1: FY2019/20 Summary Mid-Year Revenue Performance, pp. 6. <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports>

IBP Comment

After additional review and consultation, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review. Answer choice "B" confirmed.

82. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 82 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway are presented in the Mid-Year Review. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenues, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

There are no updated revenue estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional review and consultation, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review. Answer choice "D" confirmed.

83. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 83 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- *The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, and explain all of the differences between the initial estimates presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the estimates of borrowing and debt must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the estimates of borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of government borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-performance-reports/mid-year-budget-execution-report-july-1-december-31-2019/download>

Comment:

There are no updated debt estimates.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional review and consultation, the Mid-Year Budget Execution Report does not qualify as a Mid-Year Review. Answer choice "D" confirmed.

84. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 84 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual expenditures for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all expenditures, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Appendix 1 Detailed Comparative Analysis of Actual Payment Made in FY2018/19. Pages 27-29

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

85. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 85 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. Answer "b" if expenditure estimates are presented by two of these three classifications. Answer "c" if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

For economic classification: STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (PAYMENTS), page 5; administrative and functional classification pages 27-29

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

85b. Based on the response to Question 85, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

For economic classification: STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (PAYMENTS), page 5; administrative and functional classification pages 27-29

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

86. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 86 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" if expenditures are not presented by program in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

There are no program level expenditures.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Comments: Our response is similar to in-year reporting revenue.

87. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Question 87 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual revenues for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all revenues, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Starting on page 13, all sources of non tax revenues are presented along with a narrative for each sub-heading. Tax revenues are presented along with a narrative starting on page 15 to 18.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

88. Does the Year-End Report present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 88 asks whether revenue estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by "category" – that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (RECEIPTS). Page 4

Starting on page 13, all sources of non tax revenues are presented along with a narrative for each sub-heading. Tax revenues are presented along with a narrative starting on page 15 to 18.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

89. Does the Year-End Report present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 89 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Year-End Report. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

b. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

The Consolidated Financial Statement presents individual sources on:
non-tax revenue. Page 13
Property income, administrative fees, Fines Penalties, Interests and Forfeits. Page 14
Tax revenue. Page 15
Grants. Page 18

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Comments: Table 1 on page 13 - the misc is less than 1 % of overall non tax revenues; Table 4 on page 15 - the other taxes are less than 3% of overall tax revenue

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Comments: All sources of revenue are presented according to the revenue table.

Researcher Response

Option (b) is maintained

90. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 90 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

There is no such comparison.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Only actuals are presented and compared to the previous years actuals - page 44

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

90b. Based on the response to Question 90, check the box(es) to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, have the differences between the original forecast and the actual outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

The only comparison on the listed variables are variances between the FY2018-2019 and FY 2017-2018 budgets.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: interest payments are also indicated in the report

91. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 91 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast in the Executive's Budget Proposal. Core components include estimates of the nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates, although the importance of other macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil, can vary from country to country.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

There is no such comparison.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

91b. Based on the response to Question 91, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast have the differences between the original forecast and the outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

There is no such information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

92. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 92 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 49 for the nonfinancial data on inputs included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Table 15: Note 14 Capital Expenditure. Page 21

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

93. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 93 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 92).

Refer to Question 50 for the nonfinancial data on results included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

There are no outputs or outcomes in the budget to compare actual performance.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

94. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 94 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 52 for assistance to the most impoverished populations in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

There is no such information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

95. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 95 asks whether the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 33 for estimates of extra-budgetary funds in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

96. Is a financial statement included as part of the Year-End Report or released as a separate report?

GUIDELINES:

Question 96 asks whether a financial statement is included as part of the Year-End Report, or whether it is released as a separate report. The financial statement can include some or all of the following elements: a cash flow statement, an operating statement, a balance sheet, and notes on accounting. For purposes of responding to this question, the financial statement in question does not need to be audited. For an example of a financial statement, see the document "Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand 2013" (<https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2013-10/fsgnz-year-jun13.pdf>)

To answer "a," a financial statement must either be included in the Year-End Report or must be released as a separate report. Answer "a" applies if a financial statement is released as a separate report, even if the Year-End Report is not publicly available. Answer "b" applies if no financial statement is released either as part of the Year-End Report or as a separate report.

Answer:

a. Yes, a financial statement is part of the Year-End Report or is released as a separate report.

Source:

<https://mfdp.govt.nz/index.php/reports-gag/consolidated-financial-statement/financial-statement-of-the-consolidated-fund-account-fy-2018-2019/download>

Comment:

Statement of Annual Consolidated Fund Account Fiscal Year 2018/2019 (Unaudited).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Table 23, page 30;

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

97. What type of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) has the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conducted and made available to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 97 asks about the types of audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). There are three basic types of audits:

- Financial audits are intended to determine if an entity's financial information is accurate (free from errors or fraud) and presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting and regulatory framework. See ISSAI 200 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more detail.
- Compliance audits look at the extent to which the relevant regulations and procedures have been followed. See ISSAI 400 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-400-compliance-audit-principles/>) for more details.
- Performance audits assess whether activities are adhering to the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. See ISSAI 300 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-300-performance-audit-principles/>) for more details.

Financial and compliance audits are more common than performance audits, which usually occur only once a performance framework has been agreed upon. In some countries, the SAI's mandate limits the type of audit it can conduct.

To answer "a," the SAI must have conducted all three types of audit – financial, compliance, and performance – and made all of them available to the public. A "b" response applies if the SAI has conducted two of the three audit types, and a "c" applies if it has conducted only one type of audit. Answers "b" and "c" may be selected even if the Audit Report is not publicly available, as long as the SAI has conducted compliance or performance audits and made them available to the public. A "d" response applies if the SAI has not conducted any of the three types of audits, or has not made them available to the public.

Answer:

b. The SAI has conducted two of the three types of audits, and made them available to the public.

Source:

<https://gac.govt.nz/reports/>

Comment:

In the past the GAC has conducted all three types of audits although not for the period under consideration. During the research period only financial and performance audits were completed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

98. What percentage of expenditures within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 98 focuses on the coverage of audits by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), asking what percentage of expenditures within the SAI's mandate has been audited.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to budgetary central government (ministries, departments, and agencies) that are within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 99 addresses audits of extra-budgetary funds.) Further, the question does not apply to "secret programs" (for example, security-related expenditures that are confidential). Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. Financial audits and compliance audits, or a hybrid of the two, can be taken into account to answer this question. Performance audits should not be considered for this question.

To answer "a," all expenditures within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if at least two-thirds, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response is appropriate when less than two-thirds of expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies when no expenditures have been audited.

Answer:

d. No expenditures have been audited.

Source:

<https://gac.gov.lr/reports/>

Comment:

The latest audit of the Consolidated Financial Statement is for the FY 2017-2018 budget year (published December 2020) and not the BY under consideration which is the FY 2018-2019 budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

99. What percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 99 focuses on audits of extra-budgetary funds, asking what percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited. These funds, although technically outside the budget, are governmental in nature and thus should be subject to the same audit requirement as other government programs.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 98 addresses audits of budgetary central government.) Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

To answer "a," all extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies if extra-budgetary funds have not been audited.

Answer:

d. No extra-budgetary funds have been audited.

Source:
<https://gac.gov.lr/reports/>

Comment:
There is no audit report on EBFs.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

100. Does the annual Audit Report(s) prepared by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) include an executive summary?

GUIDELINES:

Question 100 asks whether the annual Audit Report includes an executive summary. Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. The Audit Report can be a fairly technical document, and an executive summary of the report's findings can help make it more accessible to the media and the public.

To answer "a," the Audit Report must include at least one executive summary summarizing the report's content. Answer "b" applies if the Audit Report does not include an executive summary, or the Audit Report is not made publicly available.

Answer:
b. No, the annual Audit Report(s) does not include an executive summary.

Source:
<https://gac.gov.lr/reports/>

Comment:
No audit report prepared for the period.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

101. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?

GUIDELINES:

Question 101 asks whether the executive reports to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The ultimate purpose of audits is to verify that the budget was executed in a manner consistent with existing law, and to hold the government accountable for this execution and its future improvement. The extent to which audits achieve the latter depends on whether there is adequate and timely follow-up on the recommendations provided in the SAI's audit reports.

To answer "a," the executive must report publicly on the steps it has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address audit finding, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if the executive does not report at all on its steps to address audit findings.

Answer:
d. No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings.

Source:

Comment:
There is no such report.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

102. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?

GUIDELINES:

Question 102 asks whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or the legislature track actions by the executive to address audit recommendations. After audit results and recommendations are discussed and validated by the legislature, the executive is normally asked to take certain actions to address the audit findings. For accountability purposes, the public needs to be informed about the status of those actions, and steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations. In addition to the executive reporting on its actions (see Question 101), the SAI and legislature – as the key oversight institutions – have a responsibility to keep the public informed by tracking the executive’s progress in addressing audit recommendations.

To answer “a,” the SAI or legislature must report publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit findings. A “b” response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A “c” response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the SAI or legislature reports publicly on the steps the executive has taken, answer “a,” “b,” or “c” may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A “d” response applies if neither the SAI nor the legislature reports on the executive’s steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

d. No, neither the SAI nor legislature reports on steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations.

Source:

Comment:

There is no such report.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

103. Is there an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) that conducts budget analyses for the budget formulation and/or approval process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 103 examines whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) exists that contributes budget analyses to the budget formulation and/or approval process. According to the Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions, adopted by the OECD Council in 2014, “independent fiscal institutions are publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance”, and with “a forward-looking ex ante diagnostic task”. In practice, they come in two main forms:

- *Parliamentary budget offices (also known as PBOs) such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States (<https://www.cbo.gov/>), the Parliamentary Budget Office in South Africa (<https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliamentary-budget-office>), and the Center for Public Finance Studies in Mexico (Centro de Estudios de las Finanzas Públicas, <http://www.cefp.qob.mx/>); or*
- *Fiscal councils such as the Office for Budget Responsibility in the United Kingdom (<https://obr.uk/>) and the High Council for Public Finances in France (Haut Conseil des finances publiques, <https://www.hcfp.fr/>).*

For more information, see von Trapp et al. ‘Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions and Case Studies’, OECD Journal on Budgeting 15:2 (special issue, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/budget-15-5jm2795tv625>.

To answer "a," there must be an IFI, and its independence must be set in law. In addition, it must have sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks. Answer "b" applies if an IFI exists, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources are insufficient to carry out its tasks. Answer "c" applies if an IFI exists, but its independence is not set in law and it lacks sufficient staffing and resources. Answer "d" applies if no IFI exists.

If the answer is "a," "b," or "c," please specify in the comments the name and type of IFI that exists (e.g., parliamentary budget office or fiscal council). If the answer is "a" or "b," identify the law that guarantees its independence, and provide evidence in support of the assessment of the adequacy of its staffing and resources. This can include the IFI's total budget allocation over recent years, any press reports that discuss perceived funding shortfalls, assessments by international organizations, and/or information from interviews with staff of the IFI.

Answer:

b. Yes, there is an IFI, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources, including funding, are insufficient to carry out its tasks.

Source:

A direct official source of the Legislative Budget Act of 2010 is not readily accessible as the Legislative Budget Office's website is down at the moment and the document cannot be found on the Finance Ministry or Executive mansion's website.

Comment:

The researcher found a hard copy of the Act and the independence of the body can be found in chapter

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

104. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts?

GUIDELINES:

Question 104 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a role in producing the macroeconomic forecast (e.g., GDP growth, inflation, interest rates, etc.) and/or the fiscal forecast (revenues, expenditure, deficits, and debt), and if so, what kind of role it has. Macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasting is a typical core function across IFIs, but their role in forecasting takes several forms (von Trapp et al. 2016, p. 17 and Table 2). Some IFIs produce just a macroeconomic forecast, while others produce a complete fiscal forecast (which also typically requires an underlying macroeconomic forecast). In some cases, the fiscal forecast reflects continuation of current budget policies; such forecasts can be used by the legislature, the media, or the public to assess the projections in the executive's budget reflecting the government's policy proposals.

Some IFIs produce the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in the executive's budget. In other cases, IFIs do not prepare their own independent forecasts, but rather produce an assessment of the official estimates, or provide an opinion on, or endorsement of, the government's forecasts. Some others have no role at all in forecasting.

To answer "a," there must be an IFI that publishes both its own macroeconomic AND fiscal forecasts. Answer "b" applies if an IFI publishes its own macroeconomic OR fiscal forecast (but not both). Answer "c" applies if the IFI does not publish a macroeconomic or fiscal forecast, but rather publishes an assessment of the official forecasts produced by the executive and used in the budget. Choose option "d" if there is no IFI; or if there is an IFI that neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts for the budget.

Macroeconomic forecasts may include indicators relating to economic output and economic growth, inflation, and the labor market, amongst others. Fiscal forecasts may include estimates of revenues, expenditures, the budget balance, and debt. If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify which indicators and estimates are included in the forecasts and whether the forecast is used by government as the official forecast. If the answer is "c," please describe the nature and depth of the assessment (e.g., the length of the commentary, or whether it covers both economic and fiscal issues).

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts produced by the executive.

Source:

No sources

Comment:

The website is down.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: i cannot access the website of the LBO

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

105. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish its own costings of new policy proposals, to assess their impact on the budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 105 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a costing function that involves assessing the budgetary implications of new policy proposals for both revenues and expenditures, and if so, what kind of role it has. Many IFIs have a costing role, but with substantial diversity in the nature and extent of this work (von Trapp et al 2016, pp. 17-18 and Table 2). Some assess virtually all new policy proposals, while others cost only a selection of new policy proposals. Others only publish opinions on, or scrutinize the costings of, budget measures produced by the executive.

To answer "a," the IFI must publish its own costings of all (or virtually all) new policy proposals. Answer "b" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only for major new policy proposals – for instance, only those proposals that cost or save above a certain amount. Answer "c" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only on a limited number of proposals. This could occur, for instance, if the IFI lacked the capacity to assess proposals dealing with certain sectors. Instead of producing a cost estimate, it can also publish an assessment of the estimates produced by the executive. Answer "d" applies if there is no IFI; or if the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals or provide an assessment of the official costings of new policy proposals.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

106. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 106 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Almost all IFIs interact with the legislature in some form (von Trapp et al 2016, p. 18), but the intensity of the interaction varies. This question assesses this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the IFI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the IFI staff member in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). As evidence to support your answer, you can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the IFI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; and "c" for once or twice. Answer "d" should be selected if the head or a senior staff member of the IFI never took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature, or if there is no IFI.

Answer:

c. Rarely (i.e., once or twice).

Source:

Comment:

The researcher spoke with the Media Liaison of the LBO, Mr. Kelvin Mattaldi who provided information that the LBO in practice, the LBO functions as the technical arm of Joint Committee on Ways Means and Finance of the Legislature and that they are engaged at every stage of the legislative budget process including at public hearings. There is seemingly no independent media report verifying the information on public hearings. The schedule of public hearing on the FY 2020/2021 budget proposal does not mention the LBO.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: Cannot verify

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

107. Does the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 107 asks whether the legislature debated budget policies prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal for the most recent budget year before the research cut-off date. In general, prior to discussing the Executive's Budget Proposal for the coming year, the legislature should have an opportunity to review the government's broad budget priorities and fiscal parameters. Often times this information is laid out in a Pre-Budget Statement, which the executive presents to the legislature for debate. (See Questions 54-58.)

A number of countries conduct a pre-budget debate in the legislature around six months before the start of the budget year. In some cases, they adopt laws that guide the upcoming budget, for example the Budget Guidelines Law in Brazil and the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill in Sweden. A pre-budget debate can serve two main purposes: 1) to allow the executive to inform the legislature of its fiscal policy intentions by presenting updated reports on its annual and medium-term budget strategy and policy priorities; and 2) to establish "hard" multi-year fiscal targets or spending ceilings, which the government must adhere to when preparing its detailed spending estimates for the upcoming budget year.

To answer "a," the full legislature must debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Answer "b" applies if a legislative committee (but not the full legislature) debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, and approves recommendations for the budget. Option "b" also applies if, in addition to the action by the committee, the full legislature also debates budget policy in advance of the budget, but does not approve recommendations.

Answer "c" applies if the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but does not approve recommendations for the budget. Answer "d" applies if neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

In your comment, please indicate the dates of the budget debate, and if both the full legislature and a legislative committee held a debate. Note that a debate does not need to be open to the public, but a public record of the meeting or a public notice that the meeting occurred is required. In addition, please indicate whether the budget debate was focused on a Pre-Budget Statement published by the Executive. If the Executive did not publish a Pre-Budget Statement, then please indicate what served as the focus of the legislature's debate (for instance, a report released by an IFI or some other institution).

Answer:

d. No, neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

Mr. Kelvin Mattaldi

Comment:

There are no media accounts of prior budget policy debates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: Cannot verify

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

108. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 108 examines how far in advance of the start of the most recent budget year the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to the legislature far enough in advance to allow the legislature time to review it properly, or at least three months prior to the start of the fiscal year. (See, for instance, Principle 2.2.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>)).

For the purposes of responding to this question, if – and only if – the most recent budget submission occurred later than usual as a result of a particular event, such as an election, please use a more normal year as the basis for the response. If, however, delays have been observed for more than one budget year, and the legislature has not received the Executive's Budget Proposal in a timely manner on more than one occasion in the last three years, then "d" will be the appropriate answer.

To answer "a," the legislature must receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least three months in advance of the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature does not receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month prior to the start of the budget year, or does not receive it at all.

Answer:

d. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month before the start of the budget year, or does not receive it all.

Source:

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-president-weah-submit-fiscal-year-2020-2021-national-budget-at-us535-4-million/#:~:text=US%24535.4%20Million-Liberia%3A%20President%20Weah%20Submits%20Fiscal%20Year%202020%2F2021%20National,Budget%20at%20US%24535.4%20Million&text=By%20submitting%20the%20budget%2C%20which,budget%20by%20July%2015%2C%202020.>

Comment:

The presentation of the 2020/21 draft budget was into the fiscal year 16 July 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

109. When does the legislature approve the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 109 examines when the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be approved by the legislature before the start of the fiscal year the budget proposal refers to. This gives the executive time to implement the budget in its entirety, particularly new programs and policies.

In some countries, the expenditure and revenue estimates of the Executive's Budget Proposal are approved separately; for purposes of this question, at least the expenditure estimates must be approved. Further, approval of the budget implies approval of the full-year budget, not just a short-term continuation of spending and revenue authority.

To answer "a," the legislature must approve the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month before the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month after the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Answer:

d. The legislature approves the budget more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Source:

The National Budget 2020/2020

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download> Section 1.1 The Act, Page ix.

Comment:

The date the budget was engrossed in the House and the Senate are listed as October 8, 2020 and October 14, 2020 respectively almost three months after the start of the fiscal year beginning 1 July 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

110. Does the legislature have the authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 110 examines the legislature's power to amend—as opposed to simply accept or reject—the budget proposal presented by the executive. This question is about legal authority rather than actions the legislature takes in practice. The legislature's powers to amend the budget can vary substantially across countries.

The "a" response is appropriate only if there are no restrictions on the right of the legislature to modify the Executive's Budget Proposal, including its right to change the size of the proposed deficit or surplus. The "b" response would be appropriate if, for instance, the legislature is restricted from changing the deficit or surplus, but it still has the power to increase or decrease funding and revenue levels. The more limited "c" response would apply if, for instance, the legislature can only re-allocate spending within the totals set in the Executive's Budget Proposal or can only decrease funding levels or increase revenues. Finally, response "d" would apply if the legislature may not make any changes (or only small technical changes), or if amendments must first be approved by the executive. In these cases, the legislature is essentially only able to approve or reject the budget as a whole. If the answer is "b" or "c", please indicate the nature of the amendment powers available to the Parliament and how they are limited.

Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

The Constitution of Liberia

https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Liberia_1986.pdf

Article 34 d(ii) page 12; Article 35(1) page 13.

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/docs/acts/amendment-and-restatement-of-the-public-financial-management-act-of-2009/download> Section 21 (1)(2) page 18

Comment:

Article 35(1) of the Constitution points to whilst the president may veto any amendments made to the budget by the Legislature, the Legislature may override the president's veto by a 2/3 vote and the budget then becomes law as though signed by the president.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

111. During the most recent budget approval process, did the legislature use its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 111 assesses whether any formal authority of the legislature to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal is used in practice. The responses to this question should be determined based on action by the legislature related to the Enacted Budget used in the OBS. Choose answer "a" if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal during the most recent budget approval process, and amendments were adopted (all, or at least some of them). Answer "a" also applies if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but the amendments were rejected by executive veto. Answer "b" applies if the legislature used its authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, but none of these amendments were adopted. Answer "c" applies if the legislature has the authority in law to amend the budget, but no amendments were proposed during its consideration. Answer "d" applies when the legislature does not have any authority to amend the budget (that is, Question 110 is answered "d").

If the answer is "a" or "b", please specify in the comments the number of amendments introduced by the legislature (and in the case of an "a" response, the number adopted, or if applicable, information about an executive veto) and describe their nature. For example, did the amendments result in an increase or decrease of the deficit? What were the most significant amendments to revenues and to expenditures in terms of the sums involved? How did amendments affect the composition of expenditures? If the answer is "a," please specify which amendments were adopted, and provide evidence for it.

Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, and (at least some of) its amendments were adopted.

Source:

The Executive Budget Proposal (Draft National Budget): <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/draft-national-budget-fy2020-2021/download>. Preface to the Budget, Microeconomic outlook and context. Page xxiv-xxv.

The National Budget: <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/mm-bd-nb/national-budget-fy-2020-2021/download>. Preface to the Budget, Microeconomic outlook and context. Page xv-xvi.

Comment:

The Executive Budget proposal was submitted at US\$ 535.5 million and the Final Budget was passed at US\$ 570.1 million.

In the budget proposal, domestic revenue accounted for US\$ 407.4 million of which tax revenue accounted for US\$333.5 million and non-tax revenue accounted for US\$73.9 million. External revenue accounted for US\$118 million of the entire revenue envelop. In the approved budget, domestic revenue account for US\$ 428.1 million of which tax revenue account for US\$347.i million and non tax revenue account for US\$ 81 million. External revenue account for US\$ 132 million.

Executive Proposal v Final Budget

1. Compensation of employees US\$ 291.9 M US\$ 291.9 M
2. Goods and Services US\$ 65.5 M US\$ 74.3 M
3. Grants US\$ 45.6 M US\$ 47.8 M
4. Non Financial Assets US\$ 0.5 M US\$ 1.2 M
5. Social Benefits US\$ 2.0 M US\$ 2.0 M
6. Debt Services US\$ 73.9 M US\$ 92.9 M
7. Subsidy US\$ 0.8 M US\$ 1.2 M

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Verified the differences in the executive proposal and draft budget

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

112. During the last budget approval process, did a specialized budget or finance committee in the legislature examine the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 112 assesses the role of a specialized budget or finance committee during the budget approval stage. Effective committee involvement is an essential condition for legislative influence in the budget process. Specialized committees provide opportunities for individual legislators to gain relevant expertise, and to examine budgets and policy in depth. Yet, the involvement of committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures have separate committees to examine spending and tax proposals, while others have a single finance committee. Not all legislatures have a specialized budget or finance committee to examine the budget. In addition, there can be differences in the time available for the committee's analysis of the budget.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, therefore it must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget.

Response "a" requires that, in the last budget approval process, a specialized budget or finance committee had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such a committee examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if a committee examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please specify in your comment the name of the committee and the number of days it had available to examine the budget. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a copy of the report. Please note also if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

Answer:

c. Yes, a specialized budget or finance committee examined the Executive's Budget Proposal, but it did not publish a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:

THE 52ND LEGISLATURE RULES AND PROCEDURES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

https://www.liberianlawmakerswatch.org/sites/www.liberianlawmakerswatch.org/files/rules_and_procedures_of_house_of_representativesfinal.pdf
Chapter 14, Rule 57.4(c). page 37

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/front-slider/liberia-budget-hearing-starts-as-small-and-medium-enterprises-become-highest-tax-contributors/>

Comment:

The Joint Committee on Ways, Means, Finance and Public Accounts examined the budget from July 15th, 2020 when the proposal was submitted to the president to October 14th, 2020 when it was passed by the Senate.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: verified

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

113. During the last approval process, did legislative committees, responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.), examine spending in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the sector for which they are responsible?

GUIDELINES:

Question 113 assesses the role of committees of the legislature that are responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.) during the budget approval stage. The role of sectoral committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures do not involve them in the budget approval process, while others do. In addition, the time available for committee analysis differs.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, so therefore must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget. Response "a" requires that sector committees had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and published a report with findings and recommendations prior the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such committees examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if sectoral committees examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where sectoral committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please note that the examination of sectoral budgets by a specialized budget or finance committee is assessed in Question 112 and should not be considered for this question.

Please provide in the comments a brief overview of the committee structure and specify the number of days that sectoral committees had available to examine the budget and to publish their reports. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a sample copy of at least one of the reports. Please note if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

For purposes of responding to this question, use those sectoral committees that are best performing – that is, the ones that examine the budget the longest and that publish reports.

Answer:

d. No, sector committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

N/A

Comment:

No sub-committee further examined the EBP

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: cannot verify

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: Besides the legislative ways, means, finance and development, there is no other committee which examines the national budget. This is consistent with applicable laws of Liberia, i.e. 1986 Constitution of the Republic, Legislative Rules

114. In the past 12 months, did a committee of the legislature examine in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period?

GUIDELINES:

Question 114 is about legislative oversight of budget execution. It assesses whether and how often a committee examined the implementation of the budget during the budget execution period (i.e., financial year) for which it was approved, and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. This question does not apply to the ex post review of implementation following the end of the budget year as part of the audit stage, which is assessed separately. Nor does it apply to the legislature's review of the budget that it may undertake as part of the process of considering a supplemental budget during the year. In-year monitoring by the legislature will be affected by the frequency that the executive publishes In-Year Reports.

To answer "a," a committee must have examined in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget at least three times during the course of the relevant budget year and published reports with findings and recommendations. Answer "b" applies where this occurred only once or twice during the year.

Exception: If a legislature is in session only twice during the year, and it examines the implementation of the budget during both sessions, then it would be eligible for an "a" response.

Choose "c" if a committee examined in-year implementation (without regard to frequency), but did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined in-year implementation.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation.

For purposes of responding to this question, if more than one committee holds in-year reviews of the budget, use the committee that is best performing – that is, the one that examines in-year implementation the most times and that publishes a report.

Answer:

d. No, a committee did not examine in-year implementation.

Source:

N/A

Comment:

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is, by legislative rule, responsible to examine the in-year budget performance reports produced by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. Over the last calendar year consisting of partial budget years (FYs 2019/2020 and 2020/2021), the Ministry of Finance performed relatively well in producing the quarterly financial reports. The researcher could not verify that the PAC held in-year budget performance review. If done, it was certainly not made public.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

115. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units that receive explicit funding in the Enacted Budget, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 115 examines whether the executive seeks approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and whether it is legally required to do so.

In some countries, the executive has the power in law to adjust funding levels for specific appropriations during the execution of the budget. This question examines rules around shifting funds between administrative units (ministries, departments, or agencies) or whatever funding unit (or "vote") is specified in the Enacted Budget.

The conditions under which the executive may exercise its discretion to shift funds should be clearly defined in publicly available regulations or law. In addition, the amount of funds that the executive is allowed to transfer between administrative units should not be so excessive as to undermine the accountability of the executive to the legislature.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before shifting funds, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to shift funds between administrative units and the executive does not obtain legislative

approval in practice. Answer "d" also applies if the executive is authorized to shift an amount considered so excessive as to undermine accountability (roughly equal to 3 percent of total budgeted expenditures). A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the shifting of funds after it has already occurred.

In the comments, please indicate any law or regulation that provides the executive with standing authority to shift funds between administrative units and, if so, describe that authority. Similarly, legislative approval for shifting funds between administrative units typically occurs with the adoption of legislation such as a supplemental budget. But if other formal procedures for gaining approval from the legislature exist, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and in practice the executive shifts funds between administrative units before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 2212 OF THE REVENUE CODE OF LIBERIA ACT OF 2000
<http://liberlii.org/lr/legis/acts/rcas2212243/>

Comment:

According to the Budget Transfer Law (2008) above, the executive may shift up to 20% of allocated funds between administrative units without legislative approval

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice.

Comments: By the comments of the researcher, it is explicit that any transfer above 20% must seek legislative approval.

116. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue (that is, amounts higher than originally anticipated) that may become available during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 116 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if additional revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, which often happens in oil/mineral-dependent countries, and it was not accounted for in the Enacted Budget, there should be a procedure in place to ensure that the legislature approves any proposed use of these "new" funds. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might deliberately underestimate revenue in the budget proposal it submits to the legislature, in order to have additional resources to spend at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before spending any funds resulting from higher-than-expected revenues, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if prior legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to spend excess revenue and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the additional spending after it has already occurred.

Typically, legislative approval of additional spending beyond what was reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur with the adoption of a supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

a The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and it does so in practice.

Source:

Amendment and Restatement of the Public Financial management Act (2016): <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/docs/acts/amendment-and-restatement-of-the-public-financial-management-act-of-2009/download>. Section 23(1) page 19

Comment:

The section provides that during the year, the approved budget may be amended through supplementary budgets approved by the Legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Amendment and Restatement of the Public Finance Management Act of 2009

117. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls (that is, revenues lower than originally anticipated) or other reasons during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 117 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to cutting spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls or for any other reason, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if less revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, the legislature should approve or reject any proposed reductions in expenditures that are implemented as a result. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might substantially change the composition of the budget at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

Typically, legislative approval of proposals to reduce spending below the levels reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur as part of the supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before implementing spending cuts in response to revenue shortfalls or for other reasons, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive received legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to obtain legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to implement such cuts and the executive does not obtain such approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the spending cuts after they have already occurred.

Answer:

c. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, but in practice the executive implements these cuts before seeking approval from the legislature.

Source:

Amendment and Restatement of the Public Financial Management Act (2016) <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/docs/acts/amendment-and-restatement-of-the-public-financial-management-act-of-2009/download>. Section 23(3). Page 19

Comment:

The PFM Act provides for a mid-year review of revenue and expenditures and if necessary, the submission and approval of a supplementary budget. In practice, ministries, agencies and commissions rarely receive full appropriated amounts before or after the mid-year review or supplementary budget approval.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

118. Did a committee of the legislature examine the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 118 is about ex post oversight following the implementation of the budget. It probes whether a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. A key issue is how soon after the SAI releases the report does it legislature review it. This question does not apply to the legislative scrutiny of in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period, which is assessed separately. Also, the question is asking specifically about the SAI's annual report on the execution of the budget, not about other audit reports that the SAI may produce. (This is the Audit Report used for responding to Question 98.)

To answer "a," a legislative committee must have examined the annual Audit Report within three months of it being released by the SAI, and then published a report (or reports) with findings and recommendations. (Note that the three-month period should only take into account time when the legislature is in session.)

Answer "b" applies when the committee examines it within six months of it being released (but more than three months), and then published a report with its findings and recommendations. Choose "c" if a committee examined the annual Audit Report more than six months after it became available or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined the annual Audit Report.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed the Audit Report, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation. Answers "a," "b," or "c" may be selected if the Audit Report is produced by the SAI but not made publicly available.

Answer:

d. No, a committee did not examine the Audit Report on the annual budget.

Source:

<https://gac.gov.lr/reports/>

Comment:

The SAI did not produce an audit report on the consolidated fund for the period 2018/2019 for the Committee's examination.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

119. Was the process of appointing (or re-appointing) the current head of the SAI carried out in a way that ensures his or her independence?

GUIDELINES:

Question 119 concerns the appointment process of the current head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). Appointment procedures vary greatly across countries, as well as across different types of SAIs. Moreover, conventions and informal practices can greatly affect the de facto independence of the head of the SAI. While these factors make it difficult to devise a single metric against which all SAIs can be assessed with regard to this particular aspect, this question focuses on whether the legislature or judiciary must appoint or approve the appointment of the head of the SAI as a way to ensure the SAI's independence from the executive. However, if the appointment is carried out in another way that nonetheless ensures the independence of the SAI head, then that approach could be also considered.

To answer "a," the legislature or judiciary must appoint (or re-appoint) the head of the SAI, or approve the recommendation of the executive, as a way that ensure his or her independence from the executive. (As noted above, alternative approaches may also be acceptable.) Choose "b" if the appointment process does not ensure the independence of the head of the SAI, e.g. the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Irrespective of which answer you selected, provide a description of how the head of the SAI is appointed.

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be appointed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the appointment takes effect.

Source:

General Auditing Commission Act of 2015: <https://gac.gac.gov.lr/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GAC-Act-of-2014.pdf>. Section 2.1.1(a)(v). Page 6.

Comment:

The President, after a vetting committee recommendation, may appoint the Auditor General with consent of the Senate through confirmation hearing.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

120. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?

GUIDELINES:

Question 120 covers the manner in which the head or senior members of the SAI may be removed from office. This question draws on best practices identified in the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>), including measures intended to guarantee the office's independence from the executive.

To answer "a," the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the head of the SAI is removed. For example, the legislature or judiciary may give final consent following a certain external process, such as a criminal proceeding. So while the executive may initiate a criminal proceeding, the final consent of a member of the judiciary – or a judge – is necessary to render a verdict of wrongdoing that may lead to the removal from office of the head of the SAI. Answer "b" applies if the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before he or she is removed.

Source:

<https://gac.gac.gov.lr/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GAC-Act-of-2014.pdf>

Comment:

The Auditor General of the GAC may be removed by the president for cause in consultation with the Legislature. The cause has to be established through due process.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

121. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 121 asks who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). To ensure objective audits of government budgets, another important component of the SAI's independence from the executive is the extent to which the SAI's budget is determined by a body other than the executive, and whether the SAI has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate.

Answer "a" applies if the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate, AND either the SAI determines its own budget and then submits it to the executive (which accepts it with little or no change) or directly to the legislature, or the budget of the SAI is determined directly by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body). Answer "b" applies if the SAI's budget is determined by the executive (absent a recommendation from the SAI), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "c" applies if the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body) determines the SAI's budget, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "d" applies if the executive determines the SAI's budget, and the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Please provide evidence in support of the assessment that the funding level is or is not broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Answer:

c. The budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:

General Auditing Commission Act of 2015. <https://gac.gac.gov.lr/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GAC-Act-of-2014.pdf>. Section 3.4 (a). Page 12

Comment:

The Act prescribes that the GAC prepares its budget and submits same the Legislature for review and approval. A copy of the budget is submitted to the Minister of Finance and Development Planning.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

122. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have the discretion in law to undertake those audits it may wish to?

GUIDELINES:

Question 122 explores the scope of the investigative powers of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) as prescribed in law.

Question 97 asks which of the three types of audits – financial, compliance, and performance – the SAI conducts. This question asks if the SAI is constrained by law (rather than by a lack of capacity or an inadequate budget) from undertaking any form of audit or investigating irregularities in any program or activity.

There are numerous examples of limitations. For instance, some SAIs are not permitted by their legal mandate to audit joint ventures or other public-private arrangements. Others are only allowed to undertake financial audits, precluded from conducting performance or value-for-money audits. The SAIs in some countries do not have the legal mandate to review arrangements involving oil or stabilization funds, or other types of special or extra-budgetary funds. The SAI may also not have the ability to audit commercial projects involving the public and private sector.

To answer "a," the SAI must have full discretion in law to decide which audits to undertake. Answer "b" applies if some limitations exist, but the SAI enjoys significant discretion to undertake those audits it wishes to. Answer "c" applies if the SAI has some discretion, but significant legal limitations exist. Answer "d" applies if the SAI has no power at all to choose which audits to undertake

Consulting the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>) may be useful in answering this question as its provisions serve to define the appropriate scope of a SAI's legal mandate and jurisdiction.

Answer:

a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake.

Source:

General Auditing Commission Act 2015. <https://gac.gac.gov.lr/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GAC-Act-of-2014.pdf>. Sections 2.1.3(a)(c). Page 7.

Comment:

The AG determines which audits are to be carried out, types of audits to be carried out and when to audit excluding mandatory annual audits of the consolidated funds,

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

123. Are the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) reviewed by an independent agency?

GUIDELINES:

Question 123 assesses whether and to what extent the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) are subject to review by an independent agency. The latter could be a peer SAI, an international organization, an academic institution with relevant expertise, or an independent domestic agency with quality assurance functions in the area of financial reporting.

To answer "a," an independent agency must conduct and publish a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis. Answer "b" applies if a review was carried out within the past five years, and published, but it is not conducted annually, but. Choose answer "c" if the SAI has an internal unit that reviews the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis, but an independent agency does not conduct such a review. Answer "d" applies if the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

If the answer is either "a" or "b," please specify the name of the independent agency and when last it conducted such a review, and provide a copy of the published report. If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the unit within the SAI that is tasked with conducting such reviews.

Answer:

c. No, but a unit within the SAI conducts a review of the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis.

Source:

<https://gac.gov.lr/organization-structure/>

Comment:

Currently, there is no independent agency that reviews the GAC's audit processes on an annual basis. Internally though, it has the department of quality assurance that oversees this process.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:
a. Yes, an independent agency conducts and publishes a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis.
Comments: There is always an independent agency (an international body - sometimes the Keyan SAI or South African SAI) which audits the GAC

124. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 124 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Many SAIs interact with the legislature in some form, but the nature and intensity of the interaction varies. This question probes this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the SAI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the SAI representative in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). You can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the SAI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; "c" for once or twice, and "d" for never.

Answer:
d. Never.

Source:

Comment:

The researcher spoke with the chairman of the Joint PAC of the Legislature, Rep. Edward Karfiah who stated that COVID-19 had a major impact on the holding of committee hearings. He stated that the GAC was invited at a committee retreat in Ganta where a schedule was developed to consolidate actions. The researcher notes that the retreat of October 2020 does not meet the standard of a committee hearing as contemplated by the question.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question
Comments: Cannot verify

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

125. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation of the annual budget (prior to the budget being tabled in parliament)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in the formulation of the annual budget, including annual pre-budget discussions. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as spending and tax policy, funding and revenue levels, and macro-fiscal planning.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government officials. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

The Shadow Budget Option Paper

<https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/shadow-budget-option-paper?Itemid=0>. Executive Summary. Page 1

Comment:

Sponsored by the Ministry of Finance through the World Bank and developed by a core group of four civil society organizations, the Shadow Budget Option Paper states that it "conveys the dreams and aspirations of citizens to be reflected in how the national budget is developed and how the meager financial resources are distributed." The paper is however short on citizen participation mechanisms and methodology used.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

During a cross-country consistency check, IBP revised this response to D (from C). The Shadow Budget Paper option simply mentions the importance of public participation and encourages government to initiate citizen engagement activities. There is no evidence of any participation mechanism actually taking place in 2020.

126. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive take concrete steps to include vulnerable and under-represented parts of the population in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on the executive's efforts to seek out the views of members of the

public from socially vulnerable groups and/or who are underrepresented in the process.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from at least one vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organization representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives of vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Comment:

Whilst the government has made effort to include the voice of citizens through the Shadow Budget Option Paper, the selected organizations cannot be said to be wholly representative of "underrepresented parts of the population."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

127. During the budget formulation stage, which of the following key topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the formulation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget formulation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

The Shadow Budget Option Paper. https://iredd-lr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Shadow_Budget_Option_Paper_IRED.pdf. Recommendations. Page 12

Comment:

The shadow budget option paper provides recommendations on domestic revenue mobilization, expenditure and public sector investment in education and health.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In addition, the Liberia Revenue Authority undertakes awareness activities for domestic revenue mobilisation.

<https://revenue.lra.gov.lr/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/LRA-Annual-Report-FY2019%E2%80%A2-2020.pdf> page 42; There is also an FAQ on the open budget initiative which is a written document answering some of the common concerns that citizens may have regarding the Budget - <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/open-budget-initiative-frequently-asked-questions/fdocument?Itemid=9999> (found here - <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/open-budget-initiative-frequently-asked-questions?Itemid=0>)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. The executive's engagement with citizens covers all six topics.

Comments: Firstly, by the researcher own account as indicated above, there are already three topics covered. Besides, the researcher inquire from IREDD as to what were the topics covered, apart from reading the shadow option paper? This paper which was presented to the Government did not focus on the processes which led to its development rather the purposes of the paper. GOL Budget Option Paper basically looks at lessons learned from past years and proposes cautious actions.

IBP Comment

During a cross-country consistency, IBP revised to answer choice D following revision to indicator 125. Please see 125 for more details.

128. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. If the executive has designated a central coordinating agency to implement participation mechanisms throughout the national budget process, researchers may consider these mechanisms. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the implementation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenue administration, public service delivery, public investment project implementation, including procurement, and the administration of social transfer schemes.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings, online, deliberative exchanges, procurement complaint mechanisms, and social monitoring and dialogue.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input on the implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include public hearings, surveys, focus groups, report cards, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to provide input on budget implementation, but:

1) *The mechanisms are not structured, happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.*

and/or

2) *The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.*

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", the researcher must have evidence that the government is holding participation mechanisms that have some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that all CSOs and members

of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples include hotlines, Facebook announcements, one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget implementation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

https://web.facebook.com/Open-Budget-Initiative-Govt-of-Liberia-354192398023885/?_rdc=1&_rdr

Comment:

As the open budget initiative is mostly carried out through a specialized department at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the mechanism for feedback from people to line ministries and agencies responsible for budget implementation is not fully developed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes I verified this and saw that there were a few OPen Budget Initiative related activities after the Budget was passed by the Legislature on the MFDP's facebook page on variou dates - <https://www.facebook.com/mofrl/photos/pcb.5071645809513947/5071644559514072/>; 9rd december; <https://www.facebook.com/mofrl/photos/pcb.5046904288654766/5046898798655315/> - 3rd December

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

In addition to the above citations, this link provides MFDP's responses to questions on the FY 2020-21 budget: <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/component/edocman/fy-2020-21-open-budget-initiative-faq?Itemid=0>

129. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive take concrete steps to receive input from vulnerable and underrepresented parts of the population on the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on national government's efforts to obtain input from members of the public who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes during the implementation of the annual budget.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from at least one vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organization representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives from vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the national executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

None

Comment:

There is no evidence that the Government receives and acts on inputs from groups representing vulnerable or underrepresented groups on implementation of the annual budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There are awareness activities as mentioned in the last comment but it is not clear whether inputs are taken from under-represented

groups.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

130. During the implementation of the annual budget, which of the following topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Changes in macroeconomic circumstances
2. Delivery of public services
3. Collection of revenue
4. Implementation of social spending
5. Changes in deficit and debt levels
6. Implementation of public investment projects

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the implementation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics – and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget implementation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above – for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be ONLY the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

c. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least one (but less than three) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

1. https://web.facebook.com/Open-Budget-Initiative-Govt-of-Liberia-354192398023885/?_rdc=1&_rd

Comment:

Open Budget initiative discussions often cover revenue collection, delivery of public services and implementation of public investments projects.

1. August 25, 2020: <https://fb.watch/5F3nUcDeyX/>
2. August 29, 2020: <https://fb.watch/5F3w3KA2mz/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: These 2 links given by the researcher are not available anymore. However, the link <https://fb.watch/7eDRo1krqh/> - "Bringing you live Radio Talk Show of FY 2020/2021 Approved National Budget (Open Budget Initiative) awareness coordinator, Mr. Johnson S.N Williams and Mr. Roland Saydee at Radio Bomi 98.9 in Tubmanburg, Bomi County." held on 2nd December 2020- is an example of engagement where the hosts talk about some issues like - paying taxes, policies for this budget that can be helpful like "Free Tuition", Covid relief etc.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. The executive's engagement with citizens covers all six topics.

Comments: Contents of the Citizen's guide capture all of these information. Additionally, there always presentation notes which discusses in detailed these topics but may have been documented in the citizen's guide booklet.

IBP Comment

For cross country consistency, answer choice C is maintained. There is no structured focus on any topic through the Open Budget Initiative.

131. When the executive engages with the public, does it provide comprehensive prior information on the process of the engagement, so that the public can participate in an informed manner?

Comprehensive information must include at least three of the following elements:

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Constraints
4. Intended outcomes
5. Process and timeline

GUIDELINES:

This question relates to the GIFT principle of "Openness," and addresses whether the executive provides relevant information on the process of the engagement before public participation takes place, in order to help citizens engage effectively. The question addresses whether the "rules of the public engagement" are clearly spelled out, in advance and in detail, so that those members of the public who want to engage know how to do so, in terms of when they can do so, what they are expected to provide input on, by when, to whom, etc. This question does not cover the substance of the engagement, which is covered by questions 127 and 130.

Non-comprehensive information means that the government provides information that includes at least one but less than three of the elements listed above.

Purpose refers to a brief explanation of why the public engagement is being undertaken, including the executive's objectives for its engagement with the public.

Scope refers to what is within the subject matter of the engagement as well as what is outside the subject matter of the engagement. For example, the scope may include how a current policy is administered but exclude the specifics of the policies themselves.

Constraints refers to whether there are any explicit limitations on the engagement. An example of a constraint could be that any policy changes must not cost (or forgo revenue) more than a specific amount or have no net fiscal cost.

Intended outcomes refers to what the executive hopes to achieve as a result of the engagement. Examples of intended outcomes could be revising a policy to better reflect citizen or service-user views or to improve the way in which a particular program is administered.

Process refers to the methods by which the public engagement will take place and the discrete steps in the process. For example, the process may simply be a one-off Internet-based consultation, with a summary published of public inputs and the official response. The process may involve simultaneous or overlapping steps, and may be conducted in one round or in two or more rounds of engagement.

Timeline refers to the specific dates on which the discrete steps in the process will take place, or during which they will be completed, and clear start and end dates for the overall engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation or formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

https://web.facebook.com/Open-Budget-Initiative-Govt-of-Liberia-354192398023885/?_rdc=1&_rdr

Comment:

Most engagements covers the purpose and limited scope of the engagement.

https://web.facebook.com/mofril/photos/basw.AbokKQFHIEGS8-q7hJSV80QIdVblWpP1wh9_e3RDNo9uv0DCtOpud7VO-u2VJHF88vu8piCKONnBCPT8Mooou78neptukjRB5PiLxXxRcphEt9iXClJ8bjx_UuHBOCe69Fpyz9TPnfGJoK3j-N7xjKwi8FIJvRuW1e9pdJ9aiLpNg/5035729563105572/?opaqueCursor=Abrz91xEwo-C9EZ_0EYyE58-77u0nu-5IG-4X2ZYJZvMxRlkmdPn0ywncm0EcdTb9HLtSW_w3XWl8smUrdEaxRAEeCl3clwptWG6HyFScZU5Y50B-8u-W_RAbc6KFSOGWx4juPc-hbpxjl_vsyLIK-TfzXxsMISBFETU93AOP0zHpu7oadamBeQzxeCYKJW-peivocfzP1PcxHh-olcdulwpc38Kskk4CsGOCU9I1SgYdtJ7ntubd53hcCRSOAJa3VUaR-t0v7mLJ4q4HvmRsNGPNrL9bf2Gu-grGo5Bln3aK5Wu87VvtxFala7hDshVb7-_ZyE0rgCe9C2zvMHY97DmAgY5pXfOBX9EPMSZB4D-u21cT1vDU57WfV0mB_U8rHvjnYpsPILNlpT3VhX8fm-MBlS0Y9NUeCXZpBzFjEY-rUI9XqlwXF24QtT6T1gHC0yDVw5oQdQ2uCdKo-2E0E1-92TUVH8HOsTuQwwRU-pJfCNIB255vKr7XRGUuNKnHcdEsDBoZfsEK456eiB-0_QzbFqPnapV7kiCOvl6I57O6cZSmw0N5Yx62sZw775-AP_La3CEwUNC_kibCI9hAYull0FDeP4KaGah06l-wJcPCKArtyOnK0yN_5oeiNRnHwVG1CbcBuDdnaxdNfplqaXRL0ocKxeHjy-dNythomWKqPgOax9i6s_uGm2PgbdXZwNSS2uhvvpwPSA676q0tQ_xPjoeAuRg5Xml2tkAKLOx3A

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: verified the link - agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Comprehensive information is provided in a timely manner prior to citizens engagement in both budget formulation and implementation phases.

Comments: These topics are usually covered in our radio announcements, posters, bulletins. Also, our request for expression of interest (EOIs) provides detailed information about planned government's engagements.

IBP Comment

IBP revised this response to D (from B). There is no evidence of public participation opportunities during formulation phase of the budget (see indicator 125). For the Open Budget Initiative (assessed in 128), government responds to citizens questions, but there is no comprehensive information on the scope of consultations, purpose or intended outcomes.

132. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used in the formulation of the annual budget, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

133. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive provide the public with information on how citizens' inputs have been used to assist in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received during the implementation of the annual budget, which ones are take into account to improve budget monitoring, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the

participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and
- A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received (e.g., a written transcript) from the public and
- A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were or were not taken into account by the executive during budget monitoring.

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or
- A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

The executive has not presented a feedback on how citizens inputs have been used to assist in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

134. Are participation mechanisms incorporated into the timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Sustainability," "Timeliness" and "Complementarity" and addresses whether the executive is able to link participation mechanisms to the administrative processes that are used to create the annual budget.

Please note that "timetable" refers to a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. This document is sometimes referred to as the budget calendar and is the same document referenced in Question 53.

Answer "a" applies if the national executive establishes a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget. For answer choice "a", the timetable must be available to the public prior to the budget preparation process beginning.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not establish a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

The Budget Call Circular: <https://mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/main-menu-reports/mm-bdp/budget-call-circular/budget-call-circular-bcc-fy2020-21/download>

Comment:

Although citizens and civil society participation at the sector working group level (page 15), the timetable at page 20 does not provide the timeframe, medium and clear guidelines for participation.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

135. Do one or more line ministries use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation or implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES

While questions 125 – 134 focus only on participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency currently use to allow the public to participate in the national budget process, this question asks about participation mechanisms used by line ministries to allow the public to participate in national budget processes. Thus, participation mechanisms used by the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by a line ministry or if multiple line ministries use participation mechanisms, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation and/or implementation of the annual budget.

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf

To answer "a," a line ministry must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which a line ministry seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if a line ministry has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) A line ministry consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the line ministry determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

Answer:
d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

No. Ministries do not have mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation or implementation of the annual budget

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

136. Does the legislature or the relevant legislative committee(s) hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the formulation of the annual budget (pre-budget and/or approval stages)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislature are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) has put in place and is using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the annual budget. This includes deliberations during the pre-budget phase (i.e., when the executive is still in the process of formulating the draft budget) and the budget discussions after the budget has been tabled to parliament and before it is approved. In the comment box, please specify during which stage of the budget cycle the legislature has put in place a public participation mechanism.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual Members of Parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

If there is more than one mechanism, please select a mechanism that best shows/reflects the legislature's efforts to incorporate citizens into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenues, policy selection, and macro-fiscal planning (please note that the issue of coverage is covered in a subsequent question).

To answer "a," the legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs; but*
- *There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.*

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs;*
- *No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, but*
- *The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)*
- *The legislature has a provision (via standing orders or in law) through which the public can submit their inputs, and members of the public or CSOs actively use it to submit opinions on the budget.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget

Answer:

c. Yes, public hearings on the budget are held. No testimony from the public is provided during the public hearings, and there are no other mechanisms through which public contributions are received, but the legislature invites specific individuals or groups to testify or provide input (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

Comment:

COVID-19 severely limited how citizens followed the public hearings.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes, I agree the budget hearings are open to some members of the public based on my experience.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

137. During the legislative deliberations on the annual budget (pre-budget or approval stages), which of the following key topics does the legislature's (or relevant legislative budget committee) engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider the range of mechanisms currently used by the legislature to promote public participation during legislative deliberations on the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics, for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the legislature's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

The depth of public engagement is sparse tending to focus on budget allocations to sector ministries and agencies, grants and subsidies. This is a first hand experience answer.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: Cannot verify

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

138. Does the legislature provide feedback to the public on how citizens' inputs have been used during legislative deliberations on the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the legislature provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received and how inputs were used during legislative deliberations (please note that these deliberations can refer to the pre-budget and approval phases). By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the legislature.

Answer "a" applies when the legislature provides a written document with:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and
- A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).

Answer "b" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and
- A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used in legislative deliberations on the annual budget (please note that these deliberations refer to the pre-budget and approval phases).

Answer "c" applies when the legislature makes available a video recording of the relevant legislative session or provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) or
- A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

There are no such reports.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

139. Does the legislature hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislative are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

A key constitutional role of the legislature in almost all countries is to oversee the government's management of public resources. While the Supreme Audit Institution is responsible for checking the government's accounts and publishing the outcome of their audits, for accountability purposes it is essential that the legislature reviews and scrutinizes those reports, and checks on whether the executive is taking the appropriate corrective actions based on the Supreme Audit Institution's recommendations.

Holding public hearings to review audit findings allows the public to learn more about how the government has managed its resources for the budget years that have ended, and demand accountability in case of mismanagement and irregularities. Reviewing and discussing those reports in public is therefore a key responsibility of a legislature.

Please note that by "Audit Report" we refer to the same audit report assessed in the transparency section of this Survey, i.e., one of the eight key budget documents that all governments (in this case, the Supreme Audit Institution) must produce, according to best practice.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) have put in place and using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the Audit Report.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual members of parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

To answer "a," the national legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- No testimony is allowed from the public; BUT
- There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- No testimony is allowed from the public;
- No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, BUT
- The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the Audit Report.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

The SAI did not produce an audit report on the consolidated fund for the period 2018/2019 for the Committee's examination.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

140. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program (for example, by bringing ideas on agencies, programs, or projects that could be audited)?

GUIDELINES:

This question assesses whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has established mechanisms through which the public can provide suggestions on issues/topics to be included in its audit program. When deciding its audit agenda, the SAI may undertake audits for a sample of agencies, projects, and programs in the country; and such a selection could be based on complaints and suggestions made by members of the public. To receive such suggestions, the SAI may create formal mechanisms, like setting up a website, hotline, or office (or assigning staff to liaise with the public).

Please note that formal mechanisms that do not explicitly seek the public's input in the audit program (such as general comment submission boxes on the SAI's website) should not be considered for this question.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Comment:

The SAI has no such mechanisms.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

141. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used to determine its audit program?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the Supreme Audit Institution provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used to determine the Supreme Audit Institution's audit program. By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the Supreme Audit Institution.

Answer "a" applies when the Supreme Audit Institution provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used to determine the SAI's annual audit program.*

Answer "c" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggests issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

There is no such mechanism.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

142. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations (as respondents, witnesses, etc.)?

GUIDELINES:

This question mirrors question 140, but instead of covering public assistance in formulating the SAI's audit program, it focuses on whether the Supreme Audit Institution has established mechanisms through which the public can participate in audit investigations. In addition to seeking public input to determine its audit agenda, the SAI may wish to provide formal opportunities for the public and civil society organizations to participate in the actual audit investigations, as witnesses or respondents.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Comment:

There are no such mechanisms.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree