

Open Budget Survey 2021

Questionnaire

Nepal

May 2022



Country Questionnaire: Nepal

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:
2020-2021

Source:
No sources

Comment:
The Government of Nepal has not adopted the practice of publishing Pre Budget Statement in this round too. Pre-budget discussions are held with limited private sector representatives and former finance ministers and secretaries but it is without pre budget statement.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Besides, pre-budget discussion, the Ministry of Finance produces and publishes the Principles and Priorities of the Appropriation Bill 2020 as part of the budget formulation. The government officials claim it to be the PBS but it does not meet the generic requirements of the PBS as per the Open Budget Survey Methodology. It lacks key information for the PBS including total estimates of revenues and expenditures, macroeconomic forecasts, clearly stated revenue and expenditure priorities and policies. It was specifically addressed to the Parliament, but the PBS should be published to kick off the open public debates. Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill, 2020

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf

The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (2020/21-2023/24) produced and published by the National Planning Commission presents framework for medium-term economic estimates, budgets and results.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree with the researcher. This document highlights some policies of the government in preparing the budget but does not meet the requirements of a PBS. Some of the links that's provided here may not be applicable: <https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>: This is a mid-term expenditure report. The first link provided was not accessible.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

During a recent visit to Nepal, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) process was brought to IBP's attention. IBP understands that the National Planning Commission develops the MTEF with medium term estimates up to three years. MTEF's main purpose is to ensure fiscal discipline in expenditures related to Capital or Development projects. There are detailed disaggregated expenditure estimates for each Development project for all sectors. However, there is not much discussion on priorities of revenue collections or macroeconomic goals for the medium term. In the budget process, the linkage and alignment between the MTEF and annual Budget Proposal is weak. While there is some discussion on MTEF in the legislature, it is not clear how the discussions feed into the annual budget formulation process. Lastly, the MTEF for FY 2020-22 was published after (on 11th June, 2020) the budget was submitted to parliament on 28th May, 2020.

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:

Source:
n/a

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: PBS is not published.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Source:
n/a

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
d. Not applicable

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

n/a

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

During a recent visit to Nepal, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) process was brought to IBP's attention. IBP understands that the National Planning Commission develops the MTEF with medium term estimates up to three years. MTEF's main purpose is to ensure fiscal discipline in expenditures related to Capital or Development projects. There are detailed disaggregated expenditure estimates for each Development project for all sectors. However, there is not much discussion on priorities of revenue collections or macroeconomic goals for the medium term. In the budget process, the linkage and alignment between the MTEF and annual Budget Proposal is weak. While there is some discussion on MTEF in the legislature, it is not clear how the discussions feed into the annual budget formulation process. Lastly, the MTEF for FY 2020-22 was published after (on 11th June, 2020) the budget was submitted to parliament on 28th May, 2020.

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:

n/a

Source:

n/a

Comment:

The document that government considers as a PBS says "for internal use only". However, this document does not meet the criteria of a PBS

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: If the researcher is referencing to "Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill", that cannot be considered as PBS suggested. There are no other "internal use" documents that may be considered as a PBS.

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:
n/a

Source:
n/a

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
n/a

Comment:
Neither the PBS nor the citizen version of the PBS was produced.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
2020-21

Source:
Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Estimates of Expenditure (Heading-wise Expenditure and Sources): Red Book FY 2020/21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Economic Survey 2019/20
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2020/21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill-2020/21
[https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%8B%0%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AB%20Final_20190426095348.pdf](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf)

Guide on Budget Formulation 2018-19
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%8B%0%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AB%20Final_20190426095348.pdf

Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (Province and Local Level)
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Transfer_Final_New.pdf

Comment:

Fiscal Year in Nepal
1st Shrawan 2077 (4th month) to 31st Asad 2078 (3rd Month) - Nepali Calendar
16th July 2020 - 15th July 2021. - English Calendar

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
28/5/2020

Source:
Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Estimates of Expenditure (Heading-wise Expenditure and Sources): Red Book FY 2020/21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Economic Survey 2019/20
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2020/21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill-2020/21
[https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%8B%0%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AB%20Final_20190426095348.pdf](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf)

Budget Formulation Guide 2018-19 (8th Amendment)
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%8B%0%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AB%20Final_20190426095348.pdf

Comment:
Red Book and Budget Formulation Guide are in Nepali version.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Estimates of Expenditure (Heading-wise Expenditure and Sources): Red Book FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Economic Survey 2019/20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill-2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%20%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf

Budget Formulation Guide 2018-19 (8th Amendment)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%20%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20190426095348.pdf

Comment:

The EBP were made available to the public through Ministry of Finance website on the day the budget speech was delivered on 28 May 2020. It is in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

28/5/2020

Source:

Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Estimates of Expenditure (Heading-wise Expenditure and Sources): Red Book FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Economic Survey 2019/20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill-2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf

Budget Formulation Guide 2018-19 (8th Amendment)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%8A%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AB%20Final_20190426095348.pdf

The Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (Province and Local Level) Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Transfer_Final_New.pdf

Comment:

The Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (Province and Local Level) Fiscal Year 2020/21, published on

28 May 2020

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Transfer_Final_New.pdf

The document stipulating public revenue sharing modality among the three tiers of the governments – federal, provincial and local – was presented on the same date when the Executive Budget Proposal, mainly Budget Speech and Red Book were tabled at the parliament. Likewise the Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill was presented at the federal parliament on 10-05-2020 and another document Budget Formulation Guide 2018-19 was made publicly available on 26-04-2019.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The data of publication of EBP was determined through the official website of the Ministry of Finance as well as through media coverage of the executive budget presentation to the federal parliament.

Source:

Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Estimates of Expenditure (Heading-wise Expenditure and Sources): Red Book FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Economic Survey 2019/20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill-2020/21

[https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%8D%E0%A4%AB%20Final_20190426095348.pdf](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf)

Budget Formulation Guide 2018-19 (8th Amendment)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%8D%E0%A4%AB%20Final_20190426095348.pdf

The Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (Province and Local Level) Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Transfer_Final_New.pdf

Media Links for budget - <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2020/05/11/the-lockdown-budget>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. Following the presentation of EBP (which is also covered as a live program across national television), the EBP is made available on its website.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Source:

Ministry of Finance

Comment:

Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Estimates of Expenditure (Heading-wise Expenditure and Sources): Red Book FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Economic Survey 2019/20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill-2020/21
[https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf)
Budget Formulation Guide 2018-19 (8th Amendment)
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AB%20Final_20190426095348.pdf
The Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (Province and Local Level) Fiscal Year 2020/21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Transfer_Final_New.pdf

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:
Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2020/21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Aid Management Information System for Nepal
<https://amis.mof.gov.np/>

Comment:
The Statement of Technical Assistance and Others is the document produced based on the data extracted from the Aid Management Platform (AMP) set up at the ministry of finance website. The AMP provides numerical data of the development cooperation committed and disbursed by the development partners in machine-readable format (excel and CSV).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: c. No
Comments: The data provided in the EBP is not available in a machine readable format. The sources provided by the researcher pertains to aid data (and if you were to consider this data, it is not presented in a machine readable format either).

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Estimates of Expenditure (Heading-wise Expenditure and Sources): Red Book FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Economic Survey 2019/20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill-2020/21

[https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%80%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf)

Budget Formulation Guide 2018-19 (8th Amendment)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8A%E0%A5%86%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AB%20Final_20190426095348.pdf

The Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (Province and Local Level) Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Transfer_Final_New.pdf

Comment:

The EBP was produced and made publicly available through the MoF official website. The budget documents were presented by the executive in the parliament on 28 May (15 Jeth in Nepali calendar) as per the Constitution of Nepal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

2020-21 Federal Budget

Source:

Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Estimates of Expenditure (Heading-wise Expenditure and Sources): Red Book FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Economic Survey 2019/20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Principles and Priorities of Appropriation Bill-2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%20Final_20200510093318.pdf

Budget Formulation Guide 2018-19 (8th Amendment)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%8D%E0%A4%A4%20Final_20190426095348.pdf

The Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (Province and Local Level) Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Transfer_Final_New.pdf

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: "Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21" is the full title of the EBP.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:
b. No

Source:
Nepal has not yet adopted the practice of developing simplified version of the EBP as a citizen budget despite advocacy from CSO side for long. The website of the MoF does not show any such document.

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
2020-21

Source:
Economic Bill for the FY 2020-21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%A7_20201123045008.pdf
Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:
The Parliament endorses the Appropriation Bill and three other subsidiary bills - economic bill, bill to recover national debt and debt and securities bill in the FY 2020-21. But only the Finance Bill and Appropriation Bill are available online.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
10/6/2020

Source:
Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

%A4%90%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Economic Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%A7_20201123045008.pdf

HOR passing budget -The Rising Nepal Story

<https://risingnepaldaily.com/main-news/house-approves-budget-for-fy-202021>

Comment:

The Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21 and Economic Bill for the FY 2020-21 was approved by the federal parliament on 29 June 2020.

Please be clear that HOR Passed on June 10 and National Assembly endorsed in June 18.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The EB is dated 29th June 2020 (published on the national gazette) but this is previously passed at the National assembly earlier as indicated.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

a. Two weeks or less after the budget has been enacted

Source:

Economic Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%A7_20201123045008.pdf

Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

The Nepali version of enacted budget was made available to the public through the MoF website within some days the budget was endorsed. The enacted budget bills were also published in the national gazette. However translated English version has not been posted .

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:
11/6/2020

Source:

Economic Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%A7_20201123045008.pdf

Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

The Economic Bill and Appropriation Bill as the enacted budget of the FY 2020-21 were approved by the federal parliament on 11 June 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The date of the EB is June 29, 2020, and thus this date could be used instead.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Ministry of Finance Website, Website of the Federal Parliament of Nepal and Media Coverage

Source:

Economic Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%A7_20201123045008.pdf

Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

The Himalayan Times News Coverage

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/business/house-of-representatives-endorses-appropriation-bill>

Comment:

The Appropriation Bill was passed by the parliament with majority.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: While the budget was endorsed by the HoR on June 10th, the EB indicates June 29th on the bill itself and the date when it was gazetted. Therefore, this date should be considered as the publication date.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Source:

Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The link provided above is for Finance Bill. Appropriation Bill:

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Economic Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%A7_20201123045008.pdf

Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

Both the enacted bills are only available in pdf format with narrative description.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Economic Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%A7_20201123045008.pdf

Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

The document is publicly available through official website of the Ministry of Finance. The Economic Bill and Appropriation Bill is considered the major budget document. Other two subsidiary bills – bill to recover national debt and debt and securities bill– are also produced but not available to the public through online measures.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Source:

Economic Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201123045008.pdf

Appropriation Bill for the FY 2020-21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Finance Bill link: <https://www.mof.gov.np/site/publication-detail/2474> Document Title: Finance Bill 2020 no. 6: Finance Bill to implement Nepal Government's Budget Proposal. Appropriation Bill: Link above Document Title: Appropriation Bill 2020 no. 5: Appropriation Bill for Services and (sewa ra karya ko lagi sanghiya sanchit kosh bata)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. No

Source:

There is no practice of bringing Citizen Budget version of the Executive Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget in Nepal. However, Freedom Forum as a CSO had started producing Nepal's Citizens Climate Budget based on the information and data available in the Executive Budget Proposal and other sources. The document is being used to prod government to produce CB of the EBP or EB but it has not yet been materialized.

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:
n/a

Source:
No practice of citizen budget in Nepal from the government level

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
d. Not produced at all

Source:
The official website of the MoF and frequent discussions with the MOF officials.

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

It was determined after navigating the official website of the MoF- the line ministry to produce key budget documents including citizen budget. Frequent discussions with MoF officials during public event also helped to get updates on the production of budgetary documents.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This was ascertained by discussion with relevant officials.

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:

Source:

Citizen Budget is not produced in Nepal and with no production there is no chance for making it publicly available.

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Source:
n/a

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
NA

Source:
n/a

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
NA

Source:
n/a

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
n/a

Source:
n/a

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
2020-21

Source:
Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal, produces quarterly economic bulletins and monthly reports.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Guidance on IYR: "In-Year Reports are issued during the year as the budget is being executed. They are intended to show the executive's progress in implementing the budget. They typically show actual expenditure by administrative unit (ministries, departments, or agencies), to ensure that they are held accountable for their expenditure. In some countries, the administrative units issue the reports individually, while in other countries the information is consolidated into one report, which is typically issued by the Treasury." My comment: MoF publishes "Economic Bulletin" (<https://www.mof.gov.np/site/publication-category/84>) on a monthly basis. This document includes the following: - total expenditure (current, capital and financial management) compared to previous budget year - total revenue collection - total foreign aid commitment in various sectors (education, agriculture etc) - top 10 export commodities (compared to previous budget year) However, it does not indicate actual expenditure by administrative unit (ministries, departments, or agencies). Quarterly economic bulletin as indicated by the researcher (<https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/?department=red>) and published by NRB also indicates total expenditure and revenue(Tab 57 in the excel sheet). However, information is limited to total expenditure and revenue etc. These can be considered as IYR with very limited information.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

The MoF recently started the practice of publishing Economic Bulletins starting September 2019. Here are the dates of the publication of the most recent reports (before Dec 31st, 2020):

Monthly Economic Bulletins - Ministry of Finance Website - <https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-category/84>

Kartik Issue (Oct 21 - Nov 19, 2020) - 15 Dec 2020;

Asoj Issue (Sept - Oct 2020)- 13 Nov 2020;

Bhadra Issue (Aug - Sept 2020) - 19 Oct 2020;

Sawan Issue (July - Aug 2020) - 11 Sept 2020;

Ashadh Issue (June - July 2020) - 14 Aug 2020;

Jaiṭh Issue (May - June 2020) - 17 July 2020;

Baisakh Issue (April - May 2020) - 22 June 2020;

Quarterly Economic Bulletins: From Nepal Rastra Bank

<https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/quarterly-economic-bulletin/?department=>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/07/2020-April-Final.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/10/2020-July.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2021/02/2020-October.xlsx>

Comment:

Based on above mentioned public documents from MOF, answer C is selected.

The Quarterly economic bulletins of Nepal Rastra Bank are one (Jan to April) is only on time and others are not buts still produced lately.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The dates on which they are published are not indicated in the reports, and therefore is difficult to say when they were made available. However, the researcher has indicated the dates. And if these dates are accurate, then "a" would be the correct answer? To be further discussed with IBP.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In response to peer reviewer - dates are mentioned on the web page of MoF, where monthly reports are uploaded.

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:

The MoF recently started the practice of publishing Economic Bulletins starting September 2019.

Looking into Last 7 Monthly bulletins,

Monthly Economic Bulletins - <https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-category/84>

Kartik Issue (Oct 21 - Nov 19, 2020) - 15 Dec 2020;

Asoj Issue (Sept - Oct 2020)- 13 Nov 2020;

Bhadra Issue (Aug - Sept 2020) - 19 Oct 2020;

Sawan Issue (July - Aug 2020) - 11 Sept 2020;

Ashadh Issue (June - July 2020) - 14 Aug 2020;

Jaiti Issue (May - June 2020) - 17 July 2020;

Baisakh Issue (April - May 2020) - 22 June 2020;

Quarterly Bulletins from Nepal Rastra Bank

Quarterly Economic Bulletins:

<https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/quarterly-economic-bulletin/?department=>

The first quarterly economic bulletin of the fiscal year 2020-21 (January-April) was published on 1 July 2020 while the second (April-July) and third bulletins (July-October) were published on 20 October 2020 and 8 February 2021. The website does not show the quarterly economic bulletins during the period from April 2019 to April 2020, maybe because of COVID-19 pandemic.

Source:

Monthly Economic Bulletins - <https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-category/84>

Quarterly Bulletins from Nepal Rastra Bank

<https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/quarterly-economic-bulletin/?department=>

Comment:

All monthly bulletins are on time frame whereas the only one quarterly report from Nepal Rastra bank is on time.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Please see earlier comment. I am not sure how the dates indicated were derived as it is not indicated on the reports itself.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

For Monthly Bulletins - Ministry Of Finance Website has a date stamp.

For Quarterly Bulletins - Nepal Rastra Bank Website

The official website of the Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal

Source:

MOF - <https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-category/84>

NRB - <https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/quarterly-economic-bulletin/?department=>

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I am not sure how the researcher determined the dates as the website indicates dates for only few reports, and none for the reports used for this review.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Ministry of Finance Website & Nepal Rastra Bank Website

Source:

Monthly Economic Bulletins - <https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-category/84>

Quarterly Bulletins from Nepal Rastra Bank

<https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/quarterly-economic-bulletin/?department=>

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The Mof recently started the practice of publishing Economic Bulletins starting September 2019. Here are the dates of the publication of the most recent reports (before Dec 31st, 2020):

Monthly Economic Bulletins - Ministry of Finance Website - <https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-category/84>

Kartik Issue (Oct 21 - Nov 19, 2020) - 15 Dec 2020;

Asoj Issue (Sept - Oct 2020)- 13 Nov 2020;

Bhadra Issue (Aug - Sept 2020) - 19 Oct 2020;

Sawan Issue (July - Aug 2020) - 11 Sept 2020;

Ashadh Issue (June - July 2020) - 14 Aug 2020;

Jaith Issue (May - June 2020) - 17 July 2020;

Baisakh Issue (April - May 2020) - 22 June 2020;

Quarterly Economic Bulletins: From Nepal Rastra Bank

<https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/quarterly-economic-bulletin/?department=>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/07/2020-April-Final.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/10/2020-July.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2021/02/2020-October.xlsx>

Comment:

The monthly economic bulletin from Ministry of finance is PDF format so they disqualify as machine readable.

As for the case of quarterly economic bulletin, they are in .XLS format but only one is publicly available,

Thus answer C is selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: The quarterly reports are mostly in .XLS format, and thus we could say that some data is available in a machine readable format. Although, this is limited to information on total expenditure and revenues only.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The MoF recently started the practice of publishing Economic Bulletins starting September 2019. Here are the dates of the publication of the most recent reports (before Dec 31st, 2020):

Monthly Economic Bulletins - Ministry of Finance Website - <https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-category/84>

Kartik Issue (Oct 21 - Nov 19, 2020) - 15 Dec 2020;

Asoj Issue (Sept - Oct 2020)- 13 Nov 2020;

Bhadra Issue (Aug - Sept 2020) - 19 Oct 2020;

Sawan Issue (July - Aug 2020) - 11 Sept 2020;

Ashadh Issue (June - July 2020) - 14 Aug 2020;

Jaith Issue (May - June 2020) - 17 July 2020;

Baisakh Issue (April - May 2020) - 22 June 2020;

Quarterly Economic Bulletins: From Nepal Rastra Bank

<https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/quarterly-economic-bulletin/?department=>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/07/2020-April-Final.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/10/2020-July.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2021/02/2020-October.xlsx>

Comment:

The documents are produced and made available online to the public through the official website of the Ministry of Finance & Nepal Rastra Bank.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Monthly Economic Bulletins -

Kartik Issue (Oct 21 - Nov 19, 2020) - 15 Dec 2020;
Asoj Issue (Sept - Oct 2020)- 13 Nov 2020;
Bhadra Issue (Aug - Sept 2020) - 19 Oct 2020;
Sawan Issue (July - Aug 2020) - 11 Sept 2020;
Ashadh Issue (June - July 2020) - 14 Aug 2020;
Jaiti Issue (May - June 2020) - 17 July 2020;
Baisakh Issue (April - May 2020) - 22 June 2020;

Quarterly Economic Bulletins -

Quarterly Economic Bulletin 2020-4 (mid-April)
Quarterly Economic Bulletin 2020-7 (mid-July)
Quarterly Economic Bulletin 2020-10 (mid-October)

Source:

Monthly Economic Bulletins -

Ministry of Finance Website - <https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-category/84>

Quarterly Economic Bulletins: From Nepal Rastra Bank

<https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/quarterly-economic-bulletin/?department=>

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:
MoF and NRB website do not show the availability of such documents. As discussed with MoF officials, the Citizen Version of IYR are not in practice in Nepal.

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
2020-21

Source:
Ministry of Finance

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Comment:
The MYR for the fiscal year 2019-20 was published on 12 February 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: The MYR only indicates month and year. Not sure how the researcher indicated the date.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

a. Six weeks or less after the midpoint

Source:

The Ministry of Finance

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Comment:

The Ministry of Finance produced the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-20 and made it publicly available through website. The report was made available to the public on 12 February 2020 while the mid-point of the budget was 14 January 2020. So, MYR was made publicly available within six weeks after the reporting period ends.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Please see my comment on the earlier question. Depending on that, this could be either "a" or "b". To be discussed further.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

12/2/2020 12/2/2020

Source:

Ministry of Finance

Comment:

Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2019-20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Please see comment on the earlier question. Month and date indicated in the MYR but not date. To be discussed with IBP.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The date of publication of the mid-term evaluation report is mentioned at the top of the report posted on MoF website. Based on the official website of the MoF.

Source:

Ministry of Finance Website (Report Link)

Comment:

Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2019-20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Please see comment on the earlier question.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Source:

Ministry of Finance

Comment:

Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2019-20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. No

Source:

Ministry of Finance

Comment:

Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2019-20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%8B%7E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%EA%5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BF%EA%4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

The report is available in pdf format which does not resonate to the practice of open data including machine readability.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2019-20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%8B%7E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%8B%7E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%EA%5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BF%EA%4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Comment:

The MYR for the FY 2019-20 having eight chapters provides the information about overall economic and fiscal situation and national economy; analysis of budgetary expenses and resource mobilization (status of spending, revenue, international financial cooperation mobilization, domestic borrowing management, status of budget balance); progress of national pride projects; analysis of sector-wide and ministry-wide progress (economic and financial sector, physical infrastructure, public service delivery and good governance; budget system and public finance management

reform initiatives; amended estimates of expenditure and re-prioritization (capital and recurrent); fiscal transfer and status of expenditure at province and local levels and budget implementation and tasks to be done for resource management.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2019-20 Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2019-20

Source:

Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2019-20

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%8B7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
The official website of the Ministry of Finance

Comment:
There is no practice of developing citizen version of the MYR.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
2018-19 2017-18

Source:
Ministry of Finance and Financial Comptroller General Office

Comment:
Consolidated Financial Statement of the FY 2018-19
<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Annual Progress Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2018-19
Though the ministry of finance always publish these reports, it is not available publicly in the current website.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

d. The YER is not released to the public, or is released more than 12 months after the end of the budget year

Source:

Consolidated Financial Statement of the FY 2018-19

<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Annual Progress Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2018-19

Though the ministry of finance always publish these reports, it is not available publicly in the current website.

Comment:

The year end for 2018-19 is July 15th, 2019. As per published date for Consolidated reports, it was published in 6th August, 2020 as per website. So that is basically after 12months .

Similarly MOF annual progress report is also not released for public, though it was published for internal circulation.

Therefore answer d is selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

06/08/2020

Source:

FCGO Websites

Comment:

Consolidated Financial Statement for 2018/19:

<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:
Based on the document downloaded from the websites of MoF and FCGO. The links of the reports also have provided date of publications.

Source:
Consolidated Financial Statement of the FY 2018-19
<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Comment:
The published date is 2020.08.06 as per official website.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Source:
Financial Comptroller General Office (FCGO) Website

Comment:
Consolidated Financial statement 2018-2019
<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Published Date : 2020.08.06

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
d. Not applicable

Source:
MoF and FCGO Websites

Comment:
Both the reports are available online on pdf formats as they do not contain machine readable data.

Annual Progress Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2017-18
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Annual%20report%202074-75%20with%20annex_20190214052612.pdf
Consolidated Financial Statement of the FY 2017-18
https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-06-01/Consolidated_Financial_statement_2017-2018.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. No

Comments: Considering that the FC GO report is considered as a YER, the answer here should be "c".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

MOF and FC GO Websites

Comment:

The reports are produced and published, but late. As per OBS methodology, the 2018-19 report should have been published by 14th July, 2020. The report was published on 6th August 2020, hence 'Published Late'.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:
Consolidated Financial Statement 2018-19.

Source:
Ministry of Finance and FCGO Websites.

Comment:
Consolidated Financial Statement of the FY 2018-19 <https://www.fcgov.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Consolidated Financial statement 2018-2019
<https://www.fcgov.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Published Date : 2020.08.06

Comment:
There is no practice of developing citizen version of YER in Nepal.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
2018-19

Source:
Website of the Office of the Auditor General of Nepal

Comment:
The 57th Annual Report of the Office of Auditor General of Nepal
<https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%88%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%85%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%8A%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
b. 12 months or less, but more than six months, after the end of the budget year

Source:
The Website of the Office of Auditor General of Nepal

Comment:
57th Annual Report of the Office of Auditor General for the FY 2018-19 was available on 15th July 2020.
<https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%88%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%85%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%8A%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf>

While the Audit Report title says it is an annual report, the contents of the report are of the audit of the government's financial accounts:

Preface: "Statutory audit of all government offices of federation, states & local levels, and wholly-owned corporate bodies by federal or state government in consideration with regularity, economy, efficiency, effectiveness and propriety thereof"

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
15/7/2020

Source:
The website of the Office of Auditor General of Nepal

The media report - <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2020/08/03/growing-arrears-show-bad-governance>

Comment:
57th Annual Report of the Office of Auditor General for the FY 2018-19
<https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%88%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%80%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%85%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%8A%E0%A5%8D%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
The website of the OAGN and media report.

Source:
57th Annual Report of the Office of Auditor General for the FY 2019-20
<https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%88%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%80%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%85%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%8A%E0%A5%8D%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf>

%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf

Media Report : <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2020/08/03/growing-arrears-show-bad-governance>

Comment:

The media report clearly states the date of report as 15th July, 2020

The date of publication is given in the online version of Annual Report of the Office of Audit General. This includes an official letter sent to the President by the Auditor General where the date of submission is inserted.

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:

<https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%85%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf>

Source:

OAGN Website

Comment:

The 57th Annual Report of the Office of Auditor General for the FY 2018-19.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. No

Source:

OAGN website and conversation with its officials

Comment:

The report is available online on pdf format. It does not meet the standards of machine readability.

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:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

OAGN Website

Comment:

57th Annual Report of the Office of Auditor General for the FY 2018-19.

<https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%88%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%8A%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

57th Annual Report of the Office of Auditor General for the FY 2019-20

Source:

OAGN Website

Comment:

57th Annual Report of the Office of Auditor General for the FY 2019-20

<https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%88%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%85%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%80%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%85%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%8A%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf>

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:

OAGN website and senior officials

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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.transparenciacpresupuestaria.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:
Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
<https://www.opmc.gov.np/en/>

Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
<http://www.mofaga.gov.np/>

General Auditor's Office
<https://oagnep.gov.np>

Financial Comptroller's General Office
www.fcgo.gov.np

Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission
<http://nnrfc.gov.np/>

Nepal Rastra Bank
<https://www.nrb.org.np/>

Ministry of Finance
<https://mof.gov.np/>

Comment:
These websites are also being used to disseminate budgetary information of PFM cycle in Nepal.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Telephonic conversation with MoF official

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

There is no website where both machine readable expenditure and revenue figures can be downloaded.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The answer to this question should be "d".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

IBP confirms response D. There is no website which presented machine readable, downloadable data for both revenues and expenditures.

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: The answer to this question should be "b". Very limited graphs are presented.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

IBP confirms answer choice "No". There is no website where citizens can interactive data presentations or graphics.

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:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: The answer to this should be "a". Financial Procedures Act, 1999: <https://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/financial-procedures-act-2055-1999.pdf> Financial Procedures Rules, 2007: https://moics.gov.np/uploads/shares/rules/the-financial-procedures-rules_1470736726.pdf Audit Act, 2019: <https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Audit-Act-2075.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

IBP confirms answer choice A. In addition to PR's comments, here are additional links: Nepal Constitution 2072 <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/np/np029en.pdf> The Nepal Constitution has paved the way for good governance in its preamble. The following part sand articles of the Nepal Constitution has specific provisions on fiscal management and transparency/accountability arrangements. Directive Principles: page 28 Distribution of sources of revenue; page 47 Article 110 (2,3 and 4) and 111: Part 9 and 0 (page 76-86) Part 15 State Legislative Procedures: Page 131-134 Part 16 State Financial Procedures: Page 135 -138 Part 10 Local Financial Procedure: Page 148 -149 Part 22 Auditor General (Page 158-160)

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:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The answer should be "a" Right to Information Act, 2007 <https://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/right-to-information-act-2064-2007.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the peer reviewer for their comments. IBP confirms answer choice A.

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:

The classification of budget by administrative unit are presented in budget speech. (Annex - 4, Page 13 &14).
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

The similar Classification can also be seen in Budget Details: Red Book published by Ministry Of Finance. (Page 539 – Annexure 2)
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The Budget presented on parliament for Fiscal year 2020-2021 do contain the details in relation to functional classification. Budget Speech as published by Ministry of Finance has the annexure named Functional Expenditure Estimate that contains all the classification. General Public Service, Defense, Public Order & Safety, Economic Affairs, Environmental Protection and so on are some of the functional classifications on budget speech. The annexure has total estimates as well as estimates for each level of government from local level, province level and federal level. (Annex - 3, Page 11& 12)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

With the details on budget speech, the Budget Details : Red Book published by Ministry of Finance also has the similar information on expenditure classification under the heading Functional Expenditure Estimates. (Annex 1, PDF Page 550 & 551)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The current functional classification presented on the budget speech is well within the norm of international standard. Details of Functional classification can be found on annex 3 page 11 & 12 of budget speech.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Like wise the budget details: red book published by Ministry of Finance also contains the information on the functional classification.

Red Book - Annex 1 PDF Page 550 & 551

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Annex 6 & 7 of the Budget Speech for Fiscal year 2020-2021 published by Ministry of Finance do contains the information on expenditure by economic classifications. Annex 6 consists information of expenditure by Economic head and line items such as salary, wages, allowances, Social Security Expenses, service fees and so on. Similarly annex 7 of the budget speech contains information on administrative expenditure estimates with actual revised and estimates for upcoming FY and the details are broadly classified on capital and recurrent.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Annex 6 Page 21 to 26

Annex 7 Page 27 to 30

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Classification of expenditure that are presented budget speech are in line with with international norms and standard.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Annex 6 Page 21 to 26

Annex 7 Page 27 to 30

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

The red book details on expenditure for each program for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The programs wise information are provided in respect to expenditure presented for each administrative unit.

Red Book - PDF Page 1 to 547

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Note that red book details on program wise information for 3 years including current year with actual from last to last year, revised of last year and estimates of current fiscal year.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

d. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

No there is no such practice of such multiyear expenditure in budget documents in Nepal.

Comment:

However, it should be noted that Nepal has practice of presenting Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEM) by National Planning Commission (NPC). IT contains the information on multi year expenditure estimates for administrative and functional classification of expenditure for current year and coming 2 fiscal years. All the expenditure classification has multi year estimates on MTEM.

It should be noted that this document was published on 11 June 2020 where as the budget was presented on May 28, 2020.

Medium Term Expenditure Framework (FY 2020/21- 2022/23) - Annex 1 & 2 - PDF Page 308 to 315.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

None of the above

Source:

There is no practice of presenting expenditure classifications for a multi-year period.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 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, 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:

d. No, multi-year estimates for programs are not presented.

Source:

No multi-year estimates for programs are presented.

Comment:

However, it should be noted that Nepal has practice of presenting Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEM) by National Planning Commission (NPC). It contains the information on multi year expenditure estimates for administrative and functional classification of expenditure for current year and coming 2 fiscal years. All the expenditure classification has multi year estimates on MTEM.

It should be noted that this document was published on 11 June 2020 where as the budget was presented on May 28, 2020.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

Budget Speech contains all information on sources of tax revenue for the Fiscal Year. Taxes on incomes, gains and profits, Taxes on Payroll, Taxes on Property are some of the heads under which tax incomes are collected.

Budget Speech - Annex -2 PDF Page - 80 to 84

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

"other" taxes are around 2% of total tax revenues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Budget Speech contains all information on sources of non - tax revenue for the Fiscal Year. Property Income, Interest, Dividends, are some of the heads under which non tax incomes are collected.

Budget Speech - Annex -2 PDF Page - 84 to 88

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Taking miscellaneous Non Tax Revenue against Total Non Tax Revenue which results into more than 18%.

This is less than 2/3 of all non tax revenue amount.

Therefore the correct answer is B.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. No, multi-year estimates of revenue are not presented by category.

Source:

There are no such documents presenting multi-year estimates of revenues

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
d. No, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Source:
No such multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenues are presented in any executive budget proposal presented by the executive in the parliament.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year & the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year are the two estimates in relation to borrowing and debt are presented in the Budget Documents.

Budget Speech 2020/2021 - Annex 1 - PDF Page 79 details on both domestic net borrowings as well as foreign net borrowing.

Budget Speech 2020/2021 - Annex 5 - PDF Page 94 details on interest on foreign loan and domestic loans.

Annex 6 - PDF Page 101 details on interest for internal loans with last to last year actual, last year revised and current fiscal year estimates. Similarly Annex 6 - PDF Page 104 provides information for 3 years on net debts. Along with this Annex 10 - PDF Page 113 is a summary of foreign grants and loans.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

The red book published by Ministry of finance also do contains information on these borrowings and interest payments. PDF Page 20, 22, 23, 24 & 25 (Foreign and domestic debt and interest payments) as well as PDF page 564 is a summary of foreign loan & grants.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year

The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Source:

Two estimates are present in Executive Budget Proposal Document.

Interest Payments and Net Borrowings.

Budget Speech 2020/2021 - Annex 1 - PDF Page 79 details on both domestic net borrowings as well as foreign net borrowing.

Budget Speech 2020/2021 - Annex 5 - PDF Page 94 details on interest on foreign loan and domestic loans.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Domestic and foreign loan are two major components of debt of Government. No such information on total debt is shown in documents. What are maturity periods & interest rates etc are not available.

Annex 4 PDF page 92 of budget speech only provides information on domestic debt service and external debt service not debt total of the government.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

However There is only Annex 10 - PDF Page 113 of Budget Speech which is a summary of foreign grants and loans only. It doesn't satisfy the requirement of the question.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Domestic and foreign loan are two major components of debt of Government. No such information on total debt is shown in documents. What are maturity periods & interest rates etc are not available.

Budget Speech & Red Book have details on summary of sources of debt borrowing along with bifurcation of the same for federal, provincial and local levels. The breakdown of external (bilateral and multilateral) and domestic borrowing are provided on budget speech documents.

Annex 4 of Budget Speech PDF Page 91 & 92 Administrative Expenditure Estimates (Including Financing) presents information in debt service on domestic and external level.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

Budget Speech 2020/21 provides some information about macroeconomic indicators like of inflation rates and Economic growth projection.

Point 10 Page 3 of Budget Speech provides information on current inflation.

Point 339 of Page 75 details on government projection of inflation to contain within 7 % and economic growth estimated to be around the 7% mark.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Economic Survey 2019/20 provides detailed in-depth information on performance of various aspects of macroeconomic components like inflation rate, GDP growth, interest rate etc. The information is for BY-1.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Inflation rate
Real GDP growth

Source:
Budget Speech 2020/21 provides some information about macroeconomic indicators like inflation rates and Economic growth projection. Point 10 Page 3 of Budget Speech provides information on current inflation. Point 339 of Page 75 details on government projection of inflation to contain within 7% and economic growth estimated to be around the 7% mark.
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:
Economic Survey 2019/20 provides detailed in-depth information on various aspects of macroeconomic components like inflation rate, GDP growth, interest rate etc.
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
There is no such any new budget forecasts on budget speech based on alternative assumptions or scenarios for the underlying macroeconomics

forecast.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

There are always some new programs and some modification on existing ones. This budget has some new reliefs packages due to Covid Pandemic as well. Corona Prevention Programs (Page 8), Assistance to workers of unorganized sector(page. 12), Loans to industrial sector(page 12), Land Bank in rural areas(Page 24), Expanding existing PM Employment Programs(page 15) etc are some detailed on the budget.
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: While the EBP suggests new programs as indicated above, it does not demonstrate how it affect expenditure. Consider changing the rating if the intent is to demonstrate how new programs affect expenditure, rather than listing the programs.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The policy proposals for revenue are presented on Page 66 - 70 on budget speech document.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Annex -2 of Budget Speech - PDF Page 80-Receipts of Revenue and Grant Estimates details- that was presented on budget speech document reflects on the on effects of both Existing and New Measures on revenue.

Comment:

The Budget Speech narrative typically discusses new tax initiatives for the budget year. However, the impact of new tax initiatives on revenue estimates is not clear. score is C because of lack of clarity. The increase in projections of revenue estimates could be due to increase in number of tax payers, inflation, economic growth and other factors.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

The Budget Speech presents estimates for expenditure for BY - 1 for only two out of asked 3 expenditure classification. Administrative Expenditure Classification (Inc. Financing) is on annex 7 (PDF Page - 105) and Expenditure by Economic Heads (Inc. Financing) on annex 6 (PDF Page - 99).

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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 détaillé. (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:

Red Book 2077 published by Ministry of Finance contains detailed information for each and every programs for fiscal year total expenditure on each programs. The information on each program spending amount are provided in each administrative unit expenditure sections.

Red Book 2077 - https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

The Budget Speech Document do contain information about the BY-1 on revised expenditure estimates. Annex 6 (PDF Page 99) and Annex 7 (PAD Page 105) has expenditure estimates by economic heads and administrative units respectively.
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Similarly the Redbook 2077 also contains the information of BY-1 on revised expenditure estimate version.
Part 1 (PDF Page 8) & Part 2 (PDF Page 10-24)
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

The Budget Speech presents estimates for expenditure for year prior to BY - 1 for only two out of asked 3 expenditure classification. Administrative Expenditure Classification (Inc. Financing) is on annex 7 (PDF Page - 105) and Expenditure by Economic Heads (Inc. Financing) on annex 6 (PDF Page - 99).

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Likewise The Red book 2077 do also have ample information in expenditure for administrative units for year Prior to B-1 year.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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

Source:
The Budget Speech presents estimates for expenditure for year prior to BY - 1 for only two out of asked 3 expenditure classification. Administrative Expenditure Classification (Inc. Financing) is on annex 7 (PDF Page - 105) and Expenditure by Economic Heads (Inc. Financing) on annex 6 (PDF Page - 99).

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Likewise The Red book 2077 do also have ample information in expenditure for administrative units for year Prior to B-1 year.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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 detailé*. (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:
Red Book Details on Expenditure for each and every programs for BY-2 time period amounting to actual total expenditures. These are provided in information on spending data which are presented as expenditure for each administrative units.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

The Budget Speech presents actual data for expenditure of Year B-2 for only two out of asked 3 expenditure classification. Administrative Expenditure Classification (Inc. Financing) is on annex 7 (PDF Page - 105) and Expenditure by Economic Heads (Inc. Financing) on annex 6 (PDF Page - 99).

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Likewise The Red book 2077 do also have ample information in actual expenditure for administrative units for year B-2

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The Budget Speech Document do presents the revenue by category for the year preceding to Budget Year.

Annex 2 (PDF Page - 80) has revised estimates of Receipts of Revenue and Grants of B-1 Year which classified revenues in tax and non tax category. Likewise Annex 1(PDF Page - 79) has revised estimates with the name Budget Summary.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

The Budget Speech Document do presents the revenue by individual source for the year preceding to Budget Year.

The Annex 2 has detailed information on revenue source. First Revenue source has been broadly divided into tax and non tax category. Under each head detailed source has been mentioned.

For Tax (taxes on income, profit and goods and services, capital grants, investment and other income, pay roll and work force, property, financial and capital transactions, international trade and transactions, grants from foreign governments) & for non-tax revenue (property income, sales of goods and services, administrative fees, penalties etc) are presented in the annex.

Receipts of Revenue and Grants Estimates - Annex 2 (PDF Page - 80)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

The Annex 2 contains revised revenue estimates for B-1 Year.

Receipts of Revenue and Grants Estimates - Annex 2 (PDF Page - 80)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The Annex 2 contains actual revenue data for B-2 Year. Under this revenue has been categorized on tax, non tax, other, grants etc heads. Likewise Annex 1 also have similar information for B-2 Year in the form of budget summary.

Budget Summary - Annex -1 (PDF Page -79)

Receipts of Revenue and Grants Estimates - Annex 2 (PDF Page - 80)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

The Annex 2 contains actual revenue data for B-2 Year for each source of revenue for the year detailing collection from each heads and subheads.

Receipts of Revenue and Grants Estimates - Annex 2 (PDF Page - 80)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The Annex 2 contains actual revenue data for B-2 Year for each source of revenue for the year. This is only one year which has actual data rather than estimates.

Likewise Annex 1 also contains the actual data for B-2 Year as it is a budget summary.

Budget Summary - Annex 1- (PDF Page -79)

Receipts of Revenue and Grants Estimates - Annex 2 (PDF Page - 80)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for government debt.

Source:

1. Total Debt Outstanding at the end of BY-1 year : Economic Survey - para 3.11 and 3.12 along with chart 3(d) provides information on outstanding public debt in relation to GDP. The executive summary point 16 (PDF page 16) has information of outstanding debt of the Fiscal Year First 8 Months only. Further information on B-1 year is also presented in total debt to GDP ratio in similar manner.

Total outstanding debt for 2019/20 is presented in the Table on Macroeconomic Indicators PDF Page 187 with detailed information on debt amount and ratio to GDP.

Annex 3.10 PDF page 229, Annex 3.11 PDF Page 230, Annex 3.12 PDF Page 231 has detailed information on foreign and domestic debts as well.

2. Amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1: Budget Speech - Annex -1(PDF page 79) Budget Summary Provides the information on net borrowing with showing net domestic borrowing and external net borrowing with revised estimates.
3. Interest payments on the debt: Budget Speech - Annex -6 (PDF page 99) Expenditure by Economic Heads & Line Items (Inc. Financing) provides interest payments on both internal and foreign loan for BY-1 Year with revised estimates.
4. Interest rates on the debt instruments: Economic Survey - Para 5.20 & 5.21 along with chart 5(b) (PDF Page 69) provides some information about interest rates on treasury bills for BY-1 Year
5. Maturity profile of the debt : There is no such information about maturity profile of the debt but Economic Survey Para 3. 50 and table 3(n) (PDF Page - 57) provides some information debt repayment, debt servicing, ratio of debt payment.
6. Whether it is domestic or external debt: Economic Survey - Para 3.49 and 3.50 with table 3(m) and 3(n) provides information on debt classification and debt repayments and outstanding.

Budget Speech - https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Economic Survey - https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Comment:

Please note that Budget Speech Provides all information on debt situation for BY-1 year except that of maturity profile across various annexes of executive budget proposal document .

Budget Speech - https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

Budget Speech - Annex -6 (PDF page 99) Expenditure by Economic Heads & Line Items (Inc. Financing) provides interest payments on both internal and foreign loan for BY-2 Year with actual data along with actual net internal and net foreign borrowings.

Annex 7 - (PDF Page 100) also provides actual information on domestic debt service as well as external debt service for the BY-2 Year with segregation of debt between recurrent and finance part.

Economic Survey Para 3. 50 and table 3(m) & 3(n) (PDF Page - 57) provides some information debt repayment, debt servicing, ratio of debt payment as well as debt classification and debt repayments and outstanding.

Budget Speech - https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Economic Survey - All Annexes present actual figures for last 10 years upto mid-march BY-1 -
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

d. No, information related to extra-budgetary funds is not presented.

Source:

No information on extra budgetary funds are provided in Executive Budget Documents.

Comment:

The PEFA report published in 2015 noted, "There are 1,062 parastatals (including autonomous government agencies, trust funds, and state corporations) in which government has a majority stake. Estimated unreported expenditure is considerably more than 10% of total expenditure." See p. 16 on <https://pefa.org/sites/default/files/assements/comments/NP-May15-PFMPR-Public.pdf>

Given that not much has changed in terms of fiscal reporting, the PEFA report on parastatals still stands relevant.

Similarly , A detailed information about public enterprise can be found in Yellow Book which has Annual Status Review of Public Enterprises. Annual Status Review of Public Enterprises, 2020 - https://new.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Yello%20Book%202020_20201221060756.pdf

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Red Book is the major document with detailed version of information in budget. Nepal Government has no practice of presenting extra - budgetary finances in a consolidated manner. The situation is no different than on previous OBS for Nepal.

Red Book 2077 -
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

a. Yes, estimates of all intergovernmental transfers are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Budget Speech

Annex 4 - Administrative Expenditure Estimates (Inc. Financing) - PDF Page 92- heading no 701 & 801 presents information on Province & Local (Equalization, Special & Complementary) for the Budget Year.

Annex 3 - Functional Expenditure Estimates - PDF Page 89-also provides information on inter government transfer through sub head "Transfer Between Different Levels of The Government" for budget year.

Annex 5- Expenditure Estimates by Line Item Wise Details - PDF Page 93- Item 26300 - Grant to other tiers of government presents information on intergovernmental transfer.

Annex 6 - Expenditure By Economic Head & line Items (Inc. Financing) PDF Page - Item 26300 - Details on grants to other tiers of government.

Annex 7 - Admin. Expenditure Estimates - PDF Page 105 - Shows the details of Inter government transfer estimates for the budget year under the head state and local level.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

The Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (Province and Local Level) Fiscal Year 2020/21:

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Transfer_Final_New.pdf

The govt. publishes each grants in clear number and in details with segregating grants into 4 different grants for each levels in this document.

Likewise The Economic Survey - Point 3.55 to 3.59 and Table(o) - PDF Page 58 provides detailed information on inter governmental transfer along with detailing each Grants, revenue & royalty distribution among the different tiers of government.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Comment:

Normally the OBS requires details of each individual transfer to the sub national level reported for an A score, however because in Nepal there is a clear formula, and an independent body that determines the distribution of the equalization grant after the budget is approved, and the budget clearly describes this process, then an A score is maintained here as well.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, two alternative displays of expenditures are presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

The Executive Budget Speech do contain two alternative displays of expenditure.

Annex 8 - Gender Responsive Budget (PDF Page 109) and Annex 9 - Climate Budget (PDF Page 111) are alternative displays of expenditure to illustrate financial impact of policies for the budget year.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

The Red book also do present the information regarding gender and climate budget on pdf page 560 & 560 respectively.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Policy impacts based on gender

Policy impacts based on climate

Source:

The Executive Budget Speech do contain two alternative displays of expenditure.

Annex 8 - Gender Responsive Budget (PDF Page 109) and Annex 9 - Climate Budget (PDF Page 111) are alternative displays of expenditure to illustrate financial impact of policies for the budget year.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

The Red book also do present the information regarding gender and climate budget on pdf page 560 & 560 respectively.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all transfers to public corporations are presented.

Source:

Budget Speech

Annex 6 – Expenditure by Economic Heads and Line Items (Including Financing) - PDF page 99 - presents information on estimates of assistance to public enterprise on item no 25100 with segregation of operating and capital assistance and Item no 32100 presents information on Domestic Financial Assistance as loan and share investment to public enterprise.

Annex 5 - Expenditure Estimates By line Item Wise Details -PDF Page 93 - Item no 25100 presents clear information on Assistance to Public Enterprise for the Budget year with details on Operating and Capital Assistance and Item no 32100 presents information on Domestic Financial Assistance as loan to public enterprise.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Along with that economic survey report page 41 & 42 contains some information on public enterprise of the government and its finances.

Economic Survey -

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

Comment:

Since there is no reporting of estimated individual transfers to public corporations for the budget year, this score is C.

MoF does publish a Yellow Book that presents expenditures of SOEs. However, this document is not published within the OBS methodology timeframe.

Yellow Book 2020

<https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-detail/2178>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 "c" 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:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some quasi-fiscal activities.

Source:

Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020.21

Point 52-56 (Page 12-13)

https://new.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

In the budget of fiscal year 2020/21, the government had made arrangements to establish a separate fund of Rs. 50 billion in order to provide concessional loans at an interest rate of 5.0 percent to the cottage, small and medium enterprises and corona affected tourism industries for the payment of staff and worker salaries and businesses operation. This fund was operated through Nepal Rastra bank and the amount that was received from the Government of Nepal, Public Enterprises and donor agencies was deposited in this fund. In addition, arrangements had been made to provide free electricity to the low electricity consuming households consuming up to 10 units per month, 25 percent discount for those consuming up to 150 unit per month and 15 percent discount to those consuming 250 units per month in electricity charges, and to give rebate to the electricity demand charges and concessions to the electricity charges of the water and irrigation users committee. The government had made arrangements to provide discounts to the demand charges of electricity during the lock-down period for manufacturing industries affected by COVID-19 and provide a 50 percent rebate in the consumption of electricity during the low demand hours. Arrangements had been made to provide a re-financing facility of about Rs. 100 billion through Nepal Rastra Bank at the concessional interest rate up to 5 percent to the businesses and COVID-19 affected industries related to agriculture, cottage, small and medium industries, manufacturing industries, hotels including tourism sector. The government had an additional arrangement for providing 50 percent through the Government on the annual premium for the group insurance taking out policy up to 100 thousand against COVID 19 considering it as an insurable disease. Arrangements were made to bear the liability of insurance premiums by the Government for the insurance of the persons, including health workers and women health volunteers.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The Budget document doesn't presents any information on financial assets and their values on the date. It is not reflected because Government of Nepal is not preparing balance sheet anymore. Nepal government is practicing cash based accounting system not the accrual system so that the liabilities and properties are not clearly reflected in the government budget documents. The SAI has recommended the government adopt accrual-based accounting system.

Budget Speech Provides some form of limited information on no financial assets throw the data of revenue from such non financial government assets in the form of interest, dividends, rents and royalty.

Budget Speech - Annex -2 Receipts of Revenue and Grant Estimates

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Information from previous years is available in economic survey, but it is about incomes from these assets as gains, not listings, value or quantity of such assets.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

EBP documentation does not include a list of non-financial assets and their estimated values. It is not reflected because Government of Nepal is not preparing balance sheet anymore. Nepal government is practicing cash based accounting system not the accrual system so that the liabilities and properties are not clearly reflected in the government budget documents. The SAI has recommended the government adopt accrual-based accounting system.

Budget Speech Provides some form of limited information on financial assets through the data of revenue from such non financial government assets in the form of interest,dividends, rents and royalty.

Budget Speech - Annex -2 Receipts of Revenue and Grant Estimates

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Similar information are available in economic survey as well but no information on government assets.

Comment:

Information from previous years is available in economic survey, but it is about incomes from these assets as gains (flow), not listings, value or quantity (stock) of such nonfinancial assets.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, estimates of expenditure arrears are not presented.

Source:

Budget Documents doesn't present any information on arrears for the budget years.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://new.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Budget Speech Annex 5 (Expenditure Estimates Line Item Wise Details) and 6 (Expenditure by Economic Heads and Line Item (Including Financing) have presented information on capital contingencies. These are not contingent liabilities however (which are government guarantees of debt, etc). In an interview with the chairperson of Society of Economic Journalists Nepal, Bhim Gautam, the government has been providing loan guarantees to the hydro power developers of Nepal while signing agreement with international bidders.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

EBP documentation does not include any assessments or projections of the Government's future long-term liabilities or long-term sustainability based on macroeconomic, fiscal and demographic indicators.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Ministry of Finance produce and publish document name "Statement of Technical Assistance and Other Assistance" as a part of EBP which presents

information on assistance received from bilateral and multilateral sources including assistance from INGOs. The book also presents the narratives of the assistance such as name of the project/program, starting/ending date, major activities, total project cost, estimated annual amount of assistance, donors.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/TA_English_print_20200629035224.pdf

Comment:

Nepal receives development assistance both from bilateral as well as multilateral development partners. In addition, the Government is also able to track the foreign aid mobilized by the INGOs. The development cooperation in Nepal is mobilized in two ways. One is through the Government budgetary system and another is outside the Government budgetary system. Those projects/programs reflected in the Annual Income and Expenditure Estimates (Red Book) of the Government are on-budget and those projects/programs which are not covered in the national budget are understood as off-budget projects/programs. All off-budget projects/programs are presented in the form of the Statements of Technical and Other Assistance (TA Book). Aid Management Platform (AMP) of the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance and the information received from both DPs and sectoral ministries have been used as the primary sources of information related to Technical Assistance. Likewise, for the programs implemented through INGOs, the information received from Social Welfare Council has been used as the primary source. It has been anticipated that this publication will be useful to Government agencies and Development Partners to implement and monitor the off-budget projects/programs, and to all other professionals, economists, researchers, teachers, students, and other individuals interested in foreign aid mobilization in Nepal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

Budget Speech - Point 58 (PDF Page 18), Point 126 (PDF Page 33), Point 132 (PDF Page 34), Point 140 (PDF Page 36), Point 244 (PDF Page 57) etc are some tax policy measures where as tax rebate and incentives with intention of growth in various sectors. There are not any such estimates for revenue forgone.

The information provided can be assessed as some information about nature and areas of tax expenditure in Nepal.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/21

https://new.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:
EBP documentation provides information (including budget year estimates of the revenues going into the Fund).
The Budget Speech provides the budget year revenue estimates, listed under the category of customs and import duties. Annex 2 Table: Receipts of Revenue and Grants Estimate Budget Speech.

Annex 2 of Budget Speech which shows revenue and grants estimates have dedicated source such as 11453- Road maintenance and Improvement Duty, 11454- Road Construction and Maintenance Duty, 11455- Infrastructure Tax, 14521- Pollution control fee etc are there to be considered earmarked revenues.

The 2020/21 budget speech provides information on different taxes as revenue sources to be deposited in the funds. It provides the revenues of actual of the fiscal year 2018/19, revised of 2019/20, estimate of 2020/21 as well as earmarked revenues for existing measures and new measures. The government levies taxes for different causes such as infrastructure tax, environment tax on petroleum products, pollution fee and others for specific purposes and the dedicated revenue is not deposited to the funds set up for the purpose.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

a. Yes, estimates that show how the proposed budget is linked to all the government's policy goals for the budget year are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

The Budget Speech provides a narrative discussion of the government's budget policy priorities, setting out a list at the start (p. 5-6) of broad sector/policy areas (for spending) and then proceeding to identify specific budget initiatives pertaining to each of the sector/policy areas (as well "sub-sector" areas). Among the policy areas are economic recovery through measures to prevent coronavirus recurrence, program yielding immediate returns, coordination and collaborations among federal, provincial and local levels and partnership among public, private and cooperatives. The budget has set following objectives and priorities of the budget.

- a. to make the life of the people more comfortable and safer by protecting the citizens from all kinds of disasters and diseases, including infectious ones;
- b. to provide continuity to the pace of development by reviving the economy at the soonest and through the optimal mobilization of available means, resources, opportunities and capacities;
- c. to enhance the role of welfare state through fulfillment of the needs reflected as fundamental rights of the citizens; and
- d. to continue building resilient, advanced, autonomous, prosperous and socialism-oriented economy through social, economic and physical infrastructure development.

The Finance Minister set the following sectoral and programmatic priorities to achieve the objectives of the budget: a. expansion of health services, construction and up gradation of health infrastructure and development of health related human resources to protect the citizens from all kinds of health risks, including coronavirus, and to make health services qualitative and accessible, b. revitalization of affected businesses, including in the agriculture, industry, tourism, construction sectors, by restoring the broken chain of production and supply by the steps taken for prevention and control of coronavirus infection, c. provision of work and employment opportunities, and ensuring food security, safe housing, universal social security and protection for the citizens, d. implementation of incomplete projects and those to be completed within next year that would yield immediate returns of development., e. quality and life-useful education, expansion of information technology, development and construction of social, economic and physical infrastructure, including basic drinking water, and f. implementation of federalism, quality and accessible public service delivery and strengthening of accountable and transparent governance.

A full set of detailed estimates including a breakdown for each administrative unit by categories that can be considered qualifying as "program-level" spending, is provided in the Red Book. However, despite the detail, it is not easy to link the policy initiatives set out and described in the Budget Speech to specific spending estimates provided in the Red Book, since the latter does not distinguish new versus existing levels of spending for either administrative units or for "program-level" level spending (noting that the latter are often identified by a more specific administrative unit (e.g. department) rather than by an output-based program label).

Neither the Red Book nor the Budget Speech provide a complete presentation of estimates associated specifically with new policy initiatives. In addition, the relatively extensive and well-structured presentations of both budget policy priorities and budget initiatives set out in the narrative discussion of the Budget Speech does not provide estimates for each initiative discussion.

A third EBP document (in Nepali only) adds to the available information about the Government's annual policy priorities. That third document is the "Annual Development Program" produced and published by National Planning Commission of Government of Nepal.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/ADP.pdf>

Budget Speech for the fiscal year 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Estimates of Expenditure (Heading-wise Expenditure and Sources): Red Book FY 2020/21

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202077%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

However, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (From 2020-21 to 2022/23) includes multi-year estimates of new policy initiatives and the focus of narrative descriptions of policy initiatives. This tool aligns the periodic plan, government policies and annual budget. The Finance Minister presents the document along other EBP in the parliament for approval.

National Planning Commission has prepared the document in which page 7-17) has presented main outcome indicators and goals, budget appropriation and estimates of medium-term expenditure framework, budget appropriation and estimates allocation, sector-wise allocation, Its annexes presented sector-wise resource estimates for three years.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

The SDG goals wise allocations of budget also substantiated the linkage between the proposed budget and government policy goals. The government policies are reflected in the periodic plan produced by NPC and these provides bases for budgetary allocations. However, they are not perfectly synchronized.

The 15th Plan (2019/20 to 2023/24)

https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_plan_English_Version.pdf

Comment:

The NPC's annual development plan includes investment plan, priority sector budget allocation policies and principles etc. which serves as a basis for budget planning and formulation. However, this is not submitted to the legislature.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government's policy goals for a multi-year period is presented.

Source:
MTEF (2020/21-2022/23)
<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

The 15th Plan (2019/20 to 2023/24)
https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_plan_English_Version.pdf

Comment:
The Budget speech (p 66- 70) identifies broad categories for expenditure-related policies and identifies the specific policies and administration measures intended to support achievement of the policy goals.

The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (From 2020-21 to 2022/23) includes multi-year estimates of new policy initiatives and the focus of narrative descriptions of policy initiatives. This tool aligns the periodic plan, government policies and annual budget. The Finance Minister presents the document along other EBP in the parliament for approval.

National Planning Commission has prepared the document in which page 7-17) has presented main outcome indicators and goals, budget appropriation and estimates of medium-term expenditure framework, budget appropriation and estimates allocation, sector-wise allocation, Its annexes presented sector-wise resource estimates for three years.

The SDG goals wise allocations of budget also substantiated the linkage between the proposed budget and government policy goals. The government policies are reflected in the periodic plan produced by NPC and these provides bases for budgetary allocations. However, they are not perfectly synchronized.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IBP Comment

To confirm, answer choice C is selected on the basis of information in the Budget Speech. MTEF is not considered part of the budget proposal package.

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:

Like that of previous years, though government prepare these during the budget formulation process, these were not presented to the public.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, nonfinancial data on results are presented for some programs and/or some administrative units (or functions).

Source:

Much of information about the expected outputs are described in the narratives of Budget Speech. Various sectors like health, education, roads, energy, agriculture all are presented with narratives for expected future outcomes and outputs.

Budget Speech - PDF Page 9 -69

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, performance targets are assigned to most nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

Annex 11 of Budget Speech presents comprehensive and detailed information on performance targets of most of non financial results with respective sector along with estimations for BY-1 year and projected estimation for budget year.

Budget Speech - Annex 11- Targeted Performance Indicators - PDF Page 116

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 for 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:

- b. Yes, estimates of all policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

Point 12.10 - PDF Page 145 - Scholarship Programs and Annex 12.2 - PDF Page 321 - Details of Scholarship provides information on scholarships for country's backward and marginalized populations.

Economic Survey - https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Economic%20Survey%202019_20201125024153.pdf

PDF Page 537 & 538 of Red book also presents information on all spending on various programs that are for the fiscal year in which some spending are intended for impoverished and marginalized populations.

Ministry of Land management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation includes programs under this ministry are related to poverty alleviation:

- sub-program 33600101 related to Identification of poor families and identity card program.

- sub-program 33651011 is the Poverty Alleviation Fund.

Red book - https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Redbook%202017%20Website_20201129075335.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

- d. No, a timetable is not issued to the public.

Source:

There is no any such budget formulation guideline at federal level. The budget formulation guideline produced and unveiled by the Ministry of Finance presented the timeline for budget formulation in previous years with guideline information on determination of budget size and three-year expenditure estimates, responsible agency and timeline.

Comment:

Local Planning Guideline (P. 12) presented the process the local government has to adopt while formulating plans. It presents the timeline for budget formulation and division of the responsibilities.

https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/local_final.pdf

National Planning commission yearly releases the Guidelines and Framework for Budget Formulation.

https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/Budget_forumuation_Guidelines_2076_final.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

A Pre-Budget Statement meeting OBS requirements is not produced and made public, although some documents are produced before the Executive Budget Proposal and presented to the parliament.

Comment:

The Appropriation bill published by Ministry Of Finance as part of budget formulation but it doesn't fulfill the criteria of Pre Budget Statement.

https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Though Medium Term Expenditure Framework ((FY 2020/21- 2022/23)) presents multi-year estimates of new policy initiatives but it is not a Pre-Budget Statement.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Since a pre-budget statement is not available, the answer would be "e".

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

A Pre-Budget Statement meeting OBS requirements is not produced and made public, although some documents are produced before the Executive Budget Proposal and presented to the parliament.

Comment:

The Appropriation bill published by Ministry Of Finance as part of budget formulation but it doesn't fulfill the criteria of Pre Budget Statement.
https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Though Medium Term Expenditure Framework ((FY 2020/21- 2022/23)) presents multi-year estimates of new policy initiatives but it is not a Pre-Budget Statement.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Please see comment earlier. If you agree, the answer should be "e".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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

- 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:

A Pre-Budget Statement meeting OBS requirements is not produced and made public, although some documents are produced before the Executive Budget Proposal and presented to the parliament.

Comment:

The Appropriation bill published by Ministry Of Finance as part of budget formulation but it doesn't fulfill the criteria of Pre Budget Statement.
https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Though Medium Term Expenditure Framework ((FY 2020/21- 2022/23)) presents multi-year estimates of new policy initiatives but it is not a Pre-Budget Statement.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same as before.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

A Pre-Budget Statement meeting OBS requirements is not produced and made public, although some documents are produced before the Executive Budget Proposal and presented to the parliament.

Comment:

The Appropriation bill published by Ministry Of Finance as part of budget formulation but it doesn't fulfill the criteria of Pre Budget Statement.

https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Though Medium Term Expenditure Framework ((FY 2020/21- 2022/23)) presents multi-year estimates of new policy initiatives but it is not a Pre-Budget Statement.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same as before.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

A Pre-Budget Statement meeting OBS requirements is not produced and made public, although some documents are produced before the Executive Budget Proposal and presented to the parliament.

Comment:

The Appropriation bill published by Ministry Of Finance as part of budget formulation but it doesn't fulfill the criteria of Pre Budget Statement.

https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Though Medium Term Expenditure Framework ((FY 2020/21- 2022/23)) presents multi-year estimates of new policy initiatives but it is not a Pre-Budget Statement.

<https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/MTEF.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same as before.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

The Appropriation Act does not include any expenditure classifications.

https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

Nepal Constitution 2015 (page number 76 and 77) has specified provisions on the Finance Bill and its endorsement process along with its concerning subjects. The EBP presented by the Minister for Finance is approved by the parliament without any revisions in the figures so the EBP and Enacted Budget are same.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This is a bit tricky. The EBP and what is enacted is the same as also suggested by the researcher. The Finance Act and the Appropriation Act are prepared to implement the EBP. I believe in the earlier version we have considered this and thus the answers on the enacted budget would be the same as the EBP. To be further discussed with IBP. Answers to the following question will thus be determined based on an agreement on this.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

IBP acknowledges PR's comments. For consistency with other countries, the score will remain D. While the content of EBP and EB may be the same, OBS methodology will accept the budget proposal content if there is a reference to it in the approved budget.

59b. Based on the response to Question 59, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Enacted Budget:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

The Appropriation Act does not include any expenditure classifications.

https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

The Budget Speech presents estimates for expenditures for all three expenditure classifications: Administrative classification: Annex 4, Functional classification: Annex 3, Expenditure by Economic Heads and Line Item (Including Financing) Annex 6.
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%202020_20201118033431.pdf

Comment:

Nepal Constitution 2015 (page number 76 and 77) has specified provisions on the Finance Bill and its endorsement process along with its concerning subjects. The EBP presented by the Minister for Finance is approved by the parliament without any revisions in the figures so the EBP and Enacted Budget are same.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree
Comments: See previous comment.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IBP Comment
See response to 59.

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 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 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:
d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:
EB documentation (Appropriations Act) does not provide any program-level estimates of expenditures.
The Appropriation Act 2020-21
https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: See previous comment.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IBP Comment
See response to 59.

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:
b. No, the Enacted Budget does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:
EB documentation (Appropriations Act) does not provide any information on revenue estimates by category.

The Appropriation Act 2020-21
https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See previous comment.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

See response to 59.

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:

d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

EB documentation (Appropriations Act) does not provide any information on revenue estimates.

The Appropriation Act 2020-21

https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See previous comment.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

See response to 59.

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:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

EB documentation (Appropriations Act) does not provide any information on Government borrowings and debt.

The Appropriation Act 2020-21

https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See previous comment.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

See response to 59.

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:
d. The Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:
Citizens Budget document is not produced and published in Nepal.

Comment:
Freedom Forum, a CSO working on budget transparency in Nepal, in collaboration with UNDP developed Nepal's Climate Citizen Budget compiling the citizen budget data presented by the government in its budget document such as budget speech and red book for 2018-19.

<https://www1.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/project-documents--2019/Nepal-Climate-Citizen-Budget-English.pdf>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IBP Comment
See response to 59.

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:
d. A Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:
Citizen Budget document is not produced in Nepal.

Comment:
Nepal's Citizen Climate Budget, produced by Freedom Forum by using government information, was disseminated to the public through sharing of hard copies, soft copies, presentation of findings and on-demand distribution. There was good media coverage of the launching of Citizen Climate Budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Citizen budget is not produced in Nepal.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Since Citizen's budget is not produced, the answer here would be "e"?

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No citizens version of budget documents is published.

Source:

There is no such practice of producing citizen budget in Nepal by the Government.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See previous comment.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by any expenditure classification.

Source:

The Monthly Economic Bulletins of Ministry of finance donot contains such information as per expenditure classification.

The Quarterly Economic Bulletin produced by Central Bank of Nepal does not provide expenditure data by any of the 3 classifications (administrative, economic or functional).

Sheet 57(a) Government Budgetary Operation Shows expenditure as Capital, Recurrent, Financial & Others. There are no other information in relation to expenditure classification as administrative, economic or Functional.

Three quarterly reports were published for the year.

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/07/2020-April-Final.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/10/2020-July.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2021/02/2020-October.xlsx>

Comment:

Since the monthly bulletins has no information and quarterly reports were not on time,

Answer D is selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

None of the above

Source:

The Quarterly Economic Bulletin produced by Central Bank of Nepal does not provide expenditure data by any of the 3 classifications (administrative, economic or functional).

Sheet 57(a) Government Budgetary Operation Shows expenditure as Capital, Recurrent, Financial & Others. There are no other information in relation to expenditure classification as administrative, economic or Functional.

Three quarterly reports were published for the year.

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/07/2020-April-Final.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/10/2020-July.xlsx>

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2021/02/2020-October.xlsx>

Comment:

The economic bulletin for April 2020 was published on 1 July 2020; the second report for July, 2020 was published on 20 October 2020 and the third one for October 2020 was published on 08 February 2021.

Two earlier reports were published within three months of the reporting time whereas the third one was published after four months.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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 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," 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:
The monthly bulletins do not provide any such information on actual expenditures for all programs.
https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Ashoj%20_Buletin_Final_20201113040951.pdf

The Quarterly Economic Bulletin produced by Central Bank of Nepal does not provide information on actual expenditure for individual programs.

Comment:
Though both do not provide any information and quarterly bulletins are not publicly available as per OBS standard, the answer is D based on both.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
b. No, comparisons are not made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

The monthly economic bulletins produced by Ministry of finance do not provide any information on comparisons made for expenditures in the In year Reports.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Ashoj%20_Buletin_Final_20201113040951.pdf

The Quarterly Economic Bulletin produced by Central Bank of Nepal does not provide any information on comparisons made for expenditures in the In-Year Reports.

Comment:

Since both do not provide any information and quarterly bulletins are not publicly available the answer is b.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

71. Do In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 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:

The monthly economic bulletins provides the revenue collection by category.

PDF page -2 - Table - Revenue Estimations and Actual Collection

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Ashoj%20_Buletin_Final_20201113040951.pdf

The Quarterly Economic Bulletin produced by Central Bank of Nepal presents information on actual revenue by category.

Table 59(a) (Excel Sheet Name 59 (a)) titled government revenue provides detailed information on revenue category such as tax, non tax etc. However, quarterly reports were published late.

<https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/07/2020-April-Final.xlsx>

Comment:

SINCE the quarterly economic bulletins are not considered publicly available as they are time barred, the answer is based on monthly economic bulletins from Ministry of finance.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The monthly economic bulletin published by Ministry of Finance do contain actual source of revenue.

PDF page -2 - Table - Revenue Estimations and Actual Collection

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Ashoj%20_Buletin_Final_20201113040951.pdf

Comment:

The Quarterly Economic Bulletin produced by Central Bank of Nepal does provide actual revenue data for individual sources of revenue covering all revenues.

Sheet 59(a) of excel sheet - Government Revenue New Series on each quarterly report

<https://www.nrb.org.np/red/2020-04-mid-april/>

Since Quarterly Economic Bulletin are not publicly available as per OBS standard we are basing the answer on monthly bulletins from Ministry of Finance.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The monthly economic bulletins compare actual revenues to-date with actual revenues for the same period in the previous year. The report have month ending comparison of previous year and this year.

PDF page -2 - Table - Revenue Estimations and Actual Collection

Comparisons are made with actual collection of revenue with previous year of same month to this year same month.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Ashoj%20_Buletin_Final_20201113040951.pdf

Comment:

The quarterly economic bulletin doesn't provide information on actual comparison of revenues data to estimations for the period and these reports are not publicly available as per OBS standard.

Therefore we are answering based on Monthly Bulletins of Ministry of Finance.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

The monthly bulletin from Ministry Of Finance do not present any estimations of debt and borrowings.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Ashoj%20_Buletin_Final_20201113040951.pdf

The Quarterly Economic Bulletin published by Central Bank of Nepal provides information for some but not all of the core elements. However, there is also substantial information "beyond the core elements", particularly in the form of highly disaggregated data for net borrowing, total outstanding debt and interest payments across different "lenders" or holders of the debt, despite the fact that data for some core elements is incomplete in the bulletin

1. Net Borrowing - Sheet 57(a) - Government Budgetary Operations New Series & Table 87 Go.Fin & Table 89 Go.Fin
2. Total Debt Burden - Table sheet 60 -Ownership Pattern of Government Bonds and Treasury Bills - Internal Debt only
3. Interest Payments - Table 87 Go.Fin - Interest for external borrowings only

Quarterly Economic Bulletins:

<https://www.nrb.org.np/red/2020-04-mid-april/>

Comment:

Since quarterly economic bulletins are not publicly available as per OBS standard and we are answering based on monthly economic bulletins from Ministry of Finance, the answer is d.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The monthly economic bulletins published by Ministry of Finance do not contain information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Ashoj%20_Buletin_Final_20201113040951.pdf

Comment:

The Quarterly Economic Bulletin published by Central Bank of Nepal provides information for some but not all of the core elements. However, there is also substantial information "beyond the core elements", particularly in the form of highly disaggregated data for net borrowing, total outstanding debt and interest payments across different "lenders" or holders of the debt, despite the fact that data for some core elements is incomplete in the bulletin

Table 36 - Structure of interest rates

Table 60 - Ownership Pattern of Government Bonds and Treasury Bills

Table 61 - Auction of Treasury Bills

Sheet 57(a) - Government Budgetary Operations New Series

Table 87 Go.Fin & Table 89 Go.Fin - Information of Government Foreign Debt and Interests on borrowings

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated forecasts is presented.

Source:

Mid Term Review Document provides the revised forecast of estimates in relation to actual forecast presented on the budget speech presented by executive in the parliament.

Chapter 1 - PDF Page 11-14 of Mid Year Review Document presents information on revised macroeconomic forecasts and comparisons with the original exterminations on the budget speech. It also presents some information in explanation as to what's the current position in relation to budget estimates and what's the prediction for the remaining of the fiscal year. This document contains analysis of macroeconomic and financial indicators, including: economic growth, inflation, foreign exchange reserve, total internal borrowing, banks and other financial institutions, cash flow and monetary scenario, foreign trade and the balance of payments.

Mid Year Review :

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The MYR doesn't present any information on expenditure estimates updates.

Mid Year Review :

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Comment:

Like that of previous years MYR do have information on expenditure of actual six months along with original budget projection for the year and revised for the year along with some narratives on revisions.

But there is no projections for the remainder period of the time of fiscal year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The MYR doesn't provide expenditure estimates for all expenditure classification . (Functional, Economical and Administrative)

Mid Year Review :

[Find Real Review](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0)

Comment:

Though Annex 2, 3 and 5 (PDF Page-96, 98 and 100 respectively) provides information on functional, economical and administrative expenditure respectively, it only presents information on actual budget amount from budget speech and expenditure till mid year only and no information on updated expenditure estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The MYR doesn't provide expenditure estimates for all expenditure classification . (Functional, Economical and Administrative)

Mid Year Review :

<https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0>

Comment:

Though Annex 2, 3 and 5 (PDF Page-96, 98 and 100 respectively) provides information on functional, economical and administrative expenditure respectively, it only presents information on actual budget amount from budget speech and expenditure till mid year only and no information on updated expenditure estimates.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

**Government Reviewer
Opinion:**

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 détaillé. (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: The MYR doesn't provide updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway for individual programs

Mid Year Review :
<https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%8B%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0>

Comment:
Though Annex 9 (PDF Page 104) presents information on various policy budgets and expenditure , it only presents information on actual budget amount from budget speech and expenditure till mid year only and no information on updated expenditure estimates.

Peer Reviewer Opinion: Agree

**Government Reviewer
Opinion:**

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:

b. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is presented.

Source:

MYR Report - PFD Page 28, Point 2.2.5 - Fiscal Year Revenue Revised Estimates - Table 12 - provides information on revised revenue estimates for the budget year. The Table presents information on budget estimation, actual collection on first 6 months of the year, estimation for the remaining 6 months and total revised estimations.

Point 2.2.6 - PDF Page 28 - provides some information on basis for revised estimations.

Likewise Annex 1 - PDF Page - 95 - provides information on revised revenue estimations for the budget year.

Mid Year Review :

<https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

MYR Report - PFD Page 28, Point 2.2.5 - Fiscal Year Revenue Revised Estimates - Table 12 - provides information on revised revenue estimates for the budget year. The Table presents information on budget estimation, actual collection on first 6 months of the year, estimation for the remaining 6 months and total revised estimations.

Point 2.2.6 - PDF Page 28 - provides some information on basis for revised estimations.

Annex 1 - PDF Page - 95 -

Annex 4 - PDF Page - 99

provides information on revised revenue estimations for the budget year with categories as tax and non tax.

Mid Year Review :

<https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

MYR Report - PDF Page 28, Point 2.2.5 - Fiscal Year Revenue Revised Estimates - Table 12 - provides information on revised revenue estimates for the budget year. The Table presents information on budget estimation, actual collection on first 6 months of the year, estimation for the remaining 6 months and total revised estimations.

The classification of tax and non tax are also provided.

Point 2.2.6 - PDF Page 28 - provides some information on basis for revised estimations.

Annex 1 - PDF Page - 95 -

Annex 4 - PDF Page - 99

provides information on revised revenue estimations for the budget year with categories as tax and non tax.

Mid Year Review :

<https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BF>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, estimates of government borrowing and debt have been updated, but information on the differences between the original and updated estimates is not presented.

Source:

MYR provides some information on government debt and borrowings.

Annex 1 - PDF Page -95 - Revised Income & Expenditure Estimations - Point 3 & 4 - Information on Government Borrowings with net domestic and net external borrowings with actual half year data, budget projection and revised estimations for the budget year.

Besides this the other information on debt serving and interest on debt are only of budget projected and expenditure till mid year report. Annex 2 (Line 1.7) and Annex 3 (line 24000).

The information on interest is not segregated in domestic and foreign.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AC%20%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4_20200212030029.pdf

Comment:

In previous Mid-year reports, information on interest rates was segregation and this time there is merging of various heads with interest on annex 3 item no 24000. Therefore, score is revised to C.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for expenditures are not presented.

Source:

Consolidated Financial Statement
Expenditure Scenario with Budget

Fig. 7 (PDF Page 34) - Scenario of Actual Expenditure with Budget

Fig 8 (PDF Page 35) - Ratio of Actual Expenditure with Budget

Fig 9 (PDF page 36) - Sector wise Expenditure (Percentage on Total Expenditure)

Cons. Financial Statement -

<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

From Annual Report Table 1 - PDF Page - 15 - Source Wise Expenditure Details

Annual Report

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Annual%20report%20202074-75%20with%20annex_20190214052612.pdf

These tables provides the information on actual expenditure of the budget along with enacted amount from budget.
There is no such narratives for each of these table details.

Comment:

Annual Report -PDF Page 13 Point 1 provides some summary on budget and expenditure analysis.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Annual%20report%202074-75%20with%20annex_20190214052612.pdf

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IBP Comment
Score is revised to D as the Year-end report was published late (see YER-2 for more).

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:
d. No, the Year-End Report does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:
YER documents present the expenditure estimates classification based on administrative, economic and functional.
Consolidated Financial Statement provides the information on the same details.
Table 7 - PDF Page - 22 - Expenditure as per economic classification (Annex 14 & 15 - PDF Page 104 & 141)
Table 8 - PDF Page - 24 - Functions wise classification (Also Annex 5 - PDF page 64 & Annex 11 PDF Page 82)
Annex 6 - PDF page 71 - Ministry wise expenditure Details

Consolidated Financial statement 2018-2019
<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Comment:
While the information is comprehensive in the Consolidated Financial Statements, these were published late. As per OBS methodology, if a budget document is published late, all indicators assessing its comprehensiveness are scored D.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
None of the above

Source:

YER documents present the expenditure estimates classification based on administrative, economic and functional.

Annual Report

Point 5 PDF page 19 - Title Wise Expenditure Status

Point 6 PDF Page 20 - Functional Expenditure Details (Also Annex 9 - PDF Page 78)

Point 7 PDF Page 21 - Administrative Expenditure Details (Also Annex 10 - PDF Page 80)

Annex 6 PDF page 71 - Economic Expenditure Classification

Annex 11 - PDF Page 82 - Executive Expenditure details classified in Recurrent, Capital and Financial

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Annual%20report%202074-75%20with%20annex_20190214052612.pdf

Similarly Consolidated Financial Statement also provides the information on the same details.

Table 6 - PDF Page - 18 - Expenditure as per economic classification (Annex 14 & 15 - PDF Page 96 & 138)

Table 7 - PDF Page - 19 - Functions wise classification (Also Annex 5 - PDF page 53 & Annex 11 PDF Page 71)

Annex 6 - PDF page 59 - Ministry wise expenditure Details

https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-06-01/Consolidated_Financial_statement_2017-2018.pdf

Comment:

While the information is comprehensive in the Consolidated Financial Statements, these were published late. As per OBS methodology, if a budget document is published late, all indicators assessing its comprehensiveness are scored D.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 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 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:

Consolidated Financial Statement

Annex - 12 - Financial Expenditure has been classified as objective wise - PDF Page 89

Table 4 & 5 (PDF Page - 21 & 22) - detailing on composition of expenditure

Table 7,8& 9 (PDF page - 22, 24 & 25) - expenditure classified one economic, functional and sector wise

Consolidated Financial statement 2018-2019

<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Comment:

While the information is comprehensive in the Consolidated Financial Statements, these were published late. As per OBS methodology, if a budget document is published late, all indicators assessing its comprehensiveness are scored D.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for revenues are not presented.

Source:

YER documents presents information enacted and actual outcome of revenues but there is very little to no narratives dealing on these information.

Consolidated Financial Statement

Annex - 4 PDF page - 60 - Revenue collection details with target revenue

Consolidated Financial statement 2018-2019

<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Comment:

While the information is comprehensive in the 2018-19 Consolidated Financial Statements, these were published late. As per OBS methodology, if a budget document is published late, all indicators assessing its comprehensiveness are scored D.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. No, the Year-End Report does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:

YER presets information of revenue collection on tax and non tax sources.

Consolidated Financial Statement

Annex - 4 PDF page - 60 - Revenue collection details with target revenue

Table - 2 PDF page 19- Statement of Revenue Collection

Table 3- PDF Page 20 - Composition of the Total Revenue Collections

Table 26 - PDF Page 39 - Total Revenue Collection Scenario

Consolidated Financial statement 2018-2019

<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Comment:

While the information is comprehensive in the 2018-19 Consolidated Financial Statements, these were published late. As per OBS methodology, if a budget document is published late, all indicators assessing its comprehensiveness are scored B.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

YER presents information of revenue collection on each sources detailing inside tax and non tax.

Consolidated Financial Statement

Annex - 4 PDF page - 60 - Revenue collection details with target revenue

Table - 2 PDF page 19- Statement of Revenue Collection

Table 3- PDF Page 20 - Composition of the Total Revenue Collections

Consolidated Financial statement 2018-2019

<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Comment:

While the information is comprehensive in the 2018-19 Consolidated Financial Statements, these were published late. As per OBS methodology, if a budget document is published late, all indicators assessing its comprehensiveness are scored D.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

YER documentation provides information about debt on following topics

- Actual outcomes for 2 of the 6 core elements related to Government borrowing and debt
- Interest payments
- Deficit amount (net new borrowing).
- Interest payments summary of external debt

Besides this various annex provides information on debt status, repayments, outstanding etc.

Comment:

The main information on estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition is not presented in YER. Moreover, the report was published late as per OBS timeliness criteria.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Consolidated Financial Statement

1. The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year

Table 11. PDF page 22 - Outstanding total debt

Figure 13 PDF page 41 - Outstanding Debt Scenario

Annex - 2 PDF page 49 - Comparative Data Sheet

2. The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Table 14 - PDF page 24 - Amount of Interest Payments

Annex - 2 PDF page 49 - Comparative Data Sheet

3. Whether the debt is domestic or external

Table 11. PDF page 22 - Outstanding total debt

Table 12. PDF page 22 - Donor wise Outstanding Debt

Annex - 2 PDF page 49 - Comparative Data Sheet

https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-06-01/Consolidated_Financial_statement_2017-2018.pdf

Similarly, on Annual Report

Annex 8 Point 24111 & 24211 PDF Page 76 provides information on interest payments on both external and internal debt & point 32111 and 32211 provides information on principal debt payment for internal and external debt.

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Annual%20report%202074-75%20with%20annex_20190214052612.pdf

Comment:

While the information is comprehensive in the 2018-19 Consolidated Financial Statements, these were published late. As per OBS methodology, if a budget document is published late, all indicators assessing its comprehensiveness are scored D.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The YER provides information on highlights of macro economic scenario comparing with previous years.

Point 5 . - PDF page 29 - Highlights of Macro Financial Scenario

But no information on original and actual comparison.

Comment:

Since the requirement isn't fulfilled , the answer is D.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The YER provides information on highlights of macro economic scenario comparing with previous years.
Point 5 . - PDF page 29 - Highlights of Macro Financial Scenario
But no information on original and actual comparison.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The YER documentation does not provide information about differences between the original budget data for non-financial inputs for the fiscal year and actual outcomes.

Annual Progress Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2017-18

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Annual%20report%202074-75%20with%20annex_20190214052612.pdf

Consolidated Financial Statement of the FY 2017-18

https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-06-01/Consolidated_Financial_statement_2017-2018.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The YER documentation does not provide information about differences between the original budget data for non-financial inputs for the fiscal year and actual outcomes.

Annual Progress Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2017-18

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Annual%20report%202074-75%20with%20annex_20190214052612.pdf

Consolidated Financial Statement of the FY 2017-18

https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-06-01/Consolidated_Financial_statement_2017-2018.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

YER doesn't provide information on 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.

The information relating to expenditure of this nature can be found in annex 5 - Function wise expenditure on PDF page 53 where expenditure for Ministry of Women, Children & Social Welfare Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation which are intended for country's most impoverished populations.

Likewise Annex - 11 PDF page - 78 - Function wise expenditure details on social protection, social welfare, labor and employment , woman & children.

Annex 12 - Objective wise expenditure - PDF Page - 79 - details on expenditure for employment, poverty alleviation etc.

Consolidated financial statement -

https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-06-01/Consolidated_Financial_statement_2017-2018.pdf

Comment:

The information provided does not meet up the requirement. So, the answer remains D.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

YER documentation does not provide information about differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcomes.

Annual Progress Evaluation Report of the Budget for the FY 2017-18

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Annual%20report%202074-75%20with%20annex_20190214052612.pdf

Consolidated Financial Statement of the FY 2017-18

https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-06-01/Consolidated_Financial_statement_2017-2018.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. No, a financial statement is neither part of the Year-End Report nor released as a separate report.

Source:

The YER document is itself the Consolidated Financial Statement produced by Financial Comptroller General Office, an internal audit institution under Ministry of Finance.

Consolidated Financial statement 2018-2019
<https://www.fcgo.gov.np/storage/uploads/reportpublication/2020-08-06/Book-final.pdf>

Annex 1 - PDF page 57- Statement of Income & Expenditure
Annex 2 - PDF Page 58 - Comparative Data Sheet
Annex 3- PDF Page 59- Federal Treasury Position

Comment:

While the information is comprehensive in the 2018-19 Consolidated Financial Statements, these were published late. As per OBS methodology, if a budget document is published late, all indicators assessing its comprehensiveness are scored D.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

a. The SAI has conducted all three types of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) and made them available to the public.

Source:

OAG Nepal conducts all 3 types of audit.

1. Financial & Compliance Audit - The main audit of OAG Nepal " OAG Annual Report" involves this both audit. The report goes through both financial auditing and compliance procedure audit as well. Financial and Compliance both side of reporting are highlighted on OAG Annual Report.
OAG Annual Audit Report 19/20 - <https://oag.gov.np/uploads/files/yi2-Annual%20Report%202077.pdf>

2. Performance Audit - This audit is carried out by OAG on selected topics. The topics are selected on the basis of current year preference as well as decided by special audit committee which involves OAG and people from civil society as well. The attached performance audit report covers the 10 departments of government .

Performance Audit Report 19/20 - <https://oag.gov.np/uploads/files/cpJ-Performance%20Audit%20Report%202077.pdf>

These all reports are shared with civil society in public meeting organized by OAG Nepal

Comment:

OAG Nepal also carried out Environmental audit, IT Audit & Special Audit for 19/20.

1. Environmental Audit - 2 Departments - PDF Page - 287 to 343
2. IT Audit - 3 Departments - PDF Page - 344 to 368
3. Special Audit - 1 Department (National Planning Commission) PDF Page - 369 to 373

Report - <https://oag.gov.np/uploads/files/cpJ-Performance%20Audit%20Report%202077.pdf>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. Expenditures representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

Article 241 of the Constitution of Nepal mandates the Auditor General (AG) to carry out the audits of all government offices of the federation and provinces, local levels and other institutions as specified by laws in accordance with the methods as prescribed in law with due regard to, inter alia, the regularity, economy, efficiency, effectiveness and the propriety thereof; and Article 294 of the Constitution requires all Constitutional Bodies to submit their annual reports to the President. The Audit Act, 2019 stipulates about the methodology, scope of audits and the matters to be audited by the Auditor General, and the audit matters pertaining to the corporate bodies wholly-owned by Government of Nepal, Province Government, and Local Bodies. Audits have been carried out by approving audit plan in accordance with the legal mandate as conferred by the Constitution and the Audit Act.

Nepal Constitution Provision on Office of Auditor General and functions

<http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/859>

Audit Act 2019

<https://oag.gov.np/uploads/files/4uc-Audit-Act-2075.pdf>

Annual Audit Report Summary -

<https://oag.gov.np/uploads/files/Xro-The%20Auditor%20General's%20Fifty-Seventh%20Annual%20Report%202020%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

Comment:

All expenditures within OAG's mandate have been audited. The Nepal Constitution set the mandate of OAG to audit the expenditures of all federal and state governments and local levels. According to the Constitution, the functions, duties and power of the Auditor General are as follows.

(1) The accounts of all Federal and State Government Offices including the Office of the President, Office of the Vice-President, Supreme Court, Federal Parliament, State Assembly, State Government, Local level, Constitutional Bodies and Offices thereof, Courts, Office of the Attorney General, Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force, Nepal shall be audited by the Auditor-General in accordance with law, having regard to, inter alia, the regularity, economy, efficiency, effectiveness and the propriety thereof.

Projects directly funded by the donors submit the reports to the government only for information and not for audit. These projects constitute approximately one-third of the total annual expenditures and are not audited.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

No extra-budgetary funds have been audited. Annual Audit Report.

OAG Annual Audit Report 19/20 - <https://oag.gov.np/uploads/files/yi2-Annual%20Report%202077.pdf>

Comment:

According to Mr Ramu Dotel, Deputy Auditor General of OAGN noted that the institution has the scope of auditing extra-budgetary fund. It carries out audit of the extra-budgetary funds (not reflected in government treasury but spent) provided such funds are reflected in the financial statement.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

- a. Yes, the annual Audit Report(s) includes one or more executive summaries summarizing the report's content.

Source:

The Annual Report published by OAG Nepal has the executive summary dictating information of major audit finds and reform needed.

57th Annual Report of the Office of Auditor General for the FY 2019-20

<https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%80%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%80%E0%A4%84%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Based on conversation with Ministry of Finance and Office of Auditor General officials, there is a Central Committee of Monitoring and Evaluation for Arrears Clearance within the Ministry of Finance.

There is no such report out in public though these committee reviews and maps the execution progress of such recommendations.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
a. Yes, the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit recommendations.

Source:

OAG's Annual report presents the information on address of audit recommendation on chapter 2 named Present Status of Arrears after audit where in PDF page 32, Point 4.6.

Likewise PDF Page 12 - Fiscal Discipline - presents some narrative information on better fiscal administration by measures taken by various levels of government that were on previous audit reports.

[https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf](https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%81-%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%87%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD-4-1.pdf)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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.gob.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-15-5m2795tv625>.

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:

d. No, there is no IFI.

Source:

There is no such IFI as per international norm in Nepal that can play a critical role in budget formulation and approval process.

Comment:

Though Nepal has a constitutionally mandated National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission and government officials have considered this as IFI, it doesn't fit the criteria, as it only engages on a portion of the budget related to the federal transfers and the distribution of resource revenues.

<http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/851>

The commission analyses a portion of the budget during budget formulation but not the approval process. It has the authority to advise the government on revenue distribution to the local levels and provinces.

Various Not for Profit organizations like Freedom Forum, Policy Research and Development Nepal(PRAD), SAWATEE and others are advocating for better fiscal transparency with establishment of a new IFI, but these things have not been materialized till date. These organizations are doing budget analyses from their part and publishing articles and stories in national dailies for the common public.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The first annual report published by the National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission (NNRFC) doesn't present independent macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts produced by the executive.

First Annual Report published on 21.01.2020

http://nnrfc.gov.np/uploads/resources/2020-01-21/annual_report_final2.pdf

Comment:

Even though NNRFC site clearly mentioned on its functions -

(f) to analyze macro-economic indicators and recommend ceiling of internal loans that the Federal, State and Local Governments can borrow (see <https://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/851>)

There is no such analysis of macro economic indicators in the report.

Note that even having these analysis wouldn't change the response and it is still d.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The first annual report published by the National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission (NNRFC) doesn't include costings of new policy proposals.

First Annual Report published on 21.01.2020

http://nnrfc.gov.np/uploads/resources/2020-01-21/annual_report_final2.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. Never, or there is no IFI.

Source:

The parliamentary committee summons senior officials of the National Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission (NNRFC) depending on the issue.

There is no watertight rule on frequency to summon the officials.

The NNRFC site press release and notices are not up to date so its hard for tracing exact number of meeting.

It should also be noted that the work areas of the Finance Committee of the House of Representatives (Parliament) include the NNRFC, so it likely that the NNRFC is more often present at these committee meetings.

Comment:

NNRFC functions listed on its site as per constitutions are (see <https://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/851>)

- (a) to determine detailed basis and modality for the distribution of revenues between the Federal, State and Local Governments out of the Federal Consolidated Fund in accordance with the Constitution and law,
- (b) to make recommendation about equalization grants to be provided to the State and Local Governments out of the Federal Consolidated Fund,
- (c) to conduct study and research work and prepare parameters as to conditional grants to be provided to the State and Local Governments in accordance with national policies and programs, norms/standards and situation of infrastructures,
- (d) to determine detailed basis and modality for the distribution of revenues between the State and Local Governments out of the State Consolidated Fund,
- (e) to recommend measures to meet expenditures of the Federal, State and Local Governments, and to reform revenue collection,
- (f) to analyze macro-economic indicators and recommend ceiling of internal loans that the Federal, State and Local Governments can borrow,
- (g) to review the bases for the distribution between the Federal and State Governments of revenues and recommend for revision,
- (h) to set bases for the determination of shares of the Government of Nepal, State Government and Local level in investments and returns, in the mobilization of natural resources,
- (i) to do study and research work on possible disputes that may arise between the Federation and the States, between States, between a State and a Local level, and between Local levels, and make suggestions to act in a coordinated manner for the prevention of such disputes.

Though some of its functions mentioned below are like that of IFI and it may have some presence in parliamentary meetings, it is still not IFI and answer remains d.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, and approves recommendations for the

upcoming budget.

Source:

Finance Committee of the House of Representatives, Federal Parliament holds pre-budget discussion focusing on government policy on upcoming EBP.

There were more than 10 meetings with peoples from multiple disciplines like ministry, industrialist, journalists, bankers, experts and so on.

The following 2 documents are the recommendations and suggestions from these various meeting of committee to the government before presentation of EBP in parliament.

1. Important Suggestions and Conclusions in the Pre-Budget Discussion Report, 2077 of the Finance Committee :
<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/wp45bs134r8e8tk6.pdf>

2. Federal Parliament, House of Representatives, Finance Committee Pre-Budget Discussion Program Report of 2077/78, 2077 :
<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/peb3qw0y4kt82tf1.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year.

Source:

The legislature receives the EBP at least more than 1 month but less than 2 months before the start of the budget year.

The fiscal year starts at 16 July of the English calendar year. The EBP is presented every year on May 28 of the calendar year as per our constitutional arrangements.

There is no such provision in Nepal for the legislature to get the EBP before it is presented on the parliament floor; parliament can have the EBP after the Finance Minister presents the EBP on the floor.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The intent of the question is to ensure that the legislature has enough time to review the budget proposal. However, as the researcher has suggested, the legislature is presented with the budget at the time of the budget speech which rarely gets refuted and is often approved

immediately after.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. The legislature approves the budget less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year.

Source:

Media Report

<https://www.nepalisansar.com/government/nepal-hor-endorses-appropriation-bill-for-the-fy-2077-78-bs/>

Parliament Approval

<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/0fytk3vvrybfclwn.pdf>

Please be clear that HOR Passed on June 10 and National Assembly endorsed in June 18.

Comment:

The Budget is presented on May 28 as per constitutional arrangement.

The last year's fiscal budget bills including appropriation bills was approved by Upper House (National Assembly) on after approval from the lower house (House of Representatives) on June 10, 2020.

Media Report

<https://www.nepalisansar.com/government/nepal-hor-endorses-appropriation-bill-for-the-fy-2077-78-bs/>

Parliamentary Approval

<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/0fytk3vvrybfclwn.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, the legislature has authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but its authority is very limited.

Source:

Interview with Mr. Rojnath Pandey, Spokesperson, Parliament Secretariat

The Parliament is a constitution of elected members by the citizens of the country for making laws and policies. Since the parliament is where bills are discussed and these in turn become acts after approval, thus parliament does have the authority to amend the budget since it is a law making body.

Comment:

The Legislature-Parliament has authority to amend all provisions of the Executive Budget Proposal except non - votable expenses i.e constitutional expenses.

In the parliamentary system of Nepal, the Legislature-Parliament can amend and make any laws by simple majority. The constitution is the only document which requires two-third majority for amendment.

The government falls when the budget is not passed or simple majority disapproves the EBP..

So far in practice, there has been no change in the EBP when it is presented at the parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. No, while the legislature has the authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, no amendments were offered.

Source:

Interview with Mr. Rojnath Pandey, Spokesperson, Parliament Secretariat

Comment:

The parliament had 2/3 majority while approving budget 2020/21 in June 2020. There were no issues of majority for approval.

But there is no such use of authority to amend the EBP by the legislature

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

d. No, a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

Interview with Mr. Rojnath Pandey, Spokesperson, Parliament Secretariat

Finance committee doesn't have any definitive role on budget approval process. This committee involvement was mostly in budget formulation process and pre budget discussion with various disciplines.

Likewise budget is a very secret and major policy document that is only unveiled on Budget Day on parliament floor and only then these committee members can have access to this document.

Comment:

The members of parliament do have access on EBP on the very day of Budget Speech.

Role of Parliamentary Committee are stated here.

<https://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/3911>

<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/np/committees/Finance-Committee/work-duty-authority#>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Interview with Mr. Rojnath Pandey, Spokesperson, Parliament Secretariat

Comment:

Budget is a very secret and major policy document that is only unveiled on Budget Day on parliament floor and only then these committee members can have access to this document.

It is a document shrouded in confidentiality till budget speech day because of its revenue, expenditure, policy implications.

This is not a subject to discuss in any legislature committee.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, a committee examined in-year implementation, but it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

Interview with Mr. Rojnath Pandey, Spokesperson, Parliament Secretariat

The Public Accounts Committee conducts investigations on particular cases of budget misuse and irregularities. The PAC forms a sub-committee to probe into the cases which are found during the examination of the implementation of the Enacted Budget. The sub-committee produces a report with findings and recommendations which are later discussed in the full PAC meeting, but it is not clear whether this is published online.

Media Coverage PAC

1. <https://www.peoplesreview.com.np/2020/12/19/pac-requests-ciaa-to-probe-irregularities/>
2. <https://www.newbusinessage.com/Articles/view/12139>

Another source of this information are the minutes of Finance Committees Meetings.

Minutes of Meetings of Finance Committee (House of Representatives) - PDF Page 21& 22 - Points No. 68, 69, 70.

<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/vshua5zy974juv4d.pdf>

Finance Committee minutes of meetings provides when and where was meeting held, what subjects were discussed in summary.

They don't have any information on findings and recommendations.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Section 121 of the Nepal Constitution of 2015, and the Financial Work Procedure Act of 1998

Constitution of Nepal-2015

<http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/884>

121. Supplementary estimates: (1) The Minister for Finance of the Government of Nepal may lay before the House of Representatives a supplementary estimate if it is found in any financial year,- (a) that the sum authorized to be spent for a particular service by the Appropriation Act for the current financial year is insufficient, or that a need has arisen for expenditures on some new service not provided for by the Appropriation Act for that year, or (b) that the expenditures made during that financial year are in excess of the amount authorized by the Appropriation Act. (2) The sums included in the supplementary estimate shall be specified under the related heads in a Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Comment:

Financial Work Procedure Act (Section 8)
<http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/np/archives/6244>

The Financial Work Procedure Act clearly mentions that government can transfer the budget within the ceiling prescribed by Appropriation Act. The Appropriation Act provides government the right to transfer budget from one head to other not exceeding 10% of the total budget in aggregate but development budget and financial management cannot be transferred to recurrent expenditure.

PDF Page 3 of Appropriation Act - Section 3 Subsection 3 Clearly states the same.

Appropriation Act -

https://www.mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%20%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD_20201118045140.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Not Available

Comment:

Section 121 of the Nepal Constitution-2015 (Page Number 78) Constitution of Nepal-2015
<http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/884>

121. Supplementary estimates: (1) The Minister for Finance of the Government of Nepal may lay before the House of Representatives a supplementary estimate if it is found in any financial year,- (a) that the sum authorized to be spent for a particular service by the Appropriation Act for the current financial year is insufficient, or that a need has arisen for expenditures on some new service not provided for by the Appropriation Act for that year, or (b) that the expenditures made during that financial year are in excess of the amount authorized by the Appropriation Act. (2) The sums included in the supplementary estimate shall be specified under the related heads in a Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, and in practice the executive implements these spending cuts before seeking prior approval from the legislature.

Source:

Interview with Mr. Rojnath Pandey, Spokesperson, Parliament Secretariat

Comment:

Executive can spend within the limit as approved by parliament irrespective of revenues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget, but it did so after the report had been available for more than six months or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

Interview with Dr. Roj Nath Pandey, Public Accounts Committee Secretary

Comment:

The PAC holds various meeting and discussion workshops of the audit report with officials of the concerned ministry & government department, Office of Auditor General representatives, lawmakers and media.

They even form various sub committees for examining and looking into some important & specific findings from Audit Report .

All the findings are presented by PAC in parliament.

The Scope, Responsibility and power of PAC

<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/np/committees/Public-Account-Committee/work-duty-authority>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 SAs. 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 SAs 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 ensures 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:

Interview with Maheshwar Kafle (Assistant AG), Spokesperson of the Office of the Auditor General, Nepal

Comment:

Constitutional Council headed by the Prime Minister with Chief Justice, speaker of the House, National Assembly Chair, Opposition Party Leader as member will recommend the name of Auditor General. It goes to the Public Hearing Special Committee (PHSC) of the Parliament. After the clearance from PHSC it goes to the President for appointment. It is a fixed term appointment for the tenure of 6 years or up to the age of 65 whichever comes first.

See Part 22 "Auditor General" of the Constitution of Nepal.

<http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/859>

<https://english.onlinekhabar.com/tanka-mani-sharma-picked-for-auditor-general.html>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Interview with Maheshowr Kafle (Assistant AG), Spokesperson of OAG,Nepal

Comment:

See Part 22 "Auditor General" of the Constitution of Nepal.

2/3 majority of the Parliament can remove the Auditor General through impeachment process.

Specifically, see Part 22 (4)(c)(d)

(c) if a motion of impeachment is passed against him or her under Article 101,
(d) if he or she is removed from office by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council on grounds of his or her inability to hold office and discharge the functions due to physical or mental illness

See Article 101 on page 69 of the below:

https://www.mohp.gov.np/downloads/Constitution%20of%20Nepal%202072_full_english.pdf

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:

Interview with Maheshowr Kafle (Assistant AG), Spokesperson of OAG,Nepal

& Constitution of Nepal .

<https://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/category/documents/pervailing-law/constitution/constitution-of-nepal>

Comment:

AG proposes the budget required to fulfill its mandate and the executive committee determine the ceiling of the budget.

By the provision of the constitution the expenses of the Auditor General is non-votable .

Covered by Constitution of Nepal, Section 118 (d) & (f).

Section 118 - Expenditures chargeable on Federal Consolidated Fund: The expenditures relating to the following matters shall be charged on the Federal Consolidated Fund, and approval of the Federal Parliament shall not be required for such expenditures:

(d) - the amount required as remuneration and facilities payable to the chiefs and officials of the Constitutional Bodies,

(f) - the administrative expenses of the Office of the President or the Vice President, the Supreme Court, the Judicial Council, the Constitutional Bodies, and the offices of Chiefs of States,

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Section 3 - Methods of Audit (PDF Page 2)

Section 4 - Matters to be Audited (PDF Page 3)

Section 5 - Matters to be Audited in View of Propriety (PDF Page 5) of Audit Act

Audit Act 1991

<https://oag.gov.np/uploads/files/kQT-Audit-Act-2048-1991.pdf>

<https://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/category/documents/prevailing-law/statutes-acts/audit-act-2048-1991>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

Source:

Interview with Maheshowr Kafle (Assistant AG), Spokesperson of the Office of the Auditor General, Nepal

Comment:

The last peer review of OAG Nepal was done by SAI of India in 2014 and no peer review was done since.

2014 Peer Review Report

[http://www.oagnep.gov.np/uploads/022-207172-004_Peer%20Review%20by%20SAI-India%20SAI-PMF%202014\(1\).pdf](http://www.oagnep.gov.np/uploads/022-207172-004_Peer%20Review%20by%20SAI-India%20SAI-PMF%202014(1).pdf)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:
c. Rarely (i.e., once or twice).

Source:
Interview with Maheshowr Kafle (Assistant AG), Spokesperson of OAG,Nepal

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, the executive uses open participation mechanisms through which members of the public provide their inputs on the budget.

Source:

Revenue Advisory Committee made a public notice through its website calling for the general public to send their inputs in regard to the issues to be incorporated in the budget, policy and program for the fiscal year. The notice was published on March 20, 2020. The same was also published on Gorkhapatra National Daily.

<https://mof.gov.np/site/news-detail/2085>

These committee used to conduct thorough consultations in past years. Committee is elevated to a revenue board, and one of their main purpose was to conduct tax consultations.

Due to pandemic, the consultations could not take place at the scale as previous years, instead only a few select journalists, economists were invited to discuss.

Comment:

Though there are some practices of receiving civic inputs in the budget process through different channels, the executive does not put in place a practice to inform the citizens as which recommendations and inputs were used in informing and improving budget policies.

Also note that Ministry Of Finance has published a compilation report of suggestion of Revenue Advisory Committee of 12 years today. 2021.08.24. It has not been included as they are not publicly available as per OBS guidelines.

<https://mof.gov.np/site/publication-detail/3078>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The government does not actively reach out to vulnerable communities in the budget making process. A ceiling is sent to each ministry who then sends that to its departments to send programs for the year. A council (which may include vulnerable groups) will finalize programs and send it back to the ministry who then sends it to ministry of finance. While we had earmarked budget for disadvantaged groups through Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) it doesn't necessarily mean they are consulted during the budget formulation process. Please refer the annual progress report of LGCDP <http://lgcdp.gov.np/content/annual-progress-report-fy-207475>

The most substantial form of public consultation (that is, with different stakeholders, including private sector through pre-budget discussion, revenue advisory committee meetings, functioning of other subcommittees under the committee and media there is no clear action to include vulnerable and under-represented population groups. However, it should be noted that there are other forms of public consultation that do engage with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of the population including the Federation of Dalit and ethnic NGOs. Moreover, the public notice of the Revenue Advisory Committee has openly called for inputs from all sectors, groups and institutions.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

- c. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least one (but less than three) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

During the year 2020, Revenue Board did release a public notice inviting citizens to send inputs and recommendations on existing revenue policy, customs rates, Value Added Tax, income tax, concise duty, non-tax, revenue leakage control as well as overall reforms in revenue administration by April end.

However, there was no follow up summary report, and it is unclear how inputs were used. This change is likely due to the COVID pandemic.
Based on the topic, score C is applicable.

Comment:

OBS methodology requires assessing the practice from the most recent fiscal year. In the past, including in 2019, consultations on tax by Revenue Committee were relatively robust holding in-person consultations in seven provinces of the country, while its sub-committees also collected feedback and suggestion from other stakeholders in Kathmandu.

The topic of consultation included reform on tax system (policy/ legal/ information/ technology/ procedural).

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/revenue-advisory-committee-submits-report-to-government>

As per the press release & news report, the revenue advisory committee submitted a report to Ministry Of Finance summarizing inputs from online submissions and stakeholders. This report was not published online.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, the executive uses open participation mechanisms through which members of the public provide their inputs on budget implementation.

Source:

There are evolving good practices where citizen can provide their inputs in monitoring and implementation of public budget. Yet, there is no strong and structured civic participation and inputs mechanism through which the public including citizens and their associations can provide input in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget however third party audit practices are evolving to listen to and redress complains.

The mechanism such as "Hello Sarkar" is in place at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM) which is digitally and physically open for public complains on public revenue, spending and program implementation. As the mechanism has collected information and referred the complaints to the concerned ministries and agencies, it also brings Ministry of Finance to the ambit to address the concerned concerns.

Hello Sarkar Link - <https://gunaso.opmcm.gov.np/home>

It is the platform where officials register the complaints and inquiries and then send them to concerned ministries and government agencies. Each complainant is given a registration number through which he or she can see the status of their complaints.
More on - <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2019/02/04/a-day-in-the-life-of-hello-sarkar-officials>

Besides this hello sarkar can be approached via online, Facebook, twitter, fax, sms and telephone as well.

All in all, it is one of the best way for citizen to engage with government.

Comment:

Additionally, there are the limited practice of third party monitoring and Environmental Impact Assessment of the public infrastructure program. Increasingly, the ministry of finance has mechanized the practice of proactively disclosing information of the project implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

[https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B%20%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A5%80%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%80%20%E0%A4%A4%AE%0%A4%BF%0%A4%5%7%0%A4%A6%0%A4%A8%20%0%A5%A5%6%0%A5%AD%0%A5%AD%20%0%A4%85%0%A4%88%0%A4%BE%0%A4%20%0%A4%AE%0%A4%8B%0%A4%BE%0%A4%AA%0%A4%80%0%A5%8D%0%A4%A4%0%A4%88%0%A4%AE%0%A5%8D%0%A4%AE_20200807085504.pdf](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B%20%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AD%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B8_20210204072310.pdf)

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%9A%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B%20%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%95%20%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A7%E0%A5%80%20%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%80%20%E0%A4%A4%AE%0%A4%BF%0%A4%5%7%0%A4%A6%0%A4%A8%20%0%A5%A5%6%0%A5%AD%0%A5%AD%20%0%A4%85%0%A4%88%0%A4%BE%0%A4%20%0%A4%AE%0%A4%8B%0%A4%BE%0%A4%AA%0%A4%80%0%A5%8D%0%A4%A4%0%A4%88%0%A4%AE%0%A5%8D%0%A4%AE_20200807085504.pdf

In the RTI audit the MoF has topped the score among the public agencies in 2018.

According to Taranath Dahal who was involved in undertaking RTI audit of Ministry of Finance for 2020-21, the ministry's compliance to the RTI laws was found outstanding.

On the basis of the evidences and explanations it can be stated that through there are some practices on citizen engagement in the implementation of the budget no robust institutional mechanism has been put in place by the MoF to routinely engage citizens.

There is also the practice of involving users committee as a civic mechanism in the local infrastructure construction works such as drinking water, irrigation, road and drainage even by federal, provincial and local governments. It is how the citizen engagement has been mechanized in the implementation of budget. The provision of user committee and Tole Development Organization is stipulated in the Local Government Operation Act-2017. The local governments have their own complaint redress mechanisms like Hello Sarkar where public can lodge their complaints on public affairs including budget online.

Likewise in the donor funded projects there are several participation mechanisms, to ensure public inputs and involvement in the decision making process. The legal mechanism such as the RTI (Right to Information) Act is in place through which every citizen can demand information on any public importance and provide informed inputs in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. For example Freedom Forum in 2020 had mobilized RTI Activists to request financial and administrative information from public agencies including local governments about the COVID-19 response and recovery. This tool was used as a civic practice to monitor the functioning of local governments. There are several RTI activists who are actively engaged in demanding information and disclosing them for public consumption on budget issues as well.

Another CSO Accountability Lab has also been mobilizing communities to close the loop on accountability related to public budget spending

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The government receives inputs from a handful representative of underrepresented and vulnerable population in the budget implementation process. But the practice is ad hoc and token. There is no adequate resource to reach out to all sections of the society to receive their inputs. However citizen from any sections or weaker section are open to provide their inputs during the implementation of the Annual Budget. As the country has entered into federal setups, receiving citizen inputs in the budget implementation process has improved at federal and local level. This is the first time that Nepal has adopted the practice so province and local governments are autonomous to come up with the law. The decision-making structure of the local government is inclusive by law and practice so the inputs from local representatives from the underprivileged communities are reflected in the budget implementation process.

The RTI law is applicable for all Nepali citizens irrespective of class, caste and creed so people from underrepresented communities can also provide their inputs for which the government is legally bound to listen or respond.

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

A very limited to minimum engagement is there between executive and citizen since a clear roadmap is not in practice for this engagement. Even though various agencies of government with their respective agendas holds some form of public hearings through local and provincial level of the government. Mostly these engagement is focused around social spending and these practice very from place to place and different levels of government. The use of RTI for getting information from the government on various disciplines of budget is a form of engagement with executive which is increasing day by day.

Like wise "Hello Sarkar" is an official portal where citizen have engaging platform directly to Office of Prime Minister & Minister of Council via online, telephone, fax, sms etc and provide the inputs and feedback on budget issues.

Hello Sarkar Link - <https://gunaso.opmcm.gov.np/home>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
c. Information is provided in a timely manner in both or one of the two phases, but it is not comprehensive.

Source:
Telephonic interview with MoF official.

Comment:
There is limited information on how the public can engage with the participation mechanism. There was a public notice put out about the meeting cited in Q125 about the Revenue Advisory Committee and there is a form to fill before registering a complaint on Hello Sarkar as assessed in Q128. The MoF publishes notice in the national broadsheet and online. The Executive provides information on the process of the engagement basically the purpose and the time line. The Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration and National Planning Commission has developed a guide line for the public to participating in local development affairs. The provincial and local governments have developed their own guide in ensuring citizen participation in purpose and the timeline.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Telephonic interview with MoF official

Comment:
Though the executive receives feedback and inputs from the citizen in the formulation of the annual budget, there is no as such practice to provide the public with feedback how their input has been used in the formulation. The citizens or inputs providers will know this once the budget documents are made public. However, the Revenue Advisory Committee compiles all the recommendations received from public and prepares a report which is made public through ministry official website. How the inputs were used in the formulation of annual budget is not clearly reflected in the publication

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Telephonic conversation with MoF official -

This does not exist in practice.

Comment:

Though "hello sarkar" complaint is addressed with token number and only complaints that are made public, one can know the detailed information on the work done against complaint and its resolved full process.

Since not every complaints details are publicly available, we take the same as D for Nepal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Budget Formulation referent 2075

<https://mof.gov.np/en/document/>?

c=&t=%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%9F+%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE+%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%A8&y

Comment:

The referent has provided a timeline for various aspects in relation to budget formulation but there is not any mechanism for participation of public.

The Revenue Advisory Committee published its notice calling civic inputs on budget related policies and program earlier. The dates for pre-budget discussions are also informed to the public earlier through media announcement and notices.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, at least one line ministry uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or 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:

Directive on Budget Formulation, Implementation, Financial Management and Property Transfer2077

https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%20%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%8B9%20%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%8D%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE,%20%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%AD%E0%A5%AA_20170704111549.pdf

Comment:

At least one line ministry uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or 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).

The provisions on page 3 & 4 of above mentioned directive has a participatory space for planning, budgeting and implementation at local levels of the government.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 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.

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:

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).

Federal Parliament, House of Representatives, Finance Committee Pre - Budget Discussion Program Report
<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/peb3qw0y4kt82tf1.pdf>

Comment:

In February of 2020, finance committee of the Federal Parliament held the Pre-budget meeting with various groups from government, private sector and others. Page 51 to 61 of Finance Committee Pre Budget Discussion Program Report details on types of participation on current year which includes MOF, Nepal Rastra Bank(Central Bank of Nepal), FCGO, Private Sector, National Planning commission, media, banking sector, experts and so on. The members included in discussion were given a questionnaire/ survey to fill out, and a few discussions were held in each of the seven provinces. However, the questionnaire/survey, discussions and reviews were the reviews from these meetings are not clearly outlined in report. A detailed report with responses to the survey were sent to Ministry of Finance.

The suggestions that are stated in report doesn't clarify about which sector provided what types of suggestions.

There is no direct citizen engagement in any of the above. Selected groups and selected discipline were involved in the discussion. As such answer choice C applies.

Note that Finance Committee did not carry out similar discussions during year 2021 and 2022 due to restrictions on travel and in-person meetings.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. The legislature seeks input on at least one (but less than three) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

The meeting and discussion among the selected parties do contain inputs at least one of the above topics.

Looking at the above topics, the social spending policies is the one likely most discussed among various groups in these meetings.

Federal Parliament, House of Representatives, Finance Committee Pre - Budget Discussion Program Report

<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/peb3qw0y4kt82tf1.pdf>

Comment:

Direct citizen interaction hasn't taken place as for pre-budget statement discussion. Special & selected groups from govt. and outside have been consulted in pre-budget meeting as well. Therefore, it's safe to say that there is no mechanism for citizen engagement in pre-budget statement discussion with the legislature.

It is also to be noted that beyond this stage there is no public discussion on approval and executing stage of budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Federal Parliament, House of Representatives, Finance Committee Pre-Budget Discussion Program Report

<https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/peb3qw0y4kt82tf1.pdf>

Comment:

Comment: There is no practice of legislative to provide details on how citizens' feedback has been incorporated in the deliberation of budget. Even

for the case of feedback from these selected discussions made in pre-budget, these groups from bankers, corporates, private sectors, expert etc. only knew when they hear the budget speech. Though the report contains feedback of these discussion group by group but there is not any public disclosure on which feedback was used and how it reflected on the delivered budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
.The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Comment:

There is no such practice of public hearing in audit reports from legislative where common citizens are invited for discussion. These reports are discussed in length in Public Accounts committee of Federal Parliament of Nepal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

a. Yes, the SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in its audit program.

Source:

Yes, the SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in its audit program.

CPA Procedures 2073

https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CPA-Karyabedi-2073_1466321850.pdf

CPA notice call – Page 10 of Gorkhapatra Daily <https://gorkhapatraonline.com/gkpdfarchive/2020-12-17/2020-12-17/gorkhapatra>

Comment:

The CPA Procedure 2073 which provides the platform for CSO engagement in Performance Audit has provisioned the steering and working committees where representatives from CSO are involved in selecting the topics for audit and follow up as well. Besides this OAG also has an Audit Advisory Committee where there is representation of CSO, experts, media personals and ex-servicemen of government.

OAG publishes notice to national daily for feedback from public regarding audit issues, budget issues, topics for upcoming budgets where common public by way of hotline and mails can provide their inputs to OAG.

OAG publishes CPA call notice every year open for public to participate in performance audit which is another platform where public can directly participate in audit as well.

OAG also has spokesperson and information officer through which public can provide and get information in both ways.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Comment:

Office of Auditor General every year calls for public to participate in performance audit. There is proper mechanism to involve CSOs in these audit. CSOs are always involved in selecting audit topics each year. The CPA Procedures 2073 (https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CPA-Karyabedi-2073_1466321850.pdf) has provisions for CSOs engagement in audit.

CSOs representatives are consulted for selection of audit topics for performance audit. The selected CSOs to participate in audit are given training before audit start. Audit process includes site visit, field observation, interviews with locals, and focus group discussion.

In CPA public is participating from both sides. Form one side CSOs are conducting audit whereas the beneficiaries (general public) can put forth their views and observations on what are the reality of work done and can act as first-hand information provider to make audit effective.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

CPA Procedure 2073

https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CPA-Karyabedi-2073_1466321850.pdf

Stakeholders Engagement Strategy

<https://oagnep.gov.np/document-post/stakeholders-engagement-strategy/>

Comment:

The major place where public can participate in audit is performance audit through CPA. There is a committee in OAG for carrying out CPA related activities which provides training to CSOs on capacity building so that effective participation in performance audit can be achieved. The CAP is place where the common public of place where audit is taking place can raise their concern and issues to auditor and CSOs conducting audit.

OAGN stakeholder engagement strategy is the new approach which has laid out various areas where CSOs, citizens can participate in audit process. This is an encouraging way going forward, it has places public (citizens) as stakeholders who are not active but share common issues with the office that can encourage public/political or media activism.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: