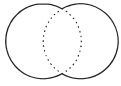


Philippines

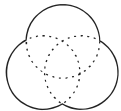
Overview



Transparency:

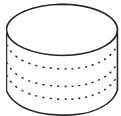
68 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public Participation:

35 /100



Budget Oversight:

74 /100

About the survey

Government budget decisions – what taxes to levy, what services to provide, and how much debt to take on – have important consequences for all people in society. When governments provide information and meaningful channels for the public to engage in these decisions, we can better ensure public money is spent on public interests.

The Open Budget Survey (OBS) is the world’s only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to central government budget information; formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process; and the role of budget oversight institutions, such as legislatures and national audit offices, in the budget process.

The survey helps local civil society assess and confer with their government on the reporting and use of public funds. This 8th edition of the OBS covers 120 countries.

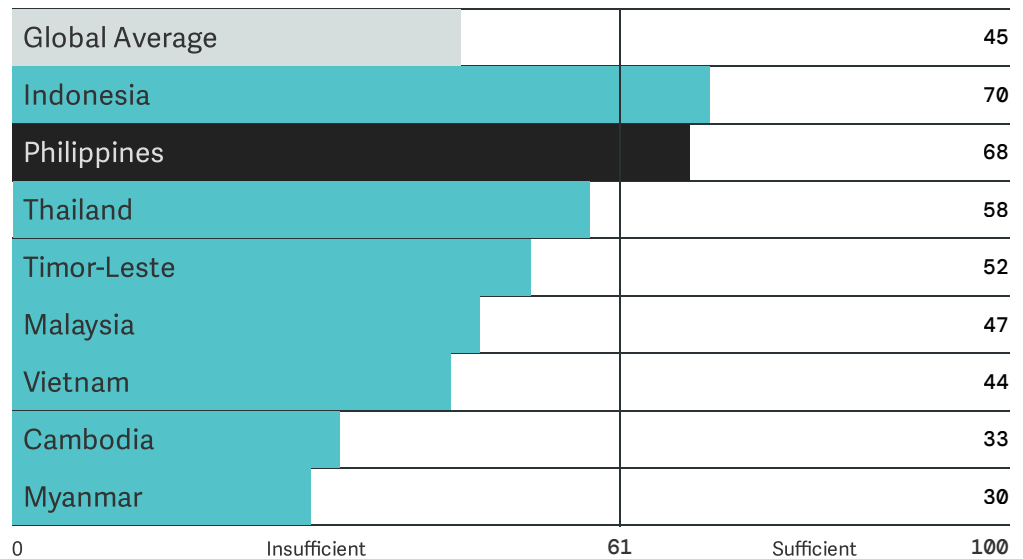
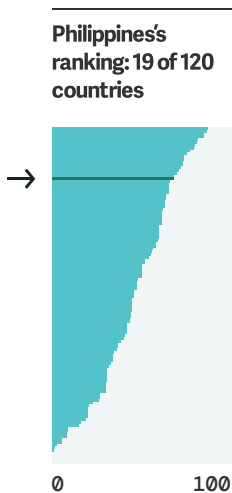
Visit www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2021 Global and Regional Reports, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.

Transparency

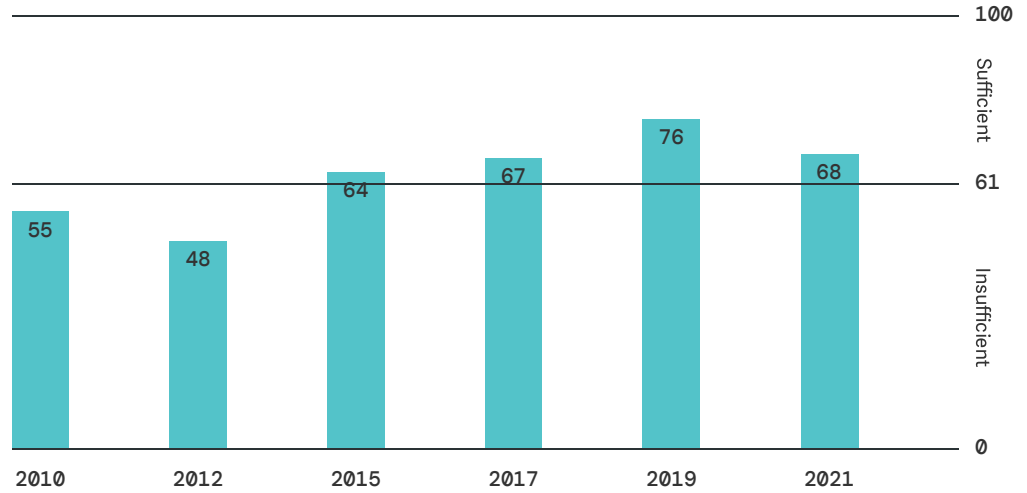
This part of the OBS measures public access to information on how the central government raises and spends public resources. It assesses the **online availability, timeliness, and comprehensiveness** of eight key budget documents using 109 equally weighted indicators and scores each country on a scale of 0 to 100. **A transparency score of 61 or above indicates a country is likely publishing enough material to support informed public debate on the budget.**

Philippines has a transparency score of **68** (out of 100).

Transparency in Philippines compared to others



How has the transparency score for Philippines changed over time?



Public availability of budget documents in Philippines

KEY

- Available to the Public
- Published Late, or Not Published Online, or Produced for Internal Use Only
- ⊘ Not Produced

Document	2010	2012	2015	2017	2019	2021
Pre-Budget Statement	●	●	●	●	●	●
Executive's Budget Proposal	●	●	●	●	●	●
Enacted Budget	●	●	●	●	●	●
Citizens Budget	⊘	⊘	●	●	●	●
In-Year Reports	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mid-Year Review	●	⊘	●	●	●	●
Year-End Report	●	⊘	●	●	●	●
Audit Report	●	●	●	●	●	●

How comprehensive is the content of the key budget documents that Philippines makes available to the public?

KEY	
● 61-100 / 100	
● 41-60 / 100	
● 1-40 / 100	

Key budget document	Document purpose and contents	Fiscal year assessed	Document content score
Pre-Budget Statement	Discloses the broad parameters of fiscal policies in advance of the Executive's Budget Proposal; outlines the government's economic forecast, anticipated revenue, expenditures, and debt.	2021	89
Executive's Budget Proposal	Submitted by the executive to the legislature for approval; details the sources of revenue, the allocations to ministries, proposed policy changes, and other information important for understanding the country's fiscal situation.	2021	73
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2020	72
Citizens Budget	A simpler and less technical version of the government's Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, designed to convey key information to the public.	2021	92
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2020	85
Mid-Year Review	A comprehensive update on the implementation of the budget as of the middle of the fiscal year; includes a review of economic assumptions and an updated forecast of budget outcomes.	2020	Published Late
Year-End Report	Describes the situation of the government's accounts at the end of the fiscal year and, ideally, an evaluation of the progress made toward achieving the budget's policy goals.	2019	59
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2018	76

Philippines's transparency score of **68** in the OBS 2021 is moderately lower than its score in 2019.

What changed in OBS 2021?

Philippines has decreased the availability of budget information by:

- Failing to publish the Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner.

Recommendations

Philippines should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

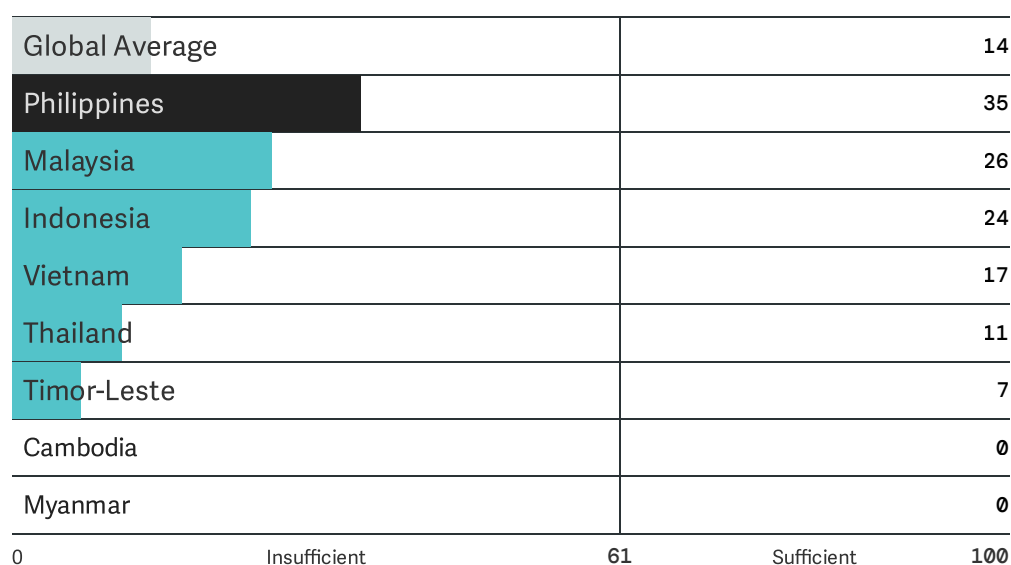
- Publish the Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner and sustain the practice.
- Include in the Year-End Report additional information on the outcomes of performance indicators, and detailed comparisons between figures for actual debt and borrowing during the budget year, and their original estimates.
- Ensure consistency in the program level information provided across all key budget documents.
- Include forward-looking multi-year expenditure and revenue estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Public Participation

The OBS assesses the formal opportunities offered to the public for meaningful participation in the different stages of the budget process. It examines the practices of the central government's executive, the legislature, and the supreme audit institution (SAI) using 18 equally weighted indicators, aligned with the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency's [Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policies](#), and scores each country on a scale from 0 to 100.

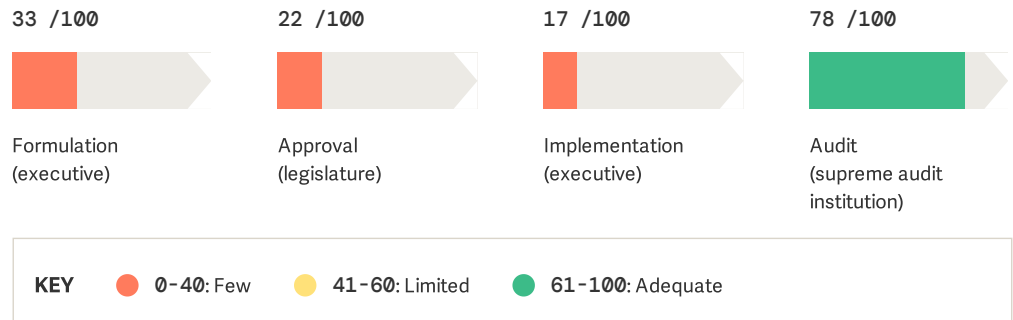
Philippines has a public participation score of **35** (out of 100).

Public participation in Philippines compared to others



For more information, see [here](#) for innovative public participation practices around the world.

Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



Recommendations

The Philippines Department of Budget and Management has established a council during budget formulation and a council during budget implementation but, to further strengthen public participation in the budget process, should also prioritize the following actions:

- Expand mechanisms during budget formulation and implementation to engage any civil society organization or member of the public who wishes to participate.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

The Congress of the Philippines has established submissions related to the approval of the annual budget and public hearings related to the review of the Audit Report, but should also prioritize the following actions:

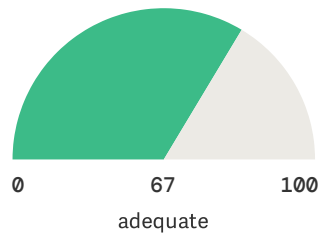
- Allow any member of the public or any civil society organization to testify during its hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval.
- Allow any member of the public or any civil society organization to testify during its hearings on the Audit Report.

Budget Oversight

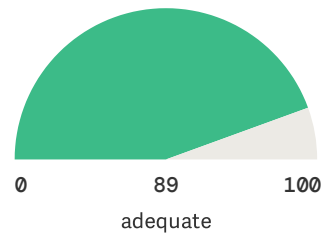
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information on independent fiscal institutions (see Box).

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Philippines, together, provide adequate oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **74** (out of 100). Taken individually, the extent of each institution's oversight is shown below:

Legislative oversight



Audit oversight



KEY ● 0-40: Few ● 41-60: Limited ● 61-100: Adequate

Recommendations

The Congress of the Philippines provides adequate oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and adequate oversight during the implementation stage. To further improve oversight, the following actions should be prioritized:

- The legislature should debate budget policy before the Executive's Budget Proposal is tabled and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.
- Legislative committees examining the budget proposal and in-year implementation should publish either the Minutes of the Meetings or a summary report with findings and recommendations online.

- A legislative committee should examine the Audit Report and publish a report with their findings online.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by the Philippines Commission on Audit, the following actions are recommended:

- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions

The Philippines' independent fiscal institution (IFI) is the Congressional Planning and Budget Research Department. Its independence is not set in law, and it reports to the legislature. It publishes an assessment of the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts produced by the executive, and its own cost estimates of major new policy proposals.

The indicators on IFIs are not scored in the Open Budget Survey.

Methodology

- Only documents published and events, activities, or developments that took place through 31 December 2020 were assessed in the OBS 2021.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:
Francisco Magno
Institute of Governance De La Salle University

Francisco.magno@dlsu.edu.ph
- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Philippines by a representative of the Department of Budget and Management.