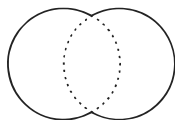


# Equatorial Guinea

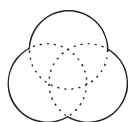
## Overview



### Transparency:

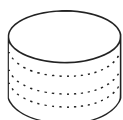
**4** /100

(Open Budget Index score)



### Public Participation:

**0** /100



### Budget Oversight:

**24** /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 9th edition of the OBS covers 125 countries.

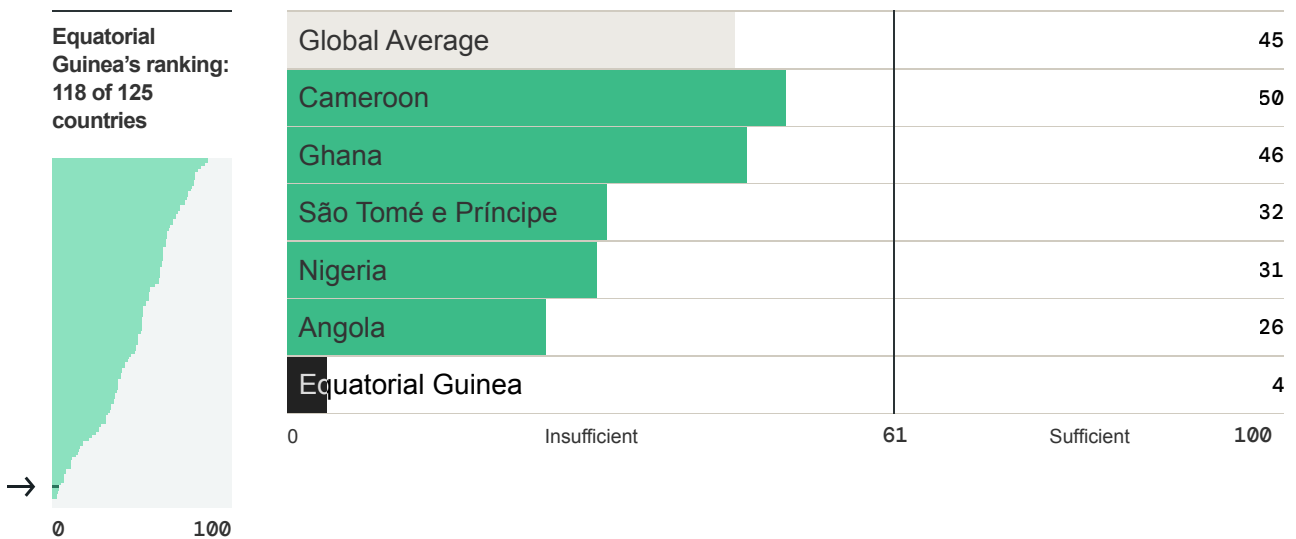
Visit [www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey](http://www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey) for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2023 Global Report, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.

# 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.**

Equatorial Guinea has a transparency score of **4** (out of 100).

## Transparency in Equatorial Guinea compared to others



# How has the transparency score for Equatorial Guinea changed over time?



## Public availability of budget documents in Equatorial Guinea

KEY	
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	Available to the Public
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	Published Late, or Not Published Online, or Produced for Internal Use Only
<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	Not Produced

Document	2012	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Pre-Budget Statement	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>
Executive's Budget Proposal	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>
Enacted Budget	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Citizens Budget	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>
In-Year Reports	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>
Mid-Year Review	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>
Year-End Report	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>
Audit Report	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red;">⊘</span>

# How comprehensive is the content of the key budget documents that Equatorial Guinea makes available to the public?

KEY	
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	61-100 / 100
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	41-60 / 100
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	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.	2023	Not Produced
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.	2023	Internal Use
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2022	<span style="color: green; border: 1px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">72</span>
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.	2023	Not Produced
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2022	Not Produced
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.	2022	Not Produced
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.	2021	Internal Use
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2020	Not Produced

Equatorial Guinea's transparency score of 4 in the OBS 2023 is near its score in 2021.

## What changed in OBS 2023?

Equatorial Guinea has increased the availability of budget information by:

- Publishing the Enacted Budget online in a timely manner.

## Recommendations

Equatorial Guinea should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Publish the Executive's Budget Proposal and Year-End Report online in a timely manner.
- Produce and publish the Pre-Budget Statement, Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, Mid-Year Review and Audit Report online in a timely manner.



## Recommendations

To further strengthen public participation in the budget process, Equatorial Guinea's Ministerio de Hacienda y Presupuestos should prioritize the following actions:

- Pilot mechanisms to engage the public during budget formulation and to monitor budget implementation.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

Equatorial Guinea's Parlamento should prioritize the following actions:

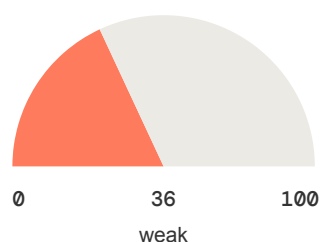
- Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval.

# Budget Oversight

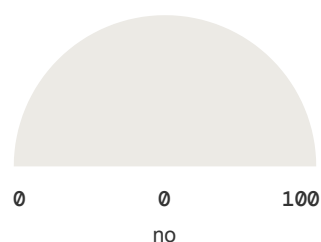
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Equatorial Guinea, together, provide weak oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **24** (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

Equatorial Guinea's Parlamento provides limited oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and weak oversight during the implementation stage. To 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 should examine the Executive's Budget Proposal and publish reports with their analysis online.
- A legislative committee should examine in-year budget implementation and publish reports with their findings online.



- In practice, ensure the legislature is consulted before the executive shifts funds specified in the Enacted Budget between administrative units; spends any unanticipated revenue; or reduces spending due to revenue shortfalls during the budget year.

To strengthen budget oversight, Equatorial Guinea should:

- Act on the law (5/2012, of November 16, 2012, that established the Tribunal de Cuentas) to make the country's supreme audit institution operational.
- Grant the supreme audit institution full powers to undertake audits as it sees fit.
- Ensure the supreme audit institution has adequate funding to perform its duties, as determined by an independent body (e.g., the legislature or judiciary).
- Require legislative or judicial approval to appoint and remove the head of the supreme audit institution.
- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

### **The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions**

Equatorial Guinea does not have an independent fiscal institution (IFI). IFIs are increasingly recognized as valuable independent and nonpartisan information providers to the Executive and/or Parliament during the budget process.

*\*These indicators are \*not\* scored in the Open Budget Survey.*

# Methodology

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- Only documents published and events, activities, or developments that took place through 31 December 2022 were assessed in the OBS 2023.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:

For inquiries please contact the International Budget Partnership

[info@internationalbudget.org](mailto:info@internationalbudget.org)

- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Equatorial Guinea by a representative of the Ministerio de Hacienda y Presupuestos.