

Overview



Transparency:

31 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public Participation:

19 /100



Budget Oversight:

61 /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.

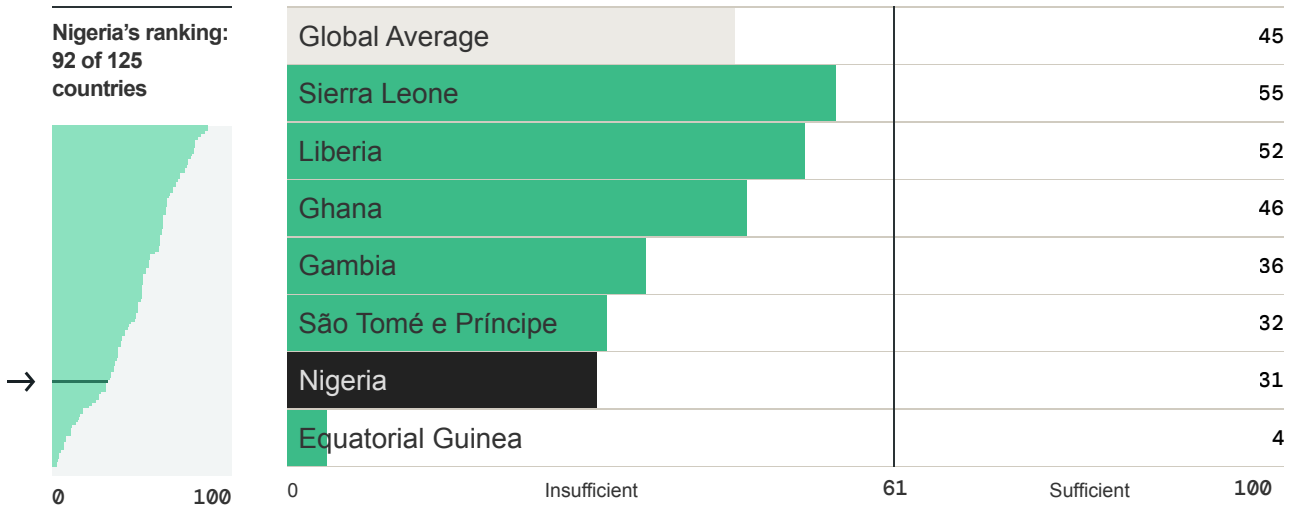
Visit www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2023 Global Report, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.

Transparency

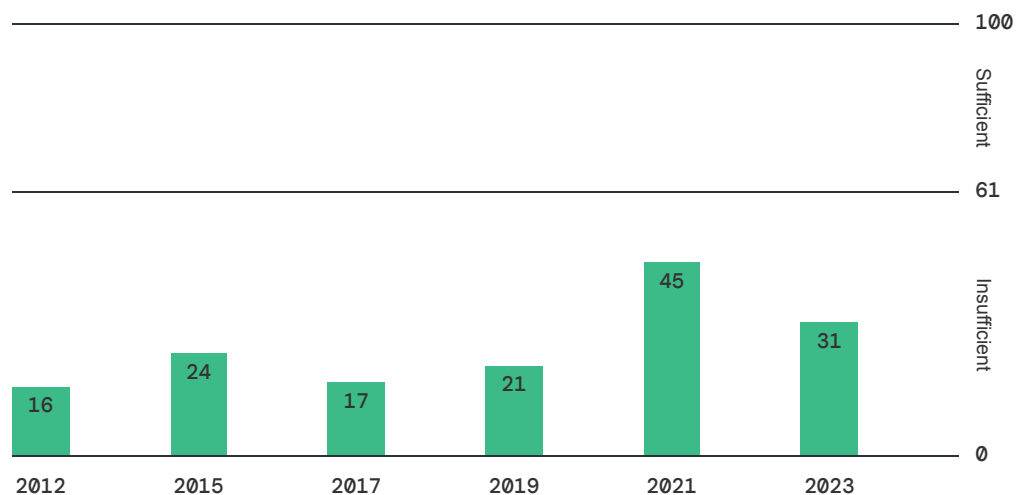
This part of the OBS measures public access to information on how the central government raises and spends public resources. It assesses the **online availability, timeliness, and comprehensiveness** of eight key budget documents using 109 equally weighted indicators and scores each country on a scale 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.**

Nigeria has a transparency score of **31** (out of 100).

Transparency in Nigeria compared to others



How has the transparency score for Nigeria changed over time?



Public availability of budget documents in Nigeria

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

Document	2012	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
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 Nigeria 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.	2023	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.	2023	27
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2022	89
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.	2022	59
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2021 & 2022	Published Late
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	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.	2021	48
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2020	Internal Use

Nigeria's transparency score of **31** in the OBS 2023 is substantially lower than its score in 2021.

What changed in OBS 2023?

Nigeria has decreased the availability of budget information by:

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

Recommendations

Nigeria should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Publish the In-Year Reports, Mid-Year Review and Audit Report online in a timely manner. Nigeria has in the past produced the Budget Implementation Reports (Quarterly Reports) within three months of the end of the fiscal period, and we encourage the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Budget Planning and the Budget Office to ensure publication within the specified period. We note that the information on the Open Treasury portal could be updated and disaggregated in a timely manner.

The Mid Year Review (Q2 or Half Year/H1 report) should be published no later than three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year. On the Audit Report, we note that in Section 85 of the Constitution, the Auditor General of the Federation is required to submit the audited accounts of the Federation to the National Assembly within 90 days after the end of the financial year. International best practices, which the OBS is based on, support the publication of the audit report within 18 months following the end of the fiscal year. Nigeria published its 2020 Audit Report in January 2024.

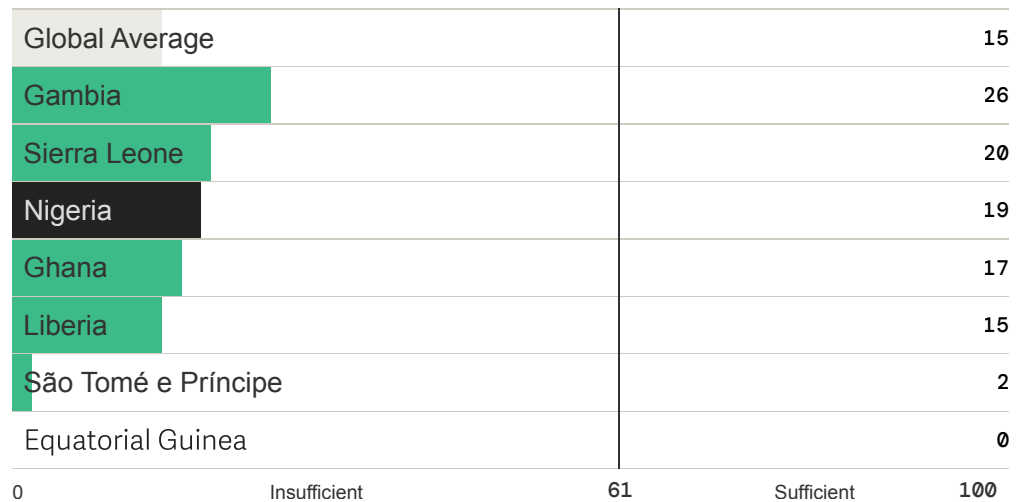
- Include in the Executive's Budget Proposal data on the financial position of the government and data on the macroeconomic forecast. This includes publishing information on all financial and nonfinancial assets held by the government and an analysis that shows the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on expenditure, revenue, and debt estimates.
- Include in the Year-End Report comparisons between planned expenditures and actual outcomes and comparisons between the original macroeconomic forecast and actual outcomes.
- Improve the comprehensiveness of the Citizens Budget.

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.

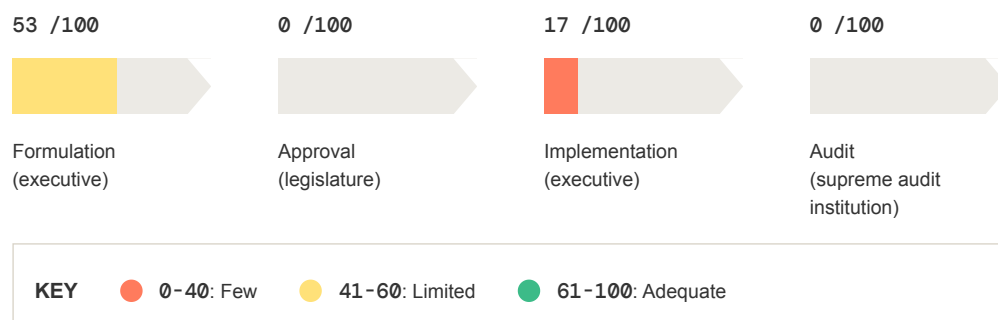
Nigeria has a public participation score of **19** (out of 100).

Public participation in Nigeria 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

Nigeria's Budget Office of the Federation has established pre-budget deliberations during budget formulation and e-consultations during budget implementation but, to further strengthen public participation in the budget process, should also prioritize the following actions:

- Expand mechanisms during budget implementation to engage any civil society organization or member of the public who wishes to participate. We note the EyeMark app developed by the then Ministry of Budget and National Planning to collect reports from citizens on projects across the country. We encourage further use of the app and uptake by citizens to share feedback on budget implementation, especially on capital projects.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

Nigeria's National Assembly 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. We encourage the National Assembly, especially the Appropriations Committee, to continue the practice of inviting civil society, media, the private sector, citizens and other stakeholders to public budget hearings to discuss proposed budgets by the Federal Government.
- Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the Audit Report. We encourage the Public Accounts Committee to hold hearings with the public on the Audit Reports submitted by the Auditor General as stipulated in Section 85 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution (as amended).

Nigeria's Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation should prioritize the following actions to improve public participation in the budget process:

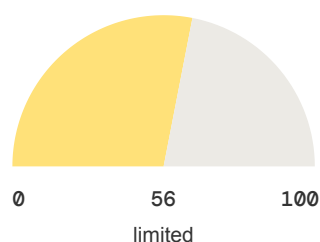
- Establish formal mechanisms for the public to assist in developing its audit program and to contribute to relevant audit investigations.

Budget Oversight

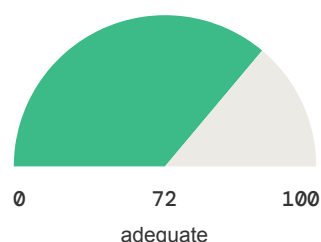
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Nigeria, together, provide adequate oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **61** (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

Nigeria's National Assembly provides adequate 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:

- 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 spends any unanticipated revenue or reduces spending due to revenue shortfalls.
- 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 Nigeria Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, the following actions are recommended:

- Ensure the supreme audit institution has adequate funding to perform its duties, as determined by an independent body (e.g., the legislature or judiciary).
- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions

Nigeria's independent fiscal institution (IFI) is the National Assembly Budget and Research Office. Its independence is not set in law, and it reports to the legislature.

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 2022 were assessed in the OBS 2023.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:
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- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Nigeria by a representative of the Budget Office of the Federation.