



Overall score: **54%** Provides some information to the public in its budget documents during the year.

Highlights

Information in Public Documents

Mexico's score on the Open Budget Index shows that the government provides the public with some information on the central government's budget and financial activities during the course of the budget year. This makes it difficult for citizens to hold government accountable for its management of the public's money.

The Open Budget Index 2008 evaluates the quantity and type of information that governments make available to their publics in the seven key budget documents that should be issued during the budget year. One of the most important documents is the executive's budget proposal. It should contain the executive's plans for the upcoming year along with the cost of the proposed activities. The proposal should be available to the public and to the legislature prior to being finalized, at least three months before the start of the budget year to allow for sufficient review and public debate.

In Mexico, the proposal provides some information to the public, meaning citizens have a general, albeit incomplete, picture of the government's plans for taxing and spending for the upcoming year.

Moreover, it is somewhat difficult to track spending, revenue collection and borrowing during the year. Although Mexico publishes detailed in-year reports, its mid-year review lacks some important details.

It is also somewhat difficult to assess budget performance in Mexico once the budget year is over. A year-end report is produced, but lacks some important details, preventing full comparisons between what was budgeted and what was actually spent and collected. Also, less than one third of total net expenditure is audited, and it can be difficult to access information on steps the government has taken to address audit findings.

Access to the highly detailed budget information needed to understand the government's progress in undertaking a specific project or activity is fairly forthcoming. Mexico has codified the right to access government information into law, and citizens are generally able to enjoy this right in practice.

Public Participation and Institutions of Accountability

Beyond improving access to key budget documents, there are other ways in which Mexico's budget process could be made more open.

Opportunities for citizen participation in budget debates could be increased. For example, the executive does not typically consult with the public as part of the budget preparation process, and even the participation of legislators is restricted. In addition, although the legislature holds public hearings on the budget, opportunities for the public to participate in these hearings are limited.

Mexico's Supreme Audit Institution has somewhat limited discretion to decide which audits to undertake, and faces some funding restrictions. In addition, the SAI does not maintain any formal mechanisms of communication with the public.



Availability of Key Budget Documents and Citizens Budget (in order of expected release)

Pre-Budget Statement	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Executive's Budget Proposal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Citizens Budget	<input type="radio"/> No
Enacted Budget	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
In-year Reports	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Mid-Year Review	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Year-End Report	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Audit Report	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Open Budget Index 2008



Mexico

The Open Budget Index evaluates the quantity and type of information available to the public in a country's budget documents. A country's placement within a performance category was determined by averaging the response to 91 questions on the Open Budget Questionnaire related to information contained in the eight key budget documents that all countries should make available to the public.

Research to complete the Open Budget Questionnaire was undertaken by:

Diego de la Mora & José M. Marin
Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación, A.C.
Cda. Alberto Zamora 21, Col. Villa de Coyoacan, Del. Coyoacan, C.P. 04000 Mexico, D.F., Mexico
Tel: +52 55 5554 3001 ext. 113
Fax: +52 55 5554 3001 ext 140
Email:
Diego: diego@fundar.org.mx
José: jose@fundar.org.mx
Website: www.fundar.org.mx

The International Budget Project was established as part of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington, DC-based non-partisan non-profit research organization, in 1997 to support civil society organizations around the world interested in strengthening public budget processes, institutions and outcomes. For more information on the IBP and the Open Budget Initiative 2008, please visit www.openbudgetindex.org

