The County Budget Transparency Survey (CBTS) is an annual survey that assesses the availability of ten key budget documents that, by law, each county is required to publish and publicize annually on their official county websites. Secondly, the survey evaluates the comprehensiveness of the information provided on revenue, different aspects of expenditure, budget performance and public participation, which the PFM Act requires for accountability to the public.

Disclosure of information, with disaggregation and provision of participation opportunities, enables meaningful public participation and quality decision-making. This ensures open access to information for all citizens, including the poor and marginalized, to support their engagement with government budgets and overall development. The CBTS assigns each county a transparency index based on the information it has publicly available.¹

Busia county improved in the 2022 transparency index.

Busia county published 5 out of 10 key budget documents in CBTS 2022.

How comprehensive is the content of budget documents that Busia makes publicly available?

**Busia scored below the average National budget transparency index for 2022**

Busia scored 0 out of 100 points on the level of information provided on public participation in its’ documents.

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¹ For the public to make quality decisions on budgets, the counties are required to produce and publish online ten key budget documents in a timely manner. The information on budget priorities and participation, revenue, expenditure and non-financial in the key budget documents published is assessed. The ten key budget documents evaluated in CBTS 2022 are those required to be published in FY 2021/22. In CBTS 2020, CIDP, which is evaluated once in 5 years, was assessed.
Key observations in Busia county budget documents

Busia county is improving in making more budget documents publicly available. However, in the last three rounds of the survey, it did not publish a single implementation report at the time of evaluation. The findings show that Busia County provides the least level of information on its Annual Development Plan compared to the rest of the counties. The county does not provide revenue and expenditure information in the ADP. The county’s County Fiscal Strategy Paper and Citizens budget also provides less than half of the required information.

The CBTS evaluates the feedback from the public, that is, the information on who was involved, input that resulted from public participation and the decisions incorporated into the final documents. Busia county provided no information on public participation in County Fiscal Strategy Paper, Annual Development Plan, and approved Programme Based Budget, which were evaluated.

Opportunities to improve Busia county budget transparency:

1. Busia county has not published implementation reports and Finance Act in the last three rounds of surveys. The county should produce, publish, and publicize these key budget documents on time.

2. Busia County should comprehensively provide all the required details, especially missing information on revenue and expenditure, with their disaggregation in the ADP. In addition, Busia County ADP is one of those with the least comprehensive, and the county should take advantage of the guide on the Citizens Budget, which can help the county provide comprehensive details.

3. Busia County should provide the section with feedback on public participation with justifications. Outcomes of feedback should be in these categories whether a) the input is incorporated into the final budget document, and allocations made for them, this could further tell us there is an impact and decisions were influenced, b) input is considered and taken up but to be implemented in subsequent financial year(s) which could be as a result of limited resources, c) the public input acknowledged but rejected but with proper justification and d) the input is not acknowledged or considered.