New Frontiers of Openness
Advancing Budget Transparency and Accountability in the MENA Region
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• Collaborative effort by IMF-METAC, UNDP, IBP: Understand trends and paths to progress in budget transparency in MENA countries

• Use of Open Budget Survey along other key data sets (Supreme Audit Institutions Index, Freedom House, PEFA)

• 11 countries assessed over nearly a decade: OBS editions 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021
Budget transparency is low in MENA ....

...with significant variations reflecting country context (FCS)...

... but there also some encouraging advances
Oversight by Legislatures and Supreme Audit Institutions is critical, yet there are many constraints and significant country variations.

Oversight by institution in MENA countries, OBS 2021
While public participation in the budget process is rare, some governments are introducing innovative approaches

- Public participation in investment budgeting in Egypt
- Special Commission on New Development Model in Morocco
Significant efforts are required to strengthen budget transparency and accountability for the benefit of all

- Strengthen transparency by disclosing more and better information.
- Improve oversight by legislatures and independent auditors, strengthening their capacities and autonomy.
- Change the social contract by establishing inclusive, meaningful opportunities to engage the public across the budget cycle.
- Grasp opportunities to overhaul organic budget laws.

Efforts tailored to country context and coordinated across stakeholders: government, oversight institutions, civil society, development partners