

Open Budget Survey 2019

Questionnaire

Gambia

April 2020



INTERNATIONAL BUDGET PARTNERSHIP
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Country Questionnaire: Gambia

PBS-1. What is the fiscal year of the PBS evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019

Source:

Interview with Madi Ceesay, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of The Gambia

Comment:

The recent PBS document that has been debated and considered by parliament is for the 2019 Fiscal Year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-2. When is the PBS made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for a PBS to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration. If the PBS is not released to the public at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the PBS.

Answer:

d. The PBS is not released to the public, or is released less than one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced to the legislature

Source:

Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Budget,
<http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with Madi Ceesay, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Pre-Budget Statement has not been made publicly available by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs on its website. The document is produced for internal use.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-3a. If the PBS is published, what is the date of publication of the PBS?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: PBS is not published

PBS-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the PBS.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

N/A

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The PBS document is not publicly available on the Ministry of Finance's website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-4. If the PBS is published, what is the URL or weblink of the PBS?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-5. If the PBS is published, are the numerical data contained in the PBS available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the PBS is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

Directorate of Budget of the Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The machine readability of the FY2019 Pre Budget Statement of The Gambia cannot be assessed because the document is not published online and thus, not in a machine readable format.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-6a. If the PBS is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the PBS is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question PBS-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question PBS-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

c. Produced for internal purposes/use only

Source:

Interview with Lamin Fatty, Deputy Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance on 31st of January 2019 on 12:13GMT

Comment:

The Pre Budget Statement is not published within the OBS time frame and it is not publicly available. However, the document is available at the Ministry of Finance for internal use only.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question PBS-6a, please specify how you determined whether the PBS was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question PBS-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The availability of the Pre Budget Statement was determined during an interview with the Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance.

Source:

Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Budget

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of The Gambia on 14/02/19

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-7. If the PBS is produced, please write the full title of the PBS.

For example, a title for the Pre-Budget Statement could be "Proposed 2019 State Budget" or "Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Plan and Budget for 2018/19."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Interview with Madi Ceesay, Director of Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. February 12th 2019

Comment:

"Budget Framework Paper (BFP)" is the pre budget statement that is presented to parliament for consideration. BFP is the summarized version of "Medium Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF)" which is a bulky document that explains the government's plan for the coming fiscal year.

BFP is presented to parliament with MTFF serving as a guideline to parliamentarians.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: BFP is availed to Cabinet

PBS-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the PBS?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Interview with Madi Ceesay, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. Interviewed on February 12th 2019

Comment:

According to Mr. Ceesay, there is no citizens version of the Pre-Budget Statement

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EBP evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019 FY 2019

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economy Affairs, Directorate of Budget
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The most recent Executive Budget Proposal for The Gambia is 2019

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-1b. When is the EBP submitted to the legislature for consideration?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
26/11/2018 28/11/2018

Source:
"Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for A Prosperous Gambia" EBP 2019
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:
The recent Executive Budget Proposal was submitted at the National Assembly of The Gambia by the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs on the 26/11/18 for consideration by parliament

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-2. When is the EBP made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EBP to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public while the legislature is still considering it and before the legislature approves (enacts) it. If the EBP is not released to the public before the legislature approves it, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EBP.

The OBS definition of an Executive's Budget Proposal is a document(s) that (i) the executive submits to the legislature as a formal part of the budget approval process and (ii) the legislature either approves or on which it approves proposed amendments.

The OBS will treat the Executive's Budget Proposal as "Not Produced," in the following cases:

- *The executive does not submit the draft budget to the legislature; or*
- *The legislature receives the draft budget but does not approve it or does not approve recommendations on the draft budget;*
- *The legislature rejects the draft budget submitted by the executive, but the executive implements it without legislative approval; or*
- *There is no legislature, or the legislature has been dissolved.*

Answer:
c. Less than two months in advance of the budget year, but at least in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature

Source:
Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with Madi Ceessay, Director of Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. 12/02/19

Interview with ICT Unit, at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. 12/02/19

Comment:
The Executive Budget Proposal is made available after the budget was available.

The budget speech was published on the 17 December 2018 on the Ministry of Finance's website. It is made available to the Public after the budget speech by the Minister of Finance. The budget speech was made on 14 December 2018 and "the document was published on the Ministry of Finance's website right after the budget speech"
The 2019 budget was enacted on 18 December 2018.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: d. The EBP is not released to the public, or is released after the budget has been approved by the legislature

Comments: I think the answer should be D in this case. Yes the budget speech is made public on the Ministry of Finance Website sometime around the end of December, but the entire approved budget is only made available to the public once the budget is approved by Parliament. We print the final approved budget version sometime in early January, and is then made available for the general public to purchase from the Ministry of Finance offices. The entire budget is not posted on the Ministry of Finance website, only the Budget Speech is posted

IBP Comment

While it is true that the full Executive's Budget Proposal was not published online before the budget was enacted, the budget speech that was posted did contain sufficient information to qualify it as an EBP. For example, the annexes contain information on administrative classification of expenditure, revenue total, the fiscal deficit, public debt, and proposed non-tax revenue changes.

EBP-3a. If the EBP is published, what is the date of publication of the EBP?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their date of publication.

Answer:

17/12/2018

Source:

Interview with ICT Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs on 12/02/19

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Only the Budget Speech is posted on the Ministry of Finance website

EBP-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EBP.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The date of publication of the EBP (budget speech version) was determined through an interview with the ICT Unit of the Ministry of Finance. The ICT Unit verified the date of publication through the backend of the website and email correspondence

Source:

ICT Unit Ministry of Finance, Interview on 12/02/19

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-4. If the EBP is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EBP?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their URL or weblink.

Answer:

<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019> <http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The EBP (budget speech + accompanying tables) is published and made available free of charge on the Ministry of Finance's website.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: <http://www.mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-5. If the EBP is published, are the numerical data contained in the EBP or its supporting documents available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the EBP is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

"Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia" 2019 budget document

Comment:

The "Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia" 2019 budget document is published in a pdf version. Thus, not in machine readable format

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-6a. If the EBP is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EBP is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EBP-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EBP-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Directorate of Budget

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The EBP for 2019 was published one day before the budget was enacted.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Budget Speech is publicly available

EBP-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EBP-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EBP was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EBP-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-7. If the EBP is produced, please write the full title of the EBP.

For example, a title for the Executive's Budget Proposal could be "Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for BY 2018-19, produced by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development."

If there are any supporting documents to the EBP, please enter their full titles in the comment box below.

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia

Source:

Ministry of Finance

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The full title of the Executive Budget Proposal is Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019 (National Assembly copy). The name of the Budget Speech document is "Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EBP?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with Madi Ceesay, Director of budget

Comment:

The citizens version of the 2019 EBP was published after the research cut-off date of the OBS 2019 (31 December 2019).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://mofea.gm/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Citizen's Budget was produced but released during the first quarter of the subsequent year (2019) The comment made by the researcher should read "(31 December 2018)"

IBP Comment

The Government Reviewer is correct to note the typo in the researcher's comment. The OBS 2019 research cut-off date was 31 December 2018.

EB-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, National Assembly of The Gambia

Comment:

The Enacted Budget evaluated in this survey is the Fiscal Year 2019 which starts from January 1st 2019 to December 31st 2019

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-1b. When was the EB approved (enacted) by the legislature?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

18/12/2018

Source:

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of The Gambia on 14/02/19

Comment:

The budget was enacted on the 18/12/2018 and comes to force on 01/01/19 to 31/12/19

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-2. When is the EB made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EB to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public three months after the budget is approved by the legislature. If the EB is not released to the public at least three months after the budget is approved by the legislature, option "d" applies.

Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EB.

Answer:

d. The EB is not released to the public, or is released more than three months after the budget has been enacted

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

<http://mofea.gm/downloads>

Interview with Bai Madi Ceessay, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of The Gambia on 14/02/19

Comment:

During the survey period (up to the research cut-off date of 31 December 2018), the enacted budget has not been made available to the public (government's website). However, the detailed budget document (Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019) is available to the public in hard copy. Interested individuals can request it from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs at a copy cost of D250.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-3a. If the EB is published, what is the date of publication of the EB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Note: the researcher was unable to determine the publication date of the hard copy Enacted Budget.

EB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

N/A

Source:
Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:
Both the Appropriation Act 2019 and the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019 is yet to be made available to the public online. However, the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019 is available at the Ministry of Finance in hard copy at a copy cost of D250 (Dalasis)

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-4. If the EB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

EB-5. If the EB is published, are the numerical data contained in the EB available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the EB is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:
d. Not applicable

Source:
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:
The enacted budget is not published, thus, its machine readability cannot be determined.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: electronic version not available even for internal users at mofea

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-6a. If the EB is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EB is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EB-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EB-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

b. Produced but made available only in hard copy or soft copy (not available online)

Source:

Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Budget

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of The Gambia on 14/02/19

Comment:

The Executive Budget Proposal is made available in hard copy and it cost D250 at the Ministry of Finance and The Gambia Public Printing Cooperation.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EB-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EB-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

EB-7. If the EB is produced, please write the full title of the EB.

For example, a title for the Enacted Budget could be "Appropriation Act n. 10 of 2018."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019 (Approved Copy)

Source:

Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Budget

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of The Gambia on 14/02/19

Comment:

The name of the Enacted Budget is "Appropriation Act 2019". The detailed budget document that corresponds to the Appropriation Act 2019 is call "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019 (Approved Copy)"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EB?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Interview with Bai Madi Ceesay, Director of budget
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

There is no Citizens Budget for the Enacted Budget

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <http://www.mofea.gm/downloads-file/citizens-budget-2019>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: There is a Citizens Budget but it was given to the public in the first quarter of 2019

IBP Comment

The Citizens Budget reference by the Government Reviewer was published after the OBS 2019 research cut-off date of 31 December 2018, and so is not used in this questionnaire.

CB-1. What is the fiscal year of the CB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for each CB please indicate the document the CB simplifies/refers to, and the fiscal year.

Answer:
FY 2018

Source:
Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/citizens-budget-2019>

Finance Ministry, IRI Launch Gambia 2019 Citizen's Budget
<http://foroyaa.gm/finance-ministry-iri-launch-gambia-2019-citizens-budget/>

Comment:
The Citizens Budget for 2019 was launched and published on 29 March 2019, which is beyond the OBS research cut-off date of 31 December 2018.

The OBS 2019 will instead examine the Citizens Budget for 2018, which was not produced.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: The 2018 Citizens Budget is also available

Researcher Response
As far as the 2018 Citizens Budget is concern, it is not published by the Ministry of Finance on its website.

CB-2a. For the fiscal year indicated in CB-1, what is the public availability status of the CB?

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document (Executive's Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget) you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its public availability status.

Remember that publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology
Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

Answer:
b. Produced but made available only in hard copy or soft copy (not available online)

Source:
Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
Interview with Bai Madi Ceessay, Director of Budget on 12/02/19

Citizens Budget 2019
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/citizens-budget-2019>

Comment:
The Citizens Budget for 2019 was launched and published on 29 March 2019, which is beyond the OBS research cut-off date of 31 December 2018.

The OBS 2019 will instead examine the Citizens Budget for 2018, which was not produced.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: b. Produced but made available only in hard copy or soft copy (not available online)
Comments: Both the 2018 and 2019 Citizens Budget (Enacted Budget version) are available. As mentioned by the researcher, the 2019 Citizens Budget is produced but made publicly available in 2019. Whereas the 2018 Citizens Budget in hard copy was already available at the time the researcher conducted his interviews.

IBP Comment
To be considered publicly available in the Open Budget Survey, a document must be published on the government's website in a timely manner. As the 2018 Citizens Budget was not published online, it is considered published in hard copy only.

CB-2b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question CB-2a, please specify how you determined whether the CB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question CB-2a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The status of the Citizen Budget was determined during an interview with the Director of Budget. The Lead Researcher saw the draft citizens budget for 2019 which is 35 pages (courtesy of the Director of Budget) during an interview with the Ministry.

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
Interview with Bai Madi Ceessay, Director of Budget

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question

CB-3a. If the CB is published, what is the date of publication of the CB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document. Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its dates of publication.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Please refer to comment

Comments: The 2019 CB (enacted budget version) was made available to the public in hard copies around the end of the first quarter 2019. The 2018 CB (enacted budget version) was made available to the public in hard copies around the end of the first quarter 2019

IBP Comment

To be considered publicly available in the Open Budget Survey, a document must be published on the government's website in a timely manner. As the 2018 Citizens Budget was not published online, it is considered published in hard copy only. Note: the researcher was unable to determine the publication date of the hard copy Citizens Budget.

CB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the CB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

N/A

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: It was officially launched around the end of March 2019.

Researcher Response

The Citizens Budget for 2019 was launched on the 29th March 2019 and it was published right after. However, the Researcher couldn't determine the publication date. As this was after the OBS research cut-off date, this questionnaire instead examines the Citizens Budget for 2018, which was published in hard copy only.

CB-4. If the CB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the CB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its URL or weblink.

Answer:

Source:

<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/citizens-budget-2019>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-5. If the CB is produced, please write the full title of the CB.

For example, a title for the Citizens Budget could be "Budget 2018 People's Guide" or "2019 Proposed Budget in Brief: A People's Budget Publication."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for the other CB, indicate the document the CB refers to and, next to it, its full title.

Answer:

Source:

<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/citizens-budget-2019>

Comment:

"Budget of the Government of The Gambia 2019 Citizens Edition"

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-6. If the CB is produced, please indicate which budget document it corresponds to.

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and which budget document it simplifies.

Answer:

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Directorate of Budget
Interview with Bai Madi Ceesay, Director of Budget on 12/02/19

<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/citizens-budget-2019>

Comment:

The Citizens Budget 2019 corresponds to the Enacted Budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IYRs-1. What is the fiscal year of the IYRs evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2017 & 2018 FY 2017 & 2018

Source:
Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:
The OBS 2019 examines the following quarterly reports:

Q4 2017
Q1 2018
Q2 2018
Q3 2018

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IYRs-2. When are the IYRs made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for IYRs to be considered publicly available, IYRs must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends. If at least seven of the last 12 monthly IYRs, or at least three of the last four quarterly IYRs are not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the IYRs.

Answer:
d. The IYRs are not released to the public, or are released more than three months after the period covered

Source:
National Audit Office
<http://nao.gm/documents>

Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with the Director of Budget, Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance on 12/02/19

Comment:
The In Year Reports are not made available to the public. They are prepared and produce for internal use only.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: a. At least every month, and within one month of the period covered
Comments: Our In year reports (Budget Execution Reports) are produced monthly and posted online every month since 2016

Researcher Response
The IYRs produced are beyond the research cut off date and no data is found on the Ministry of Finance's website on monthly budget execution report since 2016

IYRs-3a. If the IYRs are published, what are the dates of publication of the IYRs?

Specifically: if quarterly In-Year Reports are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least three of the last four IYRs that were publicly available. If monthly IYRs are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least seven of the last 12 IYRs that were publicly available.

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document. Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD Month YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05 September 2018. If the document is not published or not produced, please mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/jan-april-budget-execution-report>

Interview with Director of Budget, Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs on 12/02/19

Interview with ICT Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs on 13/02/19

Comment:

In the year of 2018, the only report that was published on the Ministry of Finance's website: January to April 2018 (first four months of FY 2018), published 24 September 2018, which is more than three months after the end of the reporting period and thus published too late to be considered publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Last year, all the monthly budget execution reports were posted. They were all posted 2 or 3 weeks after the end of the end of the month. This could have been verified by visiting the Ministry of Finance website daily/periodically. Up until now we even have the annual (Jan-Dec) budget execution report 2018 on the Ministry of Finance website

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018).

IYRs-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with ICT Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs on 13/02/19

Comment:

In year report not published.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Monthly budget execution reports were always posted on the Ministry of Finance website They were normally posted 2 or 3 weeks after the end of the month, and this could have been verified by visiting the Ministry of Finance website periodically

Researcher Response

2019 IYRs are published and not for 2018. Thus, the publication dates cannot be determined.

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018).

IYRs-4. If the IYRs are published, what is the URL or weblink of the IYRs?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Researchers should provide the weblink to the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the weblinks to older IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget> new budget reports available during 2019

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

IYRs-5. If the IYRs are published, are the numerical data contained in the IYRs available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the IYRs are not published or not produced, therefore their machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

Comment:

In year report not published.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: information on iyr is available in the sgo report available monthly (excel)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. No

Comments: The answer should be "C". Posted but available in PDF format

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018).

IYRs-6a. If the IYRs are not publicly available, are they still produced?

If the IYRs are not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question IYRs-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question IYRs-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

c. Produced for internal purposes/use only

Source:

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, on 12/02/19

Comment:

In Year Report for 2018 are produced for internal use only

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: They are produced and posted online

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018).

IYRs-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question IYRs-6a, please specify how you determined whether the IYRs were produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question IYRs-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The status of the In Year Report was determined during an Interview with the Director of Budget at the Ministry of Finance

Source:

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economy Affairs, on 12/02/19

Comment:

The In Year Report are produced for internal use.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: They are also posted online

Researcher Response

Is there a link that the Ministry could produce that has the IYR, as far as my research is concern, the only budget expenditure report for 2018 is the Jan-Dec and Jan-April 2018 reports that are available on the Ministry's website. This is the link to the Fiscal reports:

<http://mofea.gm/downloads/fiscal-reports>

IYRs-7. If the IYRs are produced, please write the full title of the IYRs.

For example, a title for the In-Year Report could be "Budget Monitoring Report, Quarter 1" or "Budget Execution Report January-March 2018."

If In-Year Reports are not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Researchers should provide the full title of the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the full titles of older IYRs.

Answer:

"January-April 2018 Budget Expenditure Brief"

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The full title of the only available In Year Report online the Ministry's website is: "January-April 2018 Budget Expenditure Brief"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: JANUARY-MAY 2019 EXPENDITURE BRIEF (last available) <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: The "Jan-December 2018 Budget Expenditure Brief" is also posted. During the course of 2018 we also posted the respective reports monthly

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018).

IYRs-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the IYRs?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is

happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economy Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

There is no citizens version of the first quarter in year report

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-1. What is the fiscal year of the MYR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2018

Source:

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs on 12/02/19

Comment:

During the time of this survey (as of February 2019), the Middle Year Report that is produced by the Ministry of Finance reported at the National Assembly of The Gambia falls in 2018 from January to July 2018.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-2. When is the MYR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an MYR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends (i.e., three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year). If the MYR is not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the MYR.

Answer:

d. The MYR is not released to the public, or is released more than three months after the midpoint

Source:

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, on 12/02/19

National Audit Office
<http://nao.gm/documents>

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Mid Year Review is not publicly available on both the Ministry of Finance and National Audit Office's website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-3a. If the MYR is published, what is the date of publication of the MYR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the MYR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

N/A

Source:

N/A

Comment:

N/A

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

MYR-4. If the MYR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the MYR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

MYR-5. If the MYR is published, are the numerical data contained in the MYR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the MYR is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

National Audit Office (NAO)
<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

The National Audit Office and Ministry of Finance have not made the Mid-Year Report available on their website. Thus, its machine readability cannot be determined

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

MYR-6a. If the MYR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the MYR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question MYR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question MYR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

c. Produced for internal purposes/use only

Source:

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, on 12/02/19

Comment:

Although the Mid term financial report for 2018 is not publicly available on the Ministry of Finance and National Audit Office's website, however, the document is produced for internal use

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question MYR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the MYR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question MYR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The Ministry of Finance produce mid-term budget execution report and this was determined during an interview conducted with the Director of Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Economy Affairs on this survey

Source:

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, on 12/02/19

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

National Audit Office (NAO)

<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

The Ministry of Finance prepares annual Mid-term Report of the current year budget. However, this is not made available to the public on the legally mandated financial institution of the country. Albeit, it is produce for internal use, it is however not also restricted to the public. The report is presented to the national assembly and this sitting is open to the public.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-7. If the MYR is produced, please write the full title of the MYR.

For example, a title for the Mid-Year Review could be "Semi-annual Budget Performance Report, FY 2017/18" or "Mid-Year Report on the 2018 National Budget."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the MYR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, on 12/02/19

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

National Audit Office (NAO)

<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

There is no Citizen version of the 2018 Mid Year Report. The 2018 citizens budget is in one consolidated document that corresponds to the FY 2018 budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-1. What is the fiscal year of the YER evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2017

Source:
Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance

Comment:
OBS methodology and international good practice state that governments should publish the Year-End Report within 12 months of the end of the fiscal year.

The OBS 2019 will examine the Year-End Report for 2017, which had a publication deadline of 31 December 2018.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: FY2018 The end year report "Jan-December 2018 Budget Execution Brief" was published by Mid January 2019

IBP Comment
The OBS 2019 research cut-off date was 31 December 2018. This was also the deadline (based on OBS methodology and international practice) to publish the YER for FY 2017. The document the Government Reviewer has cited was published after the research cut-off date, and so was not considered by this questionnaire.

YER-2. When is the YER made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an YER to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than one year after the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the YER is not released to the public within one year after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the YER.

Answer:

d. The YER is not released to the public, or is released more than 12 months after the end of the budget year

Source:
Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/january-december-budget-execution-report-2018>

Comment:
The OBS 2019 examines the 2017 YER.

After the research cut-off date for OBS 2019 (31 Dec 2018), the MOF published an cumulative IYR that covered Q1-Q4 2018. This document does not qualify as a YER however, as it lacks the substantial reporting to be expected in a YER and instead mirrors the IYRs in content and format.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: a. Six months or less after the end of the budget year
Comments: If we are assessing by using the FY2017 budget year, the end year report was published on the Ministry of Finance website by January 2018. However, as the researcher mentioned, this report is in the same format as the IYR

IBP Comment
As the researcher notes, the Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the

entire year. This document is much more substantial than an IYR from December or Q4 containing cumulative data.

YER-3a. If the YER is published, what is the date of publication of the YER?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document. Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: January-December Budget Execution Report 2018 published first quarter 2019 <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: January 2018 for the FY2017 budget calendar January 2019 for the FY2018 budget calendar

YER-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the YER.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: I downloaded the published version in April.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

YER-4. If the YER is published, what is the URL or weblink of the YER?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: I downloaded the published version in April. <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

YER-5. If the YER is published, are the numerical data contained in the YER available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the YER is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: available in excel format as part of the sgo report

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: The answer should be "C". The file is in PDF format

IBP Comment

As the YER is considered produced for internal use, the appropriate answer is "D."

YER-6a. If the YER is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the YER is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question YER-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question YER-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

c. Produced for internal purposes/use only

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance

Comment:

The Year-End Report is produced for internal use only.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Comments: January-December Budget Execution Report 2018 <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: They are produced and made available online

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

YER-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question YER-6a, please specify how you determined whether the YER was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question YER-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: It was posted online

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the government reviewer refers to.

YER-7. If the YER is produced, please write the full title of the YER.

For example, a title for the Year-End Report could be "Consolidated Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2018" or "Annual Report 2017 Published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: January-December Budget Execution Report 2018

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: "Jan-December 2018 Budget Expenditure Brief"

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

YER-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the YER?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Directorate of Budget, Ministry of Finance

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

There is no Citizens Version of the year end report

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-1. What is the fiscal year of the AR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2016

Source:

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of the Gambia, on 14/02/19

National Audit Office

<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

International practice states that the Audit Report should be published within 18 months of the end of the budget year. This means that the deadline

to publish the 2016 Audit Report was 30 June 2018.

Audited financial report from the National Audit Office is not published.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-2. When is the AR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an AR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the AR is not released to the public at least 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the AR.

Answer:

d. Does not release to the public, or is released more than 18 months after the end of the budget year

Source:

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of The Gambia on 14/02/19

Interview with Staff at National Audit Office, on 14/02/19

National Audit Office

<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

The latest audited report that has been "considered" by the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee and Public Accounts Enterprise (PAC/PEC) is 2013.

According to the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia, Section 160 (1)(d) (page 94) states that: "within six months of the end of the immediately preceding financial year to which each of the accounts referred to in paragraph (c) relates, report to the National Assembly on the accounts and draw attention to any irregularities in the accounts audited and to any other matter which, in his or her opinion, ought to be brought to the notice of the National assembly," However, this is not the case in practice.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-3a. If the AR is published, what is the date of publication of the AR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the AR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

N/A

Source:

N/A

Comment:

There is no Audited Report that has been published on the National Audit Office's website

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

AR-4. If the AR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the AR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-5. If the AR is published, are the numerical data contained in the AR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the AR is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

National Audit Office

<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

The National Audit Office has not published the 2013 audited report on it's website

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

AR-6a. If the AR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the AR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question AR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question AR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

c. Produced for internal purposes/use only

Source:

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of The Gambia on 14/02/19

Interview with Staff, National Audit Office 14/02/19

Comment:

According to the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia, Section 160 (1)(e) states that audited reports that are considered by the national assembly, "cause the same to be published for public information:". This is however not the case in practice.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs has however published the Audited reports for the following institutions and there audited periods:

Judiciary Revenue Audit Report for The Period 1st January 2015 - June 2017

Gambia Public Procurement System Audit for the Period 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2017

Banjul Fire Services Audit of Stores and Food Items for the period 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2015

The above documents could be found on this link: <http://mofea.gm/downloads/publications>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question

AR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question AR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the AR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question AR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The status of the Audited Report was determined during an interview with Table Office at the National Assembly of The Gambia and Staffer at the National Audit Office that the Audited Report are produced but currently available for internal use

Source:

Interview with Staff, National Audit Office 14/02/19

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of The Gambia on 14/02/19

Comment:

The 2013 audited report that has been considered by the national assembly is produced but for internal use. The document is not available on the public domain

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question

AR-7. If the AR is produced, please write the full title of the AR.

For example, a title for the Audit Report could be "Annual General Reports of the Controller and Auditor General." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

AR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the AR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is

happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Interview with Table Office, National Assembly of The Gambia on 14/02/19

Comment:

There is no stand-alone citizens version of the audited report

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1a. Are there one or more websites or web portals for disseminating government fiscal information? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

GQ-1a asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where fiscal information can be found. For example, in New Zealand the Treasury website (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/>) hosts important budget-related information, including the Pre-Budget Statement, the Executive's Budget Proposal, the Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, the Mid-Year Review, and the Year-End Report. In addition, New Zealand's Parliamentary Counsel Office (<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>) posts the Enacted Budget while the Controller and Auditor-General website (<http://www.oag.govt.nz/>) publishes the annual Audit Report. The New Zealand researcher would provide the links to each of these sites. Other countries have developed portals that include fiscal information, though not in the "documents" format. For example, these portals have been created by Mexico (<https://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/>) and Brazil (<http://www.portaltransparencia.gov.br/>). Some countries have both a website and a portal. The Brazilian government, for example, apart from the Transparency Portal, has a dedicated website for the federal budget, where all key documents and other information can be found (www.orcamentofederal.gov.br). Researchers should include details about all of the relevant websites and/or portals that they can be used to access budget information.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

The Government of The Gambia's Aid Management Platform
<http://www.amp.gov.gm/portal/>

Comment:

The Aid Management Portal of the government of the Gambia focused on donor funded projects - where the money is coming from, where it goes, disbursement and who is responsible for the execution and accountability. The portal does not have information about the national budget or any reports corresponding the current and previous budget year

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1b. On these websites/portals, can revenue and/or expenditure data for the current fiscal year be downloaded as a consolidated file (or set of files)? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

GQ-1b, GQ-1c, and GQ-1d ask about whether governments publish specific types of content on their websites/portals: (a) consolidated files that contain revenue and/or expenditure information for the current fiscal year; (b) consolidated files that contain revenue and/or expenditure information for multiple years in consistent formats; and (c) infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis. Researchers should provide the

links to relevant webpages and some explanations of what they contain.

Answer:

d. No, neither expenditure or revenue data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Source:

The Government of The Gambia's Aid Management Platform
<http://www.amp.gov.gm/portal/>

Comment:

The portal do not have information on current fiscal year revenue, expenditure and debt in a consolidated file. Information on the portal are project related than fiscal budget issues

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Yes, but only expenditure data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Comments: Information on expenditure data is available on the Ministry of finance website <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

IBP Comment

Answer "d" maintained. As of the OBS research cut-off date of 31 December 2018, both the donor project site and the MoFEA website lack consolidated expenditure or revenue data.

GQ-1c. On these websites/portals, can consolidated revenue and/or expenditure data be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:

d. No, neither expenditure or revenue data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

Source:

The Government of The Gambia's Aid Management Platform
<http://www.amp.gov.gm/portal/>

Comment:

The Aid Management Portal of the government has no consolidated revenue or expenditure file for the multiple years in consistent format and cannot be downloaded.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Yes, but only expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

Comments: <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

IBP Comment

Answer "d" maintained. As of the OBS research cut-off date of 31 December 2018, both the donor project site and the MoFEA website lack consolidated expenditure or revenue data.

GQ-1d. On these websites/portals, are infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:
b. No

Source:
The Government of The Gambia's Aid Management Platform
<http://www.amp.gov.gm/portal/>

Comment:
During the course of the survey, the Data Visualization tab on the portal is not responding. Link <http://www.amp.gov.gm/portal/> (accessed 15/02/19).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

GQ-2. Are there laws in place guiding public financial management and/or auditing? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where the law(s) contains specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

GQ-2 asks about the existence of any national laws governing public financial management and auditing. These may include a public finance act, a section of the constitution, or an organic budget law. In some countries, fiscal responsibility legislation may also be relevant. For example, the Kenya researcher may include the link to its Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (<http://www.kenyalaw.org/lex/actview.xhtml?actid=No.%2018%20of%202012>), and the Macedonian researcher may include a link to its State Audit Law (<https://www.finance.gov.mk/files/u11/Audit%20law.pdf>). Researchers should provide links to websites where such laws are published, if possible, or an electronic copy of the law itself. They should also indicate if and where (e.g. which article) these laws include specific provisions for budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes.

Answer:
a. Yes

Source:
1997 Constitution of The Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/constitution>

Public Finance Act 2014
<http://mofea.gm/pension-law>

Financial Regulations 2016, Legal Notice, No. 16 of 2016
<http://mofea.gm/downloads/publications>

Comment:
Section 160 (1)(a) (page 93) of the 1997 constitution of the Gambia stressed that "before any money is withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund or any other public fund, ensure that the withdrawal is in accordance..." with the financial regulations. The section continues on subsection (1)(c) on auditing of public accounts and enterprises at least once in every year.

Section 64 (1) of the 2014 Public Finance Act stated the timeline on auditing where it states that; the Auditor General upon receipt of the statement of annual accounts from the Auditor General, audit and submit report to the National Assembly permanent committee on Public Accounts (PAC) within 3 months.

Section 160(1)(e) talks about transparency and access to audit report. The law codified in section 160(1)(e) states that; after the audit report is presented to the parliament and considered by the house, the Auditor General shall "cause the same to be published for public information."

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: also PFM Reforms Strategy - 2016-2020 <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/public-finance-management>

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

GQ-3. Are there additional laws regulating: (1) access to information; (2) government transparency; or (3) citizens participation? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where these laws contain specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

The third and last question asks researchers to list any additional laws regulating access to information, transparency, or citizens' participation that are relevant for the promotion of budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes. These might include legislation related to access to information, to planning processes, or to public administration more generally. India's Right to Information Act of 2005 (<https://www.ncess.gov.in/facilities/central-public-information-officer/rti-act-details.html>) is an example of this type of law. More information on access to information legislation (constitutional provisions, laws, and regulations), including examples of model laws, can be found here: <http://www.right2info.org/laws/constitutional-provisions-laws-and-regulations#section-1>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

1997 Constitution of The Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/constitution>

Public Finance Act 2014
<http://mofea.gm/pension-law>

Financial Regulations 2016, Legal Notice, No. 16 of 2016
<http://mofea.gm/downloads/publications>

Comment:

The Gambia does not have Freedom of Information Law (FOI) that will enable citizens to request for public information and get their request granted. For transparency, Section 160 (1)(e) of the 1997 constitution highlighted that the Auditor General after presenting the annual audit accounts to the national assembly and after the parliament considers it, the document should be published for public information.

The budget formulation is done by the Ministry of Finance and approve by the cabinet before it is presented to parliament for debate. There is no law that allows citizens to be part of the budget formulation, execution or reporting. However, the budget speech and sittings of the Finance of Public Accounts (FPAC) and Public Accounts Enterprise (PEC) are open to the public.

PART II, Section 4(1)(e), page 10 of the Financial Regulations 2016 states that the Ministry of Finance shall "publish" information but does not specify the target group.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/public-finance-management>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: Section 3 (1)(E) of the Public Finance Act dwells on the need for the Ministry of Finance to "promote Fiscal Transparency" . Although I agree that there is no specific law pertaining to access to information

1. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 1 addresses the presentation of expenditure by administrative unit. This information indicates which government entity (ministry, department, or agency, or MDAs) will be responsible for spending the funds and, ultimately, held accountable for their use.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all administrative units, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the administrative units shown individually, in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation, must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. In other words, the sum of the expenditures assigned to the individual MDAs (education, health, infrastructure, interior, defense, etc.) must account for at least two-thirds of the total expenditure budgeted for that particular year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents administrative units that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by administrative unit.

Answer:

b. Yes, administrative units accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures are presented.

Source:
Budget Speech 2019, Annex 1, page 38: Sector Allocations for 2019 Budget
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:
Annex 1 of the 2019 Budget Speech presents expenditure by administrative unit for 84% of the budget. The category "Others" makes up 16%.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:
a. Yes, administrative units accounting for all expenditures are presented.
Comments: The Budget Book (Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure) classifies the budget by Administrative function

IBP Comment
As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire.

2. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by functional classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 2 addresses the presentation of expenditure by functional classification. This classification indicates the programmatic purpose, sector, or objective for which the funds will be used, such as health, education, or defense. Administrative units are not necessarily aligned with functional classifications. For instance, in one country all functions connected with water supply (which fall into the "Housing" function) may be undertaken by a single government agency, while in another country they may be distributed across the Ministries of Environment, Housing, and Industrial Development. In the latter case, three ministries have programs addressing water supply, so three ministries contribute to one function. Similarly, some administrative units may conduct activities that cut across more than one function. For instance, in the example above, some programs of the Ministry of Environment would also be classified in the "environmental protection" function.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by functional classification.

Answer:
b. No, expenditures are not presented by functional classification.

Source:
Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia

Comment:
Expenditures are not classified into functional classifications in the Budget Speech. Functional classification could be found on page 22 of the "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, National Assembly copy" which is not published online by the government.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:
a. Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification.
Comments: in the Budget book 2019.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:
a. Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification.
Comments: As the researcher mentioned on his "comments", Functional Classification is available on the National Assembly copy of the Budget Estimates, but it is also available on the Approved Budget Estimates. The Budget Speech read by the Minister will mainly have the summary of the budget, but it is the Approved Budget estimates that will have all the necessary reports, including functional classification. The researcher also mentioned the issue of functional classification not being published online, but to the best of my knowledge, the question is only assessing whether the budget is also presented by Functions. If that is the question, then yes, the annual Approved budget (page 22) presents the budget budget by Functions.

IBP Comment
As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

3. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by functional classification, is the functional classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 3 asks whether a country's functional classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's functional classification must be aligned with the OECD and the UN's Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), or provide a cross-walk between the national functional presentation and COFOG.

The OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency can be viewed at <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/Best%20Practices%20Budget%20Transparency%20-%20complete%20with%20cover%20page.pdf>

COFOG can be viewed at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_84E.pdf or at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/ch6ann.pdf>.

Answer:

b. No, the functional classification is not compatible with international standards, or expenditures are not presented by functional classification.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

The document does not present the 2019 expenditure by functional classification. Thus, its compatibility cannot be assessed.

Functional classification is included on page 22 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, National Assembly copy which is not reviewed in this survey because it is not publicly available (published online)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the functional classification is compatible with international standards.

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire.

4. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by economic classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 4 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification. Economic classification provides information on the nature of the expenditure, such as whether funds are being used to pay for wages and salaries, capital projects, or social assistance benefits.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification.

Answer:

b. No, expenditures are not presented by economic classification.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

The Budget Speech being reviewed as the Executive Budget Proposal does not present expenditures by economic classification.

Its classification is in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, National Assembly copy page 26-32 "Receipts By Economic Classification" and on page 33-36 "Recurrent Budget Details by Item" which is not published online by the government.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by economic classification.

Comments: Similar to the previous question, to the best of my knowledge the question is gauging whether the budget is also presented by Economic Classification, and not about publishing it online. If this is the case, then Yes, the Approved Budget (page 25) is presented by Economic Classification

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

5. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by economic classification, is the economic classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 5 asks whether a country's economic classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's economic classification must be consistent with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2001 Government Finance Statistics (GFS). The GFS economic classification is presented here: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>. To learn more about Government Finance Statistics also refer to the entire IMF 2001 GFS manual (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf>).

Answer:

b. No, the economic classification is not compatible with international standards, or expenditures are not presented by economic classification.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

The Budget Speech, which is being reviewed as the EBP, does not contain economic expenditure classification.

"Receipts By Economic Classification" page 26-28. "Recurrent Budget Details by Item" page 33-36 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, National Assembly copy. The economic classification of the draft budget estimates is inline with international accepted standard (IMF). however this document is not published online.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the economic classification is compatible with international standards.

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire.

6. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 6 asks whether expenditures are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should treat the term "program" as meaning any level of detail below an administrative unit – that is, any programmatic grouping that is below the ministry, department, or agency level. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Budget decisions for the upcoming year can also affect the parameters of future budgets. It is therefore useful to estimate revenues and expenditures for multi-year periods, understanding that these estimates might be revised as circumstances change. Sometimes referred to as a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), a three-year period – that is, the budget year plus two more years – is generally considered an appropriate horizon for budgeting and planning.

Answer:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

Expenditures by Individual programs are not presented in the budget speech. The document do contain narratives of programs to be implemented in 2019 but it does not account for its expenditures. For example, on page 24, section 80 under "Health and Social Welfare", the document explains the

Individual programs accounting for all program expenditures for the fiscal year 2019 are presented in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, National Assembly copy in Government Local Fund (GLF) and donor funded programs, however that document is not published online.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Comments: The REsearcher keeps referring to the issue of publishing, when the question does not mention anything about publishing the Programs online. The APproved budget (page 37-95) is presented by Programs for each Ministry

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

7. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 7 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," multi-year expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

d. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019

<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

Both the Budget Speech and Estimates of Expenditure (which is only available in Hard Copy) do not place estimates of multi-year (2 years beyond the budget year) expenditure into functional, economic, or administrative classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

7b. Based on the response to Question 7, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for a multi-year period in the Executive's Budget Proposal?

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Budget Speech 2019 <http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, National Assembly copy

Comment:

Both the Budget Speech and Estimates of Expenditure (which is only available in Hard Copy) do not place estimates of multi-year (2 years beyond the budget year) expenditure into functional, economic, or administrative classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

8. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by program?

GUIDELINES:

Question 8 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaille. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures over the multi-year period. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if multi-year estimates are not presented by program.

Revenues generally are separated into two major categories: "tax" and "non-tax" revenues. Taxes are compulsory transfers that result from government exercising its sovereign power. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes. The category of non-tax revenues is more diverse, ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services. Note that some forms of revenue, such as contributions to social security funds, can be considered either a tax or non-tax revenue depending on the nature of the approach to these contributions. Particularly because different revenues have different characteristics, including who bears the burden of paying the tax and how collections are affected by economic conditions, it is helpful when estimates for revenues are disaggregated and displayed based on their sources.

For more information, please refer to the 2001 GFS manual, in particular Appendix 4 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>).

Answer:

d. No, multi-year estimates for programs are not presented.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019

Comment:

Multi-year expenditure estimates for programs are not stated in the 2019 Executive's Budget Proposal

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

9. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 9 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, individual sources of tax revenue are not presented.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

The budget speech presented a narrative of tax collections but does not contain the individual sources of tax revenue.

On page 33 under Revenue, Section 116 explains that "tax revenue is projected to grow by 26 percent to D10.9 billion" in the fiscal year of 2019. It also highlights that non-tax revenue will increase to 1.1% of GDP (D1 billion). Under "Tax Reforms" page 34 section 123 highlights the increment of tax on beverages and beers to increase tax revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for all tax revenue are presented.

Comments: The Researcher only looked to the Budget Speech Statement made by the Minister. However, the Approved Budget Estimates (Page 29-32) clearly shows all individual sources of tax revenue

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

10. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of government-produced goods and services) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 10 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "non-tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The category of non-tax revenues is diverse, and can include revenue ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of non-tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all non-tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of non-tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all non-tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of non-tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of non-tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of non-tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, individual sources of non-tax revenue are not presented.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

Individual sources of non-tax revenue are not placed in the budget speech.

However, individual sources of non-tax revenue collections by the government is presented in the 2019 "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019" National Assembly copy for sales of government properties (such as equipment, land, assets etc), domestic and international grants received, fines, administrative fees, foreign borrowing (Bilateral and Multilateral) etc. on "Receipts of Revenues, Grants and Loans", Receipt by Economic Classification", Detailed Revenue Estimates by Collecting Agency" page 26-32 and Donor Funding Projects page 103 in the "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019" National Assembly copy. This document is not reviewed due to its public absence.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for all non-tax revenue are presented.

Comments: The Approved Budget Estimates (page 29-32), which is a public document, has information pertaining to detailed non-tax revenue

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

11. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 11 evaluates whether revenue estimates are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year) by "category," that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of revenues classified by category for at least two years following the budget year in question.

Answer:

b. No, multi-year estimates of revenue are not presented by category.

Source:
Budget Speech 2019

Comment:
Multi-year projection beyond the budget year of revenue estimates by categories are not presented.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

12. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates for individual sources of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 12 evaluates whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented for a multi-year period.

Answer:
d. No, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Source:
Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:
Multi-year projection of individual sources of revenue beyond the budget year are not presented in the executive's proposed budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

13. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 13 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt that the budget should include:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments,

or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies no information on borrowing and debt is presented for the budget year.

Answer:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

Section 3 page 6, Section 118-119 page 33 and Annex 5 of the 2019 Budget Speech Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability For a Prosperous Gambia <http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

the amount of net new borrowing required during 2019: page 33, paragraph 119 "Overall the fiscal deficit is anticipated to increase to 3.4 billion (4 percent of GDP) in 2019..."

the central government's total debt burden at the end of 2019: annex 5 provides domestic and external public debt for 2019 as a percentage of old GDP, however no figure for the old GDP is given, which makes it difficult to calculate the total debt burden.

the interest payments on the outstanding debt for 2019: page 33, paragraph 118 "The interest payments for 2019 fiscal year are projected at D2.7 billion (3.1 percent of GDP)."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Net new Borrowing is available on the approved budget (Page 1 and page 2) Interest Payments on the outstanding debt is also available on the approved budget (Page 1 and page 2) Total Debt burden is only available as a percentage of GDP

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

13b. Based on the response to Question 13, check the box(es) below to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year
The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia: Section 3 (page 6), 118 (page 33), Section 31 (page 13) and Annex 5
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

the amount of net new borrowing required during 2019: page 33, paragraph 119 "Overall the fiscal deficit is anticipated to increase to 3.4 billion (4 percent of GDP) in 2019..."

the central government's total debt burden at the end of 2019: annex 5 provides domestic and external public debt for 2019 as a percentage of old GDP, however no figure for the old GDP is given, which makes it difficult to calculate the total debt burden.

the interest payments on the outstanding debt for 2019: page 33, paragraph 118 "The interest payments for 2019 fiscal year are projected at D2.7 billion (3.1 percent of GDP)."

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:
Comments: The two information mentioned are also available on the approved budget estimate

IBP Comment
As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

14. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year?"

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 14 focuses on the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 13, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens, banks, and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding at the end of the budget year.

Answer:

d. No, information related to composition of total debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

While page 13, sections 29-32 do provide some information on the composition of debt, it provides only figures as of August/September 2018, rather than for the 2019 budget year.

Annex 5 provides a breakdown of public debt by domestic and external.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question

IBP Comment

For cross country comparability, answer choice "D" has been selected. While Annex 5 does provide a breakdown of public debt by domestic and external, it is only as a percentage of GDP, which is not given in the EBP.

14b. Based on the response to Question 14, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the composition of the total debt outstanding are are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

While page 13, sections 29-32 do provide some information on the composition of debt, it provides only figures as of August/September 2018, rather than for the 2019 budget year.

Annex 5 provides a breakdown of public debt by domestic and external.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The Approved Budget Estimates (page 1 and page 2) also have information on the interest component of the debt (both domestic and external). Detailed debt service budget is available on the Approved Budget Estimates (page 140-145)

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal. For cross country comparability, answer choice "none of the above" has been selected. While Annex 5 does provide a breakdown of public debt by domestic and external, it is only as a percentage of GDP, which is not given in the EBP.

15. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?"

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 15 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the budget's revenue and expenditure estimates, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- *nominal GDP level;*
- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

While the core macroeconomic information should be a standard feature of the Executive's Budget Proposal, the importance of some types of macroeconomic assumptions may vary from country to country. For example, the budget estimates of some countries are particularly affected by changes in the price of oil and other commodities.

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short and long-term interest rates; rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present

all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia, page 7-10, section 10
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

nominal GDP level for 2019: not presented
inflation rate for 2019: not presented
real GDP growth for 2019: not presented
interest rates for 2019: not presented

The budget speech 2019, presented the macroeconomic forecast looking at the world economic and its impact on the domestic economy (page 7-10), however it lacks the core information requested in this question.

The price of oil is projected to rise "...largely owing to the expected production cuts of one million barrels a day in December 2018 by Saudi..." However, it does not place its price for 2019. The country's major export product, groundnut, is expected to boost the countries economy due to increase price of groundnut in the global market (section 10). The real GDP growth in 2019 is not projected and the percentage of employment and unemployment rate too is not presented. Due to the economic outlook, the government intends to increase its interest rate due to stock of domestic debts but it does not specify how many percents the interest rate will be in crease in 2019

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

15b. Based on the response to Question 15, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

16. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget?"

(The core information must include estimates of the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 16 focuses on the issue of whether the Executive's Budget Proposal shows how different macroeconomic assumptions affect the budget estimates (known as a "sensitivity analysis"). It asks whether "core" information related to a sensitivity analysis is presented, estimating the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for:

- inflation rate;
- real GDP growth; and
- interest rates.

A sensitivity analysis shows the effect on the budget of possible changes in some macroeconomic assumptions, and is important for understanding the impact of the economy on the budget; for instance, what would happen to revenue collections if GDP growth were slower than what is assumed in the budget proposal? Or what would happen to expenditure if inflation were higher than estimated? Or how will revenue be affected by a decrease in the price of oil?

As noted for Question 15, changes in certain macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil and other commodities, can have a significant impact on the budget estimates. As a result, some sensitivity analyses may also examine the impact on the budget estimates of changes in assumptions such as the price of oil that are beyond the core elements of the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to a "sensitivity analysis" as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to a "sensitivity analysis" is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on "sensitivity analysis" is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to different macroeconomic assumptions is not presented.

Source:

Budget Speech 2019: Fiscal Consolidation-Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia, page 7-10,
<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/budget-speech-2019>

Comment:

The macroeconomic forecast looked into world economic outlook and its impact on the domestic economy (see page 7-10). This includes the inflation of oil price, increase of groundnut price in the global market which is expected to boost the economy and the decline of bag of rice which is the staple food of The Gambia. The increase of interest rates is informed by the stock of domestic debt which puts pressure on government to increase the interest rates. However there is not any analysis that examines the impact of different assumptions of groundnut prices (or other macroeconomic indicators, including the core elements listed for this question) on the economy.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

17. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Answer:

d. No, information that shows how new policy proposals affect expenditure is not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia, section 53, 64, 80, 101
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

While the Budget Speech includes a number of references to new policy proposals, it does not include a cost to them, which means that their impact on expenditures can not be measured.

For Example, The National Information and Communication Infrastructure policy (NICI II), is said to be adopted before the end of 2018 in order to "articulate the policy direction for the ICT sector" as stated in the 2019 budget speech. In the fight against corruption, the budget speech highlights that a new policy to establish the Anti-Corruption Commission is expected to be functional in 2019. A new policy to ease access to maternal health and immunization services, the Ministry of Health is said to start construction of five new outreach sites in Western 1 and 2 health regions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

18. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Prior-year information constitutes an important benchmark for assessing the proposals for the upcoming budget year. Estimates of prior years should be presented in the same formats (in terms of classification) as the budget year to ensure that year-to-year comparisons are meaningful. For example, if the budget proposes shifting responsibility for a particular program from one administrative unit to another – such as shifting responsibility for the training of nurses from the health department to the education department – the prior-year figures must be adjusted before year-to-year comparisons of administrative budgets can be made.

Typically, when the budget proposal is submitted, the year prior to the budget year (BY-1), also known as the current year, has not ended, so the executive will provide estimates of the anticipated outcome for BY-1. The soundness of these estimates is directly related to the degree to which they have been updated to reflect actual expenditures to date, legislative changes that have occurred, and anticipated changes in macroeconomic, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

The first year that can reflect actual outcomes, therefore, is generally two years before the budget year (BY-2). Thus the OECD recommends that data covering at least two years before the budget year (along with two years of projections beyond the budget year) are provided in order to assess fully the trends in the budget.

Answer:

d. No, information that shows how new policy proposals affect revenues is not presented.

Source:

Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia (Budget Speech 2019)
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The budget speech document do provide new policies but it does not provide a comprehensive information on how new policy proposals distinct from current ones and how it will affect revenue for 2019. For example, section 62 under "TRADE, INDUSTRY, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT" of the budget speech, the Government of The Gambia through Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA) entered into partnership with a private estate company called TAF to build a Business City in order to attract domestic and foreign investors. Information on how this new project distinct from previous investor attraction policies and how it affect the budget, is not provided.

Section 82, under "Lands and Regional Government" also highlights the introduction of 4 residential layouts that are spotted and are meant to benefit 1,800 low income households in order to curb access to housing facilities. This too does not provide information on how this policy distinct from an existing policy and how it will affect the budget. Although, it has stated the amount of beneficiaries and how it will impact their lives

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

19. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 19 asks if expenditure estimates for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) are presented by one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-1 by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-1 must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

d. No, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The budget speech does not classify expenditures of BY-1 into economic, functional and administrative classification. These classifications of BY-1 could be found in the "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy" from the Actual in 2017 and approved in 2018 ("Function of the Government - Expenditure Overview" page 22-24, "Summary Departmental Expenditure Budget - GLF" page 25, "Receipts by Economic Classification" page 26, "Detailed Revenue Estimates by Collecting Agency" page 29-32, "Recurrent Budget Details by Item" page 33-36")

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: The budget speech ("Fiscal Sector Developments" (page 11)) dwells on the actuals of 2018 by economic classification

IBP Comment

While page 11 of the budget speech does include some information on economic classification of expenditure, it only covers the first 9 months of 2018. Answer "D" maintained.

20. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 20 asks if expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could

be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-1. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-1. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program for BY-1.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The budget speech does not present expenditures by individual program for BY-1. The individual programs accounting for all expenditures for the preceding year are presented in the "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, National Assembly copy (which is not publicly available) in Government Local Fund (GLF) and donor funded programs (ref. "Development Budget Detailed Estimates of Expenditure" page 111-140, in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, National Assembly copy)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

21. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 21 asks whether the expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) have been updated from the original enacted levels. Updates can reflect actual experience to date; revised estimates due to shifting of funds by the executive, as permitted under the law; enactment of supplemental budgets; and revised assumptions regarding macroeconomic conditions, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

Answer "a" applies if the estimates have been updated; answer "b" applies if the original estimates are still being used.

Answer:

b. No, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have not been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
FISCAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS, page 11 section 19, Revenue & Grants, Expenditure and Net Lending and Fiscal Deficit 2009 - 2019 Annex 4, page 41
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Actual expenditures of the preceding budget year (2018) is not placed in the executive budget proposal. Neither the budget speech nor the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, National Assembly copy present actual expenditure to reflect the difference between what was enacted and the actual expenditure in 2018. However on section 19 page 11, the total expenditure and net lending for the first nine months of 2018 are placed accounting for D10.6 billion (20 percent of GDP) with a decline rate of 19 percent. On Annex 4, page 41, it only shows the expenditure and net lending for 2018 (budgeted)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Comments: The figures quoted on the budget speech ("Fiscal Sector Developments", page 11) reflects the updated actuals for BY-1

IBP Comment

While page 11 of the budget speech does include some information on economic classification of expenditure, it only covers the first 9 months of 2018. Answer "B" maintained.

22. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 22 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any of the three classifications

Answer:

d. No, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Expenditure estimates for BY-2 are not placed in the budget speech by economic, administrative and functional classifications.

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy (not publicly available) shows actual expenditures for 2017 in the economic, functional and administrative classifications (ref. Function of Government - Expenditure Overview - GLF, page 22-24, Summary Departmental Expenditure Budget - GLF page 25, Receipts by Economic Classification, page 26. In the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Comments: The Researcher has already mentioned in his comments that the national assembly copy (not publicly available) shows actual expenditures for 2017 in economic, functional and administrative classifications. Although the National Assembly copy is not a public document, the Approved Estimates (Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019) is publicly available and has the same information pertaining to 2017 actual expenditures in economic, functional and administrative classification

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

22b. Based on the response to Question 22, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year in the Executive Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

BY-2 expenditure estimates are not presented in the budget speech.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Just like the previous answer, The Approved Estimates shows year BY-2 actual expenditure in Administrative, Functional and Economic Classification. The Approved Estimates is a publicly available document

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

23. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for more than one year preceding the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 23 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year before the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-2 and prior years. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-2 and prior years. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Expenditure estimates of individual programs accounting for all programs are not placed in the budget speech.

However, from 2017 to 2018 Expenditure estimates of individual programs accounting for all programs are presented in the 2019 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, national assembly copy and its funding are disaggregated in Government Local Fund (GLF), Foreign Government funding, multilateral and bilateral organizations. Development Budget Detailed Estimates of Expenditure, page 111 in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Comments: The Approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019 (publicly available) has actuals of Government expenditure by Programs. (This starts from page 37 of the approved estimates). The researcher only looked at the National Assembly copy, which he rightfully claimed is not

publicly available. However, the Approved copy, which is publicly available, has all the relevant information just as the National Assembly copy

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

24. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 24 asks for which year the actual outcomes for expenditures are shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated all its expenditure data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

Comment:

The most recent actual expenditure shown on the executive's budget proposal is 2017 (BY-2) and the oldest is 2009.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

25. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

b. No, revenue estimates for BY-1 are not presented by category.

Source:

Comment:

Revenue collection by tax and non tax preceding the budget year (2019) are categorized in the draft budget estimates. Overview of Revenue, Grants and Financing page 3, Receipts of Revenues, Grants and Loans page 26
Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy

However the draft budget estimates are not considered publicly available. The budget speech and accompanying annexes do not contain revenue estimates for BY-1 by category.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: On his Statement to the National Assembly during the laying of the National Assembly copy of the Budget, the Minister quoted the actual total revenue collected in 2017, as well as the actual total revenue collected for the period Jan-September 2018. What was presented was not by category, but instead total revenue collected (Tax, Non-Tax, Grants etc)

IBP Comment

As the Budget Speech and its accompanying annexes do not include revenue estimates for the full-year BY-1 (2018) by category, this question is answered "B".

26. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

d. No, individual sources of revenue are not presented for BY-1.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Individual sources of revenue for the preceding budget year (2018) are not placed in the budget speech 2019.

The "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy (not publicly available)" does place individual sources of revenue under Overview of Revenue, Grants and Financing page 3, Receipts of Revenues, Grants and Loans page 26

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-1.

Comments: This information is available on the Final Approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019 (page 29-32). The researcher kept referring to the National Assembly copy and that it is not publicly available. However, the final approved copy, which is publicly available, has the same information

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

27. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have the original estimates of revenue for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated to reflect actual revenue collections?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

b. No, revenue estimates for BY-1 have not been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
Revenue & Grants, Expenditure and Net Lending and Fiscal Deficit 2009 - 2019 Appex 4, page 41
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Revenue estimates for BY-1 is not updated to reflect the actual revenue collected for BY-1 in the executive budget proposal. Revenue estimate for BY-1 was GMD19.8 billion and it is the same figure in the 2019 budget speech.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

28. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

b. No, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by category.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia Revenue & Grants, Expenditure and Net Lending and Fiscal Deficit 2009 - 2019, Page 41, Annex 4
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The budget speech does not categorize revenue collections by tax and non-tax. Page 41, Annex 4 only categorize revenue collections by "Revenue and Grants"

Under Overview of Revenue, Grants and Financing page 3, Receipts of Revenues, Grants and Loans page 26 of the "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy" do categorize revenue collections by tax and non tax.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category.

Comments: The Approved Estimates has details of Revenue Actuals for BY-2 (Page 29-32)

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

29. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

d. No, individual sources of revenue are not presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Individual sources of revenue does not form part of the 2019 budget speech document. Thus, BY-2 individual sources of revenue cannot be assessed.

The "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy" do present the actual individual sources of revenue under: Receipts of Revenues, Grants and Loans page 26-32

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Comments: This information is available on the Approved estimates (pages 29-32)

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

30. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
Revenue & Grants, Expenditure and Net Lending and Fiscal Deficit 2009 - 2019, Page 41, Annex 4
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The most recent actual revenue collected in the 2019 budget speech is 2017 (BY-2). All revenues collected from 2009 to 2017 reflects the actual collected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

31. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?"

(The core information must include the total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1; the amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1; interest payments on the debt; interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 31 focuses on prior-year debt information, rather than on prior-year expenditures or revenues, asking whether "core" information is provided on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1).

The "core" information includes:

- total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1;
- amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1;
- interest payments on the debt;
- interest rates on the debt instruments;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether it is domestic or external debt.

This core information for BY-1 is consistent with the budget year information for borrowing and debt, which is examined in Questions 13 and 14.

In addition, some governments provide information beyond the core elements, such as gross new borrowing required during BY-1; currency of the debt; whether the debt carries a fixed or variable interest rate; whether it is callable; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for BY-1 as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on government borrowing and debt for BY-1.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Budget Speech and accompanying annexes present some, but not all of the core information.

total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1 (2018): page 12, section 23 presents total public debt for 2018 as a percentage of old GDP

amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1 (2018): page 33, section 119

interest payments on the debt in 2018: page 33, section 33

interest rates on the debt instruments in 2018: not presented

maturity profile of the debt in 2018: not presented

whether it is domestic or external debt in 2018: Annex 5 presents public debt for 2018 as a percentage of old GDP

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

32. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 32 asks for which year the actual outcome for debt is shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated its debt data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

It is essential that all government activities that may have an impact on the budget – in the current budget year or in future budget years – be fully disclosed to the legislature and the public in budget documents. In some countries, for instance, entities outside central government (such as public corporations) undertake fiscal activities that could affect current and future budgets. Similarly, activities that can have a significant impact on the budget, such as payment arrears and contingent liabilities, sometimes are not properly captured by the regular presentations of expenditure, revenue, and debt.

Answer:

d. No actual data for government debt are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The budget speech does not present total debt figures that reflects its actual outcomes.

The actual outcomes of debt figures for the most recent year in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy is 2017 (BY-2) which is not publicly available (ref. Summary of Government Funds page 1-2, "Debt Service Budget Detailed Estimates of Expenditure" page 141-146)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

33. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on extra-budgetary funds for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund; and complete income, expenditure, and financing data on a gross basis.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 33 focuses on extra-budgetary funds, asking whether "core" information related to these funds, which exist outside the budget, are presented. These core components include:

- *a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund (i.e., why was a particular fund set up? what is it used for?); and*
- *estimates of its income, expenditure, and financing. (These estimates should be presented on a gross basis so that it is possible to tell how much money flows through each extra-budgetary fund.)*

In most countries, governments engage in certain budgetary activities that are not included in the central government's budget. Known as extra-budgetary funds, they can range in size and scope. For example, countries frequently set up pension and social security programs as extra-budgetary funds, where the revenues collected and the benefits paid are recorded in a separate fund outside the budget. Another example of an extra-budgetary fund can be found in countries dependent on hydrocarbon/mineral resources, where revenues from producing and selling those resources are channeled through systems outside the annual budget.

In some cases, the separation engendered by an extra-budgetary fund serves a legitimate political purpose, and the finances and activities of these funds are well documented. In other cases, however, this structure is used for obfuscation, and little or nothing is known about a fund's finances and activities.

The availability of information related to extra-budgetary funds is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the government's true fiscal position. In addition to the core information, other information about extra-budgetary funds is also desirable. Such information includes a discussion of the risks associated with the extra-budgetary fund; expenditures classified by economic, functional, or administrative unit; and the rules and procedures that govern the operations and management of the extra-budgetary fund.

For more information about extra-budgetary funds, see the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 2.1.1 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to extra-budgetary funds as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. A "b" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation presents all of the core information. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to extra-budgetary funds is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on extra-budgetary funds.

Answer:

d. No, information related to extra-budgetary funds is not presented.

Source:

Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for A Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:
Extra-budgetary funds do not form part of the Executive Budget Proposal.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question

34. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 34 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documents present the finances of the central government on a consolidated basis, showing both its budgetary and extra-budgetary activities. Virtually all of the questions in the OBS questionnaire focus on budgetary central government – the activities of the ministries, departments, or agencies of central government. In addition, Question 33 asks about extra-budgetary funds, such as social security funds that are not included in the budget.

Coverage is an important aspect of fiscal reporting. Budget documents should cover the full scope of government's financial activity. In many countries, extra-budgetary activities are substantial, and can represent a sizable share of the central government's activities. To get a full picture of the central government's finances, therefore, it is necessary to examine both activities that are included in the budget and those that are extra-budgetary. This question asks whether such a consolidated presentation of central government finances is provided.

The central government is only one component of the overall public sector. The public sector also includes other levels of government, such as state and local government, and public corporations. (See Box 2.1 under Principle 1.1.1 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018): <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>. For the purpose of answering this question, please consider only the central government level.

In order to answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year.

Answer:

b. No, central government finances are not presented on a consolidated basis.

Source:

Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for A Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Extra-budgetary and budgetary funds do not form part of the Executive's Budget Proposal. Extra-budgetary finances are created outside operations of consolidated fund by act of the National Assembly.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

35. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of intergovernmental transfers for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 35 asks about intergovernmental transfers. In many cases, the central government supports the provision of a good or service by a lower level of government through an intergovernmental transfer of funds. This is necessary because, independent from the level of administrative decentralization that exists in a given country, the capacity for revenue collection of a local government is unlikely to be sufficient to pay for all its expenses. However, because the

activity is not being undertaken by an administrative unit of the central government, it is unlikely to receive the same level of review in the budget. Thus it is important to include in the budget proposal a statement that explicitly indicates the amount and purposes of these transfers.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all intergovernmental transfers and a narrative discussing these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all intergovernmental transfers are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, intergovernmental transfers (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of intergovernmental transfers are not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The budget speech does not present estimates of intergovernmental transfers.

Transfer of funds are included in the "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy" but there is no narrative to explain the purpose of the transfer, from which governmental institution is the transfer coming from and which department is receiving the transfer (ref. Transfer from GLF (Gambia Local Fund) page 100, Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Comments: AMount of Transfer from Central Government to Local Governments is captured under the Ministry of Lands and Regional Government budget (page 71, Subvention budget line under the program "Strengthening Decentralisation and Good Governance")

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

36. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region) to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 36 asks about "alternative displays" of expenditures that highlight the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens. As discussed above, expenditures are typically presented by at least one of three classifications – administrative, functional, and economic classifications (see Questions 1-5) – and by individual program (Question 6). In addition, governments can provide alternative displays to emphasize different aspects of expenditure policies and to show who benefits from these expenditures.

For the purpose of answering this question, the alternative presentation must differ from the presentations (such as administrative, functional, or economic classifications or presentation by program) used to answer other questions. The alternative display can cover all expenditures or only a portion of expenditures. For instance, it can show how all expenditures are distributed according to geographic region or it can show how selected expenditures (such as the health budget or the agriculture budget) are distributed to different regions. But such a geographic display must be something different than the presentation of intergovernmental transfers used to answer question 35. One exception is when a country includes a special presentation of all policies intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (and is used to answer Question 52) then that can be considered an alternative display for purposes of answering this question as well. Finally, brief fact sheets showing how proposals in the budget benefit particular groups would be insufficient; only more detailed presentations would be considered.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?"

(<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of the importance of alternative displays of budget information and provides a number of examples. For instance,

- Bangladesh in its 2017-18 Budget included a detailed supplementary Gender Budgeting Report, which presents the spending dedicated to advancing women across various departments. (<https://mof.portal.gov.bd/site/page/3bb14732-b5b1-44df-9921-efedf1496295>).
- The UK's 2017 budget included a supplementary analysis that provided a distributional analysis of the budget by households in different income groups (see https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661465/distributional_analysis_autumn_budget_2017.pdf)

- *South Africa's 2017 Budget Review goes beyond the standard presentation of intergovernmental transfers, discussing the redistribution that results from national revenue flowing to the provinces and municipalities and presenting the allocations on a per capita basis (see chapter 6, <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2017/review/FullBR.pdf>).*

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least three different presentations that illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least two different alternative displays of expenditures. A "c" applies if only one type of alternative display of expenditure is presented. Answer "d" applies if no alternative display of expenditure is presented.

Answer:

d. No, alternative displays of expenditures are not presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The executive's budget proposal does not disaggregate government expenditures by age, gender, region or economic class to illustrate the impact of the budget or new policy on citizens and non-citizens.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

36b. Based on the response to Question 36, select the box(es) below to identify which types of alternative displays are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The executive's budget proposal does not disaggregate government expenditures by age, gender, region or economic class to illustrate the impact of the budget or new policy on citizens and non-citizens

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

37. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of transfers to public corporations for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 37 asks about transfers to public corporations. It is often the case that governments have a stake in enterprises that manage resources that are particularly relevant for the public good (such as electricity, water, and oil). While these public corporations can operate independently, in some cases the government will provide direct support by making transfers to these corporations, including to subsidize capital investment and operating expenses.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all transfers to public corporations and a narrative discussing the purposes of these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all transfers to public corporations are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, transfers to public corporations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of transfers to public corporations are not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Transfers does not form part of the budget speech.

The "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy" does not present the full estimates of government transfer to public corporation companies. However, few are presented in the draft budget. For example, under Transfers, GMD10,500,00 is estimated for the "Rural Water Supply and Sanitation"(ref. Transfer from GLF (Gambia Local Fund) page 100-102, Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy).

The National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) is the public corporation company that provides water and electricity services. Thus, it is important to note that, the transfer does not include which department is doing the transfer and to which institution is the money being transferred to.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Comments: Transfers to Public Enterprises are captured under the Budget Entity "Centralised Services " - Subvention to Public Cooperation, page 68 of the Approved Estimates

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

38. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity and the intended beneficiaries.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 38 focuses on quasi-fiscal activities, asking whether "core" information related to such activities is presented. These core components include:

- A statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity (i.e., what is the reason for engaging in this activity?);
- The identification of intended beneficiaries of the quasi-fiscal activity.

The term "quasi-fiscal activities" refers to a broad range of activities that are fiscal in character and could be carried out through the regular budget process but are not. For example, a quasi-fiscal activity could take place if, instead of providing a direct subsidy through the budget for a particular activity, a public financial institution provides an indirect subsidy by offering loans at below-market rates for that activity. Similarly, it is a quasi-fiscal activity when an enterprise provides goods or services at prices below commercial rates to certain individuals or groups to support the government's policy goals.

The above examples are policy choices that may be approved by the government and legislature. However, quasi-fiscal activities can also involve activities that violate or circumvent a country's budget process laws or are not subject to the regular legislative approval process for expenditures. For example, the executive may issue an informal order to a government entity, such as a public commercial enterprise, to provide the executive with goods and services that normally would have to be purchased with funding authorized by the legislature. All quasi-fiscal activities should be disclosed to the public and subject to public scrutiny.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about quasi-fiscal activities, including for example: the anticipated duration of the quasi-fiscal activity; a quantification of the activity and the assumptions that support these estimates; and a discussion of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the activity, including the impact on the entity carrying out the activity. Principle 3.3.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) provides examples of quasi-fiscal activities that can be consulted as needed. And more details on quasi-fiscal activities can be found in the Guide to

Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to all quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to quasi-fiscal activities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on quasi-fiscal activities.

If quasi-fiscal activities do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question.

Answer:

d. No, information related to quasi-fiscal activities is not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Quasi-fiscal activities does not form part of the Executive Budget Proposal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

39. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets, and an estimate of their value.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 39 focuses on financial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. These core components include:

- A listing of the financial assets; and
- An estimate of their value.

Governments own financial assets such as cash, bonds, or equities. Unlike private sector businesses, however, few governments maintain balance sheets that show the value of their assets and liabilities.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about financial assets, including for example: a discussion of their purpose; historical information on defaults; differences between reported values and market values; and a summary of financial assets as part of the government's balance sheet.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to all financial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to financial assets is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on financial assets held by the government.

Answer:

d. No, information related to financial assets is not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Government's financial assets and there value are not presented in the draft executive budget proposal

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

40. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on nonfinancial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets by category.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 40 focuses on nonfinancial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. The core information is a listing of nonfinancial assets, grouped by the type (or category) of asset.

Nonfinancial assets are things of value that the government owns or controls (excluding financial assets) such as land, buildings, and machinery. The valuation of public nonfinancial assets can be problematic, particularly in cases where the asset is not typically available on the open market (such as a government monument). In these cases, it is considered acceptable to provide summary information in budget documents from a country's register of assets. But, in some cases, governments are able to value their nonfinancial assets; some present a summary of nonfinancial assets as part of their balance sheets. For an example of how nonfinancial assets are presented in one of the many supporting documents to the New Zealand Executive's Budget Proposal, see the Forecast Financial Statement 2011, Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued), Note 14, accessible here: <https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2011-05/befu11-pt6of8.pdf>.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year a listing by category of all nonfinancial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to nonfinancial assets is presented, but some nonfinancial assets are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on nonfinancial assets held by the government.

Answer:

d. No, information related to nonfinancial assets is not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

List of non-financial assets held by the government are not presented in the Executive Budget Proposal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

41. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure arrears for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 41 asks about estimates of expenditure arrears, which arise when government has entered into a commitment to spend funds but has not made the payment when it is due. (For more information see sections 3.49-3.50 of the IMF's GFS Manual 2001, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf> (page 29)). Though equivalent to borrowing, this liability is often not recorded in the budget, making it difficult to assess fully a government's financial position. Moreover, the obligation to repay this debt affects the government's ability to pay for other activities.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all expenditure arrears and a narrative discussing the arrears. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all expenditure arrears are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, expenditure arrears (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of expenditure arrears are presented.

If expenditure arrears do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question. Public expenditure management laws and regulations often will allow for reasonable delays, perhaps 30 or 60 days, in the routine payment of invoices due. Expenditure arrears impacting a small percentage of expenditure that are due to contractual disputes should not be considered a significant problem for the

purpose of answering this question.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of expenditure arrears are not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Estimates on government's expenditure arrears are not presented in the Executive Budget Proposal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: First arrears document a released on June prepared by Internal Audit Office (MoFEA)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

42. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities, such as government loan guarantees or insurance programs, for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability; the new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments (the gross exposure) at the end of the budget year.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 42 focuses on contingent liabilities, asking whether "core" information related to these liabilities is presented. These core components include:

- *a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability;*
- *the new contingent liabilities for the budget year, such as new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and*
- *the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments at the end of the budget year. This reflects the gross exposure of the government in the case that all guarantees or commitments come due (even though that may be unlikely to occur).*

Contingent liabilities are recognized under a cash accounting method only when the contingent event occurs and the payment is made. An example of such liabilities is the case of loans guaranteed by the central government, which can include loans to state-owned banks and other state-owned commercial enterprises, subnational governments, or private enterprises. Under such guarantees, government will only make a payment if the borrower defaults. Thus a key issue for making quantitative estimates of these liabilities is assessing the likelihood of the contingency occurring.

In the budget, according to the OECD, "[w]here feasible, the total amount of contingent liabilities should be disclosed and classified by major category reflecting their nature; historical information on defaults for each category should be disclosed where available. In cases where contingent liabilities cannot be quantified, they should be listed and described."

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about contingent liabilities, including for example: historical default rates for each program, and likely default rates in the future; the maximum guarantee that is authorized by law; any special financing associated with the guarantee (e.g., whether fees are charged, whether a reserve fund exists for the purpose of paying off guarantees, etc.); the duration of each guarantee; and an estimate of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the guarantees.

For more details on contingent liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and page 59 (Box 11) and Principle 3.2.3 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to contingent liabilities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to contingent liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on contingent liabilities.

Answer:

d. No, information related to contingent liabilities is not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Executive Budget Proposal does not present information on government programs or policy and a narrative of its contingent liabilities.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

43. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present projections that assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term?

(The core information must cover a period of at least 10 years and include the macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used and a discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 43 focuses on government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer-term, asking whether "core" information related to these issues is presented. These core components must include:

- *Projections that cover a period of at least 10 years.*
- *The macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used in making the projections.*
- *A discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections. Good public financial management calls for budgets to include fiscal sustainability analyses.*

The IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) recommends that governments regularly publish the projected evolution of the public finances over the longer term (see Principle 3.1.3.). Future liabilities are a particularly important element when assessing the sustainability of public finances over the long term. Future liabilities are the result of government commitments that, unlike contingent liabilities, are virtually certain to occur at some future point and result in an expenditure. A typical example consists of government obligations to pay pension benefits or cover health care costs of future retirees. Under a cash accounting system, only current payments associated with such obligations are recognized in the budget. To capture the future impact on the budget of these liabilities, a separate statement is required.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about the sustainability of their finances, including for example: projections that cover 20 or 30 years; multiple scenarios with different sets of assumptions; assumptions about other factors (such as the depletion of natural resources) that go beyond just the core macroeconomic and demographic data; and a detailed presentation of particular programs that have long time horizons, such as civil service pensions.

For more details on future liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of government finances over the longer term as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to future liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on future liabilities and the sustainability of government's finances

Answer:

d. No, information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of finances over the longer term is not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Future liabilities and projected evolution of public finances for 10 years period or more are not presented in the executive budget proposal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

44. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 44 asks about estimates of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind assistance. Such assistance is considered non-tax revenue, and the sources of this assistance should be explicitly identified. In terms of in-kind assistance, the concern is primarily with the provision of goods (particularly those for which there is a market that would allow goods received as in-kind aid to be sold, thereby converting them into cash) rather than with in-kind aid like advisors from a donor country providing technical assistance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all donor assistance and a narrative discussing the assistance. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all donor assistance are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, donor assistance (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if the sources of donor assistance are not presented, but the total amount of donor assistance is presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of donor assistance are presented. Select answer "e" if your country does not receive donor assistance.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all sources of donor assistance are presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia

Section 52 page 17, section 97 page 28

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The budget speech does not include sources of all donor assistance be in-kind or in-cash. On section 97 of page 28, a short narrative describes a financial support of 50million Euros from the Republic of France to help stabilize the economy of The Gambia. Section 52 page 17 also highlighted a support from Saudi Development Fund to provide 25 rural communities with a solar-powered piped-water supply system in 2019. However, the total amount for this project is not stated.

In the "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy" all donor funding projects are estimated to be at GMD15.9 billion for the 2019 budget year. Each donor funding project is categorized by department/office, the donor and project name. However, it does not categorize if the assistance is in-cash or in-kind (ref. Donor Funding of Projects, page 103-110 in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, national assembly copy)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The information will be available for the first time in budget 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of all sources of donor assistance are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Comments: Details of the development budget, including all donor assistance are captured on the Approved Estimates (pages 96-99)

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

45. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on tax expenditures for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each tax expenditure, the intended beneficiaries, and an estimate of the revenue foregone.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 45 focuses on tax expenditures, asking whether "core" information related to these tax preferences is presented. These core components must

include for both new and existing tax expenditures:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale;
- a listing of the intended beneficiaries; and
- an estimate of the revenue foregone.

Tax expenditures arise as a result of exceptions or other preferences in the tax code provided for specified entities, individuals, or activities. Tax expenditures often have the same impact on public policy and budgets as providing direct subsidies, benefits, or goods and services. For example, encouraging a company to engage in more research through a special tax break can have the same effect as subsidizing it directly through the expenditure side of the budget, as it still constitutes a cost in terms of foregone revenues. However, expenditure items that require annual authorization are likely to receive more scrutiny than tax breaks that are a permanent feature of the tax code.

*Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about tax expenditures, including for example: the intended beneficiaries by sector and income class (distributional impact); a statement of the estimating assumptions, including the definition of the benchmark against which the foregone revenue is measured; and a discussion of tax expenditures as part of a general discussion of expenditures for those program areas that receive both types of government support (in order to better inform policy choices). For more details on tax expenditures, see *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 1.1.4 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).*

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, all of the core information related to tax expenditures as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to tax expenditures is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on tax expenditures.

Answer:

d. No, information related to tax expenditures is not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
Section 61 page 19, Section 124 page 34, section 128 page 35
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The budget speech touched part of tax expenditures but left out core information. On section 128 page 35, it states that "All print media houses are now exempted from the payment of the National Education and Technical Training Levy (N.E.T.T)." On section 61 page 19, the government stated that it has reduced corporate taxes in order to "attract investment." The government also dropped charges on the acquisition of Tax Identification Number (TIN).

Both examples fail to provide any of the core pieces of information: a statement of purpose or policy rationale; a listing of the intended beneficiaries; and an estimate of the revenue foregone.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

46. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of earmarked revenues for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 46 asks about estimates of earmarked revenues, which are revenues that may only be used for a specific purpose (for example, revenues from a tax on fuel that can only be used for building roads). This information is important in determining which revenues are available to fund the government's general expenses, and which revenues are reserved for particular purposes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all earmarked revenues and a narrative discussing the earmarks. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all earmarked revenues are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, earmarked revenues (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of earmarked revenues are presented. An "e" response applies if revenue is not earmarked or the practice is disallowed by law or regulation.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of earmarked revenues are not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech, Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for a Prosperous Gambia
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Revenues that are earmarked to fund specific government programs or policies with narratives are not presented in the executive budget proposal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

47. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government's policy goals for the budget year is presented.

Source:

Basic Education section 76 and Foreign Affairs section 97, Justice 98-101 in the 2019 Budget Speech "Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for A Prosperous Gambia"
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

"Investing in our people through improved education and health services, and building a caring society" page 14-15 of the National Development Plan 2018-2020

<http://www.thegambiatimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/The-Gambia-National-Development-Plan-NDP-2018-2021-Popular-Version-Final.pdf>

Comment:

The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education's policy "in terms of access to education, the Ministry has broadened the scope of the School Improvement Grant to offer free tuition in public schools through to high school" as part of its 2016-2030 Education Policy. The broadening of the scope of the program is a new policy part of an existing education program that is designed to make education affordable, which is inline with the Ministry's access to education program and the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2020. The NDP 2018-2021 is government's short-term plan that is designed to improve the livelihood of Gambians and its education strategy could be found on page 14-15.

In addition, section 97 of the 2019 budget speech also states that a 50 million Euro agreement has been reached between the Gambia government and the Republic of France to stabilize the economy and to support the implementation of the National Development Plan.

Section 98-101 also highlights the establishment of new Human Rights, accountability and constitutional review commissions in line with the objectives of the National Development Plan.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Budget expenditure linked to the NDP (National Development Plan)

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

48. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

d. No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals for a multi-year period is not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech "Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for A Prosperous Gambia"
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Multi-year budget estimates and revenue figures are not translated to explain how they will be spent to achieve the national development plan in the executive's budget proposal. However, section 1 of the budget speech highlights that the government of the Gambia during the donor conference in Brussels has mobilized \$1.7 billion pledges to meet its 2.4 billion euros to support the the three years (2018-2021) national development plan.

Section 60 under "TRADE, INDUSTRY, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT" explains that the Ministry of Trade in partnership with UNDP has signed a 5 years (2017-2022) program to "increase Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Development". However, the budget required for this project is not stated.

The executive's budget proposal also does not explain how revenues collected will be spent to achieve government's policy goals for a multi-year period.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: The information will be available for the first time in budget 2020

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

49. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on inputs to be acquired for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 49 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on inputs for the budget year. (Nonfinancial data on outputs and outcomes are addressed in Question 50.)

The budget should disclose not only the amount of money that is being allocated on a program but also any information needed to analyze that expenditure. Nonfinancial data and performance targets associated with budget proposals are used to assess the success of a given policy. For example, even when allocated funds are spent according to plan, there remains the question of whether the policy delivered the results that it aimed to achieve.

Nonfinancial data can include information on:

Inputs - These are the resources assigned to achieve results. For example, in regards to education, nonfinancial data on inputs could include the number of books to be provided to each school or the materials to be used to build or refurbish a school.

Outputs - These are products and services delivered as a result of inputs. For example, the number of pupils taught every year; the number of children that received vaccines; or the number of beneficiaries of a social security program.

Outcomes - These are the intended impact or policy goals achieved. For example, an increase in literacy rates among children under 10, or a reduction in rates of maternal mortality.

In addition, governments that set performance targets must use nonfinancial data for outputs and outcomes to determine if these targets have been met.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program is organized by functions. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on inputs for all administrative units or all functions, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on inputs are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on inputs is presented.

Answer:

d. No, nonfinancial data on inputs are not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech "Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for A Prosperous Gambia"
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Non-financial data do not form part of the executive's budget proposal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

50. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on results (in terms of outputs or outcomes) for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 50 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 49).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on results for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on results for each individual program is organized by functional classification. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on results for all administrative units or all functional classifications, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on results are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on results is presented.

Answer:

d. No, nonfinancial data on results are not presented.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech "Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for A Prosperous Gambia"
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Non-financial data do not form part of the executive's budget proposal

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

51. Are performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results in the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation?

GUIDELINES:

Question 51 asks about performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. The question applies to those nonfinancial results shown in the budget, and that were identified for purposes of Question 50.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to all nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to a majority (but not all) of the nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget. A "c" response applies performance targets are assigned only to less than half of the nonfinancial data on results. Answer "d" applies if no performance targets are assigned to nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget, or the budget does not present nonfinancial results.

Answer:

d. No, performance targets are not assigned to nonfinancial data on results, or the budget does not present nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

2019 Budget Speech "Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for A Prosperous Gambia"
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

Non-financial data and its performance targets are not presented in the executive's budget proposal

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

52. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations in at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 52 asks whether the budget highlight policies, both new and existing, that benefit the poorest segments of society. This question is intended to assess only those programs that directly address the immediate needs of the poor, such as through cash assistance programs or the provision of housing, rather than indirectly, such as through a stronger national defense. This information is of particular interest to those seeking to bolster government's commitment to anti-poverty efforts. For purposes of answering this question, a departmental budget (such for the Department of Social Welfare) would not be considered acceptable. In general, this question is asking whether the EBP includes a special presentation that pulls together estimates of all the relevant policies in one place. However, if the country uses "program budgeting," where programs are presented as expenditure categories with specific and identified objectives, and it identifies anti-poverty programs within each administrative unit, then that is also acceptable for this question.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?"

(<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of countries that have provided information on how its policies affect the poor.

For instance, Pakistan provides a detailed breakdown of pro-poor expenditure as part of its 2017-18 budget proposal. In one document, the government sets out policy priorities, expected outputs, and estimates of past and future spending for several programs aimed at poverty alleviation. Another supporting document provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing policies, including a chapter on social safety nets, covering both financial and performance information of poverty alleviation schemes over a period of eight years. (http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/mtbf_2018_21.pdf and http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey_1718.html).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must for at least the budget year both present estimates covering all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations and include a narrative discussion that specifically addresses these policies. (For countries using program budgeting that breaks out individual anti-poverty programs, there should be a separate narrative associated with each such program.) Answer "b" if a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented. Answer "c" if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (regardless of

whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" if no estimates of policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are not presented.

Source:

Section 52, 86 and 91 of the 2019 Budget Speech "Fiscal Consolidation - Restoring Macroeconomic Stability for A Prosperous Gambia"
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The budget speech does present narrative of some policies, but not all, that are meant to benefit extremely poor families and individuals.

For example, section 86 of the budget speech states "The National Social Protection Cash Transfer Programme" under Women's Affairs with support from World Bank to support "extremely poor and vulnerable individuals and families"

The budget speech also states on section 52 that: "25 rural communities will be provided with a solar powered piped-water supply system in 2019" with support from Saudi Development Fund (SDF) to provide marginalized communities with access to portable drinking water.

To support extremely poor families and low-income earners to access proper housing, section 86 under "Lands and Regional Government" states that 1,800 households are set to benefit from four identified residential layouts.

However, these examples fail to provide any estimates of the amounts budgeted for each policy. This information can be found in the draft budget estimates, which is not published online and is not considered publicly available in the OBS.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The information will be available for the first time in budget 2020: new vehicle policy reform, foreign affair/embassy reform.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: The Approved Budget is publicly available by 1. Copies are always given to the National Library in Banjul for everyone to access and 2. The budget can also be bought from the Ministry of Finance by anyone at a cost of D250 (approximately \$5)

IBP Comment

As the proposed Budget Book was not published online, it was not considered publicly available and not used in this questionnaire. The Approved Budget Book that the Government Reviewer cites would be considered part of the Enacted Budget and not the Executive's Budget Proposal.

53. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 53 asks about the budget timetable. An internal timetable is particularly important for the executive's management of the budget preparation process, in order to ensure that the executive accounts for the views of the different departments and agencies in the proposed budget. The timetable would, for instance, set deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. So that civil society is aware of the various steps in the budget formulation process, and when opportunities may exist to engage the executive, it is essential that this timetable be made available to the public.

To answer "a," the executive must prepare a detailed budget timetable and release it to the public. A "b" answer applies if the timetable is made public, but some details are not included. A "c" response applies if the timetable is made public, but many important details are excluded, reducing its value for those outside government. Answer "d" applies if no timetable is made available to the public. As long as a timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal is released, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Executive's Budget Proposal is not made publicly available.

Answer:

d. No, a timetable is not issued to the public.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/downloads/publications>

Comment:

The executive does not release to the public its timetable for the drafting of the executive budget proposal.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: The timetable is only issued to institutions that are required to submit their budgets to the Ministry of Finance

54. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 54 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- *nominal GDP level;*
- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short- and long-term interest rates; the rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Budget,
<http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with Madi Ceesay, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

Pre-Budget Statement is produced for internal use only.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: The information will be available for the first time in budget 2020

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Macroeconomic forecast is presented, but as the researcher mentioned, the Pre-Budget Statement also known as the Budget Framework Paper (BFP) or Medium Term Expenditure and Fiscal Framework (MTEFF) is only consumed internally. It is also shared with Cabinet

55. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities and an estimate of total expenditures.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 55 focuses on the government's expenditure policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total expenditures.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed programmatic proposals (such detailed information is typically only presented in the budget itself), it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least total expenditures associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can include some detail, for instance, estimates provided by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Budget,
<http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with Madi Ceessay, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

Pre-Budget Statement is produced for internal use only. The document couldn't be accessed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The information will be available for the first time in budget 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It has the relevant information, but the document is not publicly available

56. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's revenue policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of revenue policies and priorities and an estimate of total revenues.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 56 focuses on the government's revenue policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of revenue policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total revenue.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed revenue proposals, it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can also include more detail, for instance, with estimates provided by revenue category – tax and non-tax – or some of the major individual sources of revenue, such as the Value Added Tax or the income tax.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Budget,
<http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with Madi Ceesay, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

Pre-Budget Statement is produced for internal use only. During an interview with the Budget Director, the Medium Term Fiscal Framework (PBS) produce information that will guide the drafting of the budget and also guide parliament in the debating and approval process of the draft budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The information will be available for the first time in budget 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: The MTEFF has the relevant information, but it is not publicly available

57. Does Pre-Budget Statement present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 57 asks whether the Pre-Budget Statement includes three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- the amount of net new borrowing needed in the upcoming budget year;*
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the upcoming budget year; and*
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the upcoming budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt for at least the upcoming budget year. For a "b" answer, the Pre-Budget Statement must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the PBS must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the PBS.

Answer:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Budget,
<http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with Madi Ceesay, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

Pre-Budget Statement is produced for internal use only. The document couldn't be accessed thus, it was not reviewed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The first MTEFF (2020) will contain that information. The information will be available for the first time in budget 2020

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

58. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present estimates of total expenditures for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 58 asks about multi-year expenditure estimates in the Pre-Budget Statement.

To answer "a," expenditure estimates for at least two years beyond the upcoming budget year must be presented. The estimates must be for at least total expenditures, but could include more detail than just the aggregate total.

Answer:

b. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Budget,
<http://www.mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Interview with Madi Ceesay, Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

Pre-Budget Statement is produced for internal use only. The document couldn't be accessed thus, it was not reviewed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The information will be available for the first time in budget 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The MTEFF has the relevant information, but it is not publicly available

59. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 59 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of the three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Comment:

The Enacted Budget is published in hard copy only, and thus is not publicly available. It does presents budget estimates into administrative, economic and functional classifications, but this question is answered "D" as the EB is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: Budget Dir. prepares this clarification/division only for internal use and for the preparation of the annual ceilings. personal emolument, other recurrent, capital expenditure).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Comments: As the researcher rightfully pointed out, the information is available on the Enacted/Approved budget. It seems as if the researcher is referring a publicly available budget as something that is posted on a website only. However, it should be noted that the Enacted/Approved budget is available to our National Library where the public can access free of charge. In addition, members of the public can also buy a copy of the Enacted/Approved budget at the Ministry of Finance at a cost of approximately \$5

IBP Comment

To be considered publicly available, a document must be published on the government's official website in a timely manner. Documents that are available in hard copy only, such as The Gambia's Enacted Budget 2019, are considered not publicly available. The appropriate response to this question is "D."

59b. Based on the response to Question 59, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Enacted Budget:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

The Enacted Budget is published in hard copy only, and thus is not publicly available. It does presents budget estimates into administrative, economic and functional classifications, but this question is answered "none of the above" as the EB is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The hard copy is available for 200 dalasis to the public at the ministry office

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The approved budget is publicly available and has expenditures classified into economic, functional, and administrative

IBP Comment

To be considered publicly available, a document must be published on the government's official website in a timely manner. Documents that are available in hard copy only, such as The Gambia's Enacted Budget 2019, are considered not publicly available. The appropriate response to this question is "none of the above."

60. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 60 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all programs, which account for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by

program in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

Development Budget Detailed Estimates of Expenditure, page 110-139, Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, Approved Copy

Comment:

The Enacted Budget is published in hard copy only, and thus is not publicly available. It does present individual programs accounting for all expenditures for the fiscal year 2019, but this question is answered "D" as the EB is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: The hard copy is available for 200 dalasis to the public at the ministry office

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Comments: The Enacted/Approved budget presents the budget by Programs, and it is publicly available as previously mentioned

IBP Comment

To be considered publicly available, a document must be published on the government's official website in a timely manner. Documents that are available in hard copy only, such as The Gambia's Enacted Budget 2019, are considered not publicly available. The appropriate response to this question is "D."

61. Does the Enacted Budget present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 61 asks whether revenue estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, the Enacted Budget does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:

Comment:

The Enacted Budget is published in hard copy only, and thus considered not publicly available. It does present revenue estimates by category, but this question is answered "B" as the EB is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: The hard copy is available for 200 dalasis to the public at the ministry office

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents revenue estimates by category.

Comments: The EB is publicly available and has the relevant information pertaining to Tax and Non-Tax revenues

IBP Comment

To be considered publicly available, a document must be published on the government's official website in a timely manner. Documents that are available in hard copy only, such as The Gambia's Enacted Budget 2019, are considered not publicly available. The appropriate response to this question is "B."

62. Does the Enacted Budget present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 62 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Enacted Budget. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue that account for less than two-thirds of revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

"Receipts of Revenues, Grants and Loans", Receipt by Economic Classification", Detailed Revenue Estimates by Collecting Agency" page 26-32 and Donor Funding Projects page 103-139 in the "Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019" Approved Copy

Comment:

The Enacted Budget is published in hard copy only, and thus is considered not publicly available.

In the hard copy document, individual revenues ranging from sales of government lands/Asset, loan borrowing, fees, fines, rent of government lands (page 28) are presented in the enacted budget. Both tax and non-tax revenues are presented in the enacted budget and it could be found on 26-32. In addition, revenues from donor funding projects from multilateral and bilateral government partners are also presented on page 103-139.

As the Enacted Budget is not publicly available, this question is answered "D"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: The hard copy is available for 200 dalasis to the public at the ministry office

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Comments: Sources of revenue are clearly identified as stated by the researcher. The EB is also publicly available as earlier mentioned

IBP Comment

To be considered publicly available, a document must be published on the government's official website in a timely manner. Documents that are available in hard copy only, such as The Gambia's Enacted Budget 2019, are considered not publicly available. The appropriate response to this question is "D."

63. Does the Enacted Budget present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 63 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year;*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available

revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Enacted Budget must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Enacted Budget must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

Summary of Government Funds page 1-2, "Debt Service Budget Detailed Estimates of Expenditure" page 140-145 in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, Approved Copy

Comment:

The Enacted Budget was published in hard copy only, and thus is considered not publicly available.

The hard copy document presented all three estimates related to debt servicing. On page 2 under "GLF Expenditure & Net Lending" a summary estimates of "Debt Interest (external and domestic)" and "Net Lending" are presented with its percentage in GDP. In addition, a more detailed breakdown of debt servicing is presented to page 140-145 of the enacted budget. This information includes debt servicing from Multilateral and Bilateral organizations and foreign governments.

As the EB is not publicly available, this question is answered "D"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: The hard copy is available for 200 dalasis to the public at the ministry office

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Comments: The EB is publicly available The interest component and new borrowing required for the year are captured on the EB

IBP Comment

To be considered publicly available, a document must be published on the government's official website in a timely manner. Documents that are available in hard copy only, such as The Gambia's Enacted Budget 2019, are considered not publicly available. The appropriate response to this question is "D."

64. What information is provided in the Citizens Budget?

(The core information must include expenditure and revenue totals, the main policy initiatives in the budget, the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based, and contact information for follow-up by citizens.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 64 focuses on the content of the Citizens Budget, asking whether "core" information is presented. These core components include:

- expenditure and revenue totals;
- the main policy initiatives in the budget;
- the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based; and
- contact information for follow-up by citizens.

To answer "a," the Citizens Budget or supporting documentation must present all of the above core information as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Citizens Budget must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if the Citizens Budget includes some of the core components above, but other core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if a Citizens Budget is not published.

Answer:

d. The Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:

Comment:

The OBS 2019 examines the 2018 Citizens Budget, which was not produced.

The 2019 Citizens Budget was published after the OBS research cut off date of 31 December 2018. Thus, it is not reviewed under this survey.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. The Citizens Budget provides the core information.

Comments: 2018 Citizens Budget was produced and available

Researcher Response

The 2018 Citizen's budget is only made available in hardcopy only and not published.

65. How is the Citizens Budget disseminated to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 65 asks how the Citizens Budget is disseminated to the public. Citizens Budgets should be made available to a variety of audiences. Therefore paper versions and an Internet posting of a document might not be sufficient.

To answer "a," the executive must use three or more different types of creative media tools to reach the largest possible share of the population, including those who otherwise would not normally have access to budget documents or information. Dissemination would also be pursued at the very local level, so that the coverage is targeted both by geographic area and population group (e.g., women, elderly, low income, urban, rural, etc.). Option "b" applies if significant dissemination efforts are made through a combination of two means of communications, for instance, both posting the Citizens Budget on the executive's official website and distributing printed copies of it. Option "c" applies if the Citizens Budget is disseminated through only posting on the executive's official website. Option "d" applies when the executive does not publish a Citizens Budget.

Answer:

d. A Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:

Comment:

The OBS 2019 examines the 2018 Citizens Budget, which was not produced.

The 2019 Citizens Budget was published after the OBS research cut off date of 31 December 2018. Thus, it is not reviewed under this survey. The Citizen budget 2019 was launched on March 29th 2019 at Kairaba Beach Hotel where citizens, international organizations, civil society organizations and the media were present. The other means of dissemination is through the website of the Ministry of Finance

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. A Citizens Budget is disseminated only by using one means of dissemination.

Comments: 2018 Citizens Budget is available and disseminated by giving copies National Assembly members, and also during any Ministry of Finance functions such as workshops and conferences

IBP Comment

The 2018 Citizens Budget was published in hard copy only, and so considered not publicly available. Answer "D" maintained.

66. Has the executive established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information prior to publishing the Citizens Budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 66 asks whether the executive has established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information before publishing a Citizens Budget. What the public wants to know about the budget might differ from the information the executive includes in technical documents that comprise the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget; similarly, different perspectives might exist on how the budget should be presented, and this may vary depending on the context. For this reason the executive should consult with the public on the content and presentation of the Citizens Budget.

To answer "a," the executive must have established mechanisms to consult with the public, and these mechanisms for consultation are both accessible and widely used by the public. Such mechanisms can include focus groups, social networks, surveys, hotlines, and meetings/events in universities or other locations where people gather to discuss public issues. In countries where Citizens Budgets are consistently produced and released, it may be sufficient for the government to provide the public with contact information and feedback opportunities, and subsequently use the feedback to improve its management of public resources.

Option "b" applies if the executive has established mechanisms for consultation that are accessible to the public, but that the public nonetheless does not use frequently. That is, the public does not typically engage with the executive on the content of the Citizens Budget, even though the executive has created opportunities for such consultation. Option "c" applies if the executive has established mechanism for consultation with the public, but they are poorly designed and thus not accessible to the public. Option "d" applies if the executive has not created any mechanisms to seek feedback from the public on the content of the Citizens Budget.

Answer:

d. No, the executive has not established any mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget.

Source:

Comment:

There was no mechanisms established by the executive to identify requirements from the public in order to capture what citizens want to be included in the Budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

67. Are "citizens" versions of budget documents published throughout the budget process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 67 asks if "citizens" versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget process. While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle.

To answer "a," a citizens version of at least one budget document is published for each of the four stages of the budget process (budget formulation, enactment, execution, and audit) – for a total of at least four citizens budget documents throughout the process. Option "b" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process. Option "c" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least one of the four stages of the budget process. Select option "d" if no "citizens" version of budget documents is published.

Answer:

d. No citizens version of budget documents is published.

Source:

Comment:

The OBS 2019 examines the 2018 Citizens Budget, which was not produced.

The 2019 Citizens Budget was published after the OBS research cut off date of 31 December 2018. Thus, it is not reviewed under this survey. The 2019 Citizens Budget simplifies the Enacted Budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

68. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 68 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," actual expenditures must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if actual expenditures are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by any of the three classifications in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Comment:

In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: In year reports are publicly available on the Ministry of Finance website (www.mofea.gov.gm), and have expenditure data by economic and administrative classification

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018). Answer "D" maintained.

68b. Based on the response to Question 68, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the In-Year Reports:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: Administrative and Economic Classification

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018).

69. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 69 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by program in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program.

Source:

Comment:

In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In year reports do not present expenditure by Programs. However, they are publicly available

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018). Answer "D" maintained.

70. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date expenditures with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 70 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual expenditures to-date with either the enacted levels or actual expenditures for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date expenditures in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast expenditures (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports

Answer:

b. No, comparisons are not made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Comment:
In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: In year reports are publicly available via the Ministry of Finance website. They also compare actuals with the previous year actuals , and actuals compared to the approved budget

IBP Comment
Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018). Answer "B" maintained.

71. Do In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 71 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual revenues by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, In-Year Reports do not present actual revenue by category.

Source:

Comment:
In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:
Comments: In year reports formulated by MOFEA only entails expenditure data, whilst the Gambia Revenue Authority formulates its own revenue in-year reports that has detailed revenue (tax and non-tax) actuals

Researcher Response
The IYR does not present actual revenue.

IBP Comment
Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018). Answer "b" maintained.

72. Do In-Year Reports present the individual sources of revenue for actual revenues collected?

GUIDELINES:

Question 72 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual collections of individual sources of revenue (such as income taxes, VAT, etc.). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue collected, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue that account for less than two-thirds of all revenue collected. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of actual revenue are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, In-Year Reports do not present individual sources of actual revenue.

Source:

Comment:

In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for all revenue.

Comments: This is available, but the report is not produced by the Ministry of Finance. Instead it is produced by the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA)

Researcher Response

Individual sources for actual revenue collected are not presented.

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018). Answer "D" maintained.

73. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date revenues with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 73 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual revenues to-date with either the enacted levels or actual revenues for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date revenues in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast revenues (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Answer:

b. No, comparisons are not made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Comment:

In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Comments: Yes it does. But again, this report is produced by the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA)

Researcher Response

This is prepared as a separate document which is not published either by Gambia Revenue Authority or Ministry of Finance. Thus, its comparison cannot be determined.

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018). Answer "b" maintained.

74. Do In-Year Reports present three estimates related to actual government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing; the total debt outstanding; and interest payments?

GUIDELINES:

Question 74 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year; and*
- *the interest payments to-date on the outstanding debt.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, In-Year Reports must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, IYRs must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Comment:

In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Comments: Yes, such a report exists (Debt Bulletin, and Debt Sustainability Analysis), but it is produced by the Debt Management department at the Ministry of Finance. The reports are publicly available and posted on the Ministry of Finance website

Researcher Response

I have not come across such a report on the IYR.

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018). Answer "D" maintained.

75. Do In-Year Reports present information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding?

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 75 focuses on the composition of government debt, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 74, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens and banks and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt to-date as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, information related to composition of total actual debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In-Year Reports are not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the composition of the total actual debt outstanding.

Comments: The information is available on the Debt Bulletin and Debt Sustainability Analysis produced by the Debt Management Department and posted on the Ministry of Finance website (www.mofea.gm)

Researcher Response

The information is not consolidated in the IYR.

IBP Comment

Open Budget Survey methodology requires at least 3 of the last 4 quarterly IYRs or 7 of the last 12 monthly IYRs to be on the government's website in a timely manner for them to be accepted as publicly available. At the time of the OBS research cut-off date, only four months worth of reporting was published online (January to April 2018). Answer "D" maintained.

76. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 76 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated macroeconomic forecast and explain all of the differences between the initial forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the updated forecast. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the macroeconomic forecast must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated forecasts are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the

differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the macroeconomic forecast has not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have not been updated.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Mid-Year Review is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

77. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 77 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of expenditure for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated expenditure estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. The expenditure estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated expenditure estimates, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Mid-Year Review is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

78. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present expenditure estimates for the budget year underway by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 78 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by

adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Mid-Year Review is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

78b. Based on the response to Question 78, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Mid-Year Review:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Mid-Year Review is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

79. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present expenditure estimates for the budget year underway for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 79 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Mid-Year Review is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

80. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 80 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of revenue for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated revenue estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the revenue estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated revenue estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the revenue estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, revenue estimates have not been updated.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Mid-Year Review is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

81. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present revenue estimates for the budget year underway by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 81 asks whether revenue estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:
The Mid-Year Review is not publicly available. t

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

82. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 82 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Mid-Year Review. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenues, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:
d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:
The Mid-Year Review is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

83. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 83 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- *The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*

- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, and explain all of the differences between the initial estimates presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the estimates of borrowing and debt must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the estimates of borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of government borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Comment:

The Mid-Year Review is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

84. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 84 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual expenditures for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all expenditures, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for expenditures are not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: The Year-End report is posted online (www.mofea.gm)

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

85. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 85 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. Answer "b" if expenditure estimates are presented by two of these three classifications. Answer "c" if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: The information is available in Economic and Administrative classification

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

85b. Based on the response to Question 85, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Economic Classification Administrative Classification

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

86. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 86 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" if expenditures are not presented by program in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It does not present expenditure estimates by program

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

87. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Question 87 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual revenues for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all revenues, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for revenues are not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:
The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: The ENd year report produced by the Budget department only has expenditure data

IBP Comment
The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

88. Does the Year-End Report present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 88 asks whether revenue estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:
b. No, the Year-End Report does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:
The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: ENd-Year report is produced by the Ministry of Finance, but this only has expenditure information. The End-Year report produced by the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) has the relevant revenue information broken down into different categories. However, am not sure whether this revenue report produced by the GRA is publicly available

IBP Comment
The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

89. Does the Year-End Report present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 89 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Year-End Report. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: ENd-Year report is produced by the Ministry of Finance, but this only has expenditure information. The End-Year report produced by the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) has the relevant revenue information broken down into different categories. However, am not sure whether this revenue report produced by the GRA is publicly available

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

90. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 90 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented.

Comments: This information is available, but on a separate report produced by the Debt Management Department, namely the Debt Bulletin and the Debt Sustainability Analysis. Both reports are available on the Ministry of Finance website

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

90b. Based on the response to Question 90, check the box(es) to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, have the differences between the original forecast and the actual outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

Information beyond the core elements:

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Interest rates, maturity, domestic or external, net new borrowing, total debt

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

91. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 91 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast in the Executive's Budget Proposal. Core components include estimates of the nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates, although the importance of other macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil, can vary from country to country.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This information is not available on the report

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

91b. Based on the response to Question 91, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast have the differences between the original forecast and the outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Information not available on the report

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

92. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 92 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 49 for the nonfinancial data on inputs included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:
The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Information not available on the report

IBP Comment
The Year-End Report is an exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

93. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 93 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 92).

Refer to Question 50 for the nonfinancial data on results included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:
d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:
The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Information not available on the report

IBP Comment
The Year-End Report is an exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

94. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 94 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative

discussion.

Refer to Question 52 for assistance to the most impoverished populations in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Information not available on the report

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is a exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

95. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 95 asks whether the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 33 for estimates of extra-budgetary funds in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Comment:

The Year-End Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Information not available on the report

IBP Comment

The Year-End Report is an exhaustive accounting and analysis of the Government's implementation of their budget for the entire year. This document is much more substantial than the full-year cumulative IYRs that the peer and government reviewer refer to.

96. Is a financial statement included as part of the Year-End Report or released as a separate report?

GUIDELINES:

Question 96 asks whether a financial statement is included as part of the Year-End Report, or whether it is released as a separate report. The financial statement can include some or all of the following elements: a cash flow statement, an operating statement, a balance sheet, and notes on accounting. For purposes of responding to this question, the financial statement in question does not need to be audited. For an example of a financial statement, see the document "Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand 2013" (<https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2013-10/fsgnz-year-jun13.pdf>)

To answer "a," a financial statement must either be included in the Year-End Report or must be released as a separate report. Answer "a" applies if a financial statement is released as a separate report, even if the Year-End Report is not publicly available. Answer "b" applies if no financial statement is released either as part of the Year-End Report or as a separate report.

Answer:

b. No, a financial statement is neither part of the Year-End Report nor released as a separate report.

Source:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<http://mofea.govt.nz/downloads-file/january-december-budget-execution-report-2018>

Accounts of State Owned Enterprises

<http://mofea.govt.nz/downloads/soe-annual-accounts>

Comment:

Financial report is not included in the year end report. The only financial statements published are that of accounts of various state-owned enterprises from FY 2013-15

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: Financial Statements are presented to the office of the National Audit Office for auditing separately, 3 months after the end of the fiscal year

97. What type of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) has the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conducted and made available to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 97 asks about the types of audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). There are three basic types of audits:

- Financial audits are intended to determine if an entity's financial information is accurate (free from errors or fraud) and presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting and regulatory framework. See ISSAI 200 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more detail.
- Compliance audits look at the extent to which the relevant regulations and procedures have been followed. See ISSAI 400 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more details.
- Performance audits assess whether activities are adhering to the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. See ISSAI 300 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more details. ≈

Financial and compliance audits are more common than performance audits, which usually occur only once a performance framework has been agreed upon. In some countries, the SAI's mandate limits the type of audit it can conduct.

To answer "a," the SAI must have conducted all three types of audit – financial, compliance, and performance – and made all of them available to the public. A "b" response applies if the SAI has conducted two of the three audit types, and a "c" applies if it has conducted only one type of audit. Answers "b" and "c" may be selected even if the Audit Report is not publicly available, as long as the SAI has conducted compliance or performance audits and made them available to the public. A "d" response applies if the SAI has not conducted any of the three types of audits, or has not made them available to the public.

Answer:

d. The SAI has not conducted any of the three types of audits, or has not made them available to the public.

Source:

National Audit Office
<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

The National Audit Office has not made available non of its audited report on its website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: SAI started auditing in 2018.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. The SAI has conducted one of the three types of audits, and made them available to the public.

Comments: The SAI have conducted financial audits and posted them online (on their website), but they are not up to date as far as posting the 2015 to 2018 is concerned.

IBP Comment

As of the research window of the OBS 2019, the NAO had not published any audit reports in recent years. Answer "D" maintained.

98. What percentage of expenditures within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 98 focuses on the coverage of audits by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), asking what percentage of expenditures within the SAI's mandate has been audited.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to budgetary central government (ministries, departments, and agencies) that are within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 99 addresses audits of extra-budgetary funds.) Further, the question does not apply to "secret programs" (for example, security-related expenditures that are confidential). Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. Financial audits and compliance audits, or a hybrid of the two, can be taken into account to answer this question. Performance audits should not be considered for this question.

To answer "a," all expenditures within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if at least two-thirds, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response is appropriate when less than two-thirds of expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies when no expenditures have been audited.

Answer:

d. No expenditures have been audited.

Source:

National Audit Office
<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

Audited report not published. Thus, it has not been reviewed in this survey.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree, 2015-2018 audited reports not published

99. What percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 99 focuses on audits of extra-budgetary funds, asking what percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited. These funds, although technically outside the budget, are governmental in nature and thus should be subject to the same audit requirement as other government programs.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 98 addresses audits of budgetary central government.) Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

To answer "a," all extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies if extra-budgetary funds have not been audited.

Answer:

d. No extra-budgetary funds have been audited.

Source:

National Audit Office

<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

Audited report not published. Thus, it has not been reviewed in this survey.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Recent audit reports have not been posted online

100. Does the annual Audit Report(s) prepared by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) include an executive summary?

GUIDELINES:

Question 100 asks whether the annual Audit Report includes an executive summary. Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. The Audit Report can be a fairly technical document, and an executive summary of the report's findings can help make it more accessible to the media and the public.

To answer "a," the Audit Report must include at least one executive summary summarizing the report's content. Answer "b" applies if the Audit Report does not include an executive summary, or the Audit Report is not made publicly available.

Answer:

b. No, the annual Audit Report(s) does not include an executive summary.

Source:

National Audit Office

<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

Audited report not published. Thus, it has not been reviewed in this survey.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree, 2015-2018 audited reports not published. That of previous years posted on their website have executive summaries

101. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?

GUIDELINES:

Question 101 asks whether the executive reports to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The ultimate purpose of audits is to verify that the budget was executed in a manner consistent with existing law, and to hold the government accountable for this execution and its future improvement. The extent to which audits achieve the latter depends on whether there is adequate and timely follow-up on the recommendations provided in the SAI's audit reports.

To answer "a," the executive must report publicly on the steps it has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address audit finding, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if the executive does not report at all on its steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

d. No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings.

Source:

National Audit Office
<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

The National Audit Office (NAO) does not provide a report to the public on mechanism it seeks to take on audit findings. NAO presents its audited report to the national assembly and non of its audited fiscal report has been published on its website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree, 2015-2018 audited reports not published or available online. Those that are posted have the relevant information

102. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?

GUIDELINES:

Question 102 asks whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or the legislature track actions by the executive to address audit recommendations. After audit results and recommendations are discussed and validated by the legislature, the executive is normally asked to take certain actions to address the audit findings. For accountability purposes, the public needs to be informed about the status of those actions, and steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations. In addition to the executive reporting on its actions (see Question 101), the SAI and legislature – as the key oversight institutions – have a responsibility to keep the public informed by tracking the executive's progress in addressing audit recommendations.

To answer "a," the SAI or legislature must report publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the SAI or legislature reports publicly on the steps the executive has taken, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if neither the SAI nor the legislature reports on the executive's steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

d. No, neither the SAI nor legislature reports on steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations.

Source:

Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly
<http://assembly.gov.gm/index.php/committees/pac/>

National Audit Office

<http://nao.gm/documents>

Comment:

There is no specific report that been published either by the Legislature, nor the National Audit Office that informs the public how the Legislature or the SAI is tracking actions taken to address audit recommendations.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

103. Is there an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) that conducts budget analyses for the budget formulation and/or approval process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 103 examines whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) exists that contributes budget analyses to the budget formulation and/or approval process. According to the Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions, adopted by the OECD Council in 2014, "independent fiscal institutions are publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance", and with "a forward-looking ex ante diagnostic task". In practice, they come in two main forms:

- *Parliamentary budget offices (also known as PBOs) such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States (<https://www.cbo.gov/>), the Parliamentary Budget Office in South Africa (<https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliamentary-budget-office>), and the Center for Public Finance Studies in Mexico (Centro de Estudios de las Finanzas Públicas, <http://www.cefp.gob.mx/>); or*
- *Fiscal councils such as the Office for Budget Responsibility in the United Kingdom (<https://obr.uk/>), the Fiscal Policy Council in Sweden (Finanspolitiska Rådet, <http://www.finanspolitiskaradet.com/>), and the High Council for Public Finances in France (Haut Conseil des finances publiques, <https://www.hcfp.fr/>).*

For more information, see von Trapp et al. 'Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions and Case Studies', OECD Journal on Budgeting 15:2 (special issue, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/budget-15-5jm2795tv625>.

To answer "a," there must be an IFI, and its independence must be set in law. In addition, it must have sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks. Answer "b" applies if an IFI exists, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources are insufficient to carry out its tasks. Answer "c" applies if an IFI exists, but its independence is not set in law and it lacks sufficient staffing and resources. Answer "d" applies if no IFI exists.

If the answer is "a," "b," or "c," please specify in the comments the name and type of IFI that exists (e.g., parliamentary budget office or fiscal council). If the answer is "a" or "b," identify the law that guarantees its independence, and provide evidence in support of the assessment of the adequacy of its staffing and resources. This can include the IFI's total budget allocation over recent years, any press reports that discuss perceived funding shortfalls, assessments by international organizations, and/or information from interviews with staff of the IFI.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia on 26/02/19

1997 Constitution Section 109 (1b) (2) page 68-69

Directorate of Budget, Core Mandate
<http://mofea.gm/directorates/budget>

Public Finance Act 2014 and Financial Regulations 2016
<http://mofea.gm/downloads/publications>

Comment:

There is not IFI in The Gambia.

The Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) of the National Assembly is established by law under Section 109(1b) of the 1997 constitution. During the analyses of the draft budget, the FPAC committee is often task by plenary to scrutinize the draft executive budget and make recommendation to plenary before the approval of the budget. The plenary of the National Assembly debate or discuss based on the recommendations from FPAC. However, decisions are taken at the plenary session at the National Assembly. The FPAC committee is under the legislative arm of government and it is independently operated by lawmakers.

Section 109 (3a) empowered the committee with subpoena power to summon the Ministry of Finance to appear before the committee with supporting documents to answer questions or clear doubts on public accounts or the national budget.

In addition, the executive also has the "Budget Directorate" which is under the Ministry of Finance. The Budget Directorate is established in accordance with the Financial Regulations 2016 and the Public Finance Act 2014 (esp. Section 3). However, the Budget Directorate is not independently as the Directorate is under the Ministry and answerable to the Ministry of Finance.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

104. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts?

GUIDELINES:

Question 104 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a role in producing the macroeconomic forecast (e.g., GDP growth, inflation, interest rates, etc.) and/or the fiscal forecast (revenues, expenditure, deficits, and debt), and if so, what kind of role it has. Macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasting is a typical core function across IFIs, but their role in forecasting takes several forms (von Trapp et al. 2016, p. 17 and Table 2). Some IFIs produce just a macroeconomic forecast, while others produce a complete fiscal forecast (which also typically requires an underlying macroeconomic forecast). In some cases, the fiscal forecast reflects continuation of current budget policies; such forecasts can be used by the legislature, the media, or the public to assess the projections in the executive's budget reflecting the government's policy proposals.

Some IFIs produce the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in the executive's budget. In other cases, IFIs do not prepare their own independent forecasts, but rather produce an assessment of the official estimates, or provide an opinion on, or endorsement of, the government's forecasts. Some others have no role at all in forecasting.

To answer "a", there must be an IFI that publishes both its own macroeconomic AND fiscal forecasts. Answer "b" applies if an IFI publishes its own macroeconomic OR fiscal forecast (but not both). Answer "c" applies if the IFI does not publish a macroeconomic or fiscal forecast, but rather publishes an assessment of the official forecasts produced by the executive and used in the budget. Choose option "d" if there is no IFI; or if there is an IFI that neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts for the budget.

Macroeconomic forecasts may include indicators relating to economic output and economic growth, inflation, and the labor market, amongst others. Fiscal forecasts may include estimates of revenues, expenditures, the budget balance, and debt. If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify which indicators and estimates are included in the forecasts and whether the forecast is used by government as the official forecast. If the answer is "c," please describe the nature and depth of the assessment (e.g., the length of the commentary, or whether it covers both economic and fiscal issues).

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts produced by the executive.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia on 26/02/19

Directorate of Macroeconomic Policy Analysis

<http://mofea.gm/directorates/revenue-and-tax-policy>

Comment:

There is no IFI in The Gambia.

The Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) and the plenary of the National Assembly does not publish its own macroeconomic or fiscal forecast. The FPAC and the plenary depends on the fiscal and macroeconomic forecast prepared by the executive. For example "the legislature will analyze the National Development Plan (NDP) and the macroeconomic forecast in the budget" to analyze if the the budget allocation or forecast reflects the reality of the NDP.

The Ministry of Finance has a specific department call "DIRECTORATE OF MACROECONOMIC POLICY ANALYSIS" that is responsible for macroeconomic forecast.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

105. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish its own costings of new policy proposals, to assess their impact on the budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 105 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a costing function that involves assessing the budgetary implications of new policy proposals for both revenues and expenditures, and if so, what kind of role it has. Many IFIs have a costing role, but with substantial diversity in the nature and extent of this work (von Trapp et al 2016, pp. 17-18 and Table 2). Some assess virtually all new policy proposals, while others cost only a selection of new policy proposals. Others only publish opinions on, or scrutinize the costings of, budget measures produced by the executive.

To answer "a," the IFI must publish its own costings of all (or virtually all) new policy proposals. Answer "b" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only for major new policy proposals – for instance, only those proposals that cost or save above a certain amount. Answer "c" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only on a limited number of proposals. This could occur, for instance, if the IFI lacked the capacity to assess proposals dealing with certain sectors. Instead of producing a cost estimate, it can also publish an assessment of the estimates produced by the executive. Answer "d" applies if there is no IFI; or if the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals or provide an assessment of the official costings of new policy proposals.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia on 26/02/19

Comment:

There is no IFI in The Gambia.

The FPAC and the National Assembly conducts oversight of the budget and does not prepare its own costings on policy proposals. The executive prepares and submit its costings of all new policy proposals to the national assembly which is debated in the plenary and FPAC seatings. However, the plenary and the FPAC can assess the impact of the costings on the budget and make recommendations to the executive to make amendments on the budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

106. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 106 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Almost all IFIs interact with the legislature in some form (von Trapp et al 2016, p. 18), but the intensity of the interaction varies. This question assesses this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the IFI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the IFI staff member in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). As evidence to support your answer, you can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the IFI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; and "c" for once or twice. Answer "d" should be selected if the head or a senior staff member of the IFI never took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature, or if there is no IFI.

Answer:

d. Never, or there is no IFI.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia on 26/02/19

Comment:

There is no IFI in The Gambia.

The Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) frequently conducts seatings at the National Assembly inviting government officials to testify during the seatings of the committee. The FPAC during the implementation of the budget, monitor the budget execution by the executive by paying surprise visits to project sites and subpoena responsible agencies/ or public officials to answer questions based on their findings at the FPAC seatings.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

107. Does the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 107 asks whether the legislature debates budget policies prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal. In general, prior to discussing the Executive's Budget Proposal for the coming year, the legislature should have an opportunity to review the government's broad budget priorities and fiscal parameters. Often times this information is laid out in a Pre-Budget Statement, which the executive presents to the legislature for debate. (See Questions 54-58.)

A number of countries conduct a pre-budget debate in the legislature around six months before the start of the budget year. In some cases, they adopt laws that guide the upcoming budget, for example the Budget Guidelines Law in Brazil and the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill in Sweden. A pre-budget debate can serve two main purposes: 1) to allow the executive to inform the legislature of its fiscal policy intentions by presenting updated reports on its annual and medium-term budget strategy and policy priorities; and 2) to establish "hard" multi-year fiscal targets or spending ceilings, which the government must adhere to when preparing its detailed spending estimates for the upcoming budget year.

To answer "a," the full legislature must debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Answer "b" applies if a legislative committee (but not the full legislature) debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, and approves recommendations for the budget. Option "b" also applies if, in addition to the action by the committee, the full legislature also debates budget policy in advance of the budget, but does not approve recommendations.

Answer "c" applies if the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but does not approve recommendations for the budget. Answer "d" applies if neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

In your comment, please indicate the dates of the budget debate, and if both the full legislature and a legislative committee held a debate. Note that a debate does not need to be open to the public, but a public record of the meeting or a public notice that the meeting occurred is required. In addition, please indicate whether the budget debate was focused on a Pre-Budget Statement published by the Executive. If the Executive did not publish a Pre-Budget Statement, then please indicate what served as the focus of the legislature's debate (for instance, a report released by an IFI or some other institution).

Answer:

d. No, neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia on 26/02/19

Comment:

The National Assembly does not debate budget publicly for the upcoming year prior to the Ministry of Finance presenting the EBP.

After the Ministry of Finance presents the draft budget to the National Assembly, the full Assembly breaks for a period of one week to analyze and debate on the draft budget on a workshop call "Budget Analysis Workshop". The whole legislature during this period partake in this exercise. The house of assembly will bring external budget experts and representatives from the Ministry of Finance during this period.

The full legislature will then debate the budget in plenary or plenary will task the Finance of Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) to scrutinize the budget and make recommendations, which is later used by plenary to debate on the budget before approving the draft budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

108. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 108 examines how far in advance of the start of the budget year the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to the legislature far enough in advance to allow the legislature time to review it properly, or at least three months prior to the start of the fiscal year. (See, for instance, Principle 2.2.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>)).

For the purposes of responding to this question, if – and only if – the most recent budget submission occurred later than usual as a result of a particular event, such as an election, please use a more normal year as the basis for the response. If, however, delays have been observed for more than one budget year, and the legislature has not received the Executive's Budget Proposal in a timely manner on more than one occasion in the last three years, then "d" will be the appropriate answer.

To answer "a," the legislature must receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least three months in advance of the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature does not receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month prior to the start of the budget year, or does not receive it at all.

Answer:

c. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia on 26/02/19

1997 Constitution of The Gambia

Section 152(1) page 89

<http://mofea.gm/constitution>

Comment:

The Legislature receives the draft budget one month in advance of the start of the budget year. Section 152(1) page 89 of the 1997 Constitution states that "The President shall cause the Secretary of State responsible for finance to prepare and lay before the National Assembly at least thirty days before the end of the financial year, estimates of the revenue and expenditure of The Gambia for the following financial year..."

The 2019 Draft Estimates and Revenues were tabled at Plenary on 26/11/18.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

109. When does the legislature approve the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 109 examines when the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be approved by the legislature before the start of the fiscal year the budget proposal refers to. This gives the executive time to implement the budget in its entirety, particularly new programs and policies.

In some countries, the expenditure and revenue estimates of the Executive's Budget Proposal are approved separately; for purposes of this question, at least the expenditure estimates must be approved. Further, approval of the budget implies approval of the full-year budget, not just a short-term continuation of spending and revenue authority.

To answer "a," the legislature must approve the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month before the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month after the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Answer:

b. The legislature approves the budget less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia on 26/02/19

1997 Constitution of The Gambia

Section 152(1A) page 90

<http://mofea.gm/constitution>

Comment:

The 2019 Executive Budget was approved on 06/12/18 less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year. Section 152(1A) page 90 of the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia states that: "The National Assembly shall, within fourteen days of the estimates being laid before it, give consideration to and approve the estimates."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

110. Does the legislature have the authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 110 examines the legislature's power to amend—as opposed to simply accept or reject—the budget proposal presented by the executive. This question is about legal authority rather than actions the legislature takes in practice. The legislature's powers to amend the budget can vary substantially across countries.

The "a" response is appropriate only if there are no restrictions on the right of the legislature to modify the Executive's Budget Proposal, including its right to change the size of the proposed deficit or surplus. The "b" response would be appropriate if, for instance, the legislature is restricted from changing the deficit or surplus, but it still has the power to increase or decrease funding and revenue levels. The more limited "c" response would apply if, for instance, the legislature can only re-allocate spending within the totals set in the Executive's Budget Proposal or can only decrease funding levels or increase revenues. Finally, response "d" would apply if the legislature may not make any changes (or only small technical changes), or if amendments must first be approved by the executive. In these cases, the legislature is essentially only able to approve or reject the budget as a whole. If the answer is "b" or "c", please indicate the nature of the amendment powers available to the Parliament and how they are limited.

Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia on 26/02/19

1997 Constitution of The Gambia

Section 100(4)(5)

Comment:

The National Assembly has the unlimited authority in law to amend the budget brought forth by the executive before approval. This is codified in Section 100(4)(5) of the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia. The "Supplies Committee" of the national assembly, which is chaired by the Speaker of the house does the amendment of the budget when it deemed it imperative. This is then communicated to the Minister of Finance for his notice and to present the final draft for approval by the parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

111. During the most recent budget approval process, did the legislature use its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 111 assesses whether any formal authority of the legislature to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal is used in practice. The responses to this question should be determined based on action by the legislature related to the Enacted Budget used in the OBS. Choose answer "a" if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal during the most recent budget approval process, and amendments were adopted (all, or at least some of them). Answer "a" also applies if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but the amendments were rejected by executive veto. Answer "b" applies if the legislature used its authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, but none

of these amendments were adopted. Answer "c" applies if the legislature has the authority in law to amend the budget, but no amendments were proposed during its consideration. Answer "d" applies when the legislature does not have any authority to amend the budget (that is, Question 110 is answered "d").

If the answer is "a" or "b", please specify in the comments the number of amendments introduced by the legislature (and in the case of an "a" response, the number adopted, or if applicable, information about an executive veto) and describe their nature. For example, did the amendments result in an increase or decrease of the deficit? What were the most significant amendments to revenues and to expenditures in terms of the sums involved? How did amendments affect the composition of expenditures? If the answer is "a," please specify which amendments were adopted, and provide evidence for it.

Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, and (at least some of) its amendments were adopted.

Source:

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, approved copy, page ii, page 82

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2019, National Assembly copy, page ii, page 82

Comment:

The parliament has used its authority to amend the proposed budget for 2019 by the Executive. For example, the executive proposed a budget of GMD700,063,75 for the office of the President. Parliament used its authority to reduce the budget to GMD697,663,751 which became the enacted budget.

In addition, parliament increased the budget of the Ministry of Health from GMD1,162,487,500 proposed by the executive to GMD1,164,487,500. One example of the increment is the Social Welfare program. There was no budget allocation for the program in the 2019 proposed budget on page 82 (Program code: 2170). However, the parliament used its authority to allocate GMD1,200,000 for the Social Welfare program on page page 82 (Program code: 2170) in the enacted budget.

The Ministry of Finance allocated itself GMD837,127,837 for the FY 2019, the parliament cut it down to GMD827,727,837.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

See: <https://foroyaa.gm/2019-budget-estimates-approved-by-the-national-assembly/>

112. During the last budget approval process, did a specialized budget or finance committee in the legislature examine the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 112 assesses the role of a specialized budget or finance committee during the budget approval stage. Effective committee involvement is an essential condition for legislative influence in the budget process. Specialized committees provide opportunities for individual legislators to gain relevant expertise, and to examine budgets and policy in depth. Yet, the involvement of committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures have separate committees to examine spending and tax proposals, while others have a single finance committee. Not all legislatures have a specialized budget or finance committee to examine the budget. In addition, there can be differences in the time available for the committee's analysis of the budget.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, therefore it must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget.

Response "a" requires that, in the last budget approval process, a specialized budget or finance committee had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such a committee examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if a committee examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please specify in your comment the name of the committee and the number of days it had available to examine the budget and to publish a report. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a copy of the report. Please note also if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

Answer:

c. Yes, a specialized budget or finance committee examined the Executive's Budget Proposal, but it did not publish a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:
Interview with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly on 26/02/19

Comment:
The Financial and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) of the National Assembly during the last budget approval process examined the budget and made recommendations to plenary before the consideration of the executive's budget proposal, but did not publish a report with the findings and recommendations.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

113. During the last approval process, did legislative committees, responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.), examine spending in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the sector for which they are responsible?

GUIDELINES:

Question 113 assesses the role of committees of the legislature that are responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.) during the budget approval stage. The role of sectoral committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures do not involve them in the budget approval process, while others do. In addition, the time available for committee analysis differs.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, so therefore must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget. Response "a" requires that sector committees had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and published a report with findings and recommendations prior the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such committees examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if sectoral committees examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where sectoral committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please provide in the comments a brief overview of the committee structure and specify the number of days that sectoral committees had available to examine the budget and to publish their reports. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a sample copy of at least one of the reports. Please note if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

For purposes of responding to this question, use those sectoral committees that are best performing – that is, the ones that examine the budget the longest and that publish reports.

Answer:
c. Yes, sector committees examined the Executive's Budget Proposal, but they did not publish reports with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:
Interview with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly on 26/02/19

Comment:
Yes. National Assembly select committees on sectors related to their responsibility examined the executive's budget proposal and made recommendations to plenary before the consideration of the budget.

Each select committee before the introduction of the budget to parliament by the executive, will conduct a research field visit to project sites, communities and work places under their responsibility to scrutinize and make recommendations for new policy and budget allocation to plenary. Each year, from October to November, each select committee conducts advocacy and identify key areas to be prioritized in the budget.

The committees do not publish reports on their findings.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

114. In the past 12 months, did a committee of the legislature examine in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period?

GUIDELINES:

Question 114 is about legislative oversight of budget execution. It assesses whether and how often a committee examined the implementation of the budget during the budget execution period (i.e., financial year) for which it was approved, and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. This question does not apply to the ex post review of implementation following the end of the budget year as part of the audit stage, which is assessed separately. Nor does it apply to the legislature's review of the budget that it may undertake as part of the process of considering a supplemental budget during the year. In-year monitoring by the legislature will be affected by the frequency that the executive publishes In-Year Reports.

To answer "a," a committee must have examined in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget at least three times during the course of the relevant budget year and published reports with findings and recommendations. Answer "b" applies where this occurred only once or twice during the year.

Exception: If a legislature is in session only twice during the year, and it examines the implementation of the budget during both sessions, then it would be eligible for an "a" response.

Choose "c" if a committee examined in-year implementation (without regard to frequency), but did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined in-year implementation.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation.

For purposes of responding to this question, if more than one committee holds in-year reviews of the budget, use the committee that is best performing – that is, the one that examines in-year implementation the most times and that publishes a report.

Answer:

c. Yes, a committee examined in-year implementation, but it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, on 26/02/19

Hansard

Fifth Assembly, Third Ordinary Session of the National Assembly In The 2018 Legislative Year, Questions For Answers, Page 3

<https://www.thegambiatimes.com/succumbing-to-public-outcry-government-bans-official-travels/>

Comment:

The Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC), the Public Enterprises Committee (PEC) and plenary in general occasionally subpoena the Minister of Finance and other public department heads to monitor the implementation of the budget against what has been budgeted for during the execution phase of the budget.

For example, on September 19th 2018, plenary subpoena the Minister of Finance to present the total expenditure on travels from January - July 2018 during the Third Ordinary Session of the National Assembly. The Minister presented a total expenditure of D230,316,042.17 on travels from January - July 2018 which is beyond what has been budgeted resulting to a temporal travel ban on executive travels with the exception of few. According to the Minister, the reason of the travel ban "is necessitated by the overall fiscal slippages on travel and to ensure expenses are within the overall travel expenditure ceiling of the 2018 Budget as approved by the National Assembly"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

115. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units that receive explicit funding in the Enacted Budget, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 115 examines whether the executive seeks approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and whether it is legally required to do so.

In some countries, the executive has the power in law to adjust funding levels for specific appropriations during the execution of the budget. This question examines rules around shifting funds between administrative units (ministries, departments, or agencies) or whatever funding unit (or "vote") is specified in the

Enacted Budget.

The conditions under which the executive may exercise its discretion to shift funds should be clearly defined in publicly available regulations or law. In addition, the amount of funds that the executive is allowed to transfer between administrative units should not be so excessive as to undermine the accountability of the executive to the legislature.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before shifting funds, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to shift funds between administrative units and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. Answer "d" also applies if the executive is authorized to shift an amount considered so excessive as to undermine accountability (roughly equal to 3 percent of total budgeted expenditures). A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the shifting of funds after it has already occurred.

In the comments, please indicate any law or regulation that provides the executive with standing authority to shift funds between administrative units and, if so, describe that authority. Similarly, legislative approval for shifting funds between administrative units typically occurs with the adoption of legislation such as a supplemental budget. But if other formal procedures for gaining approval from the legislature exist, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and in practice the executive shifts funds between administrative units before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, on 26/02/19 at the National Assembly Complex in Banjul.

Public Finance Act 2014, Section 29 (4-5) <http://mofea.gm/downloads/publications>

Comment:

The executive has the power to shift funds between administrative units without requiring approval from the legislature as far as the shifting is within budget and it goes through the right procedures for proper accounting and auditing.

In law, Section 29(4-5) of the Public Finance Act 2014 states that: "Virement is allowed". However, there are limitations to transfer of funds from one budget department to another. Virement of funds must be requested by the budget agency with the approval of the Minister of Finance in consultation with vote controllers.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

116. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue (that is, amounts higher than originally anticipated) that may become available during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 116 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if additional revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, which often happens in oil/mineral-dependent countries, and it was not accounted for in the Enacted Budget, there should be a procedure in place to ensure that the legislature approves any proposed use of these "new" funds. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might deliberately underestimate revenue in the budget proposal it submits to the legislature, in order to have additional resources to spend at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before spending any funds resulting from higher-than-expected revenues, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if prior legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to spend excess revenue and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the additional spending after it has already occurred.

Typically, legislative approval of additional spending beyond what was reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur with the adoption of a supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

a The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and it does so in practice.

Source:

1997 Constitution of The Gambia, Section 153
<http://mofea.gm/constitution>

Supplementary Appropriation 2018 Bill Statement Of The Minister Of Finance And Economic Affairs

<http://foroyaa.gm/supplementary-appropriation-2018-bill-statement-of-the-minister-of-finance-and-economic-affairs/>

Comment:

The executive is required by law to draft a Supplementary Bill should the need arise to spend more than what has been appropriated by the legislature. The Supplementary Bill must be laid before parliament and approved before the executive can spend more than what has been appropriated for that budget year. This procedure is codified on section 153 of the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia. In December 2018, the Executive laid a Supplementary Bill before parliament when it needed extra funds to fund pending programs.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

117. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls (that is, revenues lower than originally anticipated) or other reasons during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 117 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to cutting spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls or for any other reason, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if less revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, the legislature should approve or reject any proposed reductions in expenditures that are implemented as a result. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might substantially change the composition of the budget at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

Typically, legislative approval of proposals to reduce spending below the levels reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur as part of the supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before implementing spending cuts in response to revenue shortfalls or for other reasons, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive received legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to obtain legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to implement such cuts and the executive does not obtain such approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the spending cuts after they have already occurred.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, and in practice the executive implements these spending cuts before seeking prior approval from the legislature.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia, on 26/02/19

Financial Regulations 2016, Section 4(14) and 21(f)

<http://mofea.gm/downloads/publications>

Comment:

The executive is not required by law to obtain approval from the Legislature when it deemed it necessary to reduce spendings below what has been appropriated for as far as it is within budget. The Minister of Finance has the power to go ahead with the reduction but he/she is required to ensure the process go through the right procedures as stated in the Financial Regulations 2016 (<http://mofea.gm/downloads-file/financial-regulations-2016>). Section 21(f) of the Regulations mentioned that: The Vote Controller Shall: "make efforts to identify and remove expenditures on activities which have outlived their purpose"

However, this is reported to parliament and it also reflects in the audited report.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

118. Did a committee of the legislature examine the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 118 is about ex post oversight following the implementation of the budget. It probes whether a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. A key issue is how soon after the SAI releases the report does it legislature review it. This question does not apply to the legislative scrutiny of in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period, which is assessed separately. Also, the question is asking specifically about the SAI's annual report on the execution of the budget, not about other audit reports that the SAI may produce. (This is the Audit Report used for responding to Question 98.)

To answer "a," a legislative committee must have examined the annual Audit Report within three months of it being released by the SAI, and then published a report (or reports) with findings and recommendations. (Note that the three-month period should only take into account time when the legislature is in session.)

Answer "b" applies when the committee examines it within six months of it being released (but more than three months), and then published a report with its findings and recommendations. Choose "c" if a committee examined the annual Audit Report more than six months after it became available or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined the annual Audit Report.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed the Audit Report, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation. Answers "a," "b," or "c" may be selected if the Audit Report is produced by the SAI but not made publicly available.

Answer:

d. No, a committee did not examine the Audit Report on the annual budget.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Audit, on 28/02/19 at National Audit Office, Banjul

2015-2016 PAC/PEC Report

<http://assembly.gov.gm/wp-content/plugins/download-attachments/includes/download.php?id=1019>

Comment:

The Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) of the National Assembly examines the Audit Report of annual budget from the National Audit Office. In 2016, the joint sessions of the Finance and Public Accounts Committee and Public Enterprises Committee (PAC/PEC) after examining the 2014 audited report on government accounts and enterprises, published and made its recommendations and reports available to the public. This is the latest audited report that has been considered by parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The last report at the time may have been the 2014 Audited report. Although, I believe they have recently reviewed the 2015 and 2016 audited reports

119. Was the process of appointing (or re-appointing) the current head of the SAI carried out in a way that ensures his or her independence?

GUIDELINES:

Question 119 concerns the appointment process of the current head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). Appointment procedures vary greatly across countries, as well as across different types of SAIs. Moreover, conventions and informal practices can greatly affect the de facto independence of the head of the SAI. While these factors make it difficult to devise a single metric against which all SAIs can be assessed with regard to this particular aspect, this question focuses on whether the legislature or judiciary must appoint or approve the appointment of the head of the SAI as a way to ensure the SAI's independence from the executive. However, if the appointment is carried out in another way that nonetheless ensures the independence of the SAI head, then that approach could be also considered.

To answer "a," the legislature or judiciary must appoint (or re-appoint) the head of the SAI, or approve the recommendation of the executive, as a way that ensure his or her independence from the executive. (As noted above, alternative approaches may also be acceptable.) Choose "b" if the appointment process does not ensure the independence of the head of the SAI, e.g. the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Irrespective of which answer you selected, provide a description of how the head of the SAI is appointed.

Answer:

b. No, the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Audit, on 28/02/19 at National Audit Office, Banjul

<http://kibaaro.com/karamba-touray-becomes-new-auditor-general/>

Comment:

The Appointment of the Auditor General is done by the President in consultation with the Public Service Commission. The power of the President to "Hire and Fire" the Auditor General does not ensure his independence. However, there are procedures that must be taken before the President can remove the Auditor General.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: not sure

120. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?

GUIDELINES:

Question 120 covers the manner in which the head or senior members of the SAI may be removed from office. This question draws on best practices identified in the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>), including measures intended to guarantee the office's independence from the executive.

To answer "a," the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the head of the SAI is removed. For example, the legislature or judiciary may give final consent following a certain external process, such as a criminal proceeding. So while the executive may initiate a criminal proceeding, the final consent of a member of the judiciary – or a judge – is necessary to render a verdict of wrongdoing that may lead to the removal from office of the head of the SAI. Answer "b" applies if the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.

Answer:

b. No, the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Audit, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

National Audit Act, 2015

<http://nao.gm/files/2018-07-10-131836-NATIONAL%20AUDIT%20OFFICE%20ACT,%202015.pdf>

Comment:

The President by law has the right to remove the Auditor General from his office without a consent from the Legislature or Judiciary (National Audit Act, 2015 Section 16(4)). However, it is codified on the same act on Section 16(7) that the President would have to establish a Tribunal which shall comprise: (i) a high court judge, (ii) Ombudsman (iii) a member of the Public Service Commission and (iv) a chartered accountant to look into the sacking of the Auditor General by the President.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: Not sure

121. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 121 asks who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). To ensure objective audits of government budgets, another important component of the SAI's independence from the executive is the extent to which the SAI's budget is determined by a body other than the executive, and whether the SAI has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate.

Answer "a" applies if the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate, AND either the SAI determines its own budget and then submits it to the executive (which accepts it with little or no change) or directly to the legislature, or the budget of the SAI is determined directly by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body). Answer "b" applies if the SAI's budget is determined by the executive (absent a recommendation from the SAI), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "c" applies if the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body) determines the SAI's budget, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "d" applies if the executive determines the SAI's budget, and the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Please provide evidence in support of the assessment that the funding level is or is not broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Answer:

c. The budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

National Audit Act, 2015. Section 24(2) page 14

<http://nao.gm/files/2018-07-10-131836-NATIONAL%20AUDIT%20OFFICE%20ACT,%202015.pdf>

National Audit Office Activity report

<https://allafrica.com/stories/201902180343.html>

Comment:

The SAI determines its own budget estimates which is sent to the President for it to be laid before the Legislature. Section 24(2) of the National Audit Office 2015 (page 14) prohibits the President from tampering with the budget estimates of the SAI, "but may attach to the estimates his or her comment and observations" for it to be either reduced or increased.

However, in the past this was not the case. The SAI recently moved into a new office space, but still faces problems with budget allocation and resources to do their job.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. The SAI determines its own budget (i.e., submits it to the executive, which accepts it with little or no change, or directly to the legislature), or the budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Comments: The National Audit Office determines its own budget, which is submitted to the President for comments where necessary, as per the Constitution, then the Office of The President forwards the budget to the Legislative. It is then the legislative who approves their budget.

Researcher Response

The National Audit Office (NAO) determines its budget as enshrined in the 1997 constitution which is subjected to reviewal by the National Assembly. Although the NAO determines its budget, during the course of research, the NAO highlighted the resource challenges, both technical and financial, it encounters to effectively conduct its work.

122. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have the discretion in law to undertake those audits it may wish to?

GUIDELINES:

Question 122 explores the scope of the investigative powers of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) as prescribed in law.

Question 97 asks which of the three types of audits – financial, compliance, and performance – the SAI conducts. This question asks if the SAI is constrained by law (rather than by a lack of capacity or an inadequate budget) from undertaking any form of audit or investigating irregularities in any program or activity.

There are numerous examples of limitations. For instance, some SAIs are not permitted by their legal mandate to audit joint ventures or other public-private arrangements. Others are only allowed to undertake financial audits, precluded from conducting performance or value-for-money audits. The SAIs in some countries do not have the legal mandate to review arrangements involving oil or stabilization funds, or other types of special or extra-budgetary funds. The SAI

may also not have the ability to audit commercial projects involving the public and private sector.

To answer "a," the SAI must have full discretion in law to decide which audits to undertake. Answer "b" applies if some limitations exist, but the SAI enjoys significant discretion to undertake those audits it wishes to. Answer "c" applies if the SAI has some discretion, but significant legal limitations exist. Answer "d" applies if the SAI has no power at all to choose which audits to undertake

Consulting the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>) may be useful in answering this question as its provisions serve to define the appropriate scope of a SAI's legal mandate and jurisdiction.

Answer:

a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

National Audit Act, 2015. Section 14 page 10

<http://nao.gm/files/2018-07-10-131836-NATIONAL%20AUDIT%20OFFICE%20ACT,%202015.pdf>

Comment:

The National Audit Office of The Gambia is powered in law to conduct any audit it wishes to undertake. Under Section 14 of the National Audit Act 2015 (esp. subsection a and b), powered the Auditor General to have full access to all books and records it wishes to investigate and it "shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority;"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

123. Are the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) reviewed by an independent agency?

GUIDELINES:

Question 123 assesses whether and to what extent the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) are subject to review by an independent agency. The latter could be a peer SAI, an international organization, an academic institution with relevant expertise, or an independent domestic agency with quality assurance functions in the area of financial reporting.

To answer "a," an independent agency must conduct and publish a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis. Answer "b" applies if a review was carried out within the past five years, and published, but it is not conducted annually, but. Choose answer "c" if the SAI has an internal unit that reviews the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis, but an independent agency does not conduct such a review. Answer "d" applies if the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

If the answer is either "a" or "b," please specify the name of the independent agency and when last it conducted such a review, and provide a copy of the published report. If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the unit within the SAI that is tasked with conducting such reviews.

Answer:

a. Yes, an independent agency conducts and publishes a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

AFROSAI-E 2017 Integrated Annual Report

https://portal.afrosai-e.org.za/system/dms2/folders.php?folder_id=854

Comment:

The National Audit Office (NAO) is annually Audited by local (private) and international audit institutions. The National Audit Office of The Gambia is a member of the "African Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions - English (AFROSAI-E)" which independently audits the audit process of NAO and it is a chapter of the "International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)" which is recognized by the United Nations (UN). Page 30 of the "2017 Integrated Annual Report" of AFROSAI E- Report, Gambia is one of the countries that the AFROSAI conducted an "Independent Quality Assurance Review"

Parliament also appoints private audit firms to audit the accounts of the National Audit Office which is later presented to the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) in the National Assembly for review.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

124. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 124 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Many SAIs interact with the legislature in some form, but the nature and intensity of the interaction varies. This question probes this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the SAI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the SAI representative in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). You can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the SAI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; "c" for once or twice, and "d" for never.

Answer:

b. Sometimes (i.e., three times or more, but less than five times).

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Audit, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

<https://allafrica.com/stories/201902180343.html>

Comment:

The head of the SAI frequently appears and testify during the sittings of the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) of the National Assembly. Other staff of the National Audit Office also appears in every Public Enterprises Committee (PEC) and local government sittings at the national assembly

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

125. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation of the annual budget (prior to the budget being tabled in parliament)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in the formulation of the annual budget, including annual pre-budget discussions. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as spending and tax policy, funding and revenue levels, and macro-fiscal planning.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government officials. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

<http://www.kerr-fatou.com/2019-budget-budget-of-shame/>

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance

Comment:

The budget formulation process of The Gambia is a top-down approach. There is no mechanism whereby the government involve citizens on a specific budget program which intends to record the inputs of citizens in the budget before tabling it to parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Comments: The Budget Department normally go around the country just prior to the commencement of the Budget process, and we meet with various communities to discuss the budget process as well as seek their inputs. In addition, we also have a special session with private sector representatives to give them an outlook of the budget and seek their inputs. Both of these exercises are normally conducted once a year

Researcher Response

Score adjusted.

IBP Comment

After further consultation with the researcher, answer choice "C" has been selected. The consultations, however, appear to have been limited and conducted with a limited number of invited groups only.

126. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive take concrete steps to include vulnerable and under-represented parts of the

population in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on the executive's efforts to seek out the views of members of the public from socially vulnerable groups and/or who are underrepresented in the process.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from vulnerable and underrepresented communities and/or civil society organizations representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives of vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

<http://www.kerr-fatou.com/2019-budget-budget-of-shame/>

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance

Comment:

There are no concrete steps taken by the executive to involve marginalized groups in the budget formulation process.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

127. During the budget formulation stage, which of the following key topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the formulation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget formulation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

c. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least one (but less than three) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

<http://www.kerr-fatou.com/2019-budget-budget-of-shame/>

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Comment:

There are no mechanisms put in place by the government to discuss the above topics with citizens during the budget formulation phase

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least one (but less than three) of the above-mentioned topics.

Comments: Public Services Social Spending

128. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. If the executive has designated a central coordinating agency to implement participation mechanisms throughout the national budget process, researchers may consider these mechanisms. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the implementation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenue administration, public service delivery, public investment project implementation, including procurement, and the administration of social transfer schemes.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings, online, deliberative exchanges, procurement complaint mechanisms, and social monitoring and dialogue.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input on the implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include public hearings, surveys, focus groups, report cards, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to provide input on budget implementation, but:

1) *The mechanisms are not structured, happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.*

and/or

2) *The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.*

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", the researcher must have evidence that the government is holding participation mechanisms that have some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that all CSOs and members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples include hotlines, Facebook announcements, one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

<http://www.kerr-fatou.com/2019-budget-budget-of-shame/>

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Comment:

The executive does not have any mechanism to engage citizens or CSOs to provide input in monitoring the budget implementation execution. CSOs and the media conduct their own investigations but not a formal gathering where the government invites citizens to provide inputs in monitoring budget implementation.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

129. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive take concrete steps to receive input from vulnerable and underrepresented parts of the population on the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on national government's efforts to obtain input from members of the public who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes during the implementation of the annual budget.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organizations representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives from vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the national executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Madi Jobarteh

<http://www.kerr-fatou.com/2019-budget-budget-of-shame/>

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Comment:

The budget process of the Gambia is a top-down approach, thus, the executive does not take any concrete steps to involve and receive inputs from marginalized and vulnerable population on the implementation of the fiscal budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

130. During the implementation of the annual budget, which of the following topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Changes in macroeconomic circumstances
2. Delivery of public services
3. Collection of revenue
4. Implementation of social spending
5. Changes in deficit and debt levels
6. Implementation of public investment projects

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the implementation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics – and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget implementation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above – for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be ONLY the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance

Comment:

Citizens are not engage by the executive to discuss the above topics during the implementation phase of the budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

131. When the executive engages with the public, does it provide comprehensive prior information on the process of the engagement, so that the public can participate in an informed manner?

Comprehensive information must include at least three of the following elements:

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Constraints
4. Intended outcomes
5. Process and timeline

GUIDELINES:

This question relates to the GIFT principle of "Openness," and addresses whether the executive provides relevant information on the process of the engagement before public participation takes place, in order to help citizens engage effectively. The question addresses whether the "rules of the public engagement" are clearly spelled out, in advance and in detail, so that those members of the public who want to engage know how to do so, in terms of when they can do so, what they are expected to provide input on, by when, to whom, etc. This question does not cover the substance of the engagement, which is covered by questions 127 and 130.

Non-comprehensive information means that the government provides information that includes at least one but less than three of the elements listed above.

Purpose refers to a brief explanation of why the public engagement is being undertaken, including the executive's objectives for its engagement with the public.

Scope refers to what is within the subject matter of the engagement as well as what is outside the subject matter of the engagement. For example, the scope may include how a current policy is administered but exclude the specifics of the policies themselves.

Constraints refers to whether there are there any explicit limitations on the engagement. An example of a constraint could be that any policy changes must not cost (or forgo revenue) more than a specific amount or have no net fiscal cost.

Intended outcomes refers to what the executive hopes to achieve as a result of the engagement. Examples of intended outcomes could be revising a policy to better reflect citizen or service-user views or to improve the way in which a particular program is administered.

Process refers to the methods by which the public engagement will take place and the discrete steps in the process. For example, the process may simply be a one-off Internet-based consultation, with a summary published of public inputs and the official response. The process may involve simultaneous or overlapping steps, and may be conducted in one round or in two or more rounds of engagement.

Timeline refers to the specific dates on which the discrete steps in the process will take place, or during which they will be completed, and clear start and end dates for the overall engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation or formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Comment:

There is no room for the public to participate either online (government platforms) or specific budget forums organized by the executive. Thus, comprehensive information before the engagement with the public is not applicable.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

132. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used in the formulation of the annual budget, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the

budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Comment:

The executive does not have mechanisms to engage the public during the budget formulation phase.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

133. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive provide the public with information on how citizens' inputs have been used to assist in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received during the implementation of the annual budget, which ones are taken into account to improve budget monitoring, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received (e.g., a written transcript) from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were or were not taken into account by the executive during budget monitoring.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Comment:

There is no public participation mechanism from the executive to engage the public in monitoring the execution of the national budget. Hence, no written report is produced by the executive to inform citizens on how their inputs were used to enhance the budget monitoring process.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

134. Are participation mechanisms incorporated into the timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Sustainability," "Timeliness" and "Complementarity" and addresses whether the executive is able to link participation mechanisms to the administrative processes that are used to create the annual budget.

Please note that "timetable" refers to a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. This document is sometimes referred to as the budget calendar and is the same document referenced in Question 53.

Answer "a" applies if the national executive establishes a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget. For answer choice "a", the timetable must be available to the public prior to the budget preparation process beginning.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not establish a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance

Comment:

The Executive Budget Proposal does not have public participation mechanism incorporated in its timetable

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Timetable is not available to the public prior to the commencement of the budget process

135. Do one or more line ministries use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation or implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES

While questions 125 – 135 focus only on participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency currently use to allow the public to participate in the national budget process, this question asks about participation mechanisms used by line ministries to allow the public to participate in national budget processes. Thus, participation mechanisms used by the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by a line ministry or if multiple line ministries use participation mechanisms, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation and/or implementation of the annual budget.

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf

To answer "a," a line ministry must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to

express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which a line ministry seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if a line ministry has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) A line ministry consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the line ministry determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Interview with Director of Budget, Ministry of Finance

Comment:

The formulation and implementation of the national budget is not participatory. Ministries internally prepare their budgets without consulting or inviting inputs from citizens.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

136. Does the legislature or the relevant legislative committee(s) hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the formulation of the annual budget (pre-budget and/or approval stages)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislature are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) has put in place and is using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the annual budget. This includes deliberations during the pre-budget phase (i.e., when the executive is still in the process of formulating the draft budget) and the budget discussions after the budget has been tabled to parliament and before it is approved. In the comment box, please specify during which stage of the budget cycle the legislature has put in place a public participation mechanism.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual Members of Parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in

answering this question.

If there is more than one mechanism, please select a mechanism that best shows/reflects the legislature's efforts to incorporate citizens into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenues, policy selection, and macro-fiscal planning (please note that the issue of coverage is covered in a subsequent question).

To answer "a," the legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs; but
- There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs;
- No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, but
- The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, on 26/02/19

Comment:

The National Assembly of The Gambia does not organize public hearings that allow citizens or underrepresented groups to provide inputs during the formulation process of the annual budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

137. During the legislative deliberations on the annual budget (pre-budget or approval stages), which of the following key topics does the legislature's (or relevant legislative budget committee) engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider the range of mechanisms currently used by the legislature to promote public participation during legislative deliberations on the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics, for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the legislature's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the

depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, on 26/02/19

Comment:

The Parliament of The Gambia receives budget estimates from the executives and debate on the budget to determine were to add, reduce or omit. It does not organize any public hearings during the budget formulation or approval process to allow citizens to provide their inputs. Thus, the above topics are not discussed with citizens in a public hearing.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

138. Does the legislature provide feedback to the public on how citizens' inputs have been used during legislative deliberations on the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the legislature provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received and how inputs were used during legislative deliberations (please note that these deliberations can refer to the pre-budget and approval phases). By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the legislature.

Answer "a" applies when the legislature provides a written document with:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and
- A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).

Answer "b" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and
- A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used in legislative deliberations on the annual budget (please note that these deliberations refer to the pre-budget and approval phases).

Answer "c" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) or
- A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, on 26/02/19

Comment:

The National Assembly of The Gambia does not organize public hearings that allow citizens or underrepresented groups to provide inputs during the formulation process of the annual budget. Hence, the parliament does not provide feedbacks to citizens to inform them on how they have used their inputs during the formulation of the annual budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

139. Does the legislature hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislature are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

A key constitutional role of the legislature in almost all countries is to oversee the government's management of public resources. While the Supreme Audit Institution is responsible for checking the government's accounts and publishing the outcome of their audits, for accountability purposes it is essential that the legislature reviews and scrutinizes those reports, and checks on whether the executive is taking the appropriate corrective actions based on the Supreme Audit Institution's recommendations.

Holding public hearings to review audit findings allows the public to learn more about how the government has managed its resources for the budget years that have ended, and demand accountability in case of mismanagement and irregularities. Reviewing and discussing those reports in public is therefore a key responsibility of a legislature.

Please note that by "Audit Report" we refer to the same audit report assessed in the transparency section of this Survey, i.e., one of the eight key budget documents that all governments (in this case, the Supreme Audit Institution) must produce, according to best practice.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) have put in place and using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the Audit Report.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual members of parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

To answer "a," the national legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *No testimony is allowed from the public; BUT*
- *There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.*

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *No testimony is allowed from the public;*
- *No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, BUT*
- *The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the Audit Report.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, on 26/02/19

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Budget on 28/02/19

Comment:

The Finance and Public Accounts Committee sittings of the Legislature on the annual budget audited report is open to the public. However, there are no mechanisms to allow citizens to testify or provide inputs. Some legislators do provide events where citizens and civil society can provide inputs.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment
As noted in AR-2, the last audit report examined by the PAC was for 2013. This indicator evaluates the Audit Report for 2016.

140. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program (for example, by bringing ideas on agencies, programs, or projects that could be audited)?

GUIDELINES:

This question assesses whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has established mechanisms through which the public can provide suggestions on issues/topics to be included in its audit program. When deciding its audit agenda, the SAI may undertake audits for a sample of agencies, projects, and programs in the country; and such a selection could be based on complaints and suggestions made by members of the public. To receive such suggestions, the SAI may create formal mechanisms, like setting up a website, hotline, or office (or assigning staff to liaise with the public).

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Audit, National Audit Office. 28/02/19

Comment:

The auditing process of the National Audit Office is not inclusive or open to the publics. The SAI depends on the recommendations from independent audit firms (local and international) and the national assembly. There is no mechanisms in place at the National Audit Office to invite citizens to provide suggestions on issues or projects that the SAI should audit.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question
Comments: Not sure

141. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used to determine its audit program?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the Supreme Audit Institution provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used to determine the Supreme Audit Institution's audit program. By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the Supreme Audit Institution.

Answer "a" applies when the Supreme Audit Institution provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used to determine the SAI's annual audit program.*

Answer "c" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- The received from the public or
- A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggests issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Audit, National Audit Office, on 28/02/19

Comment:

The National Audit Office of The Gambia does not organize public hearings that allow citizens or underrepresented groups to provide inputs that will determine or add value in its annual budget auditing process. Thus, it does not provide feedback to citizens to update them on how their inputs were used.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

142. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations (as respondents, witnesses, etc.)?

GUIDELINES:

This question mirrors question 140, but instead of covering public assistance in formulating the SAI's audit program, it focuses on whether the Supreme Audit Institution has established mechanisms through which the public can participate in audit investigations. In addition to seeking public input to determine its audit agenda, the SAI may wish to provide formal opportunities for the public and civil society organizations to participate in the actual audit investigations, as witnesses or respondents.

Answer:

a. Yes, SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations.

Source:

Interview with Auditor General and Director of Audit, National Audit Office of The Gambia, on 26/02/19

Comment:

If an institution/individual is involved in a government financial transaction, the SAI can summon the individual to testify as a witness or respondent in order to assist the SAI to effectively conduct its audit or get a closure.

However, the choice of audit investigation is SAI's.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree