

## Overview



Transparency:

**46** /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public  
Participation:

**13** /100



Budget Oversight:

**61** /100

## About the survey

Government budget decisions – what taxes to levy, what services to provide, and how much debt to take on – affect how equal a society is and the well-being of its people, including whether the most disadvantaged will have real opportunities for a better life. It is critical that governments inform and engage the public on these vital decisions that impact their lives.

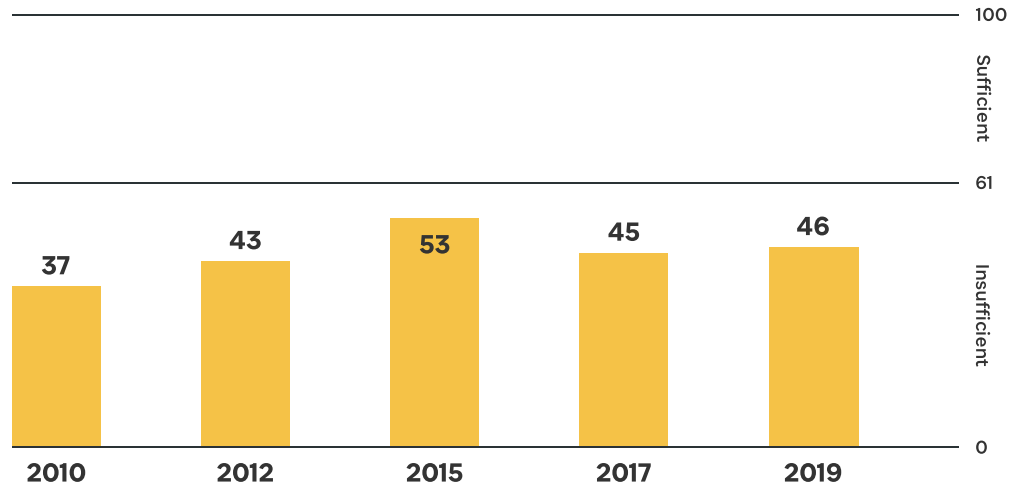
The **Open Budget Survey (OBS)** is the world's only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to central government budget information; formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process; and the role of budget oversight institutions such as the legislature and auditor in the budget process.

The survey helps local civil society assess and confer with their government on the reporting and use of public funds. This 7th edition of the OBS covers 117 countries.

Visit [www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey](http://www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey) ↗ for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2019 Global Report, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.



## How has the transparency score for El Salvador changed over time?

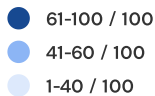


## Public availability of budget documents in El Salvador

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

Document	2010	2012	2015	2017	2019
Pre-Budget Statement	●	●	●	●	●
Executive's Budget Proposal	●	●	●	●	●
Enacted Budget	●	●	●	●	●
Citizens Budget	●	●	●	●	●
In-Year Reports	●	●	●	●	●
Mid-Year Review	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Year-End Report	●	●	●	●	●
Audit Report	●	●	●	●	●

## How comprehensive is the content of the key budget documents that El Salvador makes available to the public?



Key budget document	Document purpose and contents	Fiscal year assessed	Document content score
Pre-Budget Statement	Discloses the broad parameters of fiscal policies in advance of the Executive's Budget Proposal; outlines the government's economic forecast, anticipated revenue, expenditures, and debt.	2019	56
Executive's Budget Proposal	Submitted by the executive to the legislature for approval; details the sources of revenue, the allocations to ministries, proposed policy changes, and other information important for understanding the country's fiscal situation.	2019	43
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2018	89
Citizens Budget	A simpler and less technical version of the government's Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, designed to convey key information to the public.	2018	33
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2018	70
Mid-Year Review	A comprehensive update on the implementation of the budget as of the middle of the fiscal year; includes a review of economic assumptions and an updated forecast of budget outcomes.	2018	Not Produced
Year-End Report	Describes the situation of the government's accounts at the end of the fiscal year and, ideally, an evaluation of the progress made toward achieving the budget's policy goals.	2017	64
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2017	Internal Use

El Salvador's transparency score of **46** in the OBS 2019 is near its score in 2017.

## What changed in OBS 2019?

El Salvador has increased the availability of budget information by:

- Increasing the information provided in the Pre-Budget Statement.

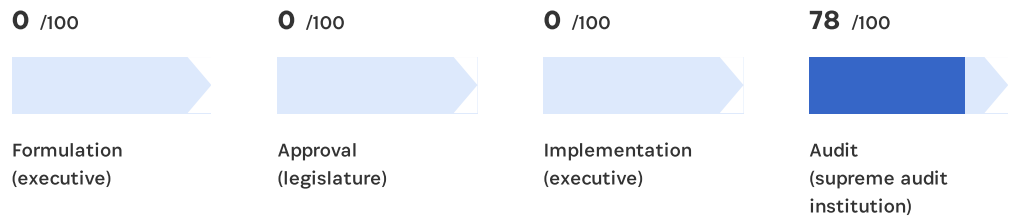
## Recommendations

El Salvador should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Publish a comprehensive Audit Report online in a timely manner.
- Produce and publish the Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner.
- Include in the Executive's Budget Proposal financial and policy information.
- Improve the comprehensiveness of the Citizens Budget and Pre-Budget Statement. Further, with regard to the Citizens Budget, ensure that it is actively disseminated through different channels.



## Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



few: 0 - 40; limited: 41 - 60; adequate: 61 - 100

## Recommendations

To further strengthen public participation in the budget process, El Salvador's Ministerio de Hacienda should prioritize the following actions:

- Pilot mechanisms to engage the public during budget formulation and to monitor budget implementation.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

El Salvador's Asamblea Legislativa should prioritize the following actions:

- Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval.
- Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the Audit Report.

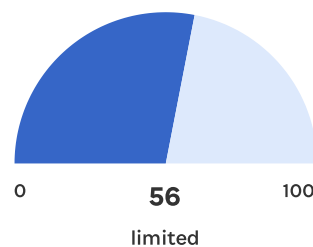


# Budget Oversight

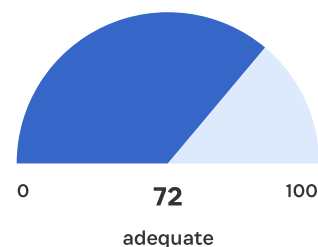
The OBS also examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

The legislature and supreme audit institution in El Salvador, together, provide adequate oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **61** (out of 100). Taken individually, the extent of each institution's oversight is shown below:

## Legislative oversight



## Audit oversight



weak: 0 - 40; limited: 41 - 60; adequate: 61 - 100

## Recommendations

El Salvador's Asamblea Legislativa provides adequate oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and limited oversight during the implementation stage. To improve oversight, the following actions should be prioritized:

- The legislature should debate budget policy before the Executive's Budget Proposal is tabled and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.
- A legislative committee should examine in-year budget implementation and publish reports with their findings online.
- In practice, ensure the legislature is consulted before the executive reduces spending due to revenue shortfalls.



- A legislative committee should examine the Audit Report and publish a report with their findings online.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by El Salvador's Corte de Cuentas de la República, the following actions are recommended:

- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

### **The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions**

El Salvador does not have an independent fiscal institution (IFI). IFIs are increasingly recognized as valuable independent and nonpartisan information providers to the Executive and/or Parliament during the budget process.

*\*These indicators are \*not\* scored in the Open Budget Survey.*

# Methodology

---

- Only documents published and events, activities, or developments that took place through 31 December 2018 were assessed in the OBS 2019.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:  
Jaime Lopez  
Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE)  
Calle Arturo Ambrogi, entre 103 y 105 Av. Norte San Salvador, El Salvador  
El Salvador, Centroamérica  
jailop@gmail.com
- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in El Salvador by a representative of the Ministerio de Hacienda.