



Overall score: **0%**

Provides scant or no information to the public in its budget documents during the year.

## Highlights

### Information in Public Documents

Equatorial Guinea's score on the Open Budget Index shows that the government provides the public with no information on the central government's budget and financial activities during the course of the budget year. This makes it very difficult for citizens to hold government accountable for its management of the public's money.

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

In Equatorial Guinea, the proposal is not available to the public, meaning citizens do not have a comprehensive picture of the government's plans for taxing and spending for the upcoming year.

Moreover, it is very difficult to track spending, revenue collection and borrowing during the year. Equatorial Guinea does not publish its in-year reports and it does not produce a mid-year review. Publishing the in-year reports and producing and publishing the mid-year review would greatly strengthen public accountability, since they provide updates on how the budget is being implemented during the year.

It is also difficult to assess budget performance in Equatorial Guinea once the budget year is over. A year-end report is not produced, preventing comparisons between what was budgeted and what was actually spent and collected. Also, public expenditures in Equatorial Guinea are not regularly audited and an audit report is not produced.

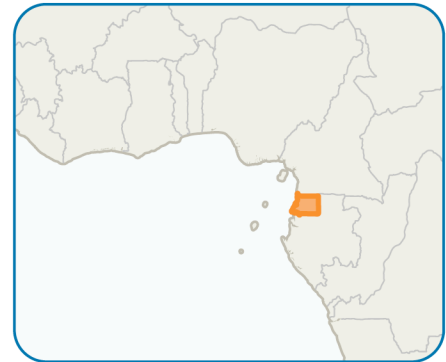
Access to the highly detailed budget information needed to understand the government's progress in undertaking a specific project or activity, particularly in the oil sector, remains limited. Equatorial Guinea has not codified the right to access government information into law.

### Public Participation and Institutions of Accountability

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

Opportunities for citizen participation in budget debates could be introduced. For example, the legislature does not hold hearings on the budget in which the public can participate.

There is no Supreme Audit Institution in Equatorial Guinea; therefore, there is no independent institution that can review the annual attestation audit of the final accounts performed at the end of the year.



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

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

# Open Budget Index 2008



## Equatorial Guinea

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

Research to complete the Open Budget Questionnaire was undertaken by:

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

