



Overall score: **48%** Provides some information to the public in its budget documents during the year.

## Highlights Information in Public Documents

The Philippines's score on the Open Budget Index shows that the government provides the public with some information on the central government's budget and financial activities during the course of the budget year. This makes it somewhat 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 the Philippines, the proposal provides some information to the public, meaning citizens have a somewhat comprehensive picture of the government's plans for taxing and spending for the upcoming year.

Moreover, it is difficult to track spending, revenue collection and borrowing during the year. The Philippines publishes its in-year reports and the mid-year review, but these lack some important details. Publishing complete in-year reports and 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 the Philippines once the budget year is over. A year-end report is produced, allowing comparisons between what was budgeted and what was actually spent and collected. However, the report does not provide a detailed explanation of these differences. Also, while the Philippines makes its audit report public, it does not provide any information on whether the audit report's recommendations are successfully implemented.

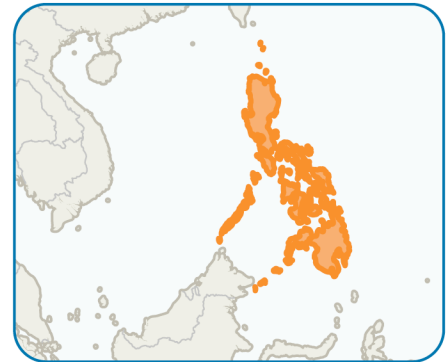
Access to the highly detailed budget information needed to understand the government's progress in undertaking a specific project or activity remains somewhat limited. The Philippines has not passed an Access to Information law, but the right to information has been codified through the Constitution and the Republic Act 6713.

## Public Participation and Institutions of Accountability

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

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

The independence of Philippines's Supreme Audit Institution is somewhat limited. While the SAI has discretion to decide which audits to undertake, it does not have a budget sufficient to fulfill its mandate.



### 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Citizens Budget	<input type="radio"/> No
Enacted Budget	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
In-year Reports	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Mid-Year Review	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Year-End Report	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Audit Report	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

# Open Budget Index 2008

## Philippines



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:

Avigail Olarte and Ma. Gisela Ordenes-Cascolan  
 Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ)  
 3/F Criselda II Bldg., 107 Sct de Guia St., 1104 Quezon City, Philippines  
 Telephone: +632 410 4768 to 69  
 Email: Avigail: [research@pcij.org](mailto:research@pcij.org)  
 Gisela: [lala@pcij.org](mailto:lala@pcij.org)

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)

