



Overall score: **51%** Provides some information to the public in its budget documents during the year.

Highlights

Information in Public Documents

Uganda'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 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 Uganda, the proposal provides significant information to the public, meaning citizens have a comprehensive picture of the government's plans for taxing and spending for the upcoming year.

However, it is very difficult to track spending, revenue collection and borrowing during the year. Uganda does not publish its in-year reports or a mid-year review. Publishing these documents 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 Uganda 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, though it lacks some important details. Also, though Uganda makes its audit report public, no information is provided 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. This is despite the fact that Uganda has codified the right to access government information into law, through the Access to Information Act 2005.

Public Participation and Institutions of Accountability

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

Opportunities for citizen participation in budget debates could be increased. For example, it should be noted that the legislature used to hold public hearings on the budget in which civil society organizations could participate but this is no longer the case.

The independence of Uganda's Supreme Audit Institution is limited. The head of the SAI may be removed by the executive. The SAI also faces some limitations in its discretion to decide which audits to undertake and 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Executive's Budget Proposal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Citizens Budget	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Enacted Budget	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
In-year Reports	<input type="radio"/> No
Mid-Year Review	<input type="radio"/> No
Year-End Report	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Audit Report	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Open Budget Index 2008



Uganda

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:

Daisy Owomugasho & Daniel Lukwago
 Uganda Debt Network (UDN)
 Plot 424 Mawanda Road Kamwokya, Box 21509
 Kampala, Uganda
 Tel: +256 414 543 974
 Email:
 Daisy: dowomugasho@udn.or.ug
 Daniel: dhlukwago@udn.or.ug
 Website: www.udn.or.ug

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

www.openbudgetindex.org

