Drawing on internationally accepted criteria developed by multilateral organizations, the Open Budget Survey uses 109 equally weighted indicators to measure budget transparency. These indicators assess whether the central government makes eight key budget documents available to the public online in a timely manner and whether these documents present budget information in a comprehensive and useful way.

Each country receives a composite score (out of 100) that determines its ranking on the Open Budget Index – the world’s only independent and comparative measure of budget transparency.

**How has the OBI score for Benin changed over time?**

![Graph showing the OBI score for Benin from 2012 to 2017.]

**How comprehensive and useful is the information provided in the key budget documents that Benin publishes?**

![Graph comparing the comprehensiveness and usefulness of budget documents from 2012 to 2017.]

Benin’s score of 39 out of 100 is near the global average score of 42.
Benin’s score of 9 on the 2017 Open Budget Index is lower than its score in 2015.

Since 2015, Benin has increased the availability of budget information by:
- Publishing the Year-End Report and Audit Report online.
- Increasing the information provided in the Pre-Budget Statement.

However, Benin has decreased the availability of budget information by:
- Failing to produce the Mid-Year Review.
- Reducing the information provided in the Executive’s Budget Proposal.

### Key Budget Documents

**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.

**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.

**Enacted Budget**: the budget that has been approved by the legislature.

**Citizens Budget**: a simpler and less technical version of the government’s Executive’s Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget, designed to convey key information to the public.

**In-Year Reports**: include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.

**Mid-Year Review**: contains 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.

**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.

**Audit Report**: issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government’s year-end accounts.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Transparency alone is insufficient for improving governance. Public participation in budgeting is vital to realize the positive outcomes associated with greater budget transparency.

To measure public participation, the Open Budget Survey assesses the degree to which the government provides opportunities for the public to engage in budget processes. Such opportunities should be provided throughout the budget cycle by the executive, the legislature, and the supreme audit institution.

The questions assessing participation in the Open Budget Survey 2017 were revised to align them with the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency’s new principles on public participation, which now serve as the basis for widely accepted norms on public participation in national budget processes. Therefore, data on the extent of public participation in budgeting in the Open Budget Survey 2017 cannot be compared directly to data from earlier editions.

Benin’s score of 9 out of 100 indicates that it provides few opportunities for the public to engage in the budget process. This is lower than the global average score of 12.

### To what extent do different institutions in Benin provide opportunities for public participation?

- **Executive**: 0
- **Legislature**: 42
- **Supreme audit institution**: 0

Benin’s score of 9 out of 100 indicates that it provides few opportunities for the public to engage in the budget process. This is lower than the global average score of 12.
The Open Budget Survey examines the role that legislatures, supreme audit institutions, and independent fiscal institutions play in the budget process and the extent to which they are able to provide effective oversight of the budget. These institutions play a critical role — often enshrined in national constitutions or laws — in planning budgets and overseeing their implementation.

These indicators were revised to better assess the role of formal oversight institutions in ensuring integrity and accountability in the use of public resources. Therefore, data on the role and effectiveness of oversight institutions in the Open Budget Survey 2017 should not be compared directly to data from earlier editions.

To what extent does the legislature in Benin provide budget oversight?

The legislature provides adequate oversight during the budget cycle. This score reflects that the legislature provides limited oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and adequate oversight during the implementation stage of the budget cycle.

Oversight by an Independent Fiscal Institution

Benin does not have an independent fiscal institution (IFI). While IFIs are not yet widespread globally, they are increasingly recognized as an important source of independent, nonpartisan information. IFIs take a variety of different institutional forms. Common examples include parliamentary budget offices and fiscal councils.


RECOMMENDATIONS

For more detailed information on the survey findings for Benin, please see the Open Budget Survey Data Explorer at survey.internationalbudget.org.

How can Benin improve transparency?

Benin should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Produce and publish a Mid-Year Review.
- Increase the information provided in the Executive’s Budget Proposal by providing more detail on expenditures, debt, and the financial position of the government.
- Increase the information provided in the Year-End Report by providing a more comprehensive account of actual outcomes for expenditures and comparisons between planned outcomes and actual outcomes for revenues.
- Continue to publish the Audit Report online in a timely manner.
How can Benin improve participation?

Benin should prioritize the following actions to improve public participation in its budget process:

- Pilot mechanisms for members of the public and executive branch officials to exchange views on national budget matters during both the formulation of the national budget and the monitoring of its implementation. These mechanisms could build on innovations, such as participatory budgeting and social audits. For examples of such mechanisms, see www.fiscaltransparency.net/mechanisms/.
- Hold legislative hearings on the Audit Report, during which members of the public or civil society organizations can testify.

How can Benin improve oversight?

Benin should prioritize the following actions to make budget oversight more effective:

- Ensure legislative committees examine and publish reports on their analysis of the Executive’s Budget Proposal online.
- Ensure a legislative committee examines and publishes reports on in-year budget implementation online.
- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.
- Consider setting up an independent fiscal institution to further strengthen budget oversight.

Further Information

Visit www.openbudgetsurvey.org for more information, including:

- The Open Budget Survey 2017: Global report
- Data explorer
- Methodology report
- Full questionnaire