

Egypt

Overview



Transparency:

49 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public Participation:

35 /100



Budget Oversight:

54 /100

About the survey

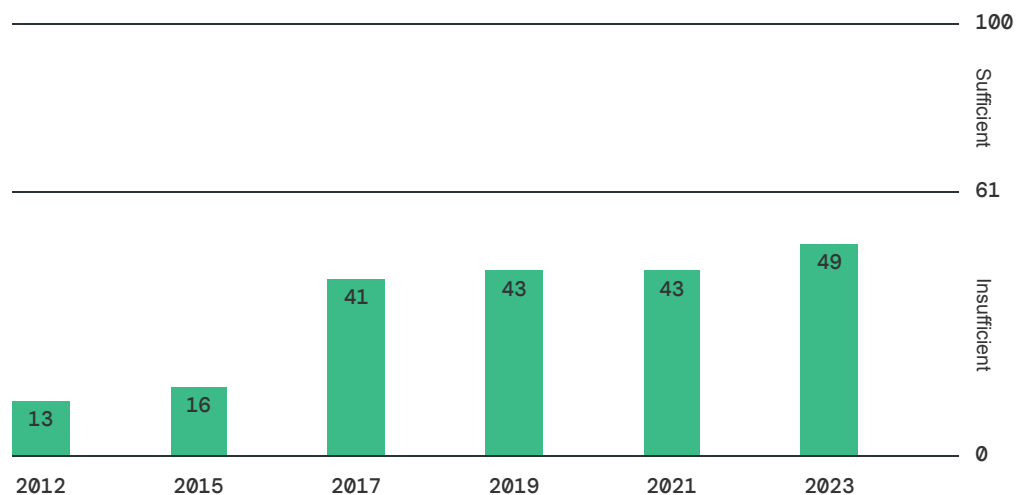
Government budget decisions – what taxes to levy, what services to provide, and how much debt to take on – have important consequences for all people in society. When governments provide information and meaningful channels for the public to engage in these decisions, we can better ensure public money is spent on public interests.

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 legislatures and national audit offices, 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 9th edition of the OBS covers 125 countries.

Visit www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2023 Global Report, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.

How has the transparency score for Egypt changed over time?



Public availability of budget documents in Egypt

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

| Document | 2012 | 2015 | 2017 | 2019 | 2021 | 2023 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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 Egypt makes available to the public?

| KEY | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| ● | 61-100 / 100 |
| ● | 41-60 / 100 |
| ● | 1-40 / 100 |

| 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. | 2022-23 | Published Late |
| 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. | 2022-23 | 54 |
| Enacted Budget | The budget that has been approved by the legislature. | 2022-23 | 83 |
| 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. | 2022-23 | 67 |
| In-Year Reports | Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly. | 2021-22 & 2022-23 | 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. | 2021-22 | 30 |
| 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. | 2021-22 | 55 |
| Audit Report | Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts. | 2020-21 | Internal Use |

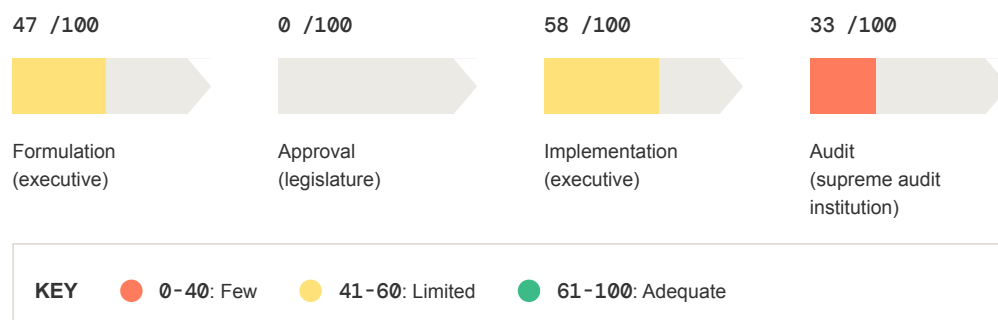
Egypt's transparency score of **49** in the OBS 2023 is moderately higher than its score in 2021.

Recommendations

Egypt should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Publish the Pre-Budget Statement online in a timely manner.
- Improve the comprehensiveness of the Executive's Budget Proposal by adding data on the financial position of the government and information on performance and policy.
- Ensure that the new program-based budget that is to be implemented in 2024 is accessible to the public prior to the budget year and is submitted to Parliament for approval.
- Include in the Year-End Report comparisons between borrowing estimates and actual outcomes and comparisons between planned nonfinancial outcomes and actual outcomes including those of social programs and measures.
- Improve the comprehensiveness of the Mid-Year Review by providing updated execution data and revised estimates of expenditures, revenue, and debt for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- Increase the amount of data available in a machine-readable format regarding the information included in the several budget documents.
- Regularly incorporate the functional classification of expenditures, expenditures by program, and updated debt composition data in the In-Year Reports.
- Publish the Audit Report in a timely manner. OBS acknowledges the Accountability State Authority's initiative to publish Egypt's audit report for FY 2020-21 for the first time. However, as it was made available after the OBS cut-off date and late, it is being categorized as published for internal use. To uphold transparency and ensure comprehensiveness, it is crucial to publish the report in a timely manner, within 18 months after the end of the budget year, aligning with established best practices.

Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



Recommendations

Egypt's Ministry of Finance has established public consultations during budget formulation and public consultations during budget implementation, but to further strengthen public participation in the budget process, should also prioritize the following actions:

- Expand mechanisms during budget formulation and implementation to engage any civil society organization or member of the public who wishes to participate and provide feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used in both stages of the budget.
- Consider expanding the National Participatory Budgeting Initiative to additional governorates to bolster impact and effectiveness. Establish a more formal, structured approach to the initiative, underpinned by capacity-building efforts and comprehensive awareness campaigns.
- Establish opportunities for citizens to participate in the formulation and implantation of sectoral budget, initiated by line ministries.

Egypt's House of Representatives 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.

Egypt's Accountability State Authority (ASA) has established mechanisms for the public to assist in developing its audit program. It should prioritize the following actions to improve public participation in the budget process:

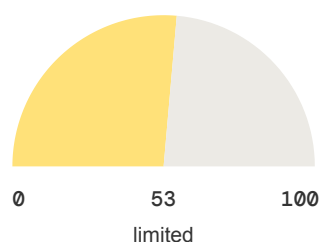
- Establish formal mechanisms for the public to contribute to relevant audit investigations.

Budget Oversight

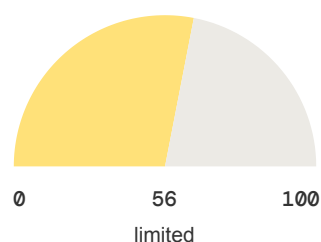
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Egypt, together, provide limited oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **54** (out of 100). Taken individually, the extent of each institution's oversight is shown below:

Legislative oversight



Audit oversight



KEY ● 0-40: Few ● 41-60: Limited ● 61-100: Adequate

Recommendations

Egypt's House of Representatives provides limited 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.
- The Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to legislators at least three months before the start of the budget year.
- Legislative committees should examine the Executive's Budget Proposal and publish reports with their analysis online.
- 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.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by Egypt's Accountability State Authority (ASA), the following actions are recommended:

- Require legislative or judicial approval to remove the head of the supreme audit institution.
- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.
- Maintain consistent communication with and provide input to the work of relevant legislative committees throughout the budget process.

The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions

Egypt 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 2022 were assessed in the OBS 2023.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:
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- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Egypt by a representative of the Ministry of Finance.