

REPORT ON SUB-NATIONAL BUDGET TRANSPARENCY SURVEY ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA



BARR. NWIGBO FABIAN UGONNA
Pp: THOMANI & ASSOCIATES.
NO 5 RICHARD STREET ASATA ENUGU.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the summary of the results of the 2018 sub-national budget transparency survey conducted in Enugu State, Nigeria. Enugu state was involved in the 2018 survey and scored 18 out of 100 in public access to budget documents, 26 out of 100 on public participation in budget, 20 out of 100 in public access to procurement information. This was a poor rating and as such, we have made some valuable recommendations for improvement based on world best practices in budget processes. Comparatively, the 2015 scores, though not impressive too was better than the 2018 scores. This could be associated with the style of Government in power because Enugu state just like most States in Nigeria had a change of Government in 2015 in line with the constitutional provisions. The overall budget transparency score for 2015 was 28 out of 100, while that of 2018 is 20 out of 100. This presents a drop of 8poits from the 2015 scores. It also shows that the State provides minimal information on budget processes to her citizens. On availability of key budget documents to the public, Enugu State scored 18 out of 100 meaning that budget document are rarely made available to the public. On public participation in budget processes, the score was 26 out of 100 showing that there are limited participation by the citizens in the state budget processes. While on public access to procurement information, the State scored 20 out of 100 which points to the fact that generally, the State budget processes seems to be very poor.

Geographical Profile of Enugu State

Enugu State is one the states in eastern part of Nigeria, and located at the foot of Udi plateau. Created in 1991, from part of the old Anambra State. The state shares borders with Abia State and Imo State to the south, Ebonyi State to the east, Benue State to the Northeast, Kogi State to the Northwest and Anambra State to the West. The population of the state as at 21-3-2016 is 4,411,100 with population density of 616.0/km² .

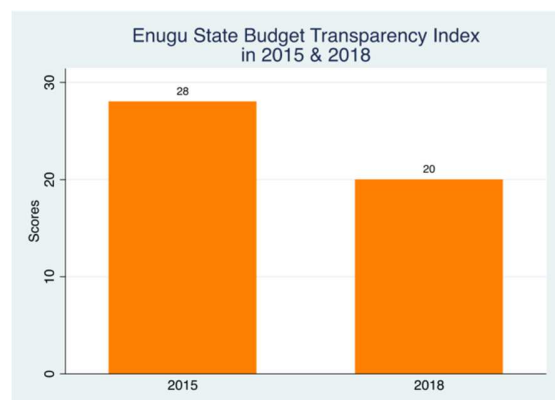
Methodology of the Survey

The survey was conducted through the use of questioners designed to measure some identified parameters relating to budget process availability and transparency processes. The questioners have 4 section and 70 questions in all.

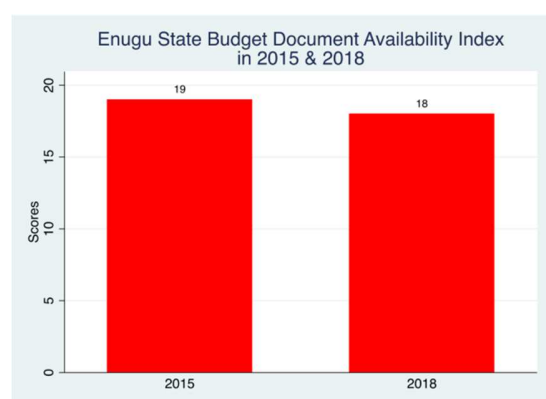
Section 1 deals on Public Availability of key budget document section 2 provides for public participation in budget processes, section 3 borders on transparency in the procurement system, while section 4 is on legal frame work: Access to information and fiscal responsibility.

The survey was designed to go through 3 stages before the final report to CIRDDOC to wit: state Researcher (which is always a registered NGO) who reports to the state supervisor, the supervisor reports to a zonal consultant who in turn reports to CIRDDOC.

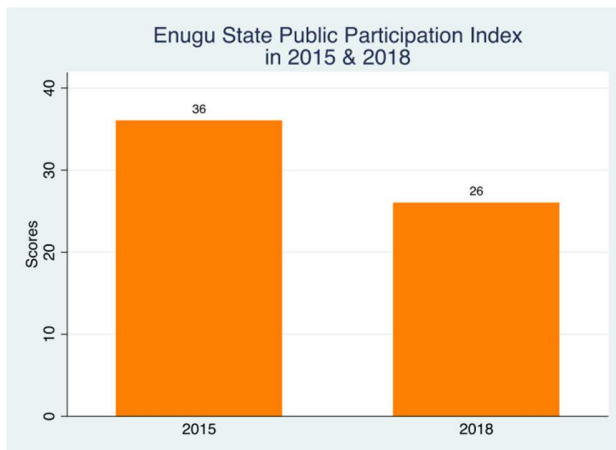
Findings



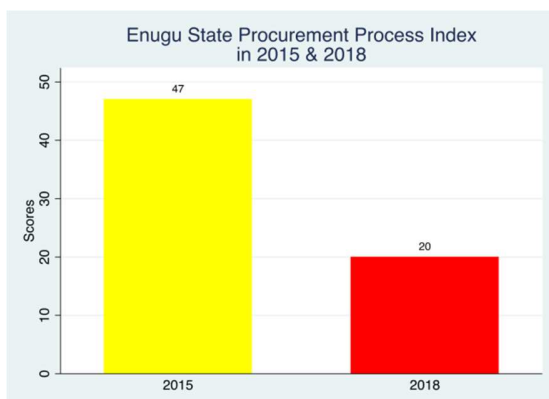
Enugu state scores 20 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The state had slight decrease of 8 points when compared to 2015. The following are specific findings for each of the three sub-indices:



- **Public access to budget documents:** Enugu state scores 18 out of 100 on the State Budget Document Availability Index. There is almost no change compared to 2015. The State Accountant General's Report and State Auditor-General's Report are now published online while the State Budget Call Circular is no longer available since it is produced for internal use now. The State Draft Budget Estimates and Votes and State Appropriation Law are produced for internal use only. The State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework/Fiscal Strategy Paper and Citizen's Budget aren't produced at all.



- Public participation in the budget process:** Citizens and CSOs in Enugu state have limited spaces for the public to be involved in the budget process with a score of 26 out of 100. The limited spaces for public consultation during **budget approval** and **audit** that existed in 2015 no longer exist in 2018. The executive holds limited public consultations to solicit public input during **budget formulation**. During **budget execution**, the executive uses the Visit Every Community programme to solicit inputs from the public.



- Public access to procurement information:** With a score of 20 out of 100, citizens have very little access to procurement information in Enugu state. There is a significant decrease in comparison to 2015. While the Due Process Office guides the procurement process, this office no longer publishes pre-bidding documents nor publishes procurement awards.

Recommendations

CIRDDOC recommends the following to improve budget transparency, public participation in the budget process, and transparency in the procurement process:

Budget Transparency

The Enugu state government should implement the recommendations of the Fiscal Sustainability Plan and go one step further by publishing online and in a timely manner the budget documents that it currently produces for internal use only:

- State Budget Call Circular,

- State Draft Budget Estimates and Votes, and
- State Appropriation Law.

In addition to publishing these documents, the Enugu State Ministry of Finance and Economic Development should make budget information accessible by producing and publishing a Citizen's Budget. The state should also produce and publish State Quarterly Reports and the State Mid-Year Review.

Public Participation

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the government in Enugu state should do the following:

- Open the budget formulation process to all constituencies; establish effective mechanisms to solicit the public's inputs on what should be included in the State Draft Estimates and Votes; and clearly articulate what the government expects to do with these inputs.
- Publish a list of beneficiaries of projects, subsidies, social plans, and other targeted spending from MDAs.
- Establish practical mechanisms for the public to provide inputs on how the budget is being implemented and publish reports on how these inputs are used.

Similarly, the Enugu State House of Assembly should do the following:

- Provide spaces for the public to testify during budget approval.
- Open the hearings on the Auditor-General's Report to the public.

Lastly, the Auditor-General should do the following:

- Establish practical mechanisms for the public to submit inputs on what should be audited.

Procurement Process

To improve the entire procurement process, the following should be done:

- The Enugu State House of Assembly should enact a procurement law to establish a Public Procurement Bureau.
- The Public Procurement Bureau should publish procurement awards and justification of awards for all community projects, and have a complaints review mechanism. This body should manage the procurement process for all MDAs and include representatives from the private sector and civil society.