

2018 REPORT ON STATE BUDGET TRANSPARENCY SURVEY, OSUN STATE.



FIG.1: Map of Nigeria Showing Osun State

1. Geographical_Profile

Osun State came into existence on August 27, 1991 carved from the old Oyo State. The state is located in the south-western part of Nigeria, with an area of approximately 14, 875 square kilometres. It lies between longitude 04 °E and 05°5 and latitude 05° 55^{8N} and 08° 07^W.

It is bounded by Ogun, Kwara, Oyo, Ondo and Ekiti states in the south, North, West and East respectively. The state lies within the tropical rain forest belt.

Population: According to the National Population and Housing Census exercise conducted in 2006, Osun State had a population of 3,423,535. With the growth rate of 3.2, the 2014 projection of Osun State population was put at 4,449,319 (UNFPA, 2014). The 2016 estimated population was 4,705,600 (NPC, 2016)

Tourism: Tourist centres abound across the state. Some of the popular ones include: the Oranmiyan Staff, Ife Museum, Obafemi Awolowo University Zoological Gardens, Ile-Ase, Yeyemolu and Oduduwa Shrines and Grove all at Ile-Ife. Others are Osun-Osogbo Shrine, which is the venue of the internationally recognised Osun-Osogbo Festival, the Mbari-Mbayo Cultural Heritage, Idi-Baba Cultural Centre, Adunni Susan Wengers Centre and Nike Arts Gallery all based in Osogbo. There are also the Olumirin Water-Falls at Erin-Ijesa, Igbo-Sango , Ede; Kiriji War Site, Igbajo; and the Ayikunnugba Water-Falls at Oke-Ila orangun.

The state government attaches great importance to tourism. All issues relating to tourism are handled by the State Ministry of Home Affairs, Culture and Tourism. This Ministry is charged with the responsibility of modernizing and developing tourism and culture in the state. Osun Osogbo Grove has been recognised by UNESCO as a world heritage site, while the Osun Osogbo Festival has been listed as an international festival. UNESCO has also established the Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding in Osogbo, the state capital.

People and Culture: The indigenes of the state belong to the Yoruba tribe, composed of the Oyos, Ijesas, Ifes, Igbominas and the Osuns. However, non - indigenes from all parts of Nigeria and foreigners reside in the state and live together in harmony. Yoruba and English are the Languages used for official and business transactions. The people have a rich cultural heritage which is eloquently demonstrated in all spheres of their lives. Their culture finds expression in their arts, literature, music and other social activities.

Governance: The State is made up of 30 LGAs with 26 - member House of Assembly. All the members of the State House of Assembly are male and predominantly made up of All Progressive Congress (APC) Political party. The Sitting Governor of the State is Mr. Gboyega Oyetola. The National Assembly delegation from Osun State comprises three senators and ten representatives.

2. Economic Potentials and Investment Policies:

Economic Activities: Traditionally, greater percentage of the people of the state (about 80%) engage in agriculture and produce sufficient food and cash crops for domestic consumption as well as inputs for agro-allied industries and for export. A segment of the populace is also traders and artisans. Other occupations include hand-weaving, mat-making, dyeing, soap-making and wood carving-among others. In the nineteen nineties Gold deposits were discovered in Ilesha and Oriade axis of the State.

3. Situational Analysis of the State:

The State of Osun is relatively peaceful and accommodating to all and sundry; the last governorship election had been widely adjudged relatively free, fair and peaceful. The State is also safe in terms of security of lives and properties.

The State bureaucracy could be best described as 'discouraging' as most public servants hoard information and most times hostile in providing public documents and obviously harmless information. Most information about the State are not available on the internet as the State Government website could only provide very few information. The freedom of Information law has not been domesticated in the State.

The State is relatively slow in the passage and publication of the annual budget. The State budget for 2018 was passed late and publication was done several months after which is contrary to best practices.

Nonetheless concerted efforts are being made by Stakeholders and Non-Governmental Organizations in the State to re-orientate public servants about the release of information and public documents and ultimately the domestication of the Freedom of Information law.

Executive summary

Presented here is the summary of the result of the 2018 Sub-National Budget Transparency survey conducted in Osun State, Nigeria, which was commissioned in February 2018 with delivery timelines. Pertinent to mention that Osun State participated in the 2015 survey and scored 18 out of 100 in Public Access to budget documents, 25 out of 100 on Public participation in budget, 37 out of 100 in Public Access to procurement information. These were all poor ratings compared with other states of the Federation, following which some key recommendations were made for improvement in line with best practices in budget processes. It is however, disheartening to note that the State slumps down the survey ladder on all parameters except in state procurement index, where slight improvement was recorded. Assessed therefore, against the baseline rating, the State in the 2018 survey scored 15 out of 100 in availability of key budget documents index, 18 out of 100 in public participation index, 42 out of 100 in State procurement index, and 20 out 100 in the overall budget transparency index.

Methodology of the survey

The research process adopted the use of questionnaires that was designed to measure some key parameters related to budget processes, availability and transparency processes. The questionnaire was divided into 4 sections with 70 questions in all. The sections measured availability of key budget documents, public participation in budget processes, transparency in the public procurement processes, as well as access to information and fiscal responsibility covering sections 1 to 4 respectively.

The survey was executed with a survey team comprising the State Researcher, State Supervisor and the Zonal Consultant who oversees the research process and reports back to CIRDDOC. The State research Team received support from the CIRDDOC team at every stage of the process.

Key findings

State budget transparency index

Osun State scored 20 out of 100 in the overall budget transparency index. This performance placed the state in the last group of 5. The score fell below both the overall **average rating score** of 29 out of 100 in 2018, and Osun state overall budget transparency index of 23 out of 100 in 2015. This is a dismal performance, showing that the state provided scanty or no information on budget processes. This is shown in figure 1.

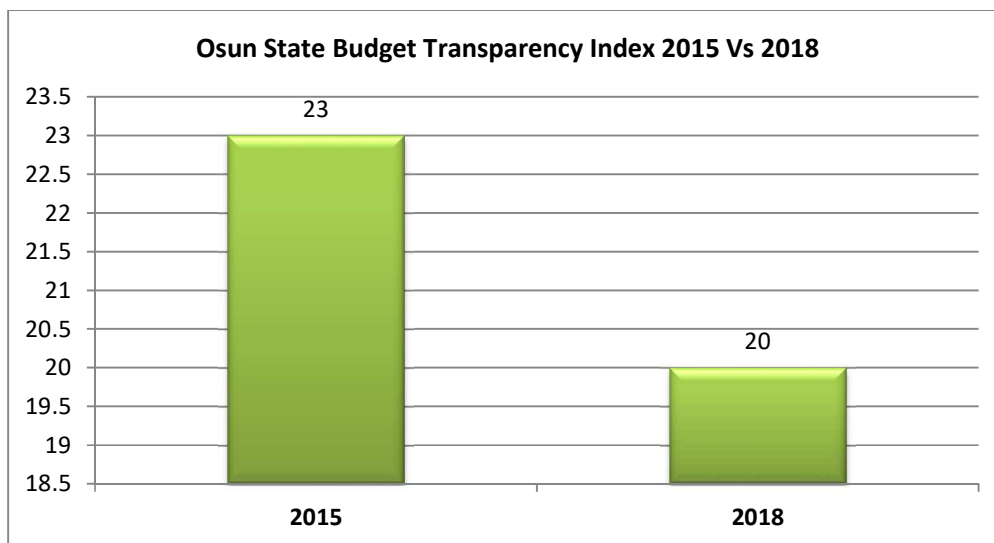


FIG. 1: Osun State Budget Transparency Index in 2015 and 2018

Public availability of key budget documents

Osun state scores 15 out of 100 on the State Budget Document Availability Index. The State Budget Call Circular and State Accountant General's Report are publicly available compared to 2015. The State Appropriation Law is no longer available. The State Draft Budget Estimates and Votes, State Quarterly Reports, State Mid-Year Review, and State Auditor-General's Report are produced for internal use. The

State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework/Fiscal Strategy Paper and Citizen's Budget aren't produced at all.

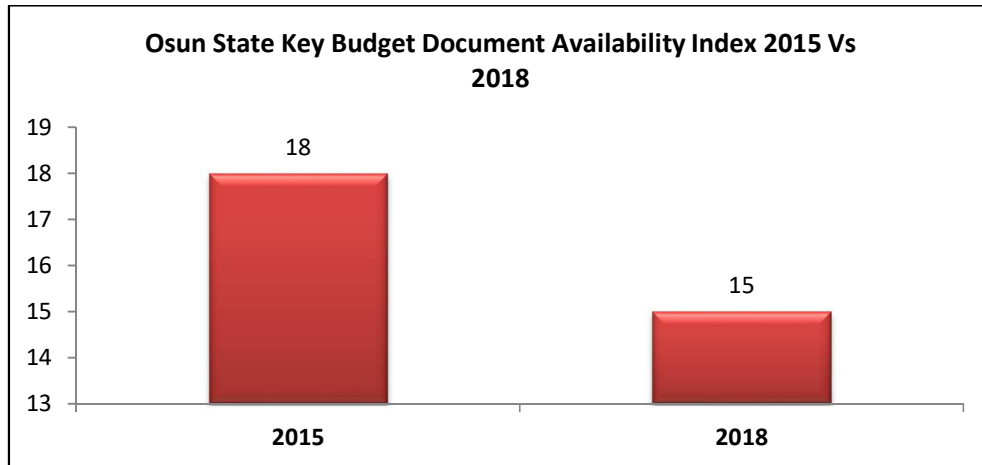


FIG. 2: Osun State Key Budget Documents Availability Index in 2015 and 2018

Public participation in the budget process: Citizens and CSOs in Osun state have almost no spaces for the public to be involved in the budget process with a score of 18 out of 100. The limited spaces for public participation during **budget formulation, approval, execution, and audit** in 2015 no longer exist in 2018. The executive and SHoA provide almost no space for public consultation. This is shown in Fig. 3.

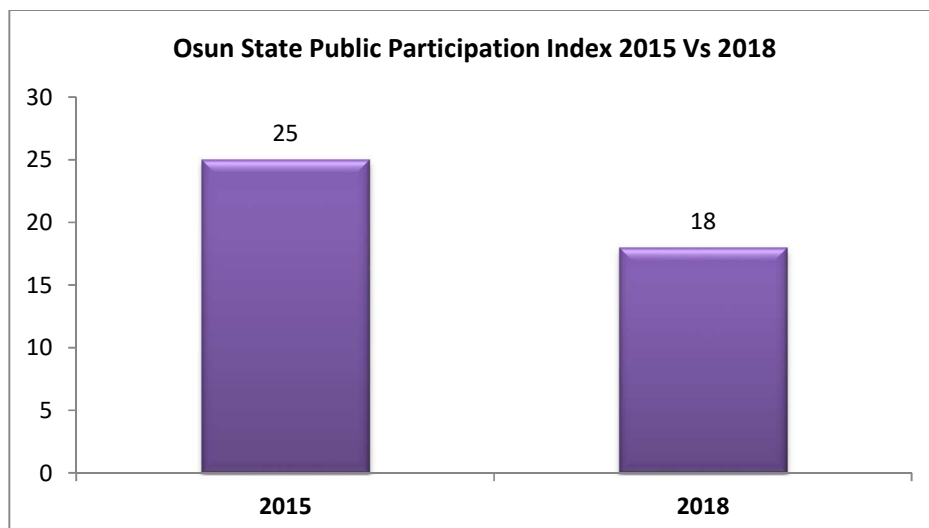


FIG. 3: Osun State Public Participation Index in 2015 and 2018

Public access to procurement information: With a score of 42 out of 100, citizens in Osun state have limited access to procurement information. There is an increase of 5 points compared to 2015. The state passed a law establishing the Public Procurement Agency that guides the process and now provides all pre-bidding documents. See Fig. 4 below.

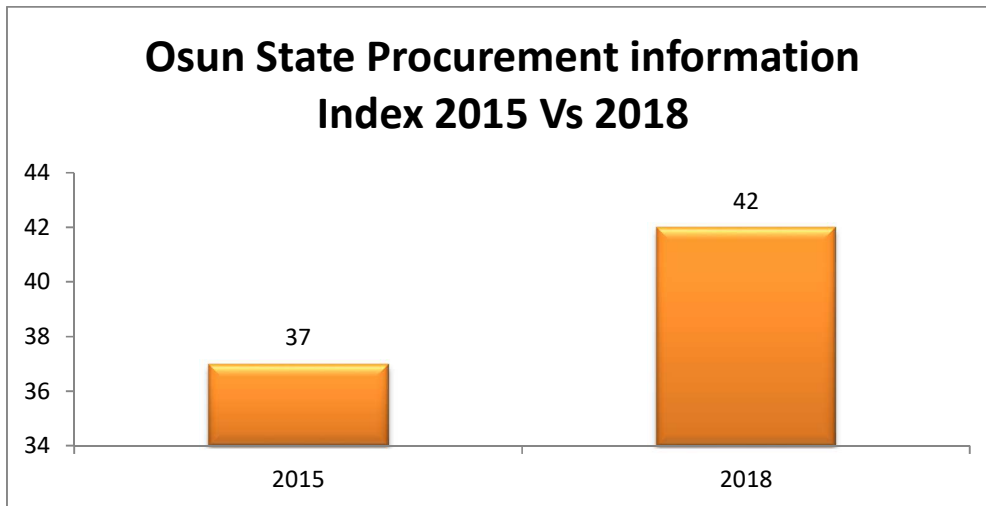


FIG. 4: Osun State Procurement Information Index in 2015 and 2018

Summary of the comparative performance of the State

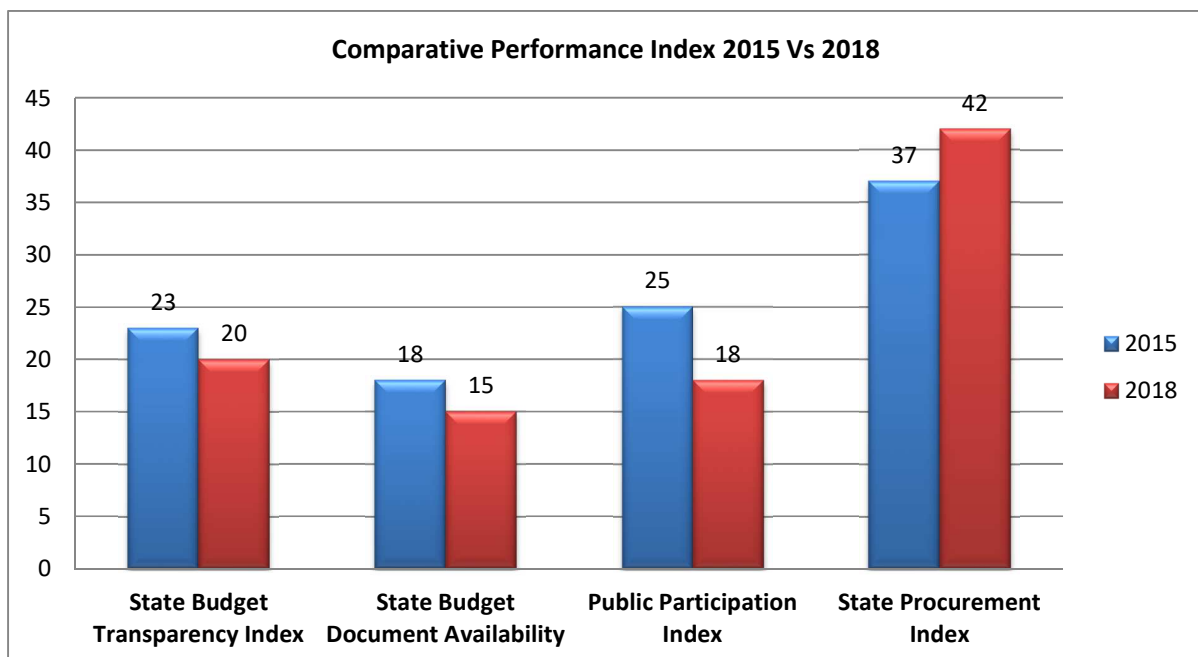


FIG. 5: Osun State Comparative Performance Across All Parameters In 2015 and 2018 At A

Glance

Recommendations

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

Budget Transparency

The Osun 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 following documents that are available on request:

- State Budget Call Circular, and
- State Accountant General's Report.

The state should also publish the following documents online that it currently produces for internal use only:

- State Draft Budget Estimates and Votes,
- State Appropriation Law,
- State Quarterly Reports,
- State Mid-Year Review, and
- State Auditor-General's Report.

In addition to publishing these documents, the Osun State Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Budget should make budget information accessible by producing and publishing a Citizen's Budget. The state should also produce and publish the State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework/Fiscal Strategy Paper

Public Participation

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the government in Osun 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 Osun 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 Public Procurement Agency 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.

Thank you,

Dr. S.B. Adeyemi



State Supervisor