

ADAMAWA STATE:

Findings

Public Access to budget documents

Adamawa state scores 56 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Budget Call Circular, State Draft Budget Estimates, and State Budget Appropriation Law are publicly available on request. Citizens have access to all documents in both the budget formulation and approval stage that can serve as a basis to monitor how the government is executing the budget; however, none of the budget execution documents are publicly available to the public. Quarterly Reports are only produced for internal use while the Mid-Year Review, Accountant General's and Auditor General's Reports are not produced at all.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Adamawa state have limited spaces for to be involved in the budget process with a score of 14 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the government provides no spaces for the public to provide inputs on the State Draft Estimates. While these ministries invite some constituencies the government, however, doesn't clearly articulate how these inputs will be used. Few committee hearings on budget are opened to the public with only some committees publishing reports during the **budget approval** process. In the **auditing** process, citizens have no open spaces for public scrutiny.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 27 out of 100, citizens have limited access to procurement information in Adamawa state. The Public Procurement Law 2013 regulates the entire procurement process and established the State Tenders Board. Tenders in Adamawa state are publicly opened with some delay after the bidding process is closed. Few procurement decisions are available to citizens.

Recommendations

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

Budget Transparency

The government can increase budget transparency in Adamawa state by, timely, publishing online the following document that is already produced:

- Adamawa State Quarterly Reports

The Permanent Secretary Budget office of Adamawa state should do the following:

- partner with CSOs in the state to develop a Citizen's Budget.
- produce and publish the Mid-Year Review, Accountant General's Report and Auditor General's Report.

Public Participation

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the government in Adamawa 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 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 Adamawa State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open all committee hearings on the budget to the public where citizens and CSOs can testify.
- open 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 State Tenders Board should establish a procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- the State Tenders Board should publish all procurement decisions along with their justifications and for all community projects.

Access to Information

To improve access to information in the state, the government should do the following:

1. Domesticate the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011.
2. Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state