

ANAMBRA STATE:

Findings

Public Access to budget documents

Anambra state scores 20 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. Only the State Budget Call Circular was published on the notice boards of ministries in the state. The Citizen's Budget and Quarterly Reports are the only documents that are not produced at all. The remaining documents are produced for internal use only.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Anambra state have limited spaces to be involved in the budget process with a score of 39 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the Anambra State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budgeting hold annual participatory budgeting hearings to provide inputs on the State Draft Estimates. The Guidelines for Participatory Budgeting in Anambra State dictates what mechanisms the government develops to solicit inputs and publishes report on how these inputs were used. The **budget approval** process is open to the public, but no committees publish reports. The Anambra governor publishes a list of some beneficiaries of projects, subsidies, social plans and other targeted spending from MDAs throughout the **budget execution** process. In the **auditing** process, citizens have no open spaces for public scrutiny.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 37 out of 100, citizens have limited access to procurement information in Anambra. The Anambra State Public Procurement Law 2011 regulates the entire procurement process and established the State Council on Public Procurement.

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 easily increase budget transparency in Anambra state by timely publishing, online the following documents that are already produced:

- Anambra State Draft Recurrent & Capital Estimates
- Anambra State of Nigeria Appropriation Law
- Anambra State of Nigeria, Mid-Year Review of Capital Implementation
- Anambra State Report of the Accountant-General with Financial Statements
- Report of the State Auditor-General on the Accounts of the Anambra State of Nigeria

In addition to publishing these documents, the Anambra State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budgeting should partner with CSOs in the state to develop a Citizen's Budget.

Public Participation

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

- publish a report on how the inputs during the participatory budgeting spaces were taken into account to formulate the State Draft Estimates.
- 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 Anambra State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open committee hearings on the specific sectors to the public where citizens and CSOs can testify and publish committee reports.
- 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 processes, the following should be done:

- the State Council on Public Procurement should establish a procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- the State Council on Public Procurement 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