

BORNO STATE:

Findings

Public Access to budget documents

Borno state scores 13 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. While most documents are produced in the state, not a single document is publicly available.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Borno state have no space for to be involved in the budget process with a score of 0 out of 100.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 17 out of 100, citizens have minimal access to procurement information in Borno. Tenders in Borno state are publicly opened with significant delays after the bidding process is closed.

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 Borno state by timely publishing, online, the following documents that are already produced:

- Budget Estimates from Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- State Draft Estimates
- State Budget Appropriation Law
- Borno State Quarterly Reports
- Borno State Mid Year Review

The Ministry of Budget and Planning of Borno state should do the following:

- partner with CSOs, in the state, to develop a Citizen's Budget.
- produce and publish the Quarterly Reports, 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 Borno 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 Borno State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open committee hearings on the budget to the public where citizens and CSOs can testify.
- 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 government should introduce a law in the SHoA establishing a tenders board that oversees the whole procurement process; procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- the government 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