

JIGAWA STATE:

Findings

Public Access to budget documents

Jigawa state scores 44 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Budget Call Circular and State Budget Appropriation Law are all publicly available on request while the State Draft Budget Estimates are available online. Citizens have access to all documents in the formulation and approval of the budget cycle that can serve as a basis to monitor how the government spends public funds. Both the Accountant General's and Auditor General's Reports are produced for internal use only while the Citizen's Budget, Quarterly Reports, and Mid-Year Review are not produced at all.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Jigawa state have moderate spaces to be involved in the budget process with a score of 47 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the Jigawa state Economic Empowerment Program hosts the Talakawa Summit to solicit inputs from the disabled community for the State Draft Estimates. The Jigawa House of Assembly opens all committee hearings on the **budget approval** process to citizens. Both the **budget execution** and **auditing** process have no open spaces for public scrutiny.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 70 out of 100, citizens have significant access to procurement information in Jigawa state. The Jigawa Due Process & Project Monitoring Bureau Amendment Law of 2012 regulates the entire procurement process and established the Jigawa State Government Due Process & Project Monitoring Bureau. Tenders in Jigawa state are publicly opened after the bidding process is closed. Procurement awards are published online. The Jigawa State Government Due Process & Project Monitoring Bureau publishes quarterly reports on the implementation of projects including the contractor, amounts disbursed, and project completion rate.

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

- Accountant General's Report
- Auditor General's Report

The Jigawa State Directorate of Budget & Economic Planning should do the following:

- partner with CSOs in the state to develop a Citizen's Budget.
- produce and publish the Quarterly Reports and a Mid-Year Review on time.

Public Participation

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

- publish reports on committee hearings.

Lastly, the Auditor General should do the following:

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

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.

Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state