

OGUN STATE:

Findings

Public Access to budget documents

Ogun state scores 18 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Draft Estimates are available online while the State Budget Call Circular and State Budget Appropriation Law are available on request. The majority of the remaining documents are produced, but are not publicly available. Citizen's Budget is not produced.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Ogun state have limited spaces to be involved in the budget process with a score of 44 out of 100. Citizens and CSOs are invited to few town hall meetings during the **budget formulation** process. The Ogun State House of Assembly opens most committee hearings to the public during the **budget approval** process. The government publishes a very sparse report on how inputs were used during the **budget execution** process. Meanwhile, the **auditing** process is closed off to the public.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 17 out of 100, citizens have limited access to procurement information in Ogun state. Some MDAs publish information for potential bidders.

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 improve budget transparency in Ogun state by timely publishing online the following documents that are already produced:

- Ogun state Appropriation Law.
- Ogun State Quarterly Review of Budget Performance Report
- Ogun State Half Year Budget Review of the Budget Performance
- Report of the Accountant-General on the Accounts of the Government of Ogun State of Nigeria.
- Ogun State Annual Report of the State Auditor-General Accounts of the Government of Ogun State of Nigeria.

The Ogun State Ministry of Budget 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 Ogun 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.

- improve the detail of the list of beneficiaries of projects, subsidies, social plans and other targeted spending from the MDAs.
- establish practical mechanisms for the public to provide inputs on how the budget is being implemented along with reports on how these inputs are used.

Similarly, the Ogun State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open all committee hearings on the budget to the public where citizens and CSOs can testify and publish reports on these hearings.
- 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 governor should introduce a bill regulating the procurement process; establish a State Tenders Board to regulate all the procurement process in the state and the necessary resources to fulfill its duty and establish a procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- this State Tenders Board should open bidding documents in public immediately after the bidding process is closed.
- this State Tenders Board should publish all procurement decisions along with their justifications 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.

Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state