

ONDO STATE:

Findings

Public Access to budget documents

Ondo state scores 41 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Budget Appropriation Law is available online and Accountant-General's and Auditor-General's Reports are available on request. The majority of the remaining documents are produced, but are not publicly available. Citizen's Budget and Quarterly Reports are not produced.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Ondo state have minimal space to be involved in the budget process with a score of 44 out of 100. Few citizens and CSOs from disadvantaged groups are invited to solicit inputs during the **budget formulation** process. The Ondo State House of Assembly opens most committee hearings to the public during the **budget approval** process. The government publishes a very limited list of beneficiaries of projects, subsidies, social plans and targeted spending from MDAs during the **budget execution** process. Meanwhile, the **auditing** process is closed off to the public.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 33 out of 100, citizens have minimal access to procurement information in Ondo state. While there is no formal law regulating the procurement process, the Ondo State Project and Price Monitoring Unit regulates the procurement process.

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

- Advance Proposal & Draft Estimates
- Ondo State Budget Proposal
- Ondo State Mid Year Appraisal

The Ondo State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget should do the following:

- partner with CSOs, in the state, to develop a Citizen's Budget.
- produce and publish Quarterly Reports.

Public Participation

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

- publish reports on budget committee hearings.

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 bill regulating the procurement process; give the Ondo State Project and Price Monitoring Unit the authority 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.
- the Ondo State Project and Price Monitoring Unit should open bidding documents in public immediately after the bidding process is closed.
- the Ondo State Project and Price Monitoring Unit should publish all procurement decisions along with their justifications and 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.