



**International  
Budget  
Partnership**

Open Budget Survey 2019

# The enduring case for open budgets

- Budgets are key to the actual implementation of a government's stated policies, particularly for underserved communities.
- During crises as well as in periods of stability, **open** budgets are crucial: they support more efficient resource allocation, improve service delivery, and contribute to better governance.
- Especially during a crisis, transparency, public engagement, and strong oversight are critical for earning public trust.

# The Open Budget Survey

Measures three aspects of open budgets:

- **transparency** of how public resources are raised and spent,
- opportunities for **participation** in budget policy decisions, and
- **oversight** by independent legislatures and audit institutions.

# OBS methodology and usage

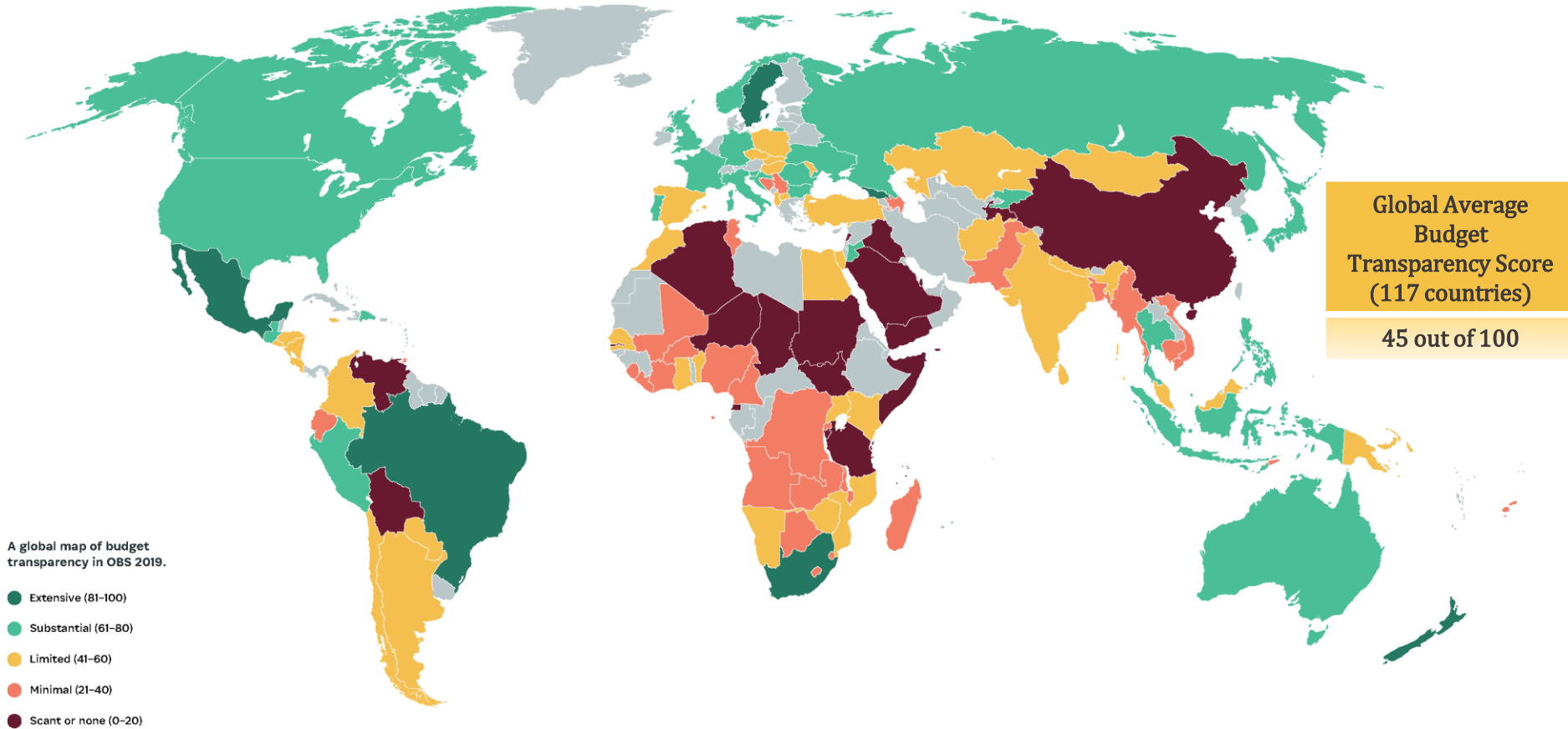
- ✓ 18-month research process
- ✓ Questionnaire based on international standards
- ✓ Strong review framework
- ✓ Consistency checks
- ❖ Donors
- ❖ Governments
- ❖ Private sector
- ❖ Civil society actors

# Encouraging advances on budget transparency

OBS 2019 finds a **modest global improvement in budget transparency.**

## Trends on budget transparency improvements have been mostly positive since OBS 2008

OBS assessments	Number of countries in both rounds	Global average score change
OBS 2008 → OBS 2010	77	+3
OBS 2010 → OBS 2012	93	+2
OBS 2012 → OBS 2015	100	+3
OBS 2015 → OBS 2017	102	-2
OBS 2017 → OBS 2019	115	+3

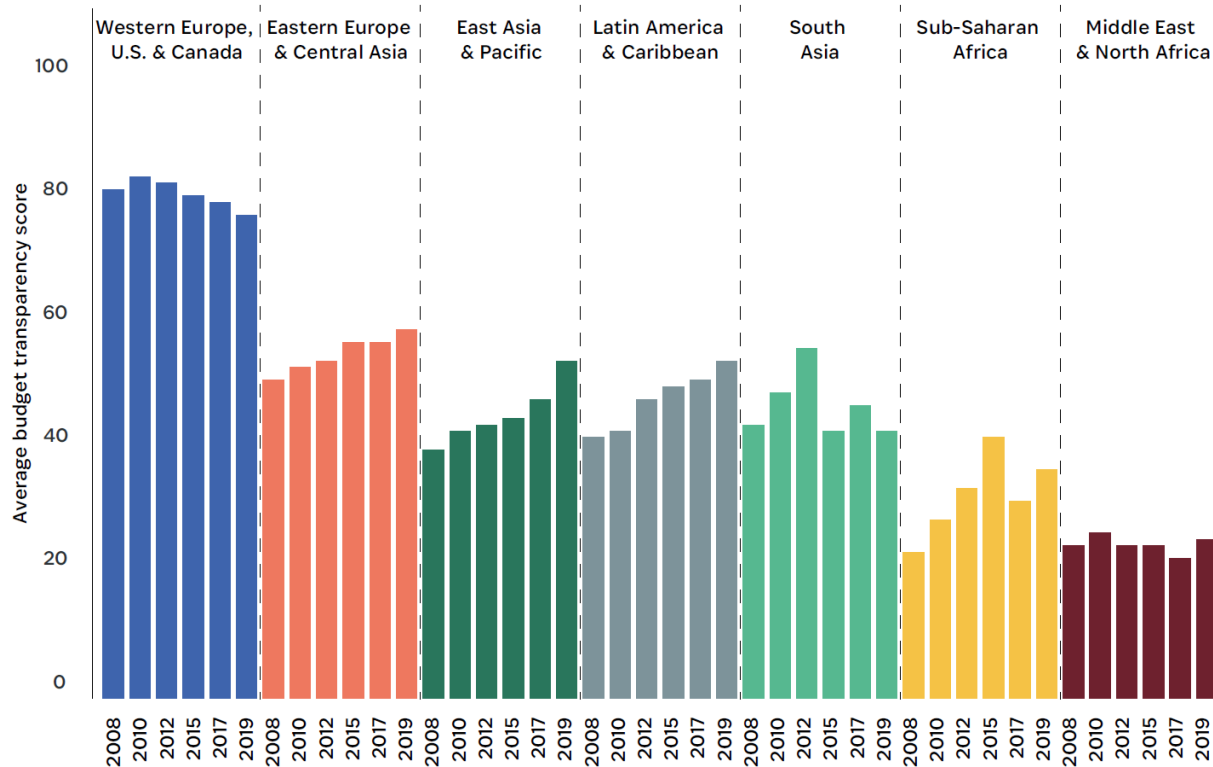


# Faster progress is possible

Rapid improvements seen in some countries demonstrate that **meaningful change is possible** in a short timeframe when countries are committed to open budgeting reforms.



# Three regions stand out for making progress



# Practices that led to sustained improvements

## Indonesia:

- Launch of State Budget Portal
- More detail in budget documents on programs

## Kyrgyz Republic:

- Action plan on fiscal transparency launched in 2017
- Better reporting on borrowing and debt

# Room for innovation on public participation

Few countries currently provide meaningful opportunities for the public to participate in the budget process.

However, **emerging and innovative practices** in some countries demonstrate how governments can initiate and strengthen public engagement mechanisms.

# Public participation in the budget process takes many different forms



In the **Kyrgyz Republic**, the Ministry of Finance publishes materials in advance of open public hearings.



In **Mexico**, the government established a mechanism called Social Comptrollers: social programs are monitored by committees of beneficiaries.

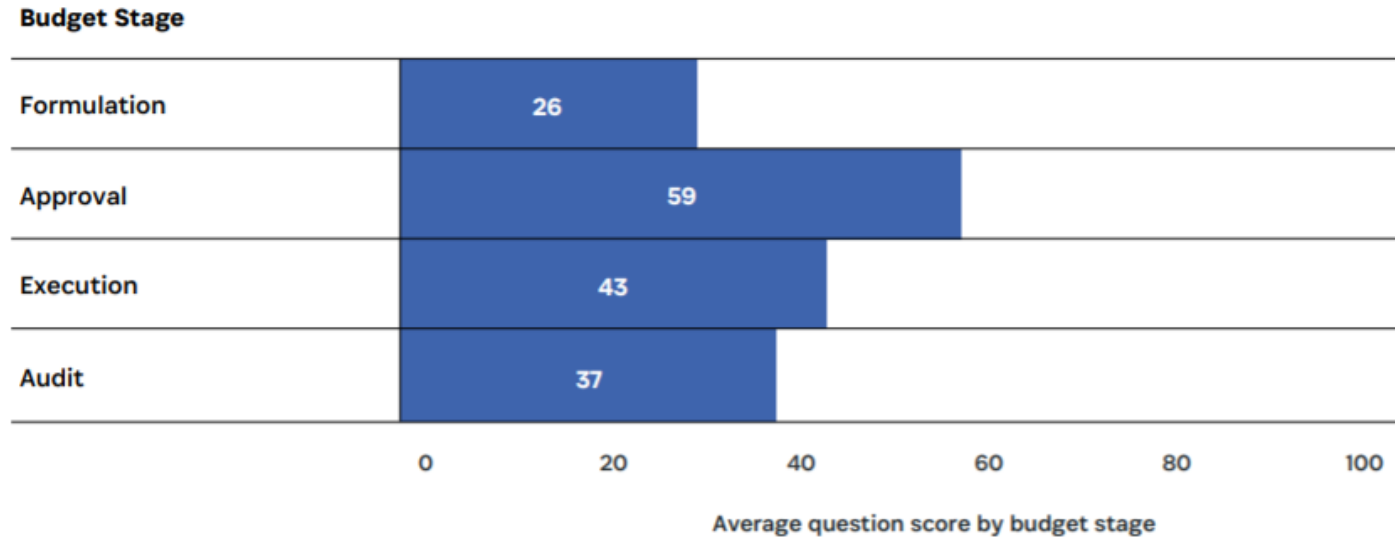


In the **Philippines**, the Commission on Audits directly involves program beneficiaries in audit investigations.

# Stronger oversight needed to ensure budgets are fully implemented

**Legislators** play an important role throughout the budget cycle, including monitoring budget implementation.

# Legislative oversight tends to be weaker during budget execution and audit



Rapid **progress** in **opening budgets** is **possible** but requires all stakeholders to unite around a common agenda.

We **call** on governments to work with all stakeholders and jointly achieve **four ambitious, but attainable, targets** within the next five years.

# Call to Action on Open Budgets

- ❑ Provide sufficient levels of budget information
- ❑ Increase public participation in the budget
- ❑ Strengthen monitoring and oversight of budget execution
- ❑ Sustain improvements on open budgeting



# Q&A

What questions do you have?

**For more information:**

<https://www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey>

