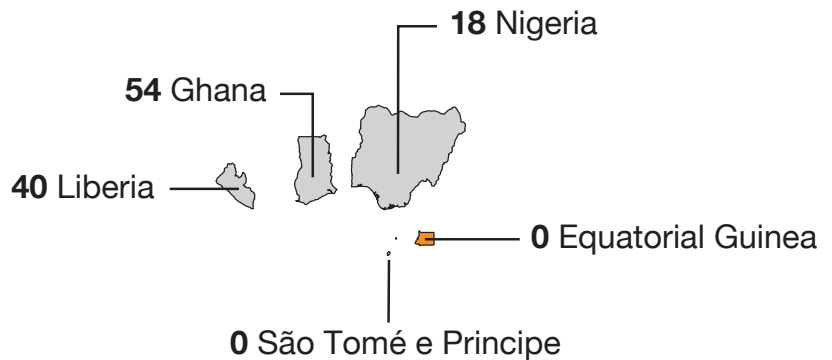
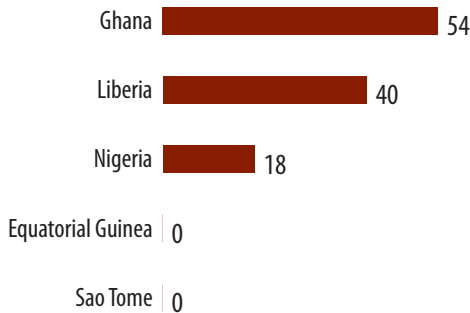




**Overall score: 0** (Out of 100) Provides scant information to the public in its budget documents during the year.

### How Does Equatorial Guinea Compare to Its Neighbors?



## Key Findings

The scores for 92 questions from the Open Budget Survey (see text box) are used to compile objective scores and rankings of the relative transparency of each country's budget process. These scores constitute the Open Budget Index.

Equatorial Guinea's OBI score is 0 out of 100, which shows that the government does not provide the public with information on central government's budget and financial activities during the course of the budget year. This makes it virtually impossible for citizens to hold the government accountable for its management of the public's money. Worldwide, countries scored an average of 42 on the OBI; Ghana's score is 54 and Liberia's is 40.

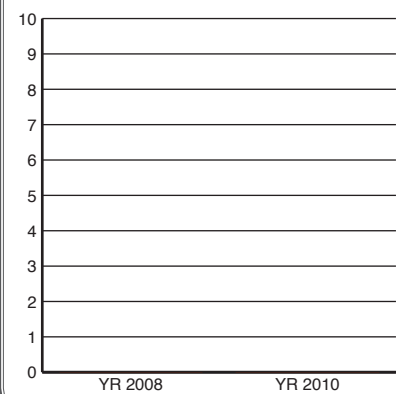
Equatorial Guinea's OBI score in 2008 was also zero.

### Information in Public Budget Documents

#### Adequacy & Availability of Eight Key Budget Documents

| Document                    | Level of Information Grade** | Publication Status      |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pre-Budget Statement        | E                            | Produced, Not Published |
| Executive's Budget Proposal | E                            | Produced, Not Published |
| Enacted Budget              | E                            | Produced, Not Published |
| Citizens Budget             | E                            | Not Produced            |
| In-Year Reports             | E                            | Produced, Not Published |
| Mid-Year Review             | E                            | Not Produced            |
| Year-End Report             | E                            | Not Produced            |
| Audit Report                | E                            | Not Produced            |

### OBI Scores Over Two Surveys



\* Grades for the comprehensiveness and accessibility of the information provided in each document are calculated from the average scores received on a subset of questions from the Open Budget Survey. An average score between 0-20 (scant information) is graded as E; 21-40 (minimal) is graded as D; 41-60 (some) is graded as C; 61-80 (significant) is graded as B; and 81-100 (extensive) is graded as A.

The **Executive's Budget Proposal** is the government's most important policy instrument. It presents the ways the government plans to raise revenues and where these funds are allocated, thus transforming policy goals into action. In Equatorial Guinea the budget proposal is produced by the government for internal purposes but is not made available to the public.

A **Pre-Budget Statement** sets forth the broad parameters that will define the government's forthcoming budget. Equatorial Guinea produces a Pre-Budget Statement but it is not made public.

The **Enacted Budget** becomes a country's law and provides the baseline information for all budget analyses conducted during the budget year. In general terms, the Enacted Budget should provide data the public can use to assess the government's stated policy priorities and hold it to account. Equatorial Guinea produces but does not publish an Enacted Budget.

A **Citizens Budget** is a nontechnical presentation of a government's budget that is intended to enable the public — including those who are not familiar with public finance — to understand a government's plans. Equatorial Guinea does not produce a Citizens Budget.

**In-Year Reports** provide a snapshot of the budget's effects during the budget year. They allow for comparisons with the enacted budget figures and thus can facilitate adjustments. Equatorial Guinea produces but does not publish In-Year Reports.

The **Mid-Year Review** provides a comprehensive overview of the budget's effects at the midpoint of a budget year and discusses any changes in economic assumptions that affect approved budget policies. Information in this report allows the government, legislature, and the public to identify whether or not adjustments related to revenues, expenditures, or borrowing should be made during the last six months of the budget year. Equatorial Guinea does not produce a Mid-Year Review.

The **Year-End Report** compares the actual budget execution to the Enacted Budget. The Year-End Report can inform policymakers on tax policies and debt requirements, as well as on priorities for major expenditures, facilitating adjustments for upcoming budget years. Equatorial Guinea does not produce Year-End Reports.

The **Audit Report** is an evaluation of the government's accounts by the country's supreme audit institution (SAI). It reports whether the government has raised revenues and spent national revenue in line with the authorized budget, whether the government's book keeping is balanced and accurate, and whether there were problems in the management of public funds. Equatorial Guinea does not produce an Audit Report.

### *Public Participation and Institutions of Accountability*

Beyond improving the availability of key budget documents, there are other ways in which

## OPEN BUDGET SURVEY 2010

### Equatorial Guinea

The International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Survey assesses the availability in each country assessed of eight key budget documents, as well as the comprehensiveness of the data contained in these documents. The Survey also examines the extent of effective oversight provided by legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAI), as well as the opportunities available to the public to participate in national budget decision-making processes.

Research to complete this country's Open Budget Survey was undertaken by:



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Equatorial Guinea's budget process can be made more open. These include ensuring the existence of a strong legislature and SAI that provide effective budget oversight, as well as providing greater opportunities for public engagement in the budget process.

### Are oversight bodies effective in their budget role?

| Oversight Institution | Strength** |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Legislature           | Weak       |
| SAI                   | Weak       |

\*\* Legislature and SAI strengths are calculated from the average scores received for a subset of questions from the Open Budget Survey. An average score between 0-33 is graded as weak, 34-66 as moderate, and 67-100 as strong.

According to the Open Budget Survey, budget oversight provided by Equatorial Guinea's legislature is inadequate because it does not:

1. have sufficient powers to amend the Executive Budget Proposal at the start of the year;
2. have sufficient powers to approve any changes made to the budget over the course of the fiscal year; and
3. hold open budget discussions which allow the public to be present during legislative hearings at which the executive testifies on its proposed budget.

According to the Open Budget Survey, budget oversight provided by Equatorial Guinea's SAI is inadequate because it does not:

1. have sufficient independence from the executive — the executive can remove the head of the SAI without seeking final consent from the legislature or judiciary;
2. have a high degree of discretion in law to select what it will audit;
3. have sufficient resources to meaningfully exercise its mandate;
4. issue timely Audit Reports on the final expenditures of national departments;
5. have proper channels of communication with the public;
6. have adequate legislative scrutiny of audits; and
7. have adequate reporting on the follow-up steps taken by the executive to address audit recommendations for remedial action.

## Recommendations

### Equatorial Guinea should:

- publish on government websites the Executive's Budget Proposal, Pre-Budget Statement, In-Year Reports, and the Enacted Budget;
- produce and publish a Citizens Budget, Mid-Year Review, Year-End Report, and Audit Report;
- strengthen the role of the legislature and the SAI in the budget process; and
- provide opportunities for the public to attend legislative hearings on the budget.