

County Transparency Survey 2020

Since 2015, International Budget Partnership Kenya has been carrying out budget transparency surveys to assess the public availability of key county budget documents. The survey has shown progressive improvement, with an increase in the number of documents that counties are publishing on their official websites.

Currently, IBPK is running a similar but more robust survey on the availability of key budget documents with an additional review on how comprehensive they are. This implies that the current survey has a new component that will evaluate the quality of budget information against what is required by PFM Act laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines to counties from the national government.

The development of tools for this comprehensive survey has gone through a rigorous and inclusive process. It has involved; budget facilitators drawn from county-level Civil Society Organizations, government officials that were drawn from national and county governments including the Council of Governors, Commission on Revenue Allocation, Office of the Auditor-General, Heads of Budgets, experts from academia.

The survey has two broad steps, with the first being a survey on the availability of key budget documents and will take 40 percent of the total score, while the second component that will evaluate the type of information in those documents and will account for the remaining 60 percentage points.

The Availability Survey

A budget document is considered publicly available when citizens can access and obtain it free of charge, in the right timeframes provided by the PFM laws and its regulations, and not at the discretion of any government official. Therefore, hard copies of budget documents that are available at county offices will not be considered in this survey.

The Availability Survey evaluates **11** individual budget documents across all the counties as follows:

1. **County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2018-2022)**, (This will not be included in all the annual surveys but just 2020)
2. **Annual Development Plan (ADP 2019/20)**,
3. **Approved Programme-Based Budget (PBB 2019/20)**,
4. **County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP 2019)**,
5. **County Quarterly Budget Implementation Review Reports (Quarter one, Quarter two, Quarter three and Quarter four 2019/20)**,
6. **County Budget Review and Outlook Paper (CBROP 2019)**,
7. **Citizens Budget (2019/20)**, and
8. **Finance Act, (2019)**.

The first round of the survey was carried out between the 4th – 11th August 2020. This was done across all counties, and the draft results are presented for your review in the attached spreadsheet. The results include links to documents that were found in either county executive or assembly website. They also come with notes from the team of researchers on issues that may have affected their findings and those that require clarification. This includes situations where websites were down/offline, documents that could not open and scenarios where the status of approved budget documents could not be verified. This will require clarity from county governments to ensure a fair result is presented in the final survey results.

We also recognize that some budget documents may be on the official website but in pages that could be hidden. This review process gives counties a chance to put their documents in the designated sections that are readily accessible to the public. These survey results have been shared with four offices in each county: [Office of the Governor](#), [County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Planning](#), [County Heads of Budgets and Planning](#), and [Clerks of County Assemblies](#). The officials from these offices can collaborate to confirm and scrutinize the accuracy of the results and published their missing documents, which is encouraged as this informs the next phase of the survey. Please feel free to add your comments to the spreadsheet in the county comments section. Counties will have a period of two weeks to review and confirm the accuracy of the results. During the two weeks provided, county officials will have a chance to discuss how they can improve budget transparency in their counties with the researchers and IBP staff.

The final survey will be carried out at the lapse of the two weeks. Therefore, the survey will only consider documents that will be online by the **31st August 2020**. Any document published after this period will not be evaluated in the next phase of the survey.

The comprehensiveness of Budget Documents

This second phase is a new component and will look at the type of information provided in the documents found to be publicly available in the first phase of the survey. From the eleven documents evaluated in the availability survey, eight will be evaluated in this phase as only the latest version of the Quarterly Implementation Reports will be subjected to a set of questions in a comprehensiveness survey.

This phase will be conducted by IBPK staff together with County Budget Facilitators. This is a team of individuals who work with county organizations, and they are trained and supported on all matter's county budgets by IBPK. In addition, they will have a wide range of information that includes guidelines to each question, source of the question, and examples from county budget documents to enable carry out the survey fairly and in a manner that can be verified. Researchers will be required to provide justifications for their findings. Lastly, they will be supported by a team of senior reviewers who will go through the findings and confirming what the researchers have provided.

The results also will be shared with the same four offices in counties, and they will have a period of one month to review their county results. Again, this will provide counties an opportunity to confirm the accuracy of the findings but also a chance to discuss with the team from IBPK on how they can improve their transparency over the years. At the end of one month, the researchers will conduct the final confirmations, and final reports will be published.