

Open Budget Survey 2021

Questionnaire

Saudi Arabia

May 2022

Country Questionnaire: Saudi Arabia

PBS-1. What is the fiscal year of the PBS evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2021

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-2. When is the PBS made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for a PBS to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration. If the PBS is not released to the public at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the PBS.

Answer:

b. At least two months, but less than four months, in advance of the budget year, and at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced in the legislature

Source:

MoF Media Center

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-3a. If the PBS is published, what is the date of publication of the PBS?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
30/09/2020 30/09/2020

Source:
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf#search=Pre%20Budget%20Statement>

Comment:
MoF Media Center and other media outlets also report this date.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the PBS.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
The date of publishing the pre-budget statement on the MoF website reflects this date. It is similarly reported as such in other media outlets.

Source:
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf#search=Pre%20Budget%20Statement>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/saudi-budget-idUSS8N2EX01R>

<http://www.jadwa.com/en/download/preliminary-2021-saudi-fiscal-budget/saudi-arabias-2021-budget-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: also some additional source: <https://maaal.com/archives/20200930/159127/>

PBS-4. If the PBS is published, what is the URL or weblink of the PBS?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Source:
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Also the Arabic Version: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021.pdf>

PBS-5. If the PBS is published, are the numerical data contained in the PBS available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) or HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the PBS is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

The pre-budget statement itself does not have data in a machine readable format.

It is however, fair to note that parts of the data in the pre-budget statement exist in machine readable files elsewhere on the MoF website.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format
Comments: It is worth mentioning that parts of the data in the pre-budget statement exist in machine readable files in MoF website under these links:
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/generalservcies/open-data/Pages/home.aspx> https://www.mof.gov.sa/Statistical_Reports/Pages/default.aspx
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/docslibrary/Pages/default.aspx> We prefer the answer b.

Researcher Response

The PBS itself does not make numerical data available in a machine readable format, and unlike other documents, such as the IYR and YER it is not clear which machine readable data online corresponds to the data presented in the PBS. As such the option of 'c' has been selected.

PBS-6a. If the PBS is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the PBS is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question PBS-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question PBS-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or

"d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Document is available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question PBS-6a, please specify how you determined whether the PBS was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a", "b", or "e" was selected in question PBS-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-7. If the PBS is produced, please write the full title of the PBS.

For example, a title for the Pre-Budget Statement could be "Proposed 2021 State Budget" or "Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Plan and Budget for 2020/21."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Title in Arabic: البيان التمهيدي للميزانية العامة للدولة للعام المالي 2021م

PBS-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the PBS?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

There is no need for a citizens version of the PBS - its current form is easily understood.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: We agree with reviewer comment, and it's worth mention that citizen version were published in MoF twitter account in the links below:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1189976336623951874> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/118997734442835970>

Researcher Response

The researcher notes that the links provided to a Citizens Version of the PBS are for the budget year 2020, not 2021, which is the year of review for this round of the OBS. A similar citizens version cannot be identified on the MoF Twitter for 2021. While the current form of the PBS is easily understood, according to OBS methodology this is not sufficient for a citizens version. A Citizen's Version of the PBS must be published as a separate document.

EBP-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EBP evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2021

Source:

N/A

Comment:

The fiscal year in Saudi Arabia is the calendar year and therefore the fiscal year for which the EPB would be evaluated, based on IBP guidelines, is 2021.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-1b. When is the EBP submitted to the legislature for consideration?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:
N/A

Comment:

The EBP is not submitted to a legislature for consideration. The Majlis Al Shura is not a formal legislature but rather an advisory council to the executive and does not have budgetary powers.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Legislature power in Saudi Arabia is the Royal Court. The government the budget proposal to the Royal Court in October and committees in Royal Court are reviewing the proposal and can make amendments before the final budget is approved. The main targets in budget proposal is published through the pre-budget statement initiating public discussion during this period.

Researcher Response

Researcher maintains the current answer as neither the Majlis Al Shura nor the Royal Court sufficiently meet criteria to be considered legislature.

EBP-2. When is the EBP made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EBP to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public while the legislature is still considering it and before the legislature approves (enacts) it. If the EBP is not released to the public before the legislature approves it, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EBP.

The OBS definition of an Executive's Budget Proposal is a document(s) that (i) the executive submits to the legislature as a formal part of the budget approval process and (ii) the legislature either approves or on which it approves proposed amendments.

The OBS will treat the Executive's Budget Proposal as "Not Produced," in the following cases:

- The executive does not submit the draft budget to the legislature; or
- The legislature receives the draft budget but does not approve it or does not approve recommendations on the draft budget;
- The legislature rejects the draft budget submitted by the executive, but the executive implements it without legislative approval; or
- There is no legislature, or the legislature has been dissolved.

Answer:

d. The EBP is not released to the public, or is released after the budget has been approved by the legislature

Source:

Comment:

EBP is not produced.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. At least two months, but less than three months, in advance of the budget year, and in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature

Comments: The main targets in budget proposal is published through the pre-budget statement initiating public discussion during this period.

Researcher Response

Government response is appreciated, however the budget document being considered in this question is the executive budget proposal and while elements of this are published in the pre-budget statement, the EBP is not published. Researcher therefore maintains the answer 'd'.

EBP-3a. If the EBP is published, what is the date of publication of the EBP?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their date of publication.

Answer:

Source:

N/A

Comment:

EBP is not produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The budget statement is published and covering main requirement in the EBP.

Researcher Response

Researcher notes that the budget statement referenced in the Government Response is the enacted budget (not the budget proposal) and is assessed in its own section. Since the budget proposal itself is not published, researcher maintains the answer here.

EBP-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EBP.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

N/A

Source:

Comment:

EBP is not produced.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: The budget statement is published in 15/12/2020.

Researcher Response
Please see response to EBP-3a.

EBP-4. If the EBP is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EBP?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their URL or weblink.

Answer:

Source:
N/A

Comment:
EBP is not produced.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: The links below: <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918653706821637>
<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918420163780610>

Researcher Response
Researcher notes that links provided in the Government Response refer to the enacted budget (not the budget proposal) and is assessed in its own section. Since the budget proposal itself is not published, researcher maintains the answer here.

EBP-5. If the EBP is published, are the numerical data contained in the EBP or its supporting documents available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the EBP is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:
d. Not applicable

Source:
N/A

Comment:
EBP is not produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-6a. If the EBP is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EBP is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EBP-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EBP-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

Researcher's own knowledge and discussion with MoF staff.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Produced but made available online to the public too late (published after the acceptable time frame)

Researcher Response

While the Saudi budgetary process has many steps, including internal processes for budget formulation with division by administrative classification, at no point are these required to be reviewed and approved by a body that sufficiently meets the criteria of a legislature. These are therefore not eligible to be considered an EBP. Researcher maintains the answer of 'd'.

EBP-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EBP-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EBP was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EBP-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

While the Saudi budgetary process has many steps, including internal processes for budget formulation with division by administrative classification, these are not required to be provided to Majlis Al-Shura therefore not eligible to be considered an EBP.

Source:

Researcher's knowledge and interviews with MoF staff.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Legislature power in Saudi Arabia is the Royal Court. The government the budget proposal to the Royal Court in October and committees in Royal Court are reviewing the proposal and can make amendments before the final budget is approved. The main targets in budget proposal is published through the pre-budget statement initiating public discussion during this period.

Researcher Response

Please see the researcher's Response to EBP-6a. The Royal Court does not meet requirements to be considered legislature. Researcher maintains the response.

EBP-7. If the EBP is produced, please write the full title of the EBP.

For example, a title for the Executive's Budget Proposal could be "Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for BY 2020-21, produced by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development."

If there are any supporting documents to the EBP, please enter their full titles in the comment box below.

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

N/A

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Budget Statement FY 2021

Researcher Response

Researcher notes that the title in the Government Response is for the enacted budget (not the budget proposal) and is assessed in its own section. Since the budget proposal itself is not published, researcher maintains the answer here.

EBP-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EBP?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: a. Yes
Comments: Citizen budget 2021

Researcher Response

Researcher notes that the title in the Government Response is for the official citizen's budget - i.e. corresponds to the enacted budget (not the budget proposal) and is assessed in its own section. Since the budget proposal itself is not published, researcher maintains the answer here that there is no citizens version.

EB-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2021

Source:
OBS Guidelines

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Sources on MoF Website: https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2021/Documents/Budget2021_EN.pdf
https://www.mof.gov.sa/budget/2021/Documents/Budget2021_AR.pdf

EB-1b. When was the EB approved (enacted) by the legislature?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
15/12/2020

Source:
<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918420163780610>

Comment:
While there is no legislature to approve the EB, the President of the council of ministers approved the 2021 budget on December 15th 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-2. When is the EB made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EB to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public three months after the budget is approved by the legislature. If the EB is not released to the public at least three months after the budget is approved by the legislature, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EB.

Answer:

a. Two weeks or less after the budget has been enacted

Source:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918420163780610>

Comment:

Budget Statement for the Fiscal Year 2021 was announced to the public on December 15th 2020 – 2 weeks or less after it was enacted, as can be seen on government press release websites and official twitter handles.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-3a. If the EB is published, what is the date of publication of the EB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

15/12/2020

Source:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918653706821637>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918420163780610>

Comment:

Both English and Arabic version of the 2021 Budget Statement were published on the same day as approval was officially announced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Publication of the Budget Statement for 2021 can be found on MoF official twitter platform, and confirmed with articles referencing the same date.

Source:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918653706821637>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-15/saudi-arabia-sticks-to-spending-cuts-as-2021-budget-announced#:~:text=The%20kingdom%20will%20stick%20to,rise%20to%20849%20billion%20riyals.>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/saudi-arabia/riyadh-hotels-see-uptick-in-january-thanks-to-domestic-demand/articleshow/80848058.cms>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-4. If the EB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_AR.pdf

Source:

Arabic URL: https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_AR.pdf

English URL: https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_EN.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-5. If the EB is published, are the numerical data contained in the EB available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the EB is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

Comment:

Data is not provided in a machine readable format. It is worth noting that much of the data provided in the 2021 budget statement will eventually be published in machine readable formats on the official MoF website – however these are not published as part of the Enacted Budget and cannot count towards question EB-5.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: It is worth mentioning that parts of the data in the enacted budget exist in machine readable files in MoF website under these links:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/generalservcies/open-data/Pages/home.aspx> https://www.mof.gov.sa/Statistical_Reports/Pages/default.aspx

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/docslibrary/Pages/default.aspx> Therefore the answer should be (b).

Researcher Response

The EB itself does not make numerical data available in a machine readable format, and unlike other documents, such as the IYR and YER it is not clear which machine readable data online corresponds to the data presented in the EB. As such the option of 'c' has been selected.

EB-6a. If the EB is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EB is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EB-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EB-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

N/A

Comment:

EB is publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EB-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EB-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-7. If the EB is produced, please write the full title of the EB.

For example, a title for the Enacted Budget could be "Appropriation Act n. 10 of 2018."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

البيان للميزانية العامة للدولة للعام المالي 1442-1443هـ - Budget Statement Fiscal Year 2021

Source:

Arabic URL: https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_AR.pdf

English URL: https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_EN.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EB?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see:

<https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Citizen_Ver_2021.pdf

Comment:

A citizens version of the budget is published alongside the official document and well publicised on government communication channels.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The link of the official document that have been published on MoF Website:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/budget/2021/Documents/Citizen_Ver_2021.pdf Also some additional sources:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2021/mediacenter/Documents/NL_En1.pdf

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2021/mediacenter/Documents/NL%20En%202%20VH.pdf>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338921464595165186> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338921682082390016>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338921991043231746> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338922216218644480>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338922483362058240> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1204081514218246144>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1204080631396872195> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1204079779386941441>

CB-1. What is the fiscal year of the CB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for each CB please indicate the document the CB simplifies/refers to, and the fiscal year.

Answer:

FY 2021

Source:

OBS Guidelines.

Comment:

The Citizens Budget must be evaluate the same fiscal year as the document it corresponds to – in this case the Enacted Budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-2a. For the fiscal year indicated in CB-1, what is the public availability status of the CB?

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document (Executive's Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget) you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its public availability status.

Remember that publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology
Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918837174083585>

Comment:

The document was released to the public on the same date as the official 2021 Enacted Budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-2b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question CB-2a, please specify how you determined whether the CB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question CB-2a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

CB-3a. If the CB is published, what is the date of publication of the CB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its dates of publication.

Answer:

15/12/2020

Source:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918837174083585>

Comment:

The document was released to the public on December 15th 2020 and publicised on the MoF twitter account. It can be access free of charge.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the CB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Date of publication is determined as the first date of public announcement.

Source:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918837174083585>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also the dates of the twitter posts has been published in the MoF twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338921464595165186> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338921682082390016>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338921991043231746> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338922216218644480>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338922483362058240> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1204081514218246144>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1204080631396872195> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1204079779386941441>

CB-4. If the CB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the CB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its URL or weblink.

Answer:

https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Citizen_Ver_2021.pdf

Source:

MoF Website

Comment:

URL of Arabic version of the CB – hosted on the MoF website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-5. If the CB is produced, please write the full title of the CB.

For example, a title for the Citizens Budget could be "Budget 2020 People's Guide" or "2021 Proposed Budget in Brief: A People's Budget Publication."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for the other CB, indicate the document the CB refers to and, next to it, its full title.

Answer:

(نسخة المواطن موازنة السنة المالية 1442-1443 هـ 2021 م)

Source:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918837174083585>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-6. If the CB is produced, please indicate which budget document it corresponds to.

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and which budget document it simplifies.

Answer:

The CB corresponds to the EB and is published at the same time. MoF announcement frames the CB as focussing on the 'most important details in the EB' for citizens.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-1. What is the fiscal year of the IYRs evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2020

Source:

OBS Guidelines - 2020 is the most recent year for which all in-year reports are available.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-2. When are the IYRs made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for IYRs to be considered publicly available, IYRs must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends. If at least seven of the last 12 monthly IYRs, or at least three of the last four quarterly IYRs are not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the IYRs.

Answer:

b. At least every quarter, and within one month of the period covered

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/Pages/2020.aspx>

Comment:

While date of publication for the Q3 IYR is not confirmed, assuming it is the same pattern as Q1 and Q2, selection of b is correct.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-3a. If the IYRs are published, what are the dates of publication of the IYRs?

Specifically: if quarterly In-Year Reports are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least three of the last four IYRs that were publicly available. If monthly IYRs are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least seven of the last 12 IYRs that were publicly available.

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD Month YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05 September 2020. If the document is not published or not produced, please mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Q1 Performance Report: April 29th, 2020

Q2 Performance Report: July 28th, 2020

Q3 Performance Report: October 28th, 2020

Source:

Source Data available online.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Below are some sources verify the date of publication: Q1 2020: <https://www.argaam.com/ar/article/articledetail/id/1371430>

https://www.aleqt.com/2020/04/29/article_1815991.html
<https://makkahnewspaper.com/article/1510208/%D8%A3%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84/192-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A5%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%84-2020-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%AC%D8%B2-34-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7>
<https://www.alarabiya.net/aswaq/economy/2020/04/29/%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-192-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%84-%D9%85%D9%86-2020 Q2 2020: https://www.argaam.com/ar/article/articledetail/id/1394986>
https://www.aleqt.com/2020/07/28/article_1886006.html https://maaal.com/archives/20200728/151781/ Q3 2020: https://www.aleqt.com/2020/10/28/article_1956491.html <https://www.argaam.com/ar/article/articledetail/id/1417176>
<https://www.cnbcarabia.com/news/view/74687/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B3%D8%AC%D9%84-%D8%B9%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%8B-%D8%A8%D9%80-40.7-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB-2020.html> <https://www.mubasher.info/news/3714009/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%B9-%D8%B9%D8%AC%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-40-8-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB-%D9%85%D9%86-2020/?currentUserCountryCode=SA>

IYRs-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Date of publication is not provided on the IYRs themselves, nor published on the MoF press website and Twitter handle. Instead, the date for Q1 and Q2 can be gauged through public information on Google. The date for Q3 was obtained using a Javascript code and inspecting document properties.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: below is some sources verify the date of publication: Q1 2020: <https://www.argaam.com/ar/article/articledetail/id/1371430> Q2 2020:

https://www.aleqt.com/2020/07/28/article_1886006.html <https://www.argaam.com/ar/article/articledetail/id/1394986>

<https://maaal.com/archives/20200728/151781/> Q3 2020:

[https://www.alarabiya.net/aswaq/economy/2020/10/28/%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB-4-%D9%84%D9%80216-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84](https://www.alarabiya.net/aswaq/economy/2020/10/28/%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB-4-%D9%84%D9%80216-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84) https://www.aleqt.com/2020/10/28/article_1956491.html

<https://www.argaam.com/ar/article/articledetail/id/1417176>

IYRs-4. If the IYRs are published, what is the URL or weblink of the IYRs?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Researchers should provide the weblink to the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the weblinks to older IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Q1 Performance Report: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2020/Documents/Q3%20E%202020.pdf> Q2 Performance Report: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2020/Documents/Q2E2020.pdf> Q3 Performance Report: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2020/Documents/Q3%20E%202020.pdf>

Source:

Q1 Performance Report: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2020/Documents/Q3%20E%202020.pdf>

Q2 Performance Report: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2020/Documents/Q2E2020.pdf>

Q3 Performance Report: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2020/Documents/Q3%20E%202020.pdf>

Q1 Performance Report Arabic: https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/Documents/Q1_A_2020.pdf

Q2 Performance Report Arabic: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q2A2020.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Q1 Performance Report: https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/financialreport/2020/Documents/Q1_E_2020.pdf Q2 Performance Report:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/financialreport/2020/Documents/Q2E2020.pdf> Q3 Performance Report:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/financialreport/2020/Documents/Q3%20E%202020.pdf> Q1 Performance Report Arabic:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/2020/Documents/Q1_A_2020.pdf Q2 Performance Report Arabic:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/2020/Documents/Q2A2020.pdf> Q3 Performance Report Arabic:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q3%20A%202020.pdf>

IYRs-5. If the IYRs are published, are the numerical data contained in the IYRs available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the IYRs are not publicly available, therefore their machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

As with the EB and other budget documents, while similar data is provided on the MoF website in a machine readable format - this is not included as part of the In-Year Report.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: It is worth mentioning that the data in the In-Year Report exist in machine readable files elsewhere on the MoF website, in the links below: https://www.mof.gov.sa/Statistical_Reports/Pages/default.aspx The Answer should be (b).

Researcher Response

Answer has been revised to option 'b'. While the IYR itself does not make numerical data available in a machine readable format, as the initial response noted, much of this can be easily identified elsewhere on the MoF website. Unlike for other budget documents, such as the PBS and EB it is easily identified online which sets of data correspond to the IRY.

IBP Comment

IBP agrees with the researcher. For example, information in quarterly budget performance reports corresponds to the machine-readable data found here: https://www.mof.gov.sa/Statistical_Reports/Pages/default.aspx?PageIndex=1

IYRs-6a. If the IYRs are not publicly available, are they still produced?

If the IYRs are not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question IYRs-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question IYRs-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The document is available publicly.

IYRs-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question IYRs-6a, please specify how you determined whether the IYRs were produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question IYRs-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-7. If the IYRs are produced, please write the full title of the IYRs.

For example, a title for the In-Year Report could be "Budget Monitoring Report, Quarter 1" or "Budget Execution Report January-March 2020."

If In-Year Reports are not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Researchers should provide the full title of the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the full titles of older IYRs.

Answer:

Quarterly Budget Performance Report
Q1 of FY 2020 (H 1441 / 1442)

Quarterly Budget Performance Report
Q2 of FY 2020 (H 1441 / 1442)

Quarterly Budget Performance Report
Q3 of FY 2020 (H 1441 / 1442)

Source:

Q1 Performance Report: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2020/Documents/Q3%20E%202020.pdf>

Q2 Performance Report: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2020/Documents/Q2E2020.pdf>

Q3 Performance Report: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2020/Documents/Q3%20E%202020.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the IYRs?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Previous Example of a IYR Citizen's version: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/media/Pages/Infographics.aspx?PageIndex=1>

Comment:

IYRs do not technically have a citizens version. However, it should be noted that IYRs present primarily straightforward and simple information which are acceptable for the wider public. We note that in previous years info-graphics have been publicised by the MoF and accepted as a citizen's version - while no evidence of the same exists for FY 2020 - if shown this will be accepted.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: There are In year Reports published in the MoF twitter account, kindly find the links below:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1156192223605723136> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1123660957606195202>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1123660729545109507>

Researcher Response

The researcher notes that the links provided to a IYRs are for the budget year 2019, not 2020, which is the year of review for this round of the OBS. A similar citizens version cannot be identified on the MoF Twitter for 2020. While the current form of the IYRs is easily understood, according to OBS methodology this is not sufficient for a citizens version. A Citizen's Version of the IYRs must be published as separate documents.

MYR-1. What is the fiscal year of the MYR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2020

Source:
OBS Guidelines.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

MYR-2. When is the MYR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an MYR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends (i.e., three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year). If the MYR is not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the MYR.

Answer:
c. More than nine weeks, but less than three months, after the midpoint

Source:
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/generalservcies/open-data/Pages/default.aspx>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. More than nine weeks, but less than three months, after the midpoint

Comments: In 2020 Pre-Budget Statement we combine it with the Mid-Year Review, and the IBP organization agreed to combine the two documents upon the fulfillment of the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents. (We can provide the email of IBP feedback, if requested). Below is the link for the Mid year review part (p.11 to p.24) <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Researcher Response
Researcher agrees with the response of the IBP Team.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer for this helpful comment. For the OBS 2021, IBP will consider the 2020 Saudi Pre-Budget Statement a Mid-Year Review for the purpose of the survey. Although the document's purpose is clearly that of a PBS, it does include separate stand-alone sets of information that are updating 2020 assumptions for budget implementation: - Published September 30, 2020 - exactly three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year - Page 19: Actual year-to-date figures for H1 (the first half of the year) in a table - Discussion of how earlier trends are

affecting the rest of the budget year 2020 (see pages 16-23), such as useful details on implementation of programs (e.g. p. 23 on the implementation of the housing program and National Transformation Program) - Updated estimates for the full budget year (see page 7 – GDP projected to record a decline of 3.8% in FY 2020; see page 8 – total revenues projected to reach SAR 770 billion; see page 9 – budget deficit anticipated at 12% of GDP for FY 2020 and total expenditures expected to exceed the approved budget of SAR 1,020 billion to reach SAR 1,068 billion; see page 10 – total debt is expected to reach SAR 854 billion by the end of FY 2020)

MYR-3a. If the MYR is published, what is the date of publication of the MYR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
30/09/2020

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The date of publication is 30 September 2020 with the publication of pre-budget statement.

Comments: As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021. Below is the link for the Mid year review part (p.11 to p.24) <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Please see Question MYR-2 as to why IBP is considering the Saudi Pre-Budget Statement to also be a Mid-Year Review for the purposes of OBS 2021.

MYR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the MYR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
Javascript dates the PDF as last posted on September 30, 2020.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The date of publication is 30 September 2020 with the publication of pre-budget statement.

Comments: As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021. Below is the link for the Mid year review part (p.11 to p.24) <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Please see Question MYR-2 as to why IBP is considering the Saudi Pre-Budget Statement to also be a Mid-Year Review for the purposes of OBS 2021.

MYR-4. If the MYR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the MYR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Source:

N/A

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Sources in MoF website: Pre-Budget Statement English: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Pre-Budget Statement Arabic: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021.pdf>

Comments: As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021. Below is the link for the Mid year review part (p.11 to p.24) <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Please see Question MYR-2 as to why IBP is considering the Saudi Pre-Budget Statement to also be a Mid-Year Review for the purposes of OBS 2021.

MYR-5. If the MYR is published, are the numerical data contained in the MYR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the MYR is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: It is worth mentioning that the data in the Mid-Year Report exist in machine readable files elsewhere on the MoF website, in the links below: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/generalservcies/open-data/Pages/home.aspx> https://www.mof.gov.sa/Statistical_Reports/Pages/default.aspx

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/docslibrary/Pages/default.aspx> The Answer should be (b).

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Please see Question MYR-2 as to why IBP is considering the Saudi Pre-Budget Statement to also be a Mid-Year Review for the purposes of OBS 2021. Regarding this particular question, the PBS itself does not make numerical data available in a machine readable format, and unlike other documents, such as the IYR and YER, it is not clear which machine readable data online corresponds to the data presented in the PBS. As such, the option of 'C' has been selected.

MYR-6a. If the MYR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the MYR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question MYR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question MYR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Researcher Knowledge and Interviews with MoF Staff

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Produced but made available online to the public too late (published after the acceptable time frame)

Comments: As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY2021. Below is the link for the Mid year review part (p.11 to p.24) <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf> And the date of publication is 30 September 2020.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Please see Question MYR-2 as to why IBP is considering the Saudi Pre-Budget Statement to also be a Mid-Year Review for the purposes of OBS 2021.

MYR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question MYR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the MYR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question MYR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The date of publication is 30 September 2020.

Comments: As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY2021. Below is the link for the Mid year review part (p.11 to p.24) <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Please see Question MYR-2 as to why IBP is considering the Saudi Pre-Budget Statement to also be a Mid-Year Review for the purposes of OBS 2021.

MYR-7. If the MYR is produced, please write the full title of the MYR.

For example, a title for the Mid-Year Review could be "Semi-annual Budget Performance Report, FY 2019/20" or "Mid-Year Report on the 2020 National Budget."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Pre-Budget Statement 2021

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The title: Budget-Pre Statement FY 2021 Source English Version: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf> Arabic Version: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021.pdf>

Comments: Budget-Pre Statement FY 2021 Source English Version: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf> Arabic

Version: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021.pdf>

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Please see Question MYR-2 as to why IBP is considering the Saudi Pre-Budget Statement to also be a Mid-Year Review for the purposes of OBS 2021.

MYR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the MYR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

N/A

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-1. What is the fiscal year of the YER evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019

Source:

OBS Guidelines.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-2. When is the YER made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an YER to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than one year after the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the YER is not released to the public within one year after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the YER.

Answer:

c. More than nine months, but within 12 months, after the end of the budget year

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-3a. If the YER is published, what is the date of publication of the YER?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
23/12/2020

Source:
Obtained using a Javascript code and inspecting document properties.

Comment:
Through a review of javascript code, it is possible to see that the first publication of the document was on December 23rd, with an update taking place on December 27th. Researcher has selected the first date.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the YER.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
Obtained using a Javascript code and inspecting document properties.

Source:

Comment:
This can be done by entering javascript:alert(document.lastModified) into the URL.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-4. If the YER is published, what is the URL or weblink of the YER?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/budget/2019/Documents/FY-A%202019.pdf>

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/budget/2019/Documents/FY-A%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-5. If the YER is published, are the numerical data contained in the YER available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the YER is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: It is worth mentioning that the data in the End-Year Report exist in machine readable files elsewhere on the MoF website, in the links below: https://www.mof.gov.sa/Statistical_Reports/Pages/default.aspx The Answer should be (b).

Researcher Response

Answer has been revised to option 'b'. While the YER itself does not make numerical data available in a machine readable format, as the initial response noted, much of this can be easily identified elsewhere on the MoF website. Unlike for other budget documents, such as the PBS and EB, it is easily identified online which sets of data correspond to the YER.

IBP Comment

IBP agrees with the researcher. When comparing the economic classification of expenditures found in machine readable files here: <https://data.gov.sa/Data/ar/dataset/expenditures-by-functional-classification-yearly>, for example, these match with the economic classification of expenditures found in page 15 of the 2019 YER: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/budget/2019/Documents/FY-A%202019.pdf>

YER-6a. If the YER is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the YER is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question YER-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question YER-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:
e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: The document is available publicly.

YER-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question YER-6a, please specify how you determined whether the YER was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question YER-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-7. If the YER is produced, please write the full title of the YER.

For example, a title for the Year-End Report could be "Consolidated Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2020" or "Annual Report 2019 Published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
End of the Year Budget Report Fiscal Year 2019

Source:
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Arabic Version: <https://www.mof.gov.sa/budget/2019/Documents/FY-A%202019.pdf> تقرير نهاية العام المالي 2019م لأداء الميزانية الفعلية

YER-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the YER?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

YERs do not technically have a citizens version. While it should be noted that the YER presents primarily straightforward and simple information, including data visualisations for a wider non-technical audience, this does not meet the criteria of being considered a separate citizens document.

If evidence can be provided that elements of a citizens versions (even diagrams and info-graphics) have been published for the public this can be changed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-1. What is the fiscal year of the AR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019

Source:

OBS Guidelines

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-2. When is the AR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an AR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the AR is not released to the public at least 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the AR.

Answer:

d. Does not release to the public, or is released more than 18 months after the end of the budget year

Source:

Comment:

The audit report on the previous budget year is not released to the public. Circulation is internal and highly limited even within government.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-3a. If the AR is published, what is the date of publication of the AR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the AR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

N/A

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

AR-4. If the AR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the AR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

AR-5. If the AR is published, are the numerical data contained in the AR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the AR is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

N/A

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

AR-6a. If the AR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the AR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question AR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless

produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question AR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

c. Produced for internal purposes/use only

Source:

Interview with MoF Staff

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question AR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the AR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question AR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Interview with MoF Staff confirmed AR is produced but not shared widely - even internally.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-7. If the AR is produced, please write the full title of the AR.

For example, a title for the Audit Report could be "Annual General Reports of the Controller and Auditor General." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

N/A

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

AR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the AR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

GQ-1a. Are there one or more websites or web portals for disseminating government fiscal information? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

GQ-1a asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where fiscal information can be found. For example, in New Zealand the Treasury website (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/>) hosts important budget-related information, including the Pre-Budget Statement, the Executive's Budget Proposal, the Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, the Mid-Year Review, and the Year-End Report. In addition, New Zealand's Parliamentary Counsel Office (<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>) posts the Enacted Budget while the Controller and Auditor-General website (<http://www.oag.govt.nz/>) publishes the annual Audit Report. The New Zealand researcher would provide the links to each of these sites. Other countries have developed portals that include fiscal information, though not in the "documents" format. For example, these portals have been created by Mexico (<https://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/>) and Brazil (<http://www.portaltransparencia.gov.br/>). Some countries have both a website and a portal. The Brazilian government, for example, apart from the Transparency Portal, has a dedicated website for the federal budget, where all key documents and other information can be found (www.orcamentofederal.gov.br). Researchers should include details about all of the relevant websites and/or portals that can be used to access budget information.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/news/Pages/default.aspx>

https://data.gov.sa/Data/ar/organization/ministry_of_finance

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/home.php?lang=en>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also additional links for Sources of data: https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Pages/Knowledge_Center.aspx
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/generalservices/open-data/Pages/home.aspx> <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/docslibrary/Pages/default.aspx>
https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/default.aspx https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/Archives.aspx

GQ-1b. On these websites/portals, can revenue and/or expenditure data for the current fiscal year be downloaded as a consolidated, machine readable file (or set of files)? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation. For more information on machine readability, see:

<http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

GQ-1b, GQ-1c, and GQ-1d ask about whether governments publish specific types of content on their websites/portals: (a) consolidated files that contain disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure information for the current fiscal year; (b) consolidated files that contain disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure information for multiple years in consistent formats; and (c) infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis. Researchers should provide the links to relevant webpages and some explanations of what they contain.

Answer:

d. No, neither expenditure or revenue data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Source:

Currently, there is no available revenue or expenditure data for FY 2021 available on official public websites. Although the Ministry of Finance does provide a page for open data of all fiscal data this does not have the data required for 2021.

Comment:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/generalservices/open-data/Pages/default.aspx>

https://data.gov.sa/Data/ar/dataset/expenditure_-_annual_and_quarterly_data_2017

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Comments: In MoF & SAMA Official websites data exist in machine readable files in the links below: https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/EconomicReports/YearlyStatistics/Annual_Statistics_2019.xlsx <https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/EconomicReports/Pages/YearlyStatistics.aspx>
https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Pages/Knowledge_Center.aspx <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/generalservices/open-data/Pages/home.aspx>
https://www.mof.gov.sa/Statistical_Reports/Pages/Archives.aspx <https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/docslibrary/Pages/default.aspx>
https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/default.aspx

Researcher Response

While the links provided are extremely useful and the researcher is grateful for this, the question being asked is quite specific to revenue and/or expenditure data for the current fiscal. Researcher is unable to find such data in the links provided. Where it exists (https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/Actual_Revenue.aspx) revenue and budget data goes up to 2017 at the latest. As such, option 'd' has been maintained.

GQ-1c. On these websites/portals, can disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure data in consolidated, machine readable files be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation. For more information on machine readability, see: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Answer:

a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

Source:

https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/EconomicReports/YearlyStatistics/Annual_Statistics_2019.xlsx

<https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/EconomicReports/Pages/YearlyStatistics.aspx>

https://data.gov.sa/Data/ar/organization/ministry_of_finance

Comment:

This can be viewed through the Yearly Statistics page on the SAMA website. Section 5 of this document provides the revenue and expenditure data for several years in Section 5.

MoF open data also provides some of this information although less consistent.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1d. On these websites/portals, are infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/aboutksa/governmentBudget/!ut/p/z0/04_Sj9CPykyssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfIjo8zifT2dPQ38TQz9DUzDjA0CHV39TEy8XlwMzA30g1Pz9AuyHRUBPElqqQ!!/

<https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/EconomicReports/MonthlyStatistics/Monthly%20Bulletin%20Dec2020.pdf>

https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Citizen_Ver_2021.pdf

Comment:

We note that documents published on relevant websites and portals do provide some degree of visualisation.

On SAMA, for example, a PDF is provided comparing quarterly data of several years and including graphs. This is also provided on unified national platform. Additionally, many of the budget reports addressed in Section 1 of this questionnaire may fulfil this criteria by visualising data and being located on primary government portals.

However, little variety is demonstrated and visualisations of data does not extend beyond basic bar and line charts. For the selection of option a sufficient and varied examples of data visualisation need to be provided.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: In MoF office website there are a series of data in infographics/visualizations for revenues, Consumer Price Index, Debt Balance, Expenses, GDP constant prices, GDP current prices and Public Financial Statements. Please check the links below:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/Actual_Revenue.aspx

https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/Consumer_Price_Index.aspx

https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/Debt_balance.aspx https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/Expenses.aspx

https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/GDP_constant_prices.aspx

https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/GDP_current_prices.aspx

https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Statistical_Reports/Pages/public_financial_statements.aspx

Researcher Response

Government response and links provided are sufficiently detailed and acceptable. Researcher revises the answer to option 'a'.

GQ-2. Are there laws in place guiding public financial management and/or auditing? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where the law(s) contains specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

GQ-2 asks about the existence of any national laws governing public financial management and auditing. These may include a public finance act, a section of the constitution, or an organic budget law. In some countries, fiscal responsibility legislation may also be relevant. For example, the Kenya researcher may include the link to its Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (<http://kenyalaw.org:8181/exist/kenyalex/actview.xql?actid=No.%2018%20of%202012>), and the Macedonian researcher may include a link to its State Audit Law (<https://www.finance.gov.mk/files/u11/Audit%20law.pdf>). Researchers should provide links to websites where such laws are published, if possible, or an electronic copy of the law itself. They should also indicate if and where (e.g. which article) these laws include specific provisions for budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

The role of the primary auditing body recently underwent significant change in 2019, when Royal Decree No. (A/473) on 30/08/2019 to rename General Auditing Bureau (GAB) to be General Court of Audit (GCA). Further, in 2020 another Royal Decree was issued, No. (M/178) on 23/07/2020, to amend a number of items in its Statute to consider GCA as a financially and administratively independent government entity report directly to the King.

The current GCA websites provides a useful overview of mandate and responsibilities, through explicit guidelines on participation are not found.

The Saudi Basic Law also provides some general principles in articles 72-78.

Comment:

https://www.gca.gov.sa/en/about/Pages/our_main_functions.aspx

https://www.gca.gov.sa/en/about/Pages/mandate_and_responsibilities.aspx

<https://www.saudiembassy.net/basic-law-governance>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-3. Is there at least one additional law regulating: (1) access to information; (2) government transparency; or (3) citizens participation? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where these laws contain specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

The third and last question asks researchers to list any additional laws regulating access to information, transparency, or citizens' participation that are relevant for the promotion of budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes. These might include legislation related to access to information, to planning processes, or to public administration more generally. India's Right to Information Act of 2005 (<https://www.ncess.gov.in/facilities/central-public-information-officer/rti-act-details.html>) is an example of this type of law. More information on access to information legislation (constitutional provisions, laws, and regulations), including examples of model laws, can be found here: <http://www.right2info.org/laws/constitutional-provisions-laws-and-regulations#section-1>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

<https://www.vision2030.gov.sa/sites/default/files/report/Vision%20Realization%20Programs%20Overview.pdf>

https://www.vision2030.gov.sa/sites/default/files/attachments/Fiscal%20Balance%20Program%202019%20Update_0.pdf

Comment:

While there are many references to the three points (1) access to information; (2) government transparency; and (3) citizens participation - these are not directly required by law.

Vision 2030, for example, places significant focus on the issue of transparency and accountability however this has not manifest directly into legal requirements.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: A Program for activating statistical units in government agencies has been prepared and its Importance to Saudi Arabia's Statistical Sector. The program's key objective is to activate the administrative statistical units of the whole statistical sector by offering the required technical, technological and human units, to secure maximum benefit from the stored data and information; after minute processing and transforming them into stats and indicators, then use them within Saudi Arabia's statistical endeavor. Program's Main Objectives: - Meet the requirements of Saudi Arabia's 2030 Vision, and Saudi Arabia's regional and international statistical data and information commitments. - Attain integration and coordination across the national statistical endeavor. - Unify statistical classifications, definitions and methodologies according to the international standards. - Build up and train the national statistical capacities. - Improve governance and administrative organization across all statistical units. - Develop the Hi-Tech infrastructure of statistical units. GASTAT Role in Setting Up/Activating a Statistical Unit in Government Agencies: - Planning and Supervising - Empowering and Training - Enhancement Government Agencies' Role in Setting Up/Activating a Statistical Unit in Government Agencies: - Organizational and Administrative works. - Statistical Works - Technological Works for more details check the link: <https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/page/255>

Researcher Response

While the detailed government response is greatly appreciated and provides interesting detail, this does not provide adequate information for the selection of an alternative answer. Firstly, while the question requests information on an additional law, it is not at all clear that the 'activating statistical units' programme is specified by law. Further, while the programme is undeniably valuable and represents an important step for improving statistical capacity, it does not directly respond to the subject areas of (1) access to information; (2) government transparency; or (3) citizens participation. As such, Researcher has maintained the answer of 'b'.

1. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 1 addresses the presentation of expenditure by administrative unit. This information indicates which government entity (ministry, department, or agency, or MDAs) will be responsible for spending the funds and, ultimately, held accountable for their use.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all administrative units, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the administrative units shown individually, in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation, must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. In other words, the sum of the expenditures assigned to the individual MDAs (education, health, infrastructure, interior, defense, etc.) must account for at least two-thirds of the total expenditure budgeted for that particular year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents administrative units that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by administrative unit.

Answer:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by administrative unit.

Source:

Kindly review questions EBP-1a to EBP-8.

Comment:

As noted in the response to the Question EBP-2, there is no document that meets formal requirements in the OBS methodology to be considered an Executive Budget Proposal. This is selected for two reasons. Firstly, the executive does not formally produce a budget to be reviewed by the legislature as the Majlis Al Shura does not hold budgetary powers. Secondly, any internal preparation of a budget does not qualify as an EBP due to a lack of public availability (defined as available online and free of charge). For this reason, subsequent answers in Section 2 will be marked "d", "b" or "none of the above" depending on the number of options available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The government sent the budget proposal to the Royal Court (as the Legislature power in Saudi Arabia is the Royal Court) in October and committees in Royal Court are reviewing the proposal and can make amendments before the final budget is approved. The main targets in budget proposal is published through the pre-budget statement initiating public discussion during this period.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Though the main targets in the budget proposal are indeed published through the pre-budget statement, since the budget proposal itself is not published, we are maintaining answer "D" here. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63.

2. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by functional classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 2 addresses the presentation of expenditure by functional classification. This classification indicates the programmatic purpose, sector, or objective for which the funds will be used, such as health, education, or defense. Administrative units are not necessarily aligned with functional classifications. For instance, in one country all functions connected with water supply (which fall into the "Housing" function) may be undertaken by a single government agency, while in another country they may be distributed across the Ministries of Environment, Housing, and Industrial Development. In the latter case, three ministries have programs addressing water supply, so three ministries contribute to one function. Similarly, some administrative units may conduct activities that cut across more than one function. For instance, in the example above, some programs of the Ministry of Environment would also be classified in the "environmental protection" function.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by functional classification.

Answer:

b. No, expenditures are not presented by functional classification.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The government sent the budget proposal to the Royal Court (as the Legislature power in Saudi Arabia is the Royal Court) in October and committees in Royal Court are reviewing the proposal and can make amendments before the final budget is approved. The main targets in budget proposal is published through the pre-budget statement initiating public discussion during this period. The budgeted statement is presenting the expenditures by functional classification.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Though the main targets in the budget proposal are indeed published through the pre-budget statement, since the budget proposal itself is not published, we are maintaining answer "B" here. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63.

3. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by functional classification, is the functional classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 3 asks whether a country's functional classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's functional classification must be aligned with the OECD and the UN's Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), or provide a cross-walk between the national functional presentation and COFOG.

The OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency can be viewed at <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/Best%20Practices%20Budget%20Transparency%20>

[%20complete%20with%20cover%20page.pdf](#)

COFOG can be viewed at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_84E.pdf or at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/ch6ann.pdf>.

Answer:

b. No, the functional classification is not compatible with international standards, or expenditures are not presented by functional classification.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the functional classification is compatible with international standards.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The government sent the budget proposal to the Royal Court (as the Legislature power in Saudi Arabia is the Royal Court) in October and committees in Royal Court are reviewing the proposal and can make amendments before the final budget is approved. The main targets in budget proposal is published through the pre-budget statement initiating public discussion during this period. The budgeted statement is presenting the expenditures by functional classification and compatible with international standards.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Though the main targets in the budget proposal are indeed published through the pre-budget statement, since the budget proposal itself is not published, we are maintaining answer "B" here. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63.

4. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by economic classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 4 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification. Economic classification provides information on the nature of the expenditure, such as whether funds are being used to pay for wages and salaries, capital projects, or social assistance benefits. Please note that a presentation of expenditures by current and capital expenditures without additional disaggregation or detail will not qualify as an economic classification.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification.

Answer:

b. No, expenditures are not presented by economic classification.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by economic classification.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The government sent the budget proposal to the Royal Court (as the Legislature power in Saudi Arabia is the Royal Court) in October and committees in Royal Court are reviewing the proposal and can make amendments before the final budget is approved. The main targets in budget proposal is published through the pre-budget statement initiating public discussion during this period. The budgeted statement is presenting the expenditures by economic classification.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Though the main targets in the budget proposal are indeed published through the pre-budget statement, since the budget proposal itself is not published, we are maintaining answer "B" here. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63.

5. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by economic classification, is the economic classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 5 asks whether a country's economic classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's economic classification must be consistent with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2001 Government Finance Statistics (GFS). The GFS economic classification is presented here: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>. To learn more about Government Finance Statistics also refer to the entire IMF 2001 GFS manual (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf>).

Answer:

b. No, the economic classification is not compatible with international standards, or expenditures are not presented by economic classification.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the economic classification is compatible with international standards.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The government sent the budget proposal to the Royal Court (as the Legislature power in Saudi Arabia is the Royal Court) in October and committees in Royal Court are reviewing the proposal and can make amendments before the final budget is approved. The main targets in budget proposal is published through the pre-budget statement initiating public discussion during this period. The budgeted statement is presenting the expenditures by economic classification and compatible with international standards (GFS2014).

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Though the main targets in the budget proposal are indeed published through the pre-budget statement, since the budget proposal itself is not published, we are maintaining answer "B" here. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63.

6. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 6 asks whether expenditures are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should treat the term "program" as meaning any level of detail below an administrative unit – that is, any programmatic grouping that is below the ministry, department, or agency level. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Budget decisions for the upcoming year can also affect the parameters of future budgets. It is therefore useful to estimate revenues and expenditures for multi-year periods, understanding that these estimates might be revised as circumstances change. Sometimes referred to as a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), a three-year period – that is, the budget year plus two more years – is generally considered an appropriate horizon for budgeting and planning.

Answer:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting some of the programs related to kingdom vision 2030.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

7. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 7 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," multi-year expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

d. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting expenditure by economic classification for two years beyond the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

7b. Based on the response to Question 7, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for a multi-year period in the Executive's Budget Proposal?

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Economic classification

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. See note in Question 7.

8. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by program?

GUIDELINES:

Question 8 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures over the multi-year period. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if multi-year estimates are not presented by program.

Revenues generally are separated into two major categories: "tax" and "non-tax" revenues. Taxes are compulsory transfers that result from government exercising its sovereign power. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes. The category of non-tax revenues is more diverse, ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services. Note that some forms of revenue, such as contributions to social security funds, can be considered either a tax or non-tax revenue depending on the nature of the approach to these contributions. Particularly because different revenues have different characteristics, including who bears the burden of paying the tax and how collections are affected by economic conditions, it is helpful when estimates for revenues are disaggregated and displayed based on their sources.

For more information, please refer to the 2001 GFS manual, in particular Appendix 4 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>).

Answer:

d. No, multi-year estimates for programs are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63.

9. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 9 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, individual sources of tax revenue are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, tax revenues are presented.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement presenting tax revenues by GFS classification.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

10. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of government-produced goods and services) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 10 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "non-tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The category of non-tax revenues is diverse, and can include revenue ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of non-tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all non-tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of non-tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all non-tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of non-tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of non-tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of non-tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, individual sources of non-tax revenue are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all non-tax revenues are presented.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The Oil revenues present big portion of other revenues.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

11. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 11 evaluates whether revenue estimates are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year) by "category," that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of revenues classified by category for at least two years following the budget year in question.

Answer:

b. No, multi-year estimates of revenue are not presented by category.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates of revenue are presented by category.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement presenting revenues for a multi-year period beyond the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "B" here.

12. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates for individual sources of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 12 evaluates whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented for a multi-year period.

Answer:

d. No, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63.

13. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 13 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt that the budget should include:

- the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies no information on borrowing and debt is presented for the budget year.

Answer:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

13b. Based on the response to Question 13, check the box(es) below to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. See note in Question 13.

14. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year?"

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 14 focuses on the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 13, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens, banks, and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding at the end of the budget year.

Answer:

d. No, information related to composition of total debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

14b. Based on the response to Question 14, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the composition of the total debt outstanding are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Maturity profile of the debt Whether the debt is domestic or external Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. See note in Question 14.

15. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?"

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 15 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the budget's revenue and expenditure estimates, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- *nominal GDP level;*
- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

While the core macroeconomic information should be a standard feature of the Executive's Budget Proposal, the importance of some types of macroeconomic assumptions may vary from country to country. For example, the budget estimates of some countries are particularly affected by changes in the price of oil and other commodities.

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short and long-term interest rates; rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

15b. Based on the response to Question 15, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: nominal GDP level; inflation rate; real GDP growth; and

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. See note in Question 15.

16. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget?"

(The core information must include estimates of the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 16 focuses on the issue of whether the Executive's Budget Proposal shows how different macroeconomic assumptions affect the budget estimates (known as a "sensitivity analysis"). It asks whether "core" information related to a sensitivity analysis is presented, estimating the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for:

- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

A sensitivity analysis shows the effect on the budget of possible changes in some macroeconomic assumptions, and is important for understanding the impact of the economy on the budget; for instance, what would happen to revenue collections if GDP growth were slower than what is assumed in the budget proposal? Or what would happen to expenditure if inflation were higher than estimated? Or how will revenue be affected by a decrease in the price of oil?

As noted for Question 15, changes in certain macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil and other commodities, can have a significant impact on the budget estimates. As a result, some sensitivity analyses may also examine the impact on the budget estimates of changes in assumptions such as the price of oil that are beyond the core elements of the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to a "sensitivity analysis" as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to a "sensitivity analysis" is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on "sensitivity analysis" is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to different macroeconomic assumptions is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting some analysis on fiscal data.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

17. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Answer:

d. No, information that shows how new policy proposals affect expenditure is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how some but not all new policy proposals affect expenditure is presented.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statements is presenting some of the cost of the new policies.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

18. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Prior-year information constitutes an important benchmark for assessing the proposals for the upcoming budget year. Estimates of prior years should be presented in the same formats (in terms of classification) as the budget year to ensure that year-to-year comparisons are meaningful. For example, if the budget proposes shifting responsibility for a particular program from one administrative unit to another – such as shifting responsibility for the training of nurses from the health department to the education department – the prior-year figures must be adjusted before year-to-year comparisons of administrative budgets can be made.

Typically, when the budget proposal is submitted, the year prior to the budget year (BY-1), also known as the current year, has not ended, so the executive will provide estimates of the anticipated outcome for BY-1. The soundness of these estimates is directly related to the degree to which they have been updated to reflect actual expenditures to date, legislative changes that have occurred, and anticipated changes in macroeconomic, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

The first year that can reflect actual outcomes, therefore, is generally two years before the budget year (BY-2). Thus the OECD recommends that data covering at least two years before the budget year (along with two years of projections beyond the budget year) are provided in order to assess fully the trends in the budget.

Answer:

d. No, information that shows how new policy proposals affect revenues is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how some but not all new policy proposals affect revenues are presented.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. the budget statement is presenting some of the new policies.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

19. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 19 asks if expenditure estimates for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) are presented by one of the three expenditure classifications – by

administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-1 by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-1 must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

d. No, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by economic classification.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

20. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 20 asks if expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-1. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-1. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program for BY-1.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented for BY-1.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

21. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 21 asks whether the expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) have been updated from the original enacted levels. Updates can reflect actual experience to date; revised estimates due to shifting of funds by the executive, as permitted under the law; enactment of supplemental budgets; and revised assumptions regarding macroeconomic conditions, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

Answer "a" applies if the estimates have been updated; answer "b" applies if the original estimates are still being used.

Answer:

b. No, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have not been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting expenditure estimates updated from the original enacted levels reflecting actual expenditures for the year prior to the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "B" here.

22. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 22 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any of the three classifications

Answer:

d. No, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years) by economic classification.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

22b. Based on the response to Question 22, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year in the Executive Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Economic classification

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. See note in Question 22.

23. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for more than one year preceding the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 23 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year before the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-2 and prior years. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-2 and prior years. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

24. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 24 asks for which year the actual outcomes for expenditures are shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated all its expenditure data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

Answer:

d. No actual data for all expenditures are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is present actual expenditure outcome for more two years prior to the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

25. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

b. No, revenue estimates for BY-1 are not presented by category.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 are presented by category.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting revenue by category (tax and non-tax) for the year preceding the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "B" here.

26. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

d. No, individual sources of revenue are not presented for BY-1.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues for BY-1 are presented.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting individual sources of revenue for the year preceding the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

27. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have the original estimates of revenue for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated to reflect actual revenue collections?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

b. No, revenue estimates for BY-1 have not been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is present actual revenue outcome for year prior to the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "B" here.

28. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

b. No, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by category.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting revenue by category (tax and non-tax) for more than one year prior to the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "B" here.

29. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

d. No, individual sources of revenue are not presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is presenting individual sources of revenue for more than one year prior to the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

30. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

d. No actual data for all revenues are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is present actual revenues outcome for two years prior to the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

31. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?"

(The core information must include the total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1; the amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1; interest payments on the debt; interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 31 focuses on prior-year debt information, rather than on prior-year expenditures or revenues, asking whether "core" information is provided on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1).

The "core" information includes:

- *total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1;*
- *amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1;*
- *interest payments on the debt;*
- *interest rates on the debt instruments;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether it is domestic or external debt.*

This core information for BY-1 is consistent with the budget year information for borrowing and debt, which is examined in Questions 13 and 14. Please note that for the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

In addition, some governments provide information beyond the core elements, such as gross new borrowing required during BY-1; currency of the debt; whether the debt carries a fixed or variable interest rate; whether it is callable; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for BY-1 as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on government borrowing and debt for BY-1.

Answer:

d. No, information related to government debt is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is present government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

32. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 32 asks for which year the actual outcome for total debt outstanding is shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated its debt data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

It is essential that all government activities that may have an impact on the budget – in the current budget year or in future budget years – be fully disclosed to the legislature and the public in budget documents. In some countries, for instance, entities outside central government (such as public corporations) undertake fiscal activities that could affect current and future budgets. Similarly, activities that can have a significant impact on the budget, such as payment arrears and contingent liabilities, sometimes are not properly captured by the regular presentations of expenditure, revenue, and debt.

Answer:

d. No actual data for government debt are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Comments: The budget statement for FY 2021 should be considered as executive budget proposal. The budget statement is present actual debt figures outcome for two years prior to the budget year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

33. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on extra-budgetary funds for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund; and complete income, expenditure, and financing data on a gross basis.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 33 focuses on extra-budgetary funds, asking whether "core" information related to these funds, which exist outside the budget, are presented. These core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund (i.e., why was a particular fund set up? what is it used for?); and*
- estimates of its income, expenditure, and financing. (These estimates should be presented on a gross basis so that it is possible to tell how much money flows through each extra-budgetary fund.)*

In most countries, governments engage in certain budgetary activities that are not included in the central government's budget. Known as extra-budgetary funds, they can range in size and scope. For example, countries frequently set up pension and social security programs as extra-budgetary funds, where the revenues collected and the benefits paid are recorded in a separate fund outside the budget. Another example of an extra-budgetary fund can be found in countries dependent on hydrocarbon/mineral resources, where revenues from producing and selling those resources are channeled through systems outside the annual budget.

In some cases, the separation engendered by an extra-budgetary fund serves a legitimate political purpose, and the finances and activities of these funds are well documented. In other cases, however, this structure is used for obfuscation, and little or nothing is known about a fund's finances and activities.

The availability of information related to extra-budgetary funds is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the government's true fiscal position. In addition to the core information, other information about extra-budgetary funds is also desirable. Such information includes a discussion of the risks associated with the extra-budgetary fund; expenditures classified by economic, functional, or administrative unit; and the rules and procedures that govern the operations and management of the extra-budgetary fund.

For more information about extra-budgetary funds, see the *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 2.1.1 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to extra-budgetary funds as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. A "b" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation presents all of the core information. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to extra-budgetary funds is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on extra-budgetary funds.

Please provide in the comments a list of all known extra-budgetary funds.

Answer:

d. No, information related to extra-budgetary funds is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

34. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 34 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documents present the finances of the central government on a consolidated basis, showing both its budgetary and extra-budgetary activities. Virtually all of the questions in the OBS questionnaire focus on budgetary central government – the activities of the ministries, departments, or agencies of central government. In addition, Question 33 asks about extra-budgetary funds, such as social security funds that are not included in the budget.

Coverage is an important aspect of fiscal reporting. Budget documents should cover the full scope of government's financial activity. In many countries, extra-budgetary activities are substantial, and can represent a sizable share of the central government's activities. To get a full picture of the central government's finances, therefore, it is necessary to examine both activities that are included in the budget and those that are extra-budgetary. This question asks whether such a consolidated presentation of central government finances is provided.

The central government is only one component of the overall public sector. The public sector also includes other levels of government, such as state and local government, and public corporations. (See Box 2.1 under Principle 1.1.1 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018): <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>). For the purpose of answering this question, please consider only the central government level.

In order to answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-

budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year.

Answer:

b. No, central government finances are not presented on a consolidated basis.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "B" here.

35. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of intergovernmental transfers for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 35 asks about intergovernmental transfers. In many cases, the central government supports the provision of a good or service by a lower level of government through an intergovernmental transfer of funds. This is necessary because, independent from the level of administrative decentralization that exists in a given country, the capacity for revenue collection of a local government is unlikely to be sufficient to pay for all its expenses. However, because the activity is not being undertaken by an administrative unit of the central government, it is unlikely to receive the same level of review in the budget. Thus it is important to include in the budget proposal a statement that explicitly indicates the amount and purposes of these transfers.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all intergovernmental transfers and a narrative discussing these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all intergovernmental transfers are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, intergovernmental transfers (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of intergovernmental transfers are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

36. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region) to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 36 asks about “alternative displays” of expenditures that highlight the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens. As discussed above, expenditures are typically presented by at least one of three classifications – administrative, functional, and economic classifications (see Questions 1-5) – and by individual program (Question 6). In addition, governments can provide alternative displays to emphasize different aspects of expenditure policies and to show who benefits from these expenditures.

For the purpose of answering this question, the alternative presentation must differ from the presentations (such as administrative, functional, or economic classifications or presentation by program) used to answer other questions. The alternative display can cover all expenditures or only a portion of expenditures. For instance, it can show how all expenditures are distributed according to geographic region or it can show how selected expenditures (such as the health budget or the agriculture budget) are distributed to different regions. But such a geographic display must be something different than the presentation of intergovernmental transfers used to answer question 35. One exception is when a country includes a special presentation of all policies intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (and is used to answer Question 52) then that can be considered an alternative display for purposes of answering this question as well. Finally, brief fact sheets showing how proposals in the budget benefit particular groups would be insufficient; only more detailed presentations would be considered.

The IBP Budget Brief, “How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget’s Impact on Poverty and Inequality?” (<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of the importance of alternative displays of budget information and provides a number of examples. For instance,

- Bangladesh in its 2017-18 Budget included a detailed supplementary Gender Budgeting Report, which presents the spending dedicated to advancing women across various departments. (<https://mof.portal.gov.bd/site/page/3bb14732-b5b1-44df-9921-efedf1496295>).
- The UK’s 2017 budget included a supplementary analysis that provided a distributional analysis of the budget by households in different income groups (see https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661465/distributional_analysis_autumn_budget_2017.pdf)
- South Africa’s 2017 Budget Review goes beyond the standard presentation of intergovernmental transfers, discussing the redistribution that results from national revenue flowing to the provinces and municipalities and presenting the allocations on a per capita basis (see chapter 6, <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2017/review/FullBR.pdf>).

To answer “a,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least three different presentations that illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens for at least the budget year. To answer “b,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least two different alternative displays of expenditures. A “c” applies if only one type of alternative display of expenditure is presented. Answer “d” applies if no alternative display of expenditure is presented.

Answer:

d. No, alternative displays of expenditures are not presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

36b. Based on the response to Question 36, select the box(es) below to identify which types of alternative displays are included in the Executive’s Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

37. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of transfers to public corporations for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 37 asks about transfers to public corporations. It is often the case that governments have a stake in enterprises that manage resources that are particularly relevant for the public good (such as electricity, water, and oil). While these public corporations can operate independently, in some cases the government will provide direct support by making transfers to these corporations, including to subsidize capital investment and operating expenses.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all transfers to public corporations and a narrative discussing the purposes of these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all transfers to public corporations are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, transfers to public corporations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented.

Please provide in the comments a list of all known public corporations.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of transfers to public corporations are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

38. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity and the intended beneficiaries.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 38 focuses on quasi-fiscal activities, asking whether "core" information related to such activities is presented. These core components include:

- *A statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity (i.e., what is the reason for engaging in this activity?);*
- *The identification of intended beneficiaries of the quasi-fiscal activity.*

The term "quasi-fiscal activities" refers to a broad range of activities that are fiscal in character and could be carried out through the regular budget process but are not. For example, a quasi-fiscal activity could take place if, instead of providing a direct subsidy through the budget for a particular activity, a public financial institution provides an indirect subsidy by offering loans at below-market rates for that activity. Similarly, it is a quasi-fiscal activity when an enterprise provides goods or services at prices below commercial rates to certain individuals or groups to support the government's policy goals.

The above examples are policy choices that may be approved by the government and legislature. However, quasi-fiscal activities can also involve activities that violate or circumvent a country's budget process laws or are not subject to the regular legislative approval process for expenditures. For example, the executive may issue an informal order to a government entity, such as a public commercial enterprise, to provide the executive with goods and services that normally would have to be purchased with funding authorized by the legislature. All quasi-fiscal activities should be disclosed to the public and subject to

public scrutiny.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about quasi-fiscal activities, including for example: the anticipated duration of the quasi-fiscal activity; a quantification of the activity and the assumptions that support these estimates; and a discussion of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the activity, including the impact on the entity carrying out the activity. Principle 3.3.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) provides examples of quasi-fiscal activities that can be consulted as needed. And more details on quasi-fiscal activities can be found in the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to all quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to quasi-fiscal activities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on quasi-fiscal activities.

If quasi-fiscal activities do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question.

Answer:

d. No, information related to quasi-fiscal activities is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

39. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets, and an estimate of their value.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 39 focuses on financial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. These core components include:

- A listing of the financial assets; and
- An estimate of their value.

Governments own financial assets such as cash, bonds, or equities. Unlike private sector businesses, however, few governments maintain balance sheets that show the value of their assets and liabilities.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about financial assets, including for example: a discussion of their purpose; historical information on defaults; differences between reported values and market values; and a summary of financial assets as part of the government's balance sheet.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to all financial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to financial assets is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on financial assets held by the government.

Answer:

d. No, information related to financial assets is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in

Question 1.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some financial assets.
Comments: The Budget Proposal include information of financial assets such as government reserves at SAMA.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

40. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on nonfinancial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets by category.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 40 focuses on nonfinancial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. The core information is a listing of nonfinancial assets, grouped by the type (or category) of asset.

Nonfinancial assets are things of value that the government owns or controls (excluding financial assets) such as land, buildings, and machinery. The valuation of public nonfinancial assets can be problematic, particularly in cases where the asset is not typically available on the open market (such as a government monument). In these cases, it is considered acceptable to provide summary information in budget documents from a country's register of assets. But, in some cases, governments are able to value their nonfinancial assets; some present a summary of nonfinancial assets as part of their balance sheets. For an example of how nonfinancial assets are presented in one of the many supporting documents to the New Zealand Executive's Budget Proposal, see the Forecast Financial Statement 2011, Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued), Note 14, accessible here: <https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2011-05/befu11-pt6of8.pdf>.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year a listing by category of all nonfinancial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to nonfinancial assets is presented, but some nonfinancial assets are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on nonfinancial assets held by the government.

Answer:

d. No, information related to nonfinancial assets is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

41. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure arrears for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 41 asks about estimates of expenditure arrears, which arise when government has entered into a commitment to spend funds but has not made the payment when it is due. (For more information see sections 3.49-3.50 of the IMF's GFS Manual 2001,

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf> (page 29)). Though equivalent to borrowing, this liability is often not recorded in the budget, making it difficult to assess fully a government's financial position. Moreover, the obligation to repay this debt affects the government's ability to pay for other activities.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all expenditure arrears and a narrative discussing the arrears. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all expenditure arrears are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, expenditure arrears (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of expenditure arrears are presented. Answer "d" also applies if information is only available for the changes in arrears, and not the stock or balance of arrears.

If expenditure arrears do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question. Public expenditure management laws and regulations often will allow for reasonable delays, perhaps 30 or 60 days, in the routine payment of invoices due. Expenditure arrears impacting a small percentage of expenditure that are due to contractual disputes should not be considered a significant problem for the purpose of answering this question.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of expenditure arrears are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

42. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities, such as government loan guarantees or insurance programs, for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability; the new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments (the gross exposure) at the end of the budget year.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 42 focuses on contingent liabilities, asking whether "core" information related to these liabilities is presented. These core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability;
- the new contingent liabilities for the budget year, such as new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and
- the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments at the end of the budget year. This reflects the gross exposure of the government in the case that all guarantees or commitments come due (even though that may be unlikely to occur).

Contingent liabilities are recognized under a cash accounting method only when the contingent event occurs and the payment is made. An example of such liabilities is the case of loans guaranteed by the central government, which can include loans to state-owned banks and other state-owned commercial enterprises, subnational governments, or private enterprises. Under such guarantees, government will only make a payment if the borrower defaults. Thus a key issue for making quantitative estimates of these liabilities is assessing the likelihood of the contingency occurring.

In the budget, according to the OECD, "[w]here feasible, the total amount of contingent liabilities should be disclosed and classified by major category reflecting their nature; historical information on defaults for each category should be disclosed where available. In cases where contingent liabilities cannot be quantified, they should be listed and described."

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about contingent liabilities, including for example: historical default rates for each program, and likely default rates in the future; the maximum guarantee that is authorized by law; any special financing associated with the guarantee (e.g., whether fees are charged, whether a reserve fund exists for the purpose of paying off guarantees, etc.); the duration of each guarantee; and an estimate of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the guarantees.

For more details on contingent liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and page 59 (Box 11) and Principle 3.2.3 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to

contingent liabilities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to contingent liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on contingent liabilities.

Answer:

d. No, information related to contingent liabilities is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

43. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present projections that assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term?

(The core information must cover a period of at least 10 years and include the macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used and a discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 43 focuses on government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer-term, asking whether "core" information related to these issues is presented. These core components must include:

- Projections that cover a period of at least 10 years.
- The macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used in making the projections.
- A discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections. Good public financial management calls for budgets to include fiscal sustainability analyses.

The IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) recommends that governments regularly publish the projected evolution of the public finances over the longer term (see Principle 3.1.3.). Future liabilities are a particularly important element when assessing the sustainability of public finances over the long term. Future liabilities are the result of government commitments that, unlike contingent liabilities, are virtually certain to occur at some future point and result in an expenditure. A typical example consists of government obligations to pay pension benefits or cover health care costs of future retirees. Under a cash accounting system, only current payments associated with such obligations are recognized in the budget. To capture the future impact on the budget of these liabilities, a separate statement is required.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about the sustainability of their finances, including for example: projections that cover 20 or 30 years; multiple scenarios with different sets of assumptions; assumptions about other factors (such as the depletion of natural resources) that go beyond just the core macroeconomic and demographic data; and a detailed presentation of particular programs that have long time horizons, such as civil service pensions.

For more details on future liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of government finances over the longer term as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to future liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on future liabilities and the sustainability of government's finances

Answer:

d. No, information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of finances over the longer term is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

44. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 44 asks about estimates of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind assistance. Such assistance is considered non-tax revenue, and the sources of this assistance should be explicitly identified. In terms of in-kind assistance, the concern is primarily with the provision of goods (particularly those for which there is a market that would allow goods received as in-kind aid to be sold, thereby converting them into cash) rather than with in-kind aid like advisors from a donor country providing technical assistance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all donor assistance and a narrative discussing the assistance. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all donor assistance are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, donor assistance (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if the sources of donor assistance are not presented, but the total amount of donor assistance is presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of donor assistance are presented. Select answer "e" if your country does not receive donor assistance.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the sources of donor assistance are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

45. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on tax expenditures for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each tax expenditure, the intended beneficiaries, and an estimate of the revenue foregone.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 45 focuses on tax expenditures, asking whether "core" information related to these tax preferences is presented. These core components must include for both new and existing tax expenditures:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale;
- a listing of the intended beneficiaries; and

- an estimate of the revenue foregone.

Tax expenditures arise as a result of exceptions or other preferences in the tax code provided for specified entities, individuals, or activities. Tax expenditures often have the same impact on public policy and budgets as providing direct subsidies, benefits, or goods and services. For example, encouraging a company to engage in more research through a special tax break can have the same effect as subsidizing it directly through the expenditure side of the budget, as it still constitutes a cost in terms of foregone revenues. However, expenditure items that require annual authorization are likely to receive more scrutiny than tax breaks that are a permanent feature of the tax code.

*Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about tax expenditures, including for example: the intended beneficiaries by sector and income class (distributional impact); a statement of the estimating assumptions, including the definition of the benchmark against which the foregone revenue is measured; and a discussion of tax expenditures as part of a general discussion of expenditures for those program areas that receive both types of government support (in order to better inform policy choices). For more details on tax expenditures, see *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 1.1.4 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).*

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, all of the core information related to tax expenditures as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to tax expenditures is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on tax expenditures.

Answer:

d. No, information related to tax expenditures is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

46. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of earmarked revenues for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 46 asks about estimates of earmarked revenues, which are revenues that may only be used for a specific purpose (for example, revenues from a tax on fuel that can only be used for building roads). This information is important in determining which revenues are available to fund the government's general expenses, and which revenues are reserved for particular purposes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all earmarked revenues and a narrative discussing the earmarks. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all earmarked revenues are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, earmarked revenues (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of earmarked revenues are presented. An "e" response applies if revenue is not earmarked or the practice is disallowed by law or regulation.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of earmarked revenues are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of all earmarked revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Comments: The budget proposal includes earmarked Zakat Revenues and the related social security spending.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

47. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

d. No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals for the budget year is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government's policy goals for the budget year is presented.

Comments: The budget statement explains main policy goals to be achieved in the budget and the specific measures to reach this goals with identified link to the budget on the revenues an expenditures side.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

48. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals.

The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

d. No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals for a multi-year period is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government's policy goals for a multi-year period is presented.

Comments: The budget statement explains main policy goals to be achieved in the budget and the specific measures to reach this goals with identified link to the budget (for a multi-year period) on the revenues an expenditures side.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

49. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on inputs to be acquired for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 49 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on inputs for the budget year. (Nonfinancial data on outputs and outcomes are addressed in Question 50.)

The budget should disclose not only the amount of money that is being allocated on a program but also any information needed to analyze that expenditure. Nonfinancial data and performance targets associated with budget proposals are used to assess the success of a given policy. For example, even when allocated funds are spent according to plan, there remains the question of whether the policy delivered the results that it aimed to achieve.

Nonfinancial data can include information on:

Inputs - These are the resources assigned to achieve results. For example, in regards to education, nonfinancial data on inputs could include the number of books to be provided to each school or the materials to be used to build or refurbish a school.

Outputs - These are products and services delivered as a result of inputs. For example, the number of pupils taught every year; the number of children that received vaccines; or the number of beneficiaries of a social security program.

Outcomes - These are the intended impact or policy goals achieved. For example, an increase in literacy rates among children under 10, or a reduction in rates of maternal mortality.

In addition, governments that set performance targets must use nonfinancial data for outputs and outcomes to determine if these targets have been met.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on inputs for each

individual program is organized by functions. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on inputs for all administrative units or all functions, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on inputs are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on inputs is presented.

Answer:

d. No, nonfinancial data on inputs are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

50. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on results (in terms of outputs or outcomes) for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 50 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 49).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on results for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on results for each individual program is organized by functional classification. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on results for all administrative units or all functional classifications, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on results are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on results is presented.

Answer:

d. No, nonfinancial data on results are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

51. Are performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results in the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation?

GUIDELINES:

Question 51 asks about performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. The question applies to those nonfinancial results shown in the budget, and that were identified for purposes of Question 50.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to all nonfinancial data on results shown in the

budget for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to a majority (but not all) of the nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget. A "c" response applies performance targets are assigned only to less than half of the nonfinancial data on results. Answer "d" applies if no performance targets are assigned to nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget, or the budget does not present nonfinancial results.

Answer:

d. No, performance targets are not assigned to nonfinancial data on results, or the budget does not present nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

52. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations in at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 52 asks whether the budget highlight policies, both new and existing, that benefit the poorest segments of society. This question is intended to assess only those programs that directly address the immediate needs of the poor, such as through cash assistance programs or the provision of housing, rather than indirectly, such as through a stronger national defense. This information is of particular interest to those seeking to bolster government's commitment to anti-poverty efforts. For purposes of answering this question, a departmental budget (such for the Department of Social Welfare) would not be considered acceptable. In general, this question is asking whether the EBP includes a special presentation that pulls together estimates of all the relevant policies in one place. However, if the country uses "program budgeting," where programs are presented as expenditure categories with specific and identified objectives, and it identifies anti-poverty programs within each administrative unit, then that is also acceptable for this question.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?"

(<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of countries that have provided information on how its policies affect the poor.

For instance, Pakistan provides a detailed breakdown of pro-poor expenditure as part of its 2017-18 budget proposal. In one document, the government sets out policy priorities, expected outputs, and estimates of past and future spending for several programs aimed at poverty alleviation. Another supporting document provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing policies, including a chapter on social safety nets, covering both financial and performance information of poverty alleviation schemes over a period of eight years. (http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/mtbf_2018_21.pdf and http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey_1718.html).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must for at least the budget year both present estimates covering all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations and include a narrative discussion that specifically addresses these policies. (For countries using program budgeting that breaks out individual anti-poverty programs, there should be a separate narrative associated with each such program.) Answer "b" if a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented. Answer "c" if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" if no estimates of policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

In accordance with OBS methodology, the Executive Budget Proposal is not considered publicly available. Kindly see explanation provided in Question 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are presented.

Comments: The budget statement is presenting fiscal policies pursued by kingdom to continue spending on social benefits and subsidies schemes. also developing the effectiveness of social spending.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer. Please note that the budget statement for FY 2021 is considered an enacted budget in the questionnaire and is therefore assessed in Questions 59-63. We are maintaining answer "D" here.

53. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 53 asks about the budget timetable. An internal timetable is particularly important for the executive's management of the budget preparation process, in order to ensure that the executive accounts for the views of the different departments and agencies in the proposed budget. The timetable would, for instance, set deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. So that civil society is aware of the various steps in the budget formulation process, and when opportunities may exist to engage the executive, it is essential that this timetable be made available to the public.

To answer "a," the executive must prepare a detailed budget timetable and release it to the public. A "b" answer applies if the timetable is made public, but some details are not included. A "c" response applies if the timetable is made public, but many important details are excluded, reducing its value for those outside government. Answer "d" applies if no timetable is made available to the public. As long as a timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal is released, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Executive's Budget Proposal is not made publicly available.

Answer:

c. Yes, a timetable is released, but it lacks important details.

Source:

<https://mof.gov.sa/en/financialreport/budgetJourney/Pages/default.aspx>

Comment:

The Saudi Ministry of Finance posts a general timetable of the budget cycle on its website. However, important details are absent, notably clear dates and deadlines for the upcoming budget year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, a detailed timetable is released to the public.

Comments: The link shows the budget preparation timetable process <https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budgetJourney/Pages/default.aspx>

Researcher Response

Researcher supports revising the answer upwards to select option 'b'. However, the researcher notes that 'a' cannot be selected as information is still missing from the timetable provided, including for example specific dates for the current calendar year.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government and researcher for their comments. After further review, for cross-country comparability, the answer is revised down from "B" to "C". More details such as the timelines of submissions by specific authorities should be included for a "B" response (for example, see the budget timetable at the bottom of the Jordanian organic budget law, which scores a "B": <http://www.lob.jo/?v=1.12&url=ar/DraftDetails?DraftID:10389,AddComment:0,PageIndex:1&DraftTitle:%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%B8%D9%8A%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%86%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A9-%D9%88%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%83%D9%88%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-2020>)

54. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 54 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- nominal GDP level;
- inflation rate;
- real GDP growth; and
- interest rates.

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short- and long-term interest rates; the rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Source:

Page 26 of the Pre-budget Statement.

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

Page 26 of the Pre-budget Statement provides a table of 'Medium-term Economic Indicators Projections'. This includes some core macroeconomic forecast information, namely i) nominal GDP, ii) inflation rate, iii) real GDP growth. This is complemented with an explanatory narrative as well as information that can be seen as additional, regarding government policies and the impact of COVID-19 on the macroeconomic situation.

Importantly however, there is no reference to interest rates (one of the 4 core information categories), and as such the option "c" has been selected. If this had been included then option "a" could have been selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Comments: We understand that this is a core elements. We are going to take it in considerations in future report. However interest rates are not that significant in the KSA context as the exchange rate peg system imply following the US interest rates. So forecasting interest rates is more related to forecasting US interest rates. On the other hand we are covering the Macroeconomic section with analysis beyond what is requested as core information.

Researcher Response

Researcher agrees with elements of the Government response and notes that the absence of interest rates (explained in part by the Saudi exchange rate peg system) should be contextualised. As such, researcher supports the revision of the score to option 'b'.

55. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities and an estimate of total expenditures.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 55 focuses on the government's expenditure policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total expenditures.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed programmatic proposals (such detailed information is typically only presented in the budget itself), it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least total expenditures associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can include some detail, for instance, estimates provided by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications.

To answer “a,” the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government’s expenditure policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer “b,” the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer “b” is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A “c” answer applies if some information related to the government’s expenditure policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer “d” applies if no information on the government’s expenditure policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the government’s expenditure policies and priorities.

Source:

Pre-budget Statement pages 27, 30, 31-46.

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

The Pre-budget statement arguably meets the criteria for answer “a”

Page 27 presents the overall expenditure forecast for 2021 while Page 30 and Section C “Main Programs and Initiatives for FY 2020 and the Medium-term” on Page 31 reviews the key policy priorities around which this is based. While spending on specific policy initiatives is not clearly stated, sufficient explanation between pages 31 and the end of the document supports the selection of option “a” over option “b”.

In addition, in this round, some discussion is provided around the impact of the pandemic and resulting priorities. See the final paragraph on page 30 as an example of this.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

56. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government’s revenue policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of revenue policies and priorities and an estimate of total revenues.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 56 focuses on the government’s revenue policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether “core” information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of revenue policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total revenue.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed revenue proposals, it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can also include more detail, for instance, with estimates provided by revenue category – tax and non-tax – or some of the major individual sources of revenue, such as the Value Added Tax or the income tax.

To answer “a,” the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government’s revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer “b,” the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer “b” is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A “c” answer applies if some information related to the government’s revenue policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer “d” applies if no information on the government’s revenue policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the government’s revenue policies and priorities.

Source:

Pre-budget Statement pages 27 and 29.
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

Sufficient information is provided in the Pre-budget Statement for the selection of option "b".

An estimate of total revenue for the FY 2021 is provided on page 27 and a broad breakdown of revenue categories is provided for some historical revenue data on page 19.

Alongside this, a discussion of revenue policies and priorities is provided on page 29. While this brief it outlines key government priorities (e.g. continued expansion of non-oil revenue through implementing the expat levy, continuing the gradual correction of energy prices, an increase in VAT and an increase in customs duty). While a more detailed breakdown of estimated revenue would have allowed for the selection of answer "a", the information provided meets the core criteria required for the selection of option "b".

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: The pre-Budget statement in our understanding, and as required above, is about presenting main policies and priorities and not about detailed forecasting of revenues as in the final budget statement. In this regard, the report presented the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. This should be reflected in answer A.

Researcher Response

Researcher is inclined to maintain the selection of option 'b'. While the information regarding government's revenue policies and priorities is undeniably provided, to score 'a' it must go above and beyond what is presented in the PBS. Information beyond core elements is expected to include revenue associated with specific policies and priorities. This is not included in the PBS, warranting the selection of 'b'.

57. Does Pre-Budget Statement present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 57 asks whether the Pre-Budget Statement includes three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing needed in the upcoming budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the upcoming budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the upcoming budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt for at least the upcoming budget year. For a "b" answer, the Pre-Budget Statement must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the PBS must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the PBS.

Answer:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

Pre-budget Statement pages 27- 29.

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

The Pre-budget Statement meets two of the three key estimates related to borrowing and debt. These are: i) an estimation of the total debt burden at the end of 2021 (provided on page 27), and ii) the amount of net new borrowing needed in the upcoming budget year (which can be inferred from the table provided on page 27). In addition a narrative explanation is provided on pages 27-29 detailed the government strategy vis-à-vis debt.

However, costs associated with interest payments on the outstanding debt for 2021 is not provided. For this reason option "b" has been selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

58. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present estimates of total expenditures for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 58 asks about multi-year expenditure estimates in the Pre-Budget Statement.

To answer "a," expenditure estimates for at least two years beyond the upcoming budget year must be presented. The estimates must be for at least total expenditures, but could include more detail than just the aggregate total.

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented.

Source:

Pre-budget Statement Page 27.

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

Estimated are presented for the FY 2021, 2022 and 2023. These are also referenced in the explanatory narrative.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

59. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 59 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of the three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

b. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:
Enacted Budget page 41, and 55.
https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_EN.pdf

Comment:
The Enacted Budget provides an overview of expenditure by two of three categories. These include:

Economic classification provided in the table of page 41
Functional classification provided in the sectoral overview in section c. starting on page 42 and summarised in the table on page 55.

No detailed breakdown of expenditure by administrative unit is provided.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

59b. Based on the response to Question 59, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Enacted Budget:

Answer:
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:
See pages 41 and 55:
https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_EN.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

60. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 60 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all programs, which account for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:
d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:
Enacted Budget FY 2021
https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_EN.pdf

Comment:
As stated in OBS guidelines, the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. In this sense program level detail on expenditure is not provided. While the budget highlights expenditure on certain big ticket sectoral strategies, no information is provided on the spending of administrative units and specific program level spending by them. The option "d" has therefore been selected.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:
b. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents estimates for programs accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures.
Comments: We disagree. We are covering expenditures as in page () which explained very specific and detailed programs and projects budgeted in the FY 2021 budget explaining estimates for the main projects by deferent entities and sectors. the answer B is the most appropriate.

Researcher Response
Researcher maintains the selection of option 'd', referring to their initial response and reiterating the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. While expenditure is disaggregated by operational and capital classifications as well as by sector, expenditure is not classified at the program level.

61. Does the Enacted Budget present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 61 asks whether revenue estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:
a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:
Enacted Budget Pages 36, 37 and 41.
https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_EN.pdf

Comment:
Budget provides a breakdown of revenue by sources, namely tax (inclusive of i) Taxes on Income, Profits, and Capital Gains, ii) Taxes on Goods and Services, iii) Taxes on International Trade and Transactions, and iv) Other Taxes) as well as Other revenues (including oil) with some level of explanatory narrative for each.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

62. Does the Enacted Budget present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 62 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Enacted Budget. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue that account for less than two-thirds of revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

Enacted Budget Pages 36 and 37.

https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_EN.pdf

Comment:

The enacted budget lists various sources of revenue across tax-revenue categories. These include:

- i) Taxes on Income, Profits, and Capital Gains (SAR 13 bn)
- ii) Taxes on Goods and Services (SAR 209 bn)
- iii) Taxes on International Trade and Transactions (SAR 17 bn)

However, according to the OBS methodology, to qualify as an individual source of revenue and not simply a category, the tax listed should be at the 4th level of details (See GFS manual page 88 (<https://www.imf.org/external/Pubs/FT/GFS/Manual/2014/gfsfinal.pdf>)).

As such, option d must be selected while noting that reasonable detail is at least provided on the broad categories.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues.

Comments: Sources of revenues as per 3rd level of details were presented. It's important to note that due to the newly introduction of some revenues, this is not much different in many cases compared to the 4th level of details. Such as Taxes on international trades, Other taxes (Zakat). Also for income tax, the breakdown is only two items.

Researcher Response

Researcher is inclined to revise the question upwards and select option 'c'. While the rationale of the question closely resembles the answer in Question 60, the Government response rightly suggests that in some cases the 3rd and 4th level of detail are very close. As such, it can be said that individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues are provided.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer and researcher for their comments. After further review, IBP is revising the answer from "C" to "D". Although in some cases the 3rd and 4th level of details for sources of revenues are very close, for cross-country comparability across countries, this answer is best scored at "D".

63. Does the Enacted Budget present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 63 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year;*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Enacted Budget must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Enacted Budget must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

Enacted Budget Pages 38 and 41.

https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Budget2021_EN.pdf

Comment:

All three estimates related to borrowing and debt are provided in the enacted budget. These include:

The total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year and amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year can be found on page 41.

Interest payments on the debt for the budget year, referred to in Saudi Arabia as Financing Expenses can be found on pages 38 and 41.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

64. What information is provided in the Citizens Budget?

(The core information must include expenditure and revenue totals, the main policy initiatives in the budget, the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based, and contact information for follow-up by citizens.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 64 focuses on the content of the Citizens Budget, asking whether "core" information is presented. These core components include:

- *expenditure and revenue totals;*
- *the main policy initiatives in the budget;*
- *the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based; and*
- *contact information for follow-up by citizens.*

To answer "a," the Citizens Budget or supporting documentation must present all of the above core information as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Citizens Budget must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if the Citizens Budget includes some of the core components above, but other core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if a Citizens Budget is not published.

Answer:

a. The Citizens Budget provides information beyond the core elements.

Source:

https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Citizen_Ver_2021.pdf

Comment:

Alongside the core information provided below, the document has several other sections communicating additional information (e.g. process of budget information and overview of 2020 economic challenges):

Core information includes:

Expenditure and revenue totals (page 19 and 23);

The main policy initiatives in the budget (page 18)

The macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based (page 19); and

Contact information for follow-up by citizens (provided on the final page – 51).

Please note that last round of the survey, the contact information for follow-up by citizens included an e-mail address, while this round, it includes a telephone number, social media portals and website.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

65. How is the Citizens Budget disseminated to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 65 asks how the Citizens Budget is disseminated to the public. Citizens Budgets should be made available to a variety of audiences. Therefore paper versions and an Internet posting of a document might not be sufficient.

To answer "a," the executive must use three or more different types of creative media tools to reach the largest possible share of the population, including those who otherwise would not normally have access to budget documents or information. Dissemination would also be pursued at the very local level, so that the coverage is targeted both by geographic area and population group (e.g., women, elderly, low income, urban, rural, etc.). Option "b" applies if significant dissemination efforts are made through a combination of two means of communications, for instance, both posting the Citizens Budget on the executive's official website and distributing printed copies of it. Option "c" applies if the Citizens Budget is disseminated through only posting on the executive's official website. Option "d" applies when the executive does not publish a Citizens Budget.

Answer:

a. A Citizens Budget is disseminated widely through a combination of at least three different appropriate tools and media (such as the Internet, billboards, radio programs, newspapers, etc.).

Source:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1338918837174083585>
<https://mof.gov.sa/budget/2021/Pages/default.aspx>

Comment:

The citizens budget is disseminated through national TV attention, major newspapers/websites, social media (e.g. MoF twitter) and on the MoF website.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

66. Has the executive established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information prior to publishing the Citizens Budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 66 asks whether the executive has established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information before publishing a Citizens Budget. What the public wants to know about the budget might differ from the information the executive includes in technical documents that comprise the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget; similarly, different perspectives might exist on how the budget should be presented, and this may vary depending on the context. For this reason the executive should consult with the public on the content and presentation of the Citizens Budget.

To answer "a," the executive must have established mechanisms to consult with the public, and these mechanisms for consultation are both accessible and widely used by the public. Such mechanisms can include focus groups, social networks, surveys, hotlines, and meetings/events in universities or other locations where people gather to discuss public issues. In countries where Citizens Budgets are consistently produced and released, it may be sufficient for the government to provide the public with contact information and feedback opportunities, and subsequently use the feedback to improve its management of public resources.

Option "b" applies if the executive has established mechanisms for consultation that are accessible to the public, but that the public nonetheless does not use frequently. That is, the public does not typically engage with the executive on the content of the Citizens Budget, even though the executive has created

opportunities for such consultation. Option "c" applies if the executive has established mechanism for consultation with the public, but they are poorly designed and thus not accessible to the public. Option "d" applies if the executive has not created any mechanisms to seek feedback from the public on the content of the Citizens Budget.

Answer:

d. No, the executive has not established any mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget.

Source:

https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Citizen_Ver_2021.pdf

Researcher's own knowledge and communication with MoF bureaucrats (04/2021).

Comment:

While there are several workshops held online and dedicated events at universities through which the MoF present the findings of the budget and engage the public on various issues, none are dedicated to collecting input into the Citizens Budget. Although internal sources at the MoF confirm that many such comments and calls received provide input for the Citizen's Budget this is not sufficient for the OBS methodology as proof is required of dedicated mechanisms/events for this purpose.

If this can be provided the score can be revised upwards.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the executive has established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget, and these mechanisms are accessible and widely used by the public.

Comments: • Through its account on the social networking site "Twitter", in cooperation with the "Finance Academy", the Center for Communication and Financial Knowledge "Completed" held a knowledge competition under the title "Completed Challenge", as part of its efforts to engage the community interested in financial and economic issues. The competition received wide participation from the followers of the "Mutamam" account, as it addressed the definition of saving tools and methods, as well as clarifying its importance in achieving financial security for the individual. Khaled, Samar Al-Anazi, and Youssef Al-Harbi, a free training course approved by the "Finance Academy". It is worth noting that the "Completed Challenge" competition comes within a series of knowledge competitions and as one of the activities held by the Center for Communication and Financial Knowledge with the aim of enhancing sources of financial knowledge, and enriching financial and economic awareness and culture in its various fields. <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news1172021.aspx> https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1423585588582756352 https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1425025501429747722 • The Center for Communication and Financial Knowledge launched a complementary podcast initiative, which was its first launch, during which it hosted experts in the world of finance and economics, who transferred their experiences and expertise, to be a reference that enhances the economic awareness of community members In addition, the pre-budget statement's main objective is to provide to the public the government's main macroeconomic assumptions that will represent the base for budget formulation. It also includes main fiscal targets including budget deficit, revenues, expenditure and financing, as well as presenting main policies and reforms concerning revenue and expenditure including on social spending and public investments and projects. The published report is aiming to initiate public discussion around these issues three months before the budget approval which helps to positively impact the budget formulation process, https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1422957077438345218 <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/Pages/rss.aspx> Also TV interviews and Media Reports of Ministry Officials https://www.mof.gov.sa/mediacenter/Interviews_and_media_reports/Pages/meetings.aspx

Researcher Response

The Researcher commends the Government on its various initiatives, including the 'Completed Challenge' and the 'Podcast Initiative'. These will go some way towards supporting public engagement in the budgeting process and if firmly supported. At the same time, the researcher notes the specifics of this question regard the public's input into requirements from the Citizen's Budget. Links provided in the Government's response fail to adequately address this, with none directly showing engagement on information to be included in the citizen's report prior to its release. As such researcher maintains the selection of option 'd'.

67. Are "citizens" versions of budget documents published throughout the budget process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 67 asks if "citizens" versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget process. While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle.

To answer "a," a citizens version of at least one budget document is published for each of the four stages of the budget process (budget formulation, enactment, execution, and audit) – for a total of at least four citizens budget documents throughout the process. Option "b" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process. Option "c" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least one of the four stages of the budget process. Select option "d" if no "citizens" version of budget documents is published.

Answer:

c. A citizens version of budget documents is published for at least one stage of the budget process.

Source:

https://cdn.mof.gov.sa/mofportal/Citizen_Ver_2021.pdf

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/Documents/Pre-Bud%202021%20Eng.pdf>

Comment:

A citizens budget is provided primarily for the enacted budget stage. However, based on the fact that the Pre-budget Statement is easily digestible to the public, this may be considered to be functioning as a citizens version.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

While the current form of numerous budget documents is easily understood, according to OBS methodology this is not sufficient for a citizens version. A Citizen's Version must be published separately to the document it is describing. There is however a citizen's version for one stage, namely the official citizens report.

IBP Comment

IBP agrees with the researcher. This question should be scored "C".

68. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 68 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," actual expenditures must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if actual expenditures are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by any of the three classifications in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

b. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q1_A_2020.pdf

References to Page Numbers are Made to IYR for Q1

Comment:

In Year Reports provide an overview of expenditure by two of three categories. These include:

Economic classification (see page 15 of IYR Q1)

Functional classification/broad sectoral classifications (see page 16 of IYR Q1)

No detailed breakdown of expenditure by administrative unit is provided.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

68b. Based on the response to Question 68, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the In-Year Reports:

Answer:
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:
https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q1_A_2020.pdf

Comment:
See pages 15-16 of the In-Year Report from Quarter 1

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

69. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 69 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by program in In-Year Reports.

Answer:
d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program.

Source:
https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q1_A_2020.pdf

Comment:
As stated in OBS guidelines, the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. As no information is provided on the spending of administrative units, specific program level spending is also absent. The option "d" has therefore been selected.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

70. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date expenditures with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 70 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual expenditures to-date with either the enacted levels or actual expenditures for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date expenditures in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast expenditures (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q1_A_2020.pdf

Comment:

Pages 15 and 16 (IYR Q1) provide a comparison between expenditure for 2020 and 2019.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

71. Do In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 71 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual revenues by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category.

Source:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q1_A_2020.pdf

Comment:

Using the Q1 report as an illustrative example, IYRs do present actual revenue by several categories, including several tax categories, oil revenue and other sources. This can be seen in Section 4 (pages 11 and 12 in IYR Q1).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

72. Do In-Year Reports present the individual sources of revenue for actual revenues collected?

GUIDELINES:

Question 72 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual collections of individual sources of revenue (such as income taxes, VAT, etc.). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue collected, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue that account for less than two-thirds of all revenue collected. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of actual revenue are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, In-Year Reports do not present individual sources of actual revenue.

Source:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q1_A_2020.pdf

In Q1 report revenue by source is listed on Page 11.

Comment:

IYRs list various sources of revenue across tax-revenue categories. However, according to the OBS methodology, to qualify as an individual source of revenue and not simply a category, the tax listed should be at the 4th level of details (See GFS manual page 88 (<https://www.imf.org/external/Pubs/FT/GFS/Manual/2014/gfsfinal.pdf>)).

As such, option d must be selected while noting that reasonable detail is at least provided on the broad categories.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenue.

Comments: Sources of revenues as per 3rd level of details were presented. It's important to note that due to the newly introduction of some revenues, this is not much different in many cases compared to the 4th level of details. Such as Taxes on international trades, Other taxes (Zakat). Also for income tax, the breakdown is only two items.

Researcher Response

In a similar light to the response in Question 62, Researcher is inclined to revise the question upwards and select option 'c'. The Government response rightly suggests that in some cases the 3rd and 4th level of detail are very close. As such, it can be said that individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues are provided.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer and researcher for their comments. After further review, IBP is revising the answer from "C" to "D". Although in some cases the 3rd and 4th level of details for sources of revenues are very close, for cross-country comparability across countries, this answer is best scored at "D".

73. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date revenues with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 73 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual revenues to-date with either the enacted levels or actual revenues for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date revenues in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast revenues (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q1_A_2020.pdf

Comment:

Comparison is made to previous year (FY 2019) as seen on page 12 in IYR Q1.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

74. Do In-Year Reports present three estimates related to actual government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing; the total debt outstanding; and interest payments?

GUIDELINES:

Question 74 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year; and*
- *the interest payments to-date on the outstanding debt.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, In-Year Reports must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, IYRs must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q1_A_2020.pdf

Comment:

All three estimates are presented in the IYRs, Section 7. Taking IYR Q1 as an example, the following can be found:
The amount of net new borrowing can be inferred by balance at the start of the period and balance at the end of Q1 on page 20
The total debt outstanding is presented on page 20
Interest payments can be seen under expenditures on page 14 under the category financing expenses.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

75. Do In-Year Reports present information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding?

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 75 focuses on the composition of government debt, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 74, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens and banks and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt to-date as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

https://www.mof.gov.sa/financialreport/budget2020/2020/Q1_A_2020.pdf

Comment:

There are elements provided for two parts of core information in the IYR. This includes:

Interest rates are not provided in great details although debt servicing costs are provided (see financing expenses category under expenditure on page 14 of Q1 report)

Whether the debt is domestic or external for the current for the period in questions (see debt profile on page 20), although this is not provided for total debt.

However, given that both elements have been included, it is sufficient for the selection of C, noting the need for improvements as mentioned above.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the composition of the total actual debt outstanding.

Comments: In fact, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented. In addition to the mentioned two estimates in the answer, interest payments are also presented in P.14 (the terminology used in KSA Budget is "Financing Expenses" representing Chapter three according to GFS2014).

Researcher Response

The availability of interest rates (under different terminology) and the domestic/international nature of debt, is responsible for the researcher selection option 'c'. Unfortunately not all information is provided, e.g. the maturity profile of all debt is not included. Researcher maintains the selection of option 'c'.

76. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 76 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated macroeconomic forecast and explain all of the differences between the initial forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the updated forecast. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the macroeconomic forecast must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated forecasts are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the

differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the macroeconomic forecast has not been updated.

Answer:

b. Yes, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated forecasts is presented.

Source:

See response to MYR-2.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated forecasts is presented.

Comments: The Mid year review was Published in the same report of the Pre-Budget statement in the first section (p.16 to p.18) and (23 & 24).

Accordingly this section need to be revised answering all the following questions. In the pages clarify above mentioned the real GDP growth, inflation rate, level and growth of nominal GDP projected for 2020. As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021.

Researcher Response

Researcher agrees with the response of the IBP Team.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer for this helpful comment. For the OBS 2021, IBP will consider the 2020 Saudi Pre-Budget Statement a Mid-Year Review for the purpose of the survey. Although the document's purpose is clearly that of a PBS, it does include separate stand-alone sets of information that are updating 2020 assumptions for budget implementation: - Published September 30, 2020 - exactly three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year - Page 19: Actual year-to-date figures for H1 (the first half of the year) in a table - Discussion of how earlier trends are affecting the rest of the budget year 2020 (see pages 16-23), such as useful details on implementation of programs (e.g. p. 23 on the implementation of the housing program and National Transformation Program) - Updated estimates for the full budget year (see page 7 - GDP projected to record a decline of 3.8% in FY 2020; see page 8 - total revenues projected to reach SAR 770 billion; see page 9 - budget deficit anticipated at 12% of GDP for FY 2020 and total expenditures expected to exceed the approved budget of SAR 1,020 billion to reach SAR 1,068 billion; see page 10 - total debt is expected to reach SAR 854 billion by the end of FY 2020) Thus, for this question, option "B" is selected.

77. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 77 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of expenditure for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated expenditure estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. The expenditure estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated expenditure estimates, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates is presented.

Source:

Comment:

See Question MYR-2.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates is presented.

Comments: The Mid year review was Published in the same report of the pre-Budget statement in the first section (p.19 to p.23) and (p.27 to p.30). Accordingly this section need to be revised answering all the following questions. As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer for this helpful comment. For the OBS 2021, IBP will consider the 2020 Saudi Pre-Budget Statement a Mid-Year Review for the purpose of the survey. Although the document's purpose is clearly that of a PBS, it does include separate stand-alone sets of information that are updating 2020 assumptions for budget implementation: - Published September 30, 2020 - exactly three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year - Page 19: Actual year-to-date figures for H1 (the first half of the year) in a table - Discussion of how earlier trends are affecting the rest of the budget year 2020 (see pages 16-23), such as useful details on implementation of programs (e.g. p. 23 on the implementation of the housing program and National Transformation Program) - Updated estimates for the full budget year (see page 7 - GDP projected to record a decline of 3.8% in FY 2020; see page 8 - total revenues projected to reach SAR 770 billion; see page 9 - budget deficit anticipated at 12% of GDP for FY 2020 and total expenditures expected to exceed the approved budget of SAR 1,020 billion to reach SAR 1,068 billion; see page 10 - total debt is expected to reach SAR 854 billion by the end of FY 2020) Thus, for this question, option "B" is selected.

78. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 78 asks if expenditure estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Comment:

See Question MYR-2.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents expenditure estimates by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: The Mid year review was Published in the same report of the Pre-Budget statement in the first section in page19 there is a table clarify expenditures in GFS classification . Accordingly this section need to be revised answering all the following questions. As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer for this helpful comment. For the OBS 2021, IBP will consider the 2020 Saudi Pre-Budget Statement a Mid-Year

Review for the purpose of the survey. Although the document's purpose is clearly that of a PBS, it does include separate stand-alone sets of information that are updating 2020 assumptions for budget implementation: - Published September 30, 2020 - exactly three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year - Page 19: Actual year-to-date figures for H1 (the first half of the year) in a table - Discussion of how earlier trends are affecting the rest of the budget year 2020 (see pages 16-23), such as useful details on implementation of programs (e.g. p. 23 on the implementation of the housing program and National Transformation Program) - Updated estimates for the full budget year (see page 7 - GDP projected to record a decline of 3.8% in FY 2020; see page 8 - total revenues projected to reach SAR 770 billion; see page 9 - budget deficit anticipated at 12% of GDP for FY 2020 and total expenditures expected to exceed the approved budget of SAR 1,020 billion to reach SAR 1,068 billion; see page 10 - total debt is expected to reach SAR 854 billion by the end of FY 2020) However, we are scoring this particular question "D". While the table on page 19 noted by the government reviewer does indeed present year-to-date expenditure estimates by economic classification, updated expenditure estimates for the full fiscal year 2020 are not presented by economic classification.

78b. Based on the response to Question 78, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Mid-Year Review:

Answer:
None of the above

Source:

Comment:
See Question MYR-2.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The answer should be Economic classification.

Comments: The Mid year review was Published in the same report of the Pre-Budget statement in the first section in page19 there is a table clarify expenditures in GFS classification. Accordingly this section need to be revised answering all the following questions.

IBP Comment
Please see the note in Question 78.

79. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 79 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by program for the budget year underway. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:
d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

Comment:
See Question MYR-2.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents estimates for programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures.

Comments: The Mid year review was Published in the same report of the Pre-Budget statement in the first section in pages 22-23. Accordingly this section need to be revised answering all the following questions. As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer for this helpful comment. For the OBS 2021, IBP will consider the 2020 Saudi Pre-Budget Statement a Mid-Year Review for the purpose of the survey. Although the document's purpose is clearly that of a PBS, it does include separate stand-alone sets of information that are updating 2020 assumptions for budget implementation: - Published September 30, 2020 - exactly three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year - Page 19: Actual year-to-date figures for H1 (the first half of the year) in a table - Discussion of how earlier trends are affecting the rest of the budget year 2020 (see pages 16-23), such as useful details on implementation of programs (e.g. p. 23 on the implementation of the housing program and National Transformation Program) - Updated estimates for the full budget year (see page 7 - GDP projected to record a decline of 3.8% in FY 2020; see page 8 - total revenues projected to reach SAR 770 billion; see page 9 - budget deficit anticipated at 12% of GDP for FY 2020 and total expenditures expected to exceed the approved budget of SAR 1,020 billion to reach SAR 1,068 billion; see page 10 - total debt is expected to reach SAR 854 billion by the end of FY 2020) However, we are scoring this particular question "D" as updated expenditure estimates for the full fiscal year are not provided for individual programs.

80. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 80 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of revenue for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated revenue estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the revenue estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated revenue estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the revenue estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

b. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is presented.

Source:

Comment:

See Question MYR-2.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is presented.

Comments: The Mid year review was Published in the same report of the pre-Budget statement in the first section (p.19 to p.23) and (p.27 to p.30). Accordingly this section need to be revised answering all the following questions. As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer for this helpful comment. For the OBS 2021, IBP will consider the 2020 Saudi Pre-Budget Statement a Mid-Year Review for the purpose of the survey. Although the document's purpose is clearly that of a PBS, it does include separate stand-alone sets of

information that are updating 2020 assumptions for budget implementation: - Published September 30, 2020 - exactly three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year - Page 19: Actual year-to-date figures for H1 (the first half of the year) in a table - Discussion of how earlier trends are affecting the rest of the budget year 2020 (see pages 16-23), such as useful details on implementation of programs (e.g. p. 23 on the implementation of the housing program and National Transformation Program) - Updated estimates for the full budget year (see page 7 – GDP projected to record a decline of 3.8% in FY 2020; see page 8 – total revenues projected to reach SAR 770 billion; see page 9 – budget deficit anticipated at 12% of GDP for FY 2020 and total expenditures expected to exceed the approved budget of SAR 1,020 billion to reach SAR 1,068 billion; see page 10 – total debt is expected to reach SAR 854 billion by the end of FY 2020) Thus, for this question, option "B" is selected.

81. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 81 asks whether revenue estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:

Comment:

See Question MYR-2.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents revenue estimates by category.

Comments: The Mid year review was Published in the same report of the Pre-Budget statement in the first section in page19 there is a table clarify revenues in GFS classification. Accordingly this section need to be revised answering all the following questions. As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer for this helpful comment. For the OBS 2021, IBP will consider the 2020 Saudi Pre-Budget Statement a Mid-Year Review for the purpose of the survey. Although the document's purpose is clearly that of a PBS, it does include separate stand-alone sets of information that are updating 2020 assumptions for budget implementation: - Published September 30, 2020 - exactly three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year - Page 19: Actual year-to-date figures for H1 (the first half of the year) in a table - Discussion of how earlier trends are affecting the rest of the budget year 2020 (see pages 16-23), such as useful details on implementation of programs (e.g. p. 23 on the implementation of the housing program and National Transformation Program) - Updated estimates for the full budget year (see page 7 – GDP projected to record a decline of 3.8% in FY 2020; see page 8 – total revenues projected to reach SAR 770 billion; see page 9 – budget deficit anticipated at 12% of GDP for FY 2020 and total expenditures expected to exceed the approved budget of SAR 1,020 billion to reach SAR 1,068 billion; see page 10 – total debt is expected to reach SAR 854 billion by the end of FY 2020) However, we are scoring this particular question "B". The PBS does not provide updated revenue estimates for the full 2020 budget year by category.

82. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 82 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway are presented in the Mid-Year Review. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenues, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account

for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

Comment:

See Question MYR-2.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021.

IBP Comment

See comment in Question 81.

83. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 83 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- *The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, and explain all of the differences between the initial estimates presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the estimates of borrowing and debt must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the estimates of borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of government borrowing and debt have been updated, and information on some of the differences between the original and updated estimates is presented.

Source:

Comment:

See Question MYR-2.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of government borrowing and debt have been updated, and information on some of the differences between the original and updated estimates is presented.

Comments: The Mid year review was Published in the same report of the pre-Budget statement in the first section (p.19 to p.23) and (p.27 to p.30). Accordingly this section need to be revised answering all the following questions. As per a discussion with the IBP organization, they agreed to combine Mid-Year Review with Pre-Budget Statement, in case of fulfilling the purpose in the budget cycle of both documents, which was done in the Pre-Budget Statement FY 2021.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer for this helpful comment. For the OBS 2021, IBP will consider the 2020 Saudi Pre-Budget Statement a Mid-Year Review for the purpose of the survey. Although the document's purpose is clearly that of a PBS, it does include separate stand-alone sets of information that are updating 2020 assumptions for budget implementation: - Published September 30, 2020 - exactly three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year - Page 19: Actual year-to-date figures for H1 (the first half of the year) in a table - Discussion of how earlier trends are affecting the rest of the budget year 2020 (see pages 16-23), such as useful details on implementation of programs (e.g. p. 23 on the implementation of the housing program and National Transformation Program) - Updated estimates for the full budget year (see page 7 - GDP projected to record a decline of 3.8% in FY 2020; see page 8 - total revenues projected to reach SAR 770 billion; see page 9 - budget deficit anticipated at 12% of GDP for FY 2020 and total expenditures expected to exceed the approved budget of SAR 1,020 billion to reach SAR 1,068 billion; see page 10 - total debt is expected to reach SAR 854 billion by the end of FY 2020) Thus, for this question, option "B" is selected.

84. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 84 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual expenditures for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all expenditures, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Pages 13-16

Comment:

Estimates for the difference between enacted levels and actual outcomes are presented by economic classifications (page 15) and functional (sectoral) classifications (page 16). A narrative is provided between pages 13 and 16.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

85. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 85 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question:

administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. Answer "b" if expenditure estimates are presented by two of these three classifications. Answer "c" if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

b. Yes, the Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Pages 13-16 present expenditure estimates by two of three classifications, namely economic and functional.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

85b. Based on the response to Question 85, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

See pages 13-16

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

86. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 86 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. Answer "c"

if the Year-End Report presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" if expenditures are not presented by program in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

As stated in OBS guidelines, the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. As in other budget documents specific program level spending is absent. The option "d" has therefore been selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Year-End Report presents estimates for programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures.

Comments: page 15 to 16 is presenting main programs including explanation on the actual execution of these programs.

Researcher Response

Researcher maintains the selection of option 'd', referring to their initial response and reiterating the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. Pages referenced in the Government response refer to functional classification rather than at the level of program.

87. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Question 87 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual revenues for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all revenues, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Page 15 presents differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for major revenues categories.

Narrative discussion of revenues is presented on pages 11 and 12.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

88. Does the Year-End Report present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 88 asks whether revenue estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by "category"—that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

These are presented by several categories including:

Taxes on income, profits, and capital gains

Taxes on goods and services

Taxes on international trade and transactions

Other Taxes (e.g. Zakat)

Oil Revenue

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

89. Does the Year-End Report present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 89 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Year-End Report. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

The Year-End Report lists various sources of revenue across tax-revenue categories. However, according to the OBS methodology, to qualify as an individual source of revenue and not simply a category, the tax listed should be at the 4th level of details (See GFS manual page 88 (<https://www.imf.org/external/Pubs/FT/GFS/Manual/2014/gfsfinal.pdf>)).

As such, option d must be selected while noting that reasonable detail is at least provided on the broad categories.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues.
Comments: Sources of revenues as per 3rd level of details were presented. It's important to note that due to the newly introduction of some revenues, this is not much different in many cases compared to the 4th level of details. Such as Taxes on international trades, Other taxes (Zakat). Also for income tax, the breakdown is only two items.

Researcher Response

Researcher is inclined to revise the question upwards and select option 'c'. The Government response rightly suggests that in some cases the 3rd and 4th level of detail are very close. As such, it can be said that individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues are provided.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer and researcher for their comments. After further review, IBP is revising the answer from "C" to "D". Although in some cases the 3rd and 4th level of details for sources of revenues are very close, for cross-country comparability across countries, this answer is best scored at "D".

90. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 90 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates and actual outcomes are provided for:

- the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year (including domestic international financing specifics);
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year (see financing expenses in expenditures).

However neither interest rates nor the maturity profile of the debt (and differences in original estimates and outcomes) are not included. As such option "C" has been selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

90b. Based on the response to Question 90, check the box(es) to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, have the differences between the original forecast and the actual outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year
The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year
The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

IBP Comment

It seems the government reviewer may have inadvertently disagreed with this question, given that they agreed in Question 90, so we are maintaining the answer here.

91. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 91 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast in the Executive's Budget Proposal. Core components include estimates of the nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates, although the importance of other macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil, can vary from country to country.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of the differences between all the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Differences between some (although not all) macroeconomic forecasts is presented. Namely, this includes:

- Real GDP Growth
- Nominal GDP (SAR Billion)
- Inflation

While differences between estimated and actual interest rates are absent, given the inclusion of additional information, such as narrative discussion on oil prices, the option 'b' has been selected.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

91b. Based on the response to Question 91, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast have the differences between the original forecast and the outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:
Nominal GDP level
Inflation rate
Real GDP growth
Information beyond the core elements

Source:

Comment:
Information beyond the core elements has been selected based on narrative discussion of oil prices.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

92. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 92 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 49 for the nonfinancial data on inputs included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:
d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:
<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:
There is no consideration of non-financial data on inputs in the YER.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

93. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 93 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 92).

Refer to Question 50 for the nonfinancial data on results included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

There is no consideration of non-financial data on results in the YER.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

94. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 94 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 52 for assistance to the most impoverished populations in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

While there is some mention of spending categories that might be considered benefitting the country's most impoverished (particularly reference to expenditure on social benefits increasing by 11.8%) there is no analysis of how this has benefited such groups. It is therefore deemed insufficient for the selection of any answer other than "d".

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: In page 16 we covered detailed expenditure of the social support targeting the country's most impoverished, including detailed programs and allocation for these objectives such as citizen account and social solidarity programs. In addition, another sections of programs covered health services as well as housing that are targeting low income groups. We find it very surprising ignoring this important part of the report which was added for the first time and not to be considered in the answers.

Researcher Response

Researcher disagrees with the Government Response that the level of detail provided is enough to warrant the selection of option 'b'. Even though page 16 shows the aggregate spending in the social sector, since this is not broken down further, we could not score it higher than a "C". To select a higher score, a more comprehensive overview of spending intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations must be included.

95. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 95 asks whether the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 33 for estimates of extra-budgetary funds in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome is not presented.

Source:

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2019/Documents/FY-Eng%202019.pdf>

Comment:

No estimation of extra-budgetary funds were published in any other budget documents. As such these are equally absent in the YER and option "d" is selected.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

96. Is a financial statement included as part of the Year-End Report or released as a separate report?

GUIDELINES:

Question 96 asks whether a financial statement is included as part of the Year-End Report, or whether it is released as a separate report. The financial statement can include some or all of the following elements: a cash flow statement, an operating statement, a balance sheet, and notes on accounting. For purposes of responding to this question, the financial statement in question does not need to be audited. For an example of a financial statement, see the document "Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand 2013" (<https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2013-10/fsgnz-year-jun13.pdf>)

To answer "a," a financial statement must either be included in the Year-End Report or must be released as a separate report. Answer "a" applies if a financial statement is released as a separate report, even if the Year-End Report is not publicly available. Answer "b" applies if no financial statement is released either

as part of the Year-End Report or as a separate report.

Answer:

b. No, a financial statement is neither part of the Year-End Report nor released as a separate report.

Source:

Comment:

No financial statement is provided in either format.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: Not applicable as the GFS is applied on a cash basis.

Researcher Response

Saudi Reflects a hybrid system in a large number of respects. As an absolute monarch undertaking significant structural transformation, certain functions that would normatively come under an executive as de facto being practices at other levels in order to secure reform. Nonetheless, according to OBS methodology, releasing a separate financial statement report as part of the YER should apply regardless of cash or accrual accounting. As such the researcher maintains the selection of "b".

97. What type of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) has the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conducted and made available to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 97 asks about the types of audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). There are three basic types of audits:

- *Financial audits are intended to determine if an entity's financial information is accurate (free from errors or fraud) and presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting and regulatory framework. See ISSAI 200 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more detail.*
- *Compliance audits look at the extent to which the relevant regulations and procedures have been followed. See ISSAI 400 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-400-compliance-audit-principles/>) for more details.*
- *Performance audits assess whether activities are adhering to the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. See ISSAI 300 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-300-performance-audit-principles/>) for more details.*

Financial and compliance audits are more common than performance audits, which usually occur only once a performance framework has been agreed upon. In some countries, the SAI's mandate limits the type of audit it can conduct.

To answer "a," the SAI must have conducted all three types of audit – financial, compliance, and performance – and made all of them available to the public. A "b" response applies if the SAI has conducted two of the three audit types, and a "c" applies if it has conducted only one type of audit. Answers "b" and "c" may be selected even if the Audit Report is not publicly available, as long as the SAI has conducted compliance or performance audits and made them available to the public. A "d" response applies if the SAI has not conducted any of the three types of audits, or has not made them available to the public.

Answer:

d. The SAI has not conducted any of the three types of audits, or has not made them available to the public.

Source:

<https://www.gca.gov.sa/PageDetails?id=6>

Researcher's own knowledge.

Comment:

The SAI in Saudi Arabia is the General Court of Audit. The GCA conducts several annual reports which are submitted to the executive. These include:

- GCA's annual report on Financial and Performance Audits.
- GCA's annual report on the State Final Account.
- GCA's Report on its achievements and activities.
- Public and special reports.
- Specialised regional reports

However, these are not made public by the GCA upon completion. For this reason option "d" has been selected.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).
Comments: The GCA has conducted all three types of audits (compliance, financial, or performance).

Researcher Response
Researcher appreciates clarification from Government that all three types of audit are completed. However, based on OBS methodology, these have to be released to the public within necessary timeframes to be considered publicly available. Researcher maintains option 'd'.

98. What percentage of expenditures within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 98 focuses on the coverage of audits by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), asking what percentage of expenditures within the SAI's mandate has been audited.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to budgetary central government (ministries, departments, and agencies) that are within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 99 addresses audits of extra-budgetary funds.) Further, the question does not apply to "secret programs" (for example, security-related expenditures that are confidential). Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. Financial audits and compliance audits, or a hybrid of the two, can be taken into account to answer this question. Performance audits should not be considered for this question.

To answer "a," all expenditures within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if at least two-thirds, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response is appropriate when less than two-thirds of expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies when no expenditures have been audited.

Answer:

d. No expenditures have been audited.

Source:

Kindly see response to Section 1 AR-2.

Comment:

It is worth noting that the GCA has the authority to audit at east two-third of expenditures, however while the audit Report is not made publicly available, as such selection of option "d" is confirmed.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:
a. All expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited.
Comments: All expenditures within the GCA's mandate have been audited.

Researcher Response
Researcher agrees with the comment made by the IBP Team.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Since the Audit Report is not made available to the public, but rather is only used for internal purposes, we cannot score this question higher than a "D". We would encourage the GCA to publish their internal audit reports online.

99. What percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 99 focuses on audits of extra-budgetary funds, asking what percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited. These funds, although technically outside the budget, are governmental in nature and thus should be subject to the same audit requirement as other government programs.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 98 addresses audits of budgetary central government.) Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

To answer "a," all extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies if extra-budgetary funds have not been audited.

Answer:

d. No extra-budgetary funds have been audited.

Source:

See previous question.

Comment:

Audit Report is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. All extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Comments: All extra-budgetary funds within the GCA's mandate have been audited.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Since the Audit Report is not made available to the public, but rather is only used for internal purposes, we cannot score this question higher than a "D". We would encourage the GCA to publish their internal audit reports online.

100. Does the annual Audit Report(s) prepared by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) include an executive summary?

GUIDELINES:

Question 100 asks whether the annual Audit Report includes an executive summary. Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. The Audit Report can be a fairly technical document, and an executive summary of the report's findings can help make it more accessible to the media and the public.

To answer "a," the Audit Report must include at least one executive summary summarizing the report's content. Answer "b" applies if the Audit Report does not include an executive summary, or the Audit Report is not made publicly available.

Answer:

b. No, the annual Audit Report(s) does not include an executive summary.

Source:

Meeting with MoF internal staff

Comment:

It is worth noting that the internal Audit Report does have an executive summary, however since it is not considered publicly available, option 'b' has been selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the annual Audit Report(s) includes one or more executive summaries summarizing the report's content.

Comments: The annual Audit Report includes one or more executive summaries summarizing the report's content.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Since the Audit Report is not made available to the public, but rather is only used for internal purposes, we cannot score this question higher than a "B". We would encourage the GCA to publish their internal audit reports online.

101. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?

GUIDELINES:

Question 101 asks whether the executive reports to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The ultimate purpose of audits is to verify that the budget was executed in a manner consistent with existing law, and to hold the government accountable for this execution and its future improvement. The extent to which audits achieve the latter depends on whether there is adequate and timely follow-up on the recommendations provided in the SAI's audit reports.

To answer "a," the executive must report publicly on the steps it has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address audit finding, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if the executive does not report at all on its steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

d. No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings.

Source:

Comment:

While the executive reports that audit report findings have been observed and will be addressed, specific details are not made public, nor are the steps taken to address them. The executive does however make statements that findings have been received and considered for implementation but details are not formally published.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: The annual Audit Report includes steps it has taken to address audit findings.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Since the Audit Report is not made available to the public, but rather is only used for internal purposes, we cannot score this question higher than a "D". We would encourage the GCA to publish their internal audit reports online, and the executive to release to the public a report that tracks steps taken to address audit recommendations.

102. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?

GUIDELINES:

Question 102 asks whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or the legislature track actions by the executive to address audit recommendations. After audit results and recommendations are discussed and validated by the legislature, the executive is normally asked to take certain actions to address the audit findings. For accountability purposes, the public needs to be informed about the status of those actions, and steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations. In addition to the executive reporting on its actions (see Question 101), the SAI and legislature – as the key oversight institutions – have a responsibility to keep the public informed by tracking the executive's progress in addressing audit recommendations.

To answer "a," the SAI or legislature must report publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the SAI or legislature reports publicly on the steps the executive has taken, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if neither the SAI nor the legislature reports on the executive's steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

d. No, neither the SAI nor legislature reports on steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations.

Source:

Comment:

While audit recommendations are discussed internally no report is publicly released on actions taken to address Audit recommendations. As this is the primary criteria, option "d" has been selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: The annual Reports tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer. Since the Audit Report is not made available to the public, but rather is only used for internal purposes, we cannot score this question higher than a "D". We would encourage the GCA to publish their internal audit reports online, and to release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations.

103. Is there an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) that conducts budget analyses for the budget formulation and/or approval process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 103 examines whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) exists that contributes budget analyses to the budget formulation and/or approval process. According to the Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions, adopted by the OECD Council in 2014, "independent fiscal institutions are publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance", and with "a forward-looking ex ante diagnostic task". In practice, they come in two main forms:

- *Parliamentary budget offices (also known as PBOs) such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States (<https://www.cbo.gov/>), the Parliamentary Budget Office in South Africa (<https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliamentary-budget-office>), and the Center for Public Finance Studies in Mexico (Centro de Estudios de las Finanzas Públicas, <http://www.cefp.gob.mx/>); or*
- *Fiscal councils such as the Office for Budget Responsibility in the United Kingdom (<https://obr.uk/>) and the High Council for Public Finances in France (Haut Conseil des finances publiques, <https://www.hcfp.fr/>).*

For more information, see von Trapp et al. 'Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions and Case Studies', OECD Journal on Budgeting 15:2 (special issue, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/budget-15-5jm2795tv625>.

To answer "a," there must be an IFI, and its independence must be set in law. In addition, it must have sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks. Answer "b" applies if an IFI exists, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources are insufficient to carry out its tasks. Answer "c" applies if an IFI exists, but its independence is not set in law and it lacks sufficient staffing and resources. Answer "d" applies if no IFI exists.

If the answer is "a," "b," or "c," please specify in the comments the name and type of IFI that exists (e.g., parliamentary budget office or fiscal council). If the answer is "a" or "b," identify the law that guarantees its independence, and provide evidence in support of the assessment of the adequacy of its staffing and resources. This can include the IFI's total budget allocation over recent years, any press reports that discuss perceived funding shortfalls, assessments by international organizations, and/or information from interviews with staff of the IFI.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI.

Source:

Researcher's own knowledge and discussion with MoF staff.

Comment:

Independent Fiscal Institutions (IFIs) is instrumental to transparent budget processes and might come in different forms including parliamentary budget offices and fiscal councils. Unfortunately, however, Saudi Arabia does not have a body which can claim to meet the requirements of an IFI.

This is based on the OECD's definition of IFIs as 'publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance'.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, there is an IFI, its independence is set in law, and it has sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks.
Comments: Several entities are participating in the budget formulation process. Most importantly, KAPSARC for energy, fiscal and macroeconomic studies, are examples of independent institutions by law, is participating in the formulation of the budget concerning the fiscal & macroeconomic sectors.

Researcher Response

Researcher is inclined to suggest that KAPSARC and other bodies referenced in the Government Response do not meet sufficient criteria to be considered IFIs. Based on the OECD definition of an IFI (referenced in the Researcher's initial response) KAPSARC does meet some criteria, such as being funded in perpetuity by an endowment provided by the Government of Saudi Arabia yet maintaining degrees of independence. However, the primary concern relates to the scope of its work. While an IFI should have a general mandate for oversight and analysis of fiscal policy that is forward-looking (covering the national budget process) KAPSARC and other referenced bodies maintain mandates much more narrow in scope. Although assessments undertaken by KAPSARC will undeniably inform budget consideration its formal mission (as observed on its website <https://www.kapsarc.org/about/>) is 'to advance the understanding of energy economics and to act as a catalyst for dialogue, charting a path to better welfare for societies, locally and globally.' As such researcher maintains the answer of 'd'.

104. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts?

GUIDELINES:

Question 104 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a role in producing the macroeconomic forecast (e.g., GDP growth, inflation, interest rates, etc.) and/or the fiscal forecast (revenues, expenditure, deficits, and debt), and if so, what kind of role it has. Macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasting is a typical core function across IFIs, but their role in forecasting takes several forms (von Trapp et al. 2016, p. 17 and Table 2). Some IFIs produce just a macroeconomic forecast, while others produce a complete fiscal forecast (which also typically requires an underlying macroeconomic forecast). In some cases, the fiscal forecast reflects continuation of current budget policies; such forecasts can be used by the legislature, the media, or the public to assess the projections in the executive's budget reflecting the government's policy proposals.

Some IFIs produce the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in the executive's budget. In other cases, IFIs do not prepare their own independent forecasts, but rather produce an assessment of the official estimates, or provide an opinion on, or endorsement of, the government's forecasts. Some others have no role at all in forecasting.

To answer "a", there must be an IFI that publishes both its own macroeconomic AND fiscal forecasts. Answer "b" applies if an IFI publishes its own macroeconomic OR fiscal forecast (but not both). Answer "c" applies if the IFI does not publish a macroeconomic or fiscal forecast, but rather publishes an assessment of the official forecasts produced by the executive and used in the budget. Choose option "d" if there is no IFI; or if there is an IFI that neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts for the budget.

Macroeconomic forecasts may include indicators relating to economic output and economic growth, inflation, and the labor market, amongst others. Fiscal forecasts may include estimates of revenues, expenditures, the budget balance, and debt. If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify which indicators and estimates are included in the forecasts and whether the forecast is used by government as the official forecast. If the answer is "c," please describe the nature and depth of the assessment (e.g., the length of the commentary, or whether it covers both economic and fiscal issues).

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts produced by the executive.

Source:
N/A

Comment:
There is no IFI based on official definitions in Question 103, answer d is therefore selected.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the IFI publishes its own macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts.
Comments: KAPSARC is publishing macroeconomic, fiscal, and energy forecasts.

Researcher Response
See Research Response to Question 103.

105. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish its own costings of new policy proposals, to assess their impact on the budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 105 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a costing function that involves assessing the budgetary implications of new policy proposals for both revenues and expenditures, and if so, what kind of role it has. Many IFIs have a costing role, but with substantial diversity in the nature and extent of this work (von Trapp et al 2016, pp. 17-18 and Table 2). Some assess virtually all new policy proposals, while others cost only a selection of new policy proposals. Others only publish opinions on, or scrutinize the costings of, budget measures produced by the executive.

To answer "a," the IFI must publish its own costings of all (or virtually all) new policy proposals. Answer "b" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only for major new policy proposals – for instance, only those proposals that cost or save above a certain amount. Answer "c" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only on a limited number of proposals. This could occur, for instance, if the IFI lacked the capacity to assess proposals dealing with certain sectors. Instead of producing a cost estimate, it can also publish an assessment of the estimates produced by the executive. Answer "d" applies if there is no IFI, or if the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals or provide an assessment of the official costings of new policy proposals.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals.

Source:

N/A

Comment:

There is no IFI to publish its own costing.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the IFI publishes its own costings of major new policy proposals.

Comments: KABSARC supports the budget process to estimate the Energy Price Reforms and oil prices/production forecasts. link below:
<https://www.kapsarc.org/ar/research/publications/>

Researcher Response
See Research Response to Question 103.

106. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 106 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Almost all IFIs interact with the legislature in some form (von Trapp et al 2016, p. 18), but the intensity of the interaction varies. This question assesses this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the IFI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the IFI staff member in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). As evidence to support your answer, you can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the IFI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; and "c" for once or twice. Answer "d" should be selected if the head or a senior staff member of the IFI never took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature, or if there is no IFI.

Answer:

d. Never, or there is no IFI.

Source:

N/A

Comment:
There is no IFI

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: I choose not to review this question
Comments: Not applicable

Researcher Response
See Research Response to Question 103.

107. Does the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 107 asks whether the legislature debated budget policies prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal for the most recent budget year before the research cut-off date. In general, prior to discussing the Executive's Budget Proposal for the coming year, the legislature should have an opportunity to review the government's broad budget priorities and fiscal parameters. Often times this information is laid out in a Pre-Budget Statement, which the executive presents to the legislature for debate. (See Questions 54-58.)

A number of countries conduct a pre-budget debate in the legislature around six months before the start of the budget year. In some cases, they adopt laws that guide the upcoming budget, for example the Budget Guidelines Law in Brazil and the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill in Sweden. A pre-budget debate can serve two main purposes: 1) to allow the executive to inform the legislature of its fiscal policy intentions by presenting updated reports on its annual and medium-term budget strategy and policy priorities; and 2) to establish "hard" multi-year fiscal targets or spending ceilings, which the government must adhere to when preparing its detailed spending estimates for the upcoming budget year.

To answer "a," the full legislature must debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Answer "b" applies if a legislative committee (but not the full legislature) debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, and approves recommendations for the budget. Option "b" also applies if, in addition to the action by the committee, the full legislature also debates budget policy in advance of the budget, but does not approve recommendations.

Answer "c" applies if the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but does not approve recommendations for the budget. Answer "d" applies if neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

In your comment, please indicate the dates of the budget debate, and if both the full legislature and a legislative committee held a debate. Note that a debate does not need to be open to the public, but a public record of the meeting or a public notice that the meeting occurred is required. In addition, please indicate whether the budget debate was focused on a Pre-Budget Statement published by the Executive. If the Executive did not publish a Pre-Budget Statement, then please indicate what served as the focus of the legislature's debate (for instance, a report released by an IFI or some other institution).

Answer:

d. No, neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

Official function of the Majlis Al-Shura

<https://www.shura.gov.sa/wps/wcm/connect/shuraen/internet/Laws+and+Regulations/The+Shura+Council+and+the+Rules+and+Regulations+Job/Shura+Council+Law/>

Meetings and Agenda of the Majlis Al-Shura

https://www.shura.gov.sa/wps/wcm/connect/ShuraEn/internet/Session%20Agenda/?WCM_PI=1&WCM_Page.e135ec1a-2c6a-40d9-a95f-2705b6672d5e=2

Comment:

The existing quasi-legislature in Saudi Arabia, known as the Majlis Al-Shura, does not meet technical criteria to be considered a formal legislative body. Nor does it formally review the Executive's budget proposal as part of the budgetary process. There is no precedent for this under the law of the Majlis al-Shura, dated 27/08/1412 (source provided) and there are no mention of this in the Agenda of meetings attended by the Majlis al-Shure.

This will guide the response provided in subsequent questions.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

108. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 108 examines how far in advance of the start of the most recent budget year the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to the legislature far enough in advance to allow the legislature time to review it properly, or at least three months prior to the start of the fiscal year. (See, for instance, Principle 2.2.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>)).

For the purposes of responding to this question, if – and only if – the most recent budget submission occurred later than usual as a result of a particular event, such as an election, please use a more normal year as the basis for the response. If, however, delays have been observed for more than one budget year, and the legislature has not received the Executive's Budget Proposal in a timely manner on more than one occasion in the last three years, then "d" will be the appropriate answer.

To answer "a," the legislature must receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least three months in advance of the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature does not receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month prior to the start of the budget year, or does not receive it at all.

Answer:

d. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month before the start of the budget year, or does not receive it all.

Source:

N/A

Comment:

Kindly see answer, comment and sources provided in question 107.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

c. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year.
Comments: The Royal Court is the legislature authority in KSA. It receives the budget at least one month before the start of the budget year.

Researcher Response

Kindly see previous answers from the researcher on the status of legislature in Saudi, suggesting that neither the Majlis Al Shura nor the Royal Court sufficiently meet criteria to be considered legislature. As such, researcher reaffirms the selection of option 'd'.

109. When does the legislature approve the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 109 examines when the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be approved by the legislature before the start of the fiscal year the budget proposal refers to. This gives the executive time to implement the budget in its entirety, particularly new programs and policies.

In some countries, the expenditure and revenue estimates of the Executive's Budget Proposal are approved separately; for purposes of this question, at least the expenditure estimates must be approved. Further, approval of the budget implies approval of the full-year budget, not just a short-term continuation of spending and revenue authority.

To answer "a," the legislature must approve the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month before the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month after the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Answer:

d. The legislature approves the budget more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Source:

N/A

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. The legislature approves the budget less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year.

Comments: The Royal Court approved the budget in Mid- December 2018, two weeks before the start of the budget year

Researcher Response

Kindly see previous answers from the researcher on the status of legislature in Saudi, suggesting that neither the Majlis Al Shura nor the Royal Court sufficiently meet criteria to be considered legislature. As such, researcher reaffirms the selection of option 'd'.

110. Does the legislature have the authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 110 examines the legislature's power to amend—as opposed to simply accept or reject—the budget proposal presented by the executive. This question is about legal authority rather than actions the legislature takes in practice. The legislature's powers to amend the budget can vary substantially across countries.

The "a" response is appropriate only if there are no restrictions on the right of the legislature to modify the Executive's Budget Proposal, including its right to change the size of the proposed deficit or surplus. The "b" response would be appropriate if, for instance, the legislature is restricted from changing the deficit or surplus, but it still has the power to increase or decrease funding and revenue levels. The more limited "c" response would apply if, for instance, the legislature can only re-allocate spending within the totals set in the Executive's Budget Proposal or can only decrease funding levels or increase revenues. Finally, response "d" would apply if the legislature may not make any changes (or only small technical changes), or if amendments must first be approved by the executive. In these cases, the legislature is essentially only able to approve or reject the budget as a whole. If the answer is "b" or "c", please indicate the nature of the amendment powers available to the Parliament and how they are limited.

Answer:

d. No, the legislature does not have any authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

N/A

Comment:

Kindly see answer, comment and sources provided in question 107.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Comments: Yes. The Royal Court has the authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Researcher Response

Kindly see previous answers from the researcher on the status of legislature in Saudi, suggesting that neither the Majlis Al Shura nor the Royal Court

sufficiently meet criteria to be considered legislature. As such, researcher reaffirms the selection of option 'd'.

111. During the most recent budget approval process, did the legislature use its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 111 assesses whether any formal authority of the legislature to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal is used in practice. The responses to this question should be determined based on action by the legislature related to the Enacted Budget used in the OBS. Choose answer "a" if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal during the most recent budget approval process, and amendments were adopted (all, or at least some of them). Answer "a" also applies if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but the amendments were rejected by executive veto. Answer "b" applies if the legislature used its authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, but none of these amendments were adopted. Answer "c" applies if the legislature has the authority in law to amend the budget, but no amendments were proposed during its consideration. Answer "d" applies when the legislature does not have any authority to amend the budget (that is, Question 110 is answered "d").

If the answer is "a" or "b", please specify in the comments the number of amendments introduced by the legislature (and in the case of an "a" response, the number adopted, or if applicable, information about an executive veto) and describe their nature. For example, did the amendments result in an increase or decrease of the deficit? What were the most significant amendments to revenues and to expenditures in terms of the sums involved? How did amendments affect the composition of expenditures? If the answer is "a," please specify which amendments were adopted, and provide evidence for it.

Answer:

d. No, the legislature does not have any such authority.

Source:

N/A

Comment:

Kindly see answer, comment and sources provided in question 107.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, and (at least some of) its amendments were adopted.

Researcher Response

Kindly see previous answers from the researcher on the status of legislature in Saudi, suggesting that neither the Majlis Al Shura nor the Royal Court sufficiently meet criteria to be considered legislature. As such, researcher reaffirms the selection of option 'd'.

112. During the last budget approval process, did a specialized budget or finance committee in the legislature examine the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 112 assesses the role of a specialized budget or finance committee during the budget approval stage. Effective committee involvement is an essential condition for legislative influence in the budget process. Specialized committees provide opportunities for individual legislators to gain relevant expertise, and to examine budgets and policy in depth. Yet, the involvement of committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures have separate committees to examine spending and tax proposals, while others have a single finance committee. Not all legislatures have a specialized budget or finance committee to examine the budget. In addition, there can be differences in the time available for the committee's analysis of the budget.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, therefore it must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget.

Response "a" requires that, in the last budget approval process, a specialized budget or finance committee had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such a committee examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if a committee examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please specify in your comment the name of the committee and the number of days it had available to examine the budget. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a

copy of the report. Please note also if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

Answer:

d. No, a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

<https://shura.gov.sa/wps/wcm/connect/ShuraArabic/internet/Committees/Committees+Jurisdiction+and+Duties/>

Comment:

It is worth noting that the Majlis Al-Shura has various specialist committees including a Financial Committee. While the source provided above technically states the Committee has involvement in "matters that have to do with the general budget", there is no evidence that the committee received, examined or published any report on the EBP.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also, there is the Financial committee at Royal Court.

113. During the last approval process, did legislative committees, responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.), examine spending in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the sector for which they are responsible?

GUIDELINES:

Question 113 assesses the role of committees of the legislature that are responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.) during the budget approval stage. The role of sectoral committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures do not involve them in the budget approval process, while others do. In addition, the time available for committee analysis differs.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, so therefore must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget. Response "a" requires that sector committees had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and published a report with findings and recommendations prior the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such committees examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if sectoral committees examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where sectoral committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please note that the examination of sectoral budgets by a specialized budget or finance committee is assessed in Question 112 and should not be considered for this question.

Please provide in the comments a brief overview of the committee structure and specify the number of days that sectoral committees had available to examine the budget and to publish their reports. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a sample copy of at least one of the reports. Please note if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

For purposes of responding to this question, use those sectoral committees that are best performing – that is, the ones that examine the budget the longest and that publish reports.

Answer:

d. No, sector committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

<https://shura.gov.sa/wps/wcm/connect/ShuraArabic/internet/Committees/Committees+Jurisdiction+and+Duties/>

Comment:

Alongside Financial Committee – there are committees energy, education, health and other important sectors. However, as with the Financial Committee there is no evidence that any of these were involved in the EBP process.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

114. In the past 12 months, did a committee of the legislature examine in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period?

GUIDELINES:

Question 114 is about legislative oversight of budget execution. It assesses whether and how often a committee examined the implementation of the budget during the budget execution period (i.e., financial year) for which it was approved, and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. This question does not apply to the ex post review of implementation following the end of the budget year as part of the audit stage, which is assessed separately. Nor does it apply to the legislature's review of the budget that it may undertake as part of the process of considering a supplemental budget during the year. In-year monitoring by the legislature will be affected by the frequency that the executive publishes In-Year Reports.

To answer "a," a committee must have examined in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget at least three times during the course of the relevant budget year and published reports with findings and recommendations. Answer "b" applies where this occurred only once or twice during the year.

Exception: If a legislature is in session only twice during the year, and it examines the implementation of the budget during both sessions, then it would be eligible for an "a" response.

Choose "c" if a committee examined in-year implementation (without regard to frequency), but did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined in-year implementation.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation.

For purposes of responding to this question, if more than one committee holds in-year reviews of the budget, use the committee that is best performing – that is, the one that examines in-year implementation the most times and that publishes a report.

Answer:

d. No, a committee did not examine in-year implementation.

Source:

Researcher's Knowledge and Meeting with MoF Staff.

Comment:

The Majlis Al-Shura has limited involvement in budget execution, and this extends to the review of in-year reports. Any involvement is internal, and not formally within the legislature's mandate.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

115. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units that receive explicit funding in the Enacted Budget, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 115 examines whether the executive seeks approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and whether it is legally required to do so.

In some countries, the executive has the power in law to adjust funding levels for specific appropriations during the execution of the budget. This question examines rules around shifting funds between administrative units (ministries, departments, or agencies) or whatever funding unit (or "vote") is specified in the Enacted Budget.

The conditions under which the executive may exercise its discretion to shift funds should be clearly defined in publicly available regulations or law. In addition, the amount of funds that the executive is allowed to transfer between administrative units should not be so excessive as to undermine the accountability of the executive to the legislature.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before shifting funds, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d"

applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to shift funds between administrative units and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. Answer "d" also applies if the executive is authorized to shift an amount considered so excessive as to undermine accountability (roughly equal to 3 percent of total budgeted expenditures). A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the shifting of funds after it has already occurred.

In the comments, please indicate any law or regulation that provides the executive with standing authority to shift funds between administrative units and, if so, describe that authority. Similarly, legislative approval for shifting funds between administrative units typically occurs with the adoption of legislation such as a supplemental budget. But if other formal procedures for gaining approval from the legislature exist, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and in practice the executive shifts funds between administrative units before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

Saudi Basic Law https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Saudi_Arabia_2005.pdf

Comment:

According to Saudi Basic Law, the executive is not required to obtain approval from a legislative body prior to shifting funds between administrative units. Articles 72 to 78 in the Financial Section do not attribute any such responsibility to a legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: approval by Financial committee - Royal Court

Researcher Response

Kindly see previous answers from the researcher on the status of legislature in Saudi, suggesting that neither the Majlis Al Shura nor the Royal Court sufficiently meet criteria to be considered legislature. As such, researcher reaffirms the selection of option 'd'.

116. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue (that is, amounts higher than originally anticipated) that may become available during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 116 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if additional revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, which often happens in oil/mineral-dependent countries, and it was not accounted for in the Enacted Budget, there should be a procedure in place to ensure that the legislature approves any proposed use of these "new" funds. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might deliberately underestimate revenue in the budget proposal it submits to the legislature, in order to have additional resources to spend at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before spending any funds resulting from higher-than-expected revenues, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if prior legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to spend excess revenue and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the additional spending after it has already occurred.

Typically, legislative approval of additional spending beyond what was reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur with the adoption of a supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and in practice the executive spends these funds before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

Saudi Basic Law https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Saudi_Arabia_2005.pdf

Comment:

No such provisions exist. According to Saudi Basic Law, the executive is provided all decision making powers.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

a The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and it does so in practice.
Comments: yes, approval by Financial committee - Royal Court

Researcher Response

Kindly see previous answers from the researcher on the status of legislature in Saudi, suggesting that neither the Majlis Al Shura nor the Royal Court sufficiently meet criteria to be considered legislature. As such, researcher reaffirms the selection of option 'd'.

117. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls (that is, revenues lower than originally anticipated) or other reasons during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 117 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to cutting spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls or for any other reason, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if less revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, the legislature should approve or reject any proposed reductions in expenditures that are implemented as a result. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might substantially change the composition of the budget at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

Typically, legislative approval of proposals to reduce spending below the levels reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur as part of the supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before implementing spending cuts in response to revenue shortfalls or for other reasons, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive received legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to obtain legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to implement such cuts and the executive does not obtain such approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the spending cuts after they have already occurred.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, and in practice the executive implements these spending cuts before seeking prior approval from the legislature.

Source:

Saudi Basic Law https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Saudi_Arabia_2005.pdf

Comment:

As in previous questions, no such provisions exist. According to Saudi Basic Law, the executive is provided all decision making powers.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

b. The executive obtains approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, but is not required to do so by law or regulation.
Comments: yes approval by Financial committee - Royal Court

Researcher Response

Kindly see previous answers from the researcher on the status of legislature in Saudi, suggesting that neither the Majlis Al Shura nor the Royal Court sufficiently meet criteria to be considered legislature. As such, researcher reaffirms the selection of option 'd'.

118. Did a committee of the legislature examine the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 118 is about ex post oversight following the implementation of the budget. It probes whether a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. A key issue is how soon after the SAI releases the report does it legislature review it. This question does not apply to the legislative scrutiny of in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period, which is assessed separately. Also, the question is asking specifically about the SAI's annual report on the execution of the budget, not about other audit reports that the SAI may produce. (This is the Audit Report used for responding to Question 98.)

To answer "a," a legislative committee must have examined the annual Audit Report within three months of it being released by the SAI, and then published a report (or reports) with findings and recommendations. (Note that the three-month period should only take into account time when the legislature is in session.)

Answer "b" applies when the committee examines it within six months of it being released (but more than three months), and then published a report with its findings and recommendations. Choose "c" if a committee examined the annual Audit Report more than six months after it became available or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined the annual Audit Report.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed the Audit Report, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation. Answers "a," "b," or "c" may be selected if the Audit Report is produced by the SAI but not made publicly available.

Answer:

d. No, a committee did not examine the Audit Report on the annual budget.

Source:

See Response to Question 107.

Comment:

It is worth noting the Financial Committee of the legislature has the ability to review the Audit Report after it is formally made public, however as noted in question 107, this body does not meet formal legislative requirements. Option d is therefore selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget, but it did so after the report had been available for more than six months or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations.

Comments: The Audit Report on the annual budget is examined, but findings and recommendations are not published.

Researcher Response

Kindly see previous answers from the researcher on the status of legislature in Saudi, suggesting that neither the Majlis Al Shura nor the Royal Court sufficiently meet criteria to be considered legislature. As such, researcher reaffirms the selection of option 'd'.

119. Was the process of appointing (or re-appointing) the current head of the SAI carried out in a way that ensures his or her independence?

GUIDELINES:

Question 119 concerns the appointment process of the current head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). Appointment procedures vary greatly across countries, as well as across different types of SAIs. Moreover, conventions and informal practices can greatly affect the de facto independence of the head of the SAI. While these factors make it difficult to devise a single metric against which all SAIs can be assessed with regard to this particular aspect, this question focuses on whether the legislature or judiciary must appoint or approve the appointment of the head of the SAI as a way to ensure the SAI's independence from the executive. However, if the appointment is carried out in another way that nonetheless ensures the independence of the SAI head, then that approach could be also considered.

To answer "a," the legislature or judiciary must appoint (or re-appoint) the head of the SAI, or approve the recommendation of the executive, as a way that ensure his or her independence from the executive. (As noted above, alternative approaches may also be acceptable.) Choose "b" if the appointment process does not ensure the independence of the head of the SAI, e.g. the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Irrespective of which answer you selected, provide a description of how the head of the SAI is appointed.

Answer:

b. No, the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Source:

Overview of changes made to the GCA: <https://www.hg.org/legal-articles/amendments-to-articles-of-the-general-court-of-audit-in-saudi-arabia-57325>

GCA formal description: <https://www.gca.gov.sa/PageDetails?id=1>

Appointment of President of the GCA: <https://www.gca.gov.sa/PageDetails?id=2>

Comment:

The SAI in Saudi Arabia, the General Court of Audit (GCA) . It is worth noting that Royal Decree saw recent changes in the function of this body as well as the formal name change from the General Audit Bureau. This saw changes which made the GCA a financially and administratively independent entity in order to protect the GCA from external factors and affect its performance.

While it was reported that this amendment increased the autonomy of the GCA, in general, to practice its auditing duties independently in particular, it is still stated clearly on the GCA official website, that it is a government body that still reports directly to the King. It is similarly appointed by the executive. The current president of the GCA, Dr. Hussam Abdulmohsen Alangari, was appointed by royal decree.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be appointed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the appointment takes effect.

Comments: The head of the GCA may only be appointed by the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, not the prime minister. The GCA is the supreme audit institution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is an independent body that reports directly to the King.

Researcher Response

Government Response does not suggest that 'only' the legislature or judiciary can appoint the head of the SAI, as is required for the selection of option 'a'. As such the researcher maintains their selection of option 'b'.

120. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?

GUIDELINES:

Question 120 covers the manner in which the head or senior members of the SAI may be removed from office. This question draws on best practices identified in the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>), including measures intended to guarantee the office's independence from the executive.

To answer "a," the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the head of the SAI is removed. For example, the legislature or judiciary may give final consent following a certain external process, such as a criminal proceeding. So while the executive may initiate a criminal proceeding, the final consent of a member of the judiciary – or a judge – is necessary to render a verdict of wrongdoing that may lead to the removal from office of the head of the SAI. Answer "b" applies if the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.

Answer:

b. No, the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.

Source:

Overview of changes made to the GCA: <https://www.hg.org/legal-articles/amendments-to-articles-of-the-general-court-of-audit-in-saudi-arabia-57325>

GCA formal description: <https://www.gca.gov.sa/PageDetails?id=1>

Appointment of President of the GCA: <https://www.gca.gov.sa/PageDetails?id=2>

Comment:

As with appointment, the head of the GCA can be removed by royal decree.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before he or she

is removed.

Comments: The head of the GCA may only be removed by the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, not the prime minister. The GCA is the supreme audit institution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is an independent body that reports directly to the King.

Researcher Response

Saudi Reflects a hybrid system in a large number of respects. As an absolute monarch undertaking significant structural transformation, certain functions that would normatively come under an executive are de facto being practices at other levels in order to secure reform. Saudi Arabia's progress is appreciated in this respect, however for the purpose of this question the executive in Saudi Arabia is constituted by the King and Council of Ministers. As such this means that the executive (including the King) may remove the head of the SAI by Royal Decree. Researcher maintains the answer of 'b'.

121. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 121 asks who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). To ensure objective audits of government budgets, another important component of the SAI's independence from the executive is the extent to which the SAI's budget is determined by a body other than the executive, and whether the SAI has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate.

Answer "a" applies if the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate, AND either the SAI determines its own budget and then submits it to the executive (which accepts it with little or no change) or directly to the legislature, or the budget of the SAI is determined directly by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body). Answer "b" applies if the SAI's budget is determined by the executive (absent a recommendation from the SAI), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "c" applies if the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body) determines the SAI's budget, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "d" applies if the executive determines the SAI's budget, and the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Please provide evidence in support of the assessment that the funding level is or is not broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Answer:

b. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:

Researcher's own knowledge and interview with MoF Staff

Comment:

As with all major ministries, the budget for each year is determined by the executive through the annual budget process.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: The budget of the GCA is determined by the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. The Royal Decree No. (M/178), dated 23/07/2020, was issued approving amendments to the GCA's law, which include that GCA is directly linked to the King, enjoys legal status, and has full financial and administrative independence.

Researcher Response

Saudi Reflects a hybrid system in a large number of respects. As an absolute monarch undertaking significant structural transformation, certain functions that would normatively come under an executive are de facto being practices at other levels in order to secure reform. Saudi Arabia's progress is appreciated in this respect, however for the purpose of this question the executive in Saudi Arabia is constituted by the King and Council of Ministers. As such this means that the executive determine the budget of the SAI although this is clearly sufficient to execute its mandate. Researcher maintains the answer of 'b'.

122. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have the discretion in law to undertake those audits it may wish to?

GUIDELINES:

Question 122 explores the scope of the investigative powers of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) as prescribed in law.

Question 97 asks which of the three types of audits – financial, compliance, and performance – the SAI conducts. This question asks if the SAI is constrained

by law (rather than by a lack of capacity or an inadequate budget) from undertaking any form of audit or investigating irregularities in any program or activity.

There are numerous examples of limitations. For instance, some SAIs are not permitted by their legal mandate to audit joint ventures or other public-private arrangements. Others are only allowed to undertake financial audits, precluded from conducting performance or value-for-money audits. The SAIs in some countries do not have the legal mandate to review arrangements involving oil or stabilization funds, or other types of special or extra-budgetary funds. The SAI may also not have the ability to audit commercial projects involving the public and private sector.

To answer "a," the SAI must have full discretion in law to decide which audits to undertake. Answer "b" applies if some limitations exist, but the SAI enjoys significant discretion to undertake those audits it wishes to. Answer "c" applies if the SAI has some discretion, but significant legal limitations exist. Answer "d" applies if the SAI has no power at all to choose which audits to undertake

Consulting the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>) may be useful in answering this question as its provisions serve to define the appropriate scope of a SAI's legal mandate and jurisdiction.

Answer:

b. The SAI has significant discretion, but faces some limitations.

Source:

A list of mandates and responsibilities of the GCA is provided here:
<https://www.gca.gov.sa/PageDetails?id=13>

Comment:

According to 'Mandate and Responsibilities' of the GCA, as provided on their official website, the SAI has significant scope to undertake a variety of audit functions, including (among others):

- To execute post-auditing on the state's revenues, expenditures, movable and fixed assets, and to exercise auditing to ensure proper utilization and preservation of these resources.
- To audit private enterprises and public corporations or bodies with a State's capital share contribution not less than 25% or guarantees a minimum profit.
- To conduct performance audit over government agencies, to ensure that the available resources are used efficiently and economically to achieve the pre-determined objectives for which they have been allocated.
- To audit the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- To audit the privatization process at all stages: planning, implementation, and post-privatization monitoring
- To audit and inspect government warehouses.
- To audit the contracts of government entities.

Nonetheless, some limitations exist, e.g. ability to conduct thorough performance audits or audit extra-budgetary funds.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake.

Comments: The GCA has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake.

Researcher Response

Government response does not provide evidence necessary for the selection of option 'a'. Researcher maintains the selection of option 'b' on the basis there are some limitations, e.g. auditing of extra-budgetary funds.

123. Are the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) reviewed by an independent agency?

GUIDELINES:

Question 123 assesses whether and to what extent the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) are subject to review by an independent agency. The latter could be a peer SAI, an international organization, an academic institution with relevant expertise, or an independent domestic agency with quality assurance functions in the area of financial reporting.

To answer "a," an independent agency must conduct and publish a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis. Answer "b" applies if a review was carried out within the past five years, and published, but it is not conducted annually, but. Choose answer "c" if the SAI has an internal unit that reviews the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis, but an independent agency does not conduct such a review. Answer "d" applies if the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

If the answer is either "a" or "b," please specify the name of the independent agency and when last it conducted such a review, and provide a copy of the published report. If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the unit within the SAI that is tasked with conducting such reviews.

Answer:

c. No, but a unit within the SAI conducts a review of the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis.

Source:

<https://www.gca.gov.sa/en/SCFPA/Pages/SCFPA.aspx>

https://www.gca.gov.sa/en/about/Pages/our_main_functions.aspx

Comment:

There is formally no other independent body which reviews audit processes conducted by the General Court of Audit, although they have a strong partnership with ARABOSAI.

This partnership is also part of the GCA's approach to improvement noting "One of the leading programs in GAB's strategy is to improve the performance of the accounting profession and government auditing by reinforcing the relations between GAB and other Supreme Audit Institutions across the International Organizations of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI, ASOSAI, ARABOSAI), ensuring professional convergence in practices and the exchange of appropriate experiences and expertise."

In addition the GCA has several internal departments focussed on improving auditing processes including the IT Department and Training Centre.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

124. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 124 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Many SAIs interact with the legislature in some form, but the nature and intensity of the interaction varies. This question probes this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the SAI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the SAI representative in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). You can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the SAI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; "c" for once or twice, and "d" for never.

Answer:

c. Rarely (i.e., once or twice).

Source:

Interview with MoF internal staff

Comment:

Senior staff within the GCA, including the head of the GCA, will come to the Majlis al-Shura to testify reasonably often.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Frequently (i.e., five times or more).

Comments: Frequently.

Researcher Response

Government response does not provide any evidence for the selection of option 'a'. While the researcher is inclined to maintain initial selection of option 'b' based on their own knowledge, according to OBS methodology without documented evidence on this testimony, a score higher than "c" cannot be selected.

IBP Comment

IBP agrees with the researcher that without documented evidence of this testimony, we cannot score this question higher than a "C".

125. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation of the annual budget (prior to the budget being tabled in parliament)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in the formulation of the annual budget, including annual pre-budget discussions. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as spending and tax policy, funding and revenue levels, and macro-fiscal planning.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government officials. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

MoF Outreach Takes Place on:

<https://twitter.com/mofksa?lang=en>

<https://www.instagram.com/mofksa/?hl=en>

<https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://cfkc.gov.sa/en/mediaCenter/Pages/default.aspx>

https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/financialreport/budgetJourney/Pages/Budget_Journey_Development.aspx

https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/budget/2021/mediacenter/Documents/NL_En1.pdf

Panel Discussion on Budget 2021: Trends and Priorities <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1339249847992541188>

Comment:

The MoF does undertake certain outreach activities with the public prior to budget approval. Social media outreach is an important aspect of this, including communication with the public on twitter, Instagram and YouTube, as well as the official MoF online media centre. This included the publishing of a budget newsletter as well as the undertaking of certain events such as publicised panel discussions.

However, the principle purpose of this outreach seems to be presenting information on the budget for the awareness of the public, rather than the inclusion of opinions to inform budget decisions. It is worth noting that internal discussion with the MoF reveals that many such comments at events and online provide inputs into budget formulation, however these are all mechanisms are not solely for this purpose and therefore do not fulfil OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the executive uses open participation mechanisms through which members of the public and government officials exchange views on the budget.

Comments: Under the slogan (Partnership and Empowerment) .. With the participation of local and international experts, the work of the 2020 Budget Forum was launched in Riyadh, where His Excellency the Minister of Finance emphasized the process of preparing the state's general budget, stressing that this work cannot be the responsibility of one party without another, but rather it must be built on a strategy Clear, joint working mechanisms are subject to high governance, adhere to standards of transparency and disclosure in financial transactions in various government agencies, and achieve raising efficiency and enhancing revenues. His Excellency stressed the importance of the axes discussed by the forum, such as financial planning in government agencies, activating automation, enhancing revenues, and spending efficiency, indicating that they are complementary and interconnected axes, so achieving them requires efficient human capabilities at all levels.

https://www.mof.gov.sa/mediacenter/news/Pages/News_18042019.aspx The following links represent relevant evidence on the government efforts and initiatives in using open participation mechanisms through which members of the public and government officials exchange views on the budget. The Communication and Financial Knowledge Center held MoUs with: • Financial Academy • Gulf Research Center •the National Bank •Princess Nora University • Saudi Economic Association • Saudi Financial Association (SAFA) • Association for the Protection of Individual Investors This is within the framework of the center's efforts to strengthen partnerships with the relevant sectors in a way that contributes to enriching knowledge and supporting and enhancing ways of cooperation in all fields. Raising financial awareness and presenting initiatives that serve the local and economic communities. <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news2262021.aspx>

<https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news2062021.aspx> <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news5052021.aspx>

<https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news22032021.aspx> <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news229102020.aspx>

<https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news3012021.aspx> <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news030120212.aspx> A press conference was held to announce the preliminary statement of the state's general budget for the year 2020, where the public was informed of the expected results of the next year's budget and the expected results for the current year. Below is the link: https://mofgovsa-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/20676_mof_gov_sa/EXF1oqH1Kg9Lt4yrJOoak0B0Q2wxQ93Z50W9CzHVCbDMw?e=vzxFax

Researcher Response

Researcher agrees that evidence included in the Government response is sufficient to revise the answer up to option 'c', given the wording of option 'c' and the extent of engagement. For any further upward revision specific details (e.g. forum agenda/minutes) would have to be referenced to prove detailed discussion of budget formulation prior to the annual budget.

IBP Comment

Many thanks to the government reviewer and researcher for the comments. After further review, answer is revised from "C" to "D", for the below reasons: 1. The Budget Forum is focused on internal coordination about strengthening the overall budget process, rather than a focus on inviting non-governmental stakeholders for discussion on the 2020 budget. In addition, it took place in 2019, which is not the budget year under review for this question. 2. The government's social media outreach efforts, as well as its panel discussion and budget newsletter mentioned by the researcher, are great efforts, but are primarily informative, rather than formal solicitation of citizen input into budget decisions. 3. The MOUs cited, while promising, are new and do not specifically reference budget issues (only economic and financial affairs) Given this, for cross-country comparability, answer is scored as "D".

126. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive take concrete steps to include vulnerable and under-represented parts of the population in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on the executive's efforts to seek out the views of members of the public from socially vulnerable groups and/or who are underrepresented in the process.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from at least one vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organization representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives of vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them,

into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

See Question 125

Comment:

Such inclusion may be noted for public engagement after budget launch, however as suggested in Question 125, this does not sufficiently cover the budget formulation phase.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

127. During the budget formulation stage, which of the following key topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the formulation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget formulation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

N/A

Comment:

See Question 125

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. The executive's engagement with citizens covers all six topics.

Comments: The MOF has held a number of workshops to engage citizens, represented by the Center for Communication and Financial Knowledge (MOTAMM), which is among the initiatives of the MOF, as follows: • Privatization and its effects on raising economic efficiency • Mergers and their impact on the development of the Saudi banking sector • The challenges of the Corona crisis on the future of investment in the Kingdom • Growth and sustainability of companies' listing in the financial market <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news2222.aspx> <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news0301202110.aspx> <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news1432021.aspx> <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news442021.aspx> In addition, the pre-budget statement's main objective is to provide to the public the government's main macroeconomic assumptions that will represent the base for budget formulation. It also includes main fiscal targets including budget deficit, revenues, expenditure and financing, as well as presenting main policies and reforms concerning revenue and expenditure including on social spending and public investments and projects. The published report is aiming to initiate public discussion around these issues three months before the budget approval which helps to positively impact the budget formulation process,

Researcher Response

Researcher notes that many of the topics in links provided by the Government Response, while not directly reflective of the 6 key topic areas, may nonetheless have included discussion around these. For this reason researcher supports revision of the answer up to option 'c'.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer and the researcher for the comments. After further review, for cross-country comparability, answer is revised from "C" to "D". Please see Question 125 for more details, as Question 127 is directly linked to the mechanisms mentioned in Question 125.

128. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. If the executive has designated a central coordinating agency to implement participation mechanisms throughout the national budget process, researchers may consider these mechanisms. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the implementation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenue administration, public service delivery, public investment project implementation, including procurement, and the administration of social transfer schemes.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings, online, deliberative exchanges, procurement complaint mechanisms, and social monitoring and dialogue.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input on the implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include public hearings, surveys, focus groups, report cards, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to provide input on budget implementation, but:

1) *The mechanisms are not structured, happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.*

and/or

2) *The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.*

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", the researcher must have evidence that the government is holding participation mechanisms that have some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that all CSOs and members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples include hotlines, Facebook announcements, one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

It appears that the government does undertake certain ad-hoc discussions with public stakeholders during budget implementation. While there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups, it does also receive wider inputs from the public through online engagement.

However, no evidence exists of formal discussions specific to monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. Answer can be revised up to option (c) if evidence can be provided of comments and input received from the public on monitoring the budget. This could be a dedicated event or a component of a wider event such as the Saudi Budget Forum.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget implementation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Comments: There are In year Reports published in the MoF twitter account, kindly find the links below:

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1156192223605723136> <https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1123660957606195202>

<https://twitter.com/MOFKSA/status/1123660729545109507> Also TV interviews and Media Reports of Ministry Officials

https://www.mof.gov.sa/mediacenter/Interviews_and_media_reports/Pages/meetings.aspx

Researcher Response

Unlike in Questions 125 and 127 there is no evidence in the Government Response of participation mechanisms during the budget implementation phase that are specific to monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. This is not sufficiently met by IYRs as a participation mechanism requires two-way engagement. Researcher therefore maintains the selection of option 'd'.

129. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive take concrete steps to receive input from vulnerable and underrepresented parts of the population on the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on national government's efforts to obtain input from members of the public who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes during the implementation of the annual budget.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from at least one vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organization representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives from vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the national executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Kindly see answer provided for Question 128.

Comment:

There is no evidence of such considerations and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

130. During the implementation of the annual budget, which of the following topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Changes in macroeconomic circumstances
2. Delivery of public services
3. Collection of revenue
4. Implementation of social spending
5. Changes in deficit and debt levels
6. Implementation of public investment projects

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the implementation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget implementation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be ONLY the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

<https://cfkc.gov.sa/en/mediaCenter/events/Pages/default.aspx>

Comment:

Researcher notes public statements about the budget, which allow for some two-way engagement can be considered. However, more specifically, the Communication and Financial Knowledge Center (CFKC) is a dedicated initiative in the MoF to communicate with the public on key issues. This body has held webinars open to the public around at least 1 of the key topics listed (Macro economic context).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

- b. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least three (but less than six) of the above-mentioned topics.

Researcher Response

The researcher is selecting the option of 'd'. There is no evidence in the Government Response of participation mechanisms for the 6 key topic areas. Participation mechanism requires two-way engagement and evidence needs to be provided that these topics were discussed and considered during the implementation of the annual budget.

131. When the executive engages with the public, does it provide comprehensive prior information on the process of the engagement, so that the public can participate in an informed manner?

Comprehensive information must include at least three of the following elements:

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Constraints
4. Intended outcomes
5. Process and timeline

GUIDELINES:

This question relates to the GIFT principle of "Openness," and addresses whether the executive provides relevant information on the process of the engagement before public participation takes place, in order to help citizens engage effectively. The question addresses whether the "rules of the public engagement" are clearly spelled out, in advance and in detail, so that those members of the public who want to engage know how to do so, in terms of when they can do so, what they are expected to provide input on, by when, to whom, etc. This question does not cover the substance of the engagement, which is covered by questions 127 and 130.

Non-comprehensive information means that the government provides information that includes at least one but less than three of the elements listed above.

Purpose refers to a brief explanation of why the public engagement is being undertaken, including the executive's objectives for its engagement with the public.

Scope refers to what is within the subject matter of the engagement as well as what is outside the subject matter of the engagement. For example, the scope may include how a current policy is administered but exclude the specifics of the policies themselves.

Constraints refers to whether there are any explicit limitations on the engagement. An example of a constraint could be that any policy changes must not cost (or forgo revenue) more than a specific amount or have no net fiscal cost.

Intended outcomes refers to what the executive hopes to achieve as a result of the engagement. Examples of intended outcomes could be revising a policy to better reflect citizen or service-user views or to improve the way in which a particular program is administered.

Process refers to the methods by which the public engagement will take place and the discrete steps in the process. For example, the process may simply be a one-off Internet-based consultation, with a summary published of public inputs and the official response. The process may involve simultaneous or overlapping steps, and may be conducted in one round or in two or more rounds of engagement.

Timeline refers to the specific dates on which the discrete steps in the process will take place, or during which they will be completed, and clear start and end dates for the overall engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation or formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

Kindly see answers provided regarding public participation in formulation and implementation phases.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Comprehensive information is provided in a timely manner prior to citizens engagement only prior to one of the two phases (formulation OR implementation).

Comments: In the event that lectures and workshops are held, they will be announced and what they include. The meeting and the workshop will also be recorded for reference when needed. https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1379408587311693826/photo/1

https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1378414648521818112/photo/1 https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1379094544218779649

https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1371490637879472129 https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1371551617904955401

https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1370807740805697538 https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1371373873502031872

https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1343949165361938432 https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1344216567186386945 A press conference

was held to announce the preliminary statement of the state's general budget for the year 2020, where the public was informed of the expected

results of the next year's budget and the expected results for the current year. Below is the link: [https://mofgovsa-](https://mofgovsa-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/20676_mof_gov_sa/EXF1oqH1Kg9L4iyrJOoak0B0Q2wxQ93Z50W9CzHVCbDMw?e=vzxFax)

[my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/20676_mof_gov_sa/EXF1oqH1Kg9L4iyrJOoak0B0Q2wxQ93Z50W9CzHVCbDMw?e=vzxFax](https://mofgovsa-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/20676_mof_gov_sa/EXF1oqH1Kg9L4iyrJOoak0B0Q2wxQ93Z50W9CzHVCbDMw?e=vzxFax)

Researcher Response

Researcher recognises that insofar as some events can be considered opportunities for citizens providing input on the budget (albeit with the recognition that these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone), it can be said that they are well publicised with comprehensive information on the process of the engagement provided prior to the event. Option 'c' is selected as information does not include all elements, such as intended outcomes.

IBP Comment

Thank you to the government reviewer and the researcher for the comments. After further review, for cross-country comparability, answer is revised from "C" to "D". Please see Question 125 for more details, as Question 131 is directly linked to the mechanisms mentioned in Question 125.

132. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used in the formulation of the annual budget, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Kindly see response provided in Question 125.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the executive provides a written record which includes either the list of the inputs received or a report or summary on how they were used.

Comments: • Through its account on the social networking site "Twitter", in cooperation with the "Finance Academy", the Center for Communication and Financial Knowledge "Completed" held a knowledge competition under the title "Completed Challenge", as part of its efforts to engage the community interested in financial and economic issues. The competition received wide participation from the followers of the "Mutamam" account, as it addressed the definition of saving tools and methods, as well as clarifying its importance in achieving financial security for the individual. Khaled, Samar Al-Anazi, and Youssef Al-Harbi, a free training course approved by the "Finance Academy". It is worth noting that the "Completed Challenge" competition comes within a series of knowledge competitions and as one of the activities held by the Center for Communication and Financial Knowledge with the aim of enhancing sources of financial knowledge, and enriching financial and economic awareness and culture in its various fields. <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/news/Pages/news1172021.aspx> https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1423585588582756352 https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1425025501429747722 • The Center for Communication and Financial Knowledge launched a complementary podcast initiative, which was its first launch, during which it hosted experts in the world of finance and economics, who transferred their experiences and expertise, to be a reference that enhances the economic awareness of community members https://twitter.com/CFKC_KSA/status/1422957077438345218 <https://cfkc.gov.sa/mediaCenter/Pages/rss.aspx>

Researcher Response

Researcher is inclined to maintain the selection of option 'd' for this question as the references provided in the Government response do not directly

answer the question, namely that for mechanisms identified in question 125, public feedback is provided.

133. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive provide the public with information on how citizens' inputs have been used to assist in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received during the implementation of the annual budget, which ones are taken into account to improve budget monitoring, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received (e.g., a written transcript) from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were or were not taken into account by the executive during budget monitoring.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Kindly see response provided in Question 128.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

134. Are participation mechanisms incorporated into the timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Sustainability," "Timeliness" and "Complementarity" and addresses whether the executive is able to link participation mechanisms to the administrative processes that are used to create the annual budget.

Please note that "timetable" refers to a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. This document is sometimes referred to as the budget calendar and is the same document referenced in Question 53.

Answer "a" applies if the national executive establishes a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation

mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget. For answer choice "a", the timetable must be available to the public prior to the budget preparation process beginning.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not establish a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Kindly see response provided in Question 125.

Comment:

Public engagement largely occurs after the budget is ratified.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the executive incorporates participation into its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal and the timetable is available to the public.

Researcher Response

Researcher maintains initial selection of option 'b'. The budget timetable provided by Government in a previous question make no reference to participatory mechanisms with the public. <https://mof.gov.sa/en/financialreport/budgetJourney/Pages/default.aspx>

135. Do one or more line ministries use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation or implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES

While questions 125 – 134 focus only on participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency currently use to allow the public to participate in the national budget process, this question asks about participation mechanisms used by line ministries to allow the public to participate in national budget processes. Thus, participation mechanisms used by the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by a line ministry or if multiple line ministries use participation mechanisms, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation and/or implementation of the annual budget.

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf

To answer "a," a line ministry must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which a line ministry seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if a line ministry has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) A line ministry consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the line ministry determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

No line ministries provide the opportunity for public consultation, to the extent required for the selection of a score other than d.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, at least one line ministry uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Comments: A lecture was held on "The Future of Investment in Construction Technology and Real Estate Development", which dealt with the types and advantages of technologies adopted in housing projects and the returns from developers' reliance on construction technology;
<https://twitter.com/SaudiEco/status/1193415374613733377> <https://twitter.com/BuildingSaudi/status/1193957649819287553>

Researcher Response

Researcher thanks the Government Response for the link provided. However, this is not sufficiently prove that line ministries have implemented formal mechanisms to collect public input on the budget. Researcher maintains the answer of option 'd'.

136. Does the legislature or the relevant legislative committee(s) hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the formulation of the annual budget (pre-budget and/or approval stages)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislative are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) has put in place and is using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the annual budget. This includes deliberations during the pre-budget phase (i.e., when the executive is still in the process of formulating the draft budget) and the budget discussions after the budget has been tabled to parliament and before it is approved. In the comment box, please specify during which stage of the budget cycle the legislature has put in place a public participation mechanism.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual Members of Parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

If there is more than one mechanism, please select a mechanism that best shows/reflects the legislature's efforts to incorporate citizens into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenues, policy selection, and macro-fiscal planning (please note that the issue of coverage is covered in a subsequent question).

To answer "a," the legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs; but
- There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.

Answer “c” should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs;
- No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, but
- The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)
- The legislature has a provision (via standing orders or in law) through which the public can submit their inputs, and members of the public or CSOs actively use it to submit opinions on the budget.

Answer “d” applies if the requirements for a “c” response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget

Answer:

d. The requirements for a “c” response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

The legislative body of Saudi Arabia, Majlis Al-Shura, does not pass necessary requirements to be considered a formal legislative body. In addition they are not engaged in the budget process.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

137. During the legislative deliberations on the annual budget (pre-budget or approval stages), which of the following key topics does the legislature’s (or relevant legislative budget committee) engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of “Transparency” and “Timeliness”. Please consider the range of mechanisms currently used by the legislature to promote public participation during legislative deliberations on the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics, for the purpose of answering this question, “key topics” are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the legislature’s engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., “what issues is the public invited to engage on?”) and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer “d” applies if the requirements for a “c” response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

See answer to Questions 136.

Comment:

The Majlis Al-Shura does not hold public deliberations.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

138. Does the legislature provide feedback to the public on how citizens' inputs have been used during legislative deliberations on the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the legislature provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received and how inputs were used during legislative deliberations (please note that these deliberations can refer to the pre-budget and approval phases). By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the legislature.

Answer "a" applies when the legislature provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used in legislative deliberations on the annual budget (please note that these deliberations refer to the pre-budget and approval phases).*

Answer "c" applies when the legislature makes available a video recording of the relevant legislative session or provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

See response to Questions 136.

Comment:

The Majlis Al-Shura does not hold public deliberations on the annual budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

139. Does the legislature hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislature are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

A key constitutional role of the legislature in almost all countries is to oversee the government's management of public resources. While the Supreme Audit Institution is responsible for checking the government's accounts and publishing the outcome of their audits, for accountability purposes it is essential that the legislature reviews and scrutinizes those reports, and checks on whether the executive is taking the appropriate corrective actions based on the Supreme Audit Institution's recommendations.

Holding public hearings to review audit findings allows the public to learn more about how the government has managed its resources for the budget years that have ended, and demand accountability in case of mismanagement and irregularities. Reviewing and discussing those reports in public is therefore a key responsibility of a legislature.

Please note that by "Audit Report" we refer to the same audit report assessed in the transparency section of this Survey, i.e., one of the eight key budget documents that all governments (in this case, the Supreme Audit Institution) must produce, according to best practice.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) have put in place and using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the Audit Report.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual members of parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

To answer "a," the national legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *No testimony is allowed from the public; BUT*
- *There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.*

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *No testimony is allowed from the public;*
- *No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, BUT*
- *The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the Audit Report.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

The Majlis Al-Shura does not hold public discussions on the Audit Report.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

140. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program (for example, by bringing ideas on agencies, programs, or projects that could be audited)?

GUIDELINES:

This question assesses whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has established mechanisms through which the public can provide suggestions on issues/topics to be included in its audit program. When deciding its audit agenda, the SAI may undertake audits for a sample of agencies, projects, and programs in the country; and such a selection could be based on complaints and suggestions made by members of the public. To receive such suggestions, the SAI may create formal mechanisms, like setting up a website, hotline, or office (or assigning staff to liaise with the public).

Please note that formal mechanisms that do not explicitly seek the public's input in the audit program (such as general comment submission boxes on the SAI's website) should not be considered for this question.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

List of GCA Office Contact Details: https://www.gca.gov.sa/en/Pages/contact_us.aspx

Comment:

The General Court of Audit provides various channels for communicating with local offices. This is publicly available on the website and accessible by the public. While the GCA does not specifically highlight these communication channels for the suggestion of topics in the Audit Report, members of the public can make such recommendations.

However, per OBS methodology the general communication channels are not seen as sufficient for option "a" as the GCA should instead be actively engaging the public for suggestions on topics for inclusion in the audit program.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

141. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used to determine its audit program?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the Supreme Audit Institution provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used to determine the Supreme Audit Institution's audit program. By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the Supreme Audit Institution.

Answer "a" applies when the Supreme Audit Institution provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used to determine the SAI's annual audit program.*

Answer "c" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggests issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

N/a

Comment:
There is no evidence that this is done.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

142. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations (as respondents, witnesses, etc.)?

GUIDELINES:

This question mirrors question 140, but instead of covering public assistance in formulating the SAI's audit program, it focuses on whether the Supreme Audit Institution has established mechanisms through which the public can participate in audit investigations. In addition to seeking public input to determine its audit agenda, the SAI may wish to provide formal opportunities for the public and civil society organizations to participate in the actual audit investigations, as witnesses or respondents.

Answer:
b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:
N/A

Comment:
No such mechanisms are maintained. The Audit investigation is an internal affair.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree