



+ **100** Countries



Open Budget Survey 2023

THE OPEN BUDGET SURVEY (OBS) 2023

Date of launch: 29th May 2024

With support from:



OUTLINE

1. Background
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. Recommendations

BACKGROUND

BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE OPEN BUDGET (OBS)

- World's only comparable and independent measure of budget transparency, participation, and oversight.
- This 9th edition covers 125 countries (the first edition was done in 2006)
- Powerful tool that can be used to inform budget analysis and advocacy
- Documents and benchmarks the state of open budgeting worldwide by looking at three pillars:



BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE OPEN BUDGET SURVEY

The OBS Measures Three Essential Pillars That Make Up The Public Budget Accountability Ecosystem:

- ☑ **Transparency** of how public resources are used
- ☑ Opportunities for **participation** in the budget cycle and public policies
- ☑ **Oversight** by independent oversight entities and the legislature



METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

- Only documents published and events, activities, or developments that took place through 31 December 2022 were assessed in the OBS 2023.



Pre-Budgets Statement(PBS)



In-Year Reports (IYR)



Executive's Budget Proposal (EBP)



Mid-Year Review (MYR)



Enacted Budget (EB)



Year-End Report (YER)



Citizens Budget (CB)



Audit Report (AR)

METHODOLOGY

- The survey is based on desk review of country's PFM Reports.
- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Rwanda by a representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

OVERVIEW OF THE OBS RESEARCH PROCESS



OBS TIMELINE



Started in January 2023 – research phase

- ✓ Complete section 1: February 28
- ✓ Complete sections 4-5: March 31
- ✓ Complete sections 2-3: April 30

Reviewing phase

- ✓ **IBP:** All questionnaires are sent to the peer + govt reviewers: June 30
- ✓ Discuss the reviews: August-October 2023

Consolidation phase

- ✓ **IBP:** Questionnaires are finalized, after consistency checks → data is “locked”: December
- ✓ Dissemination planning: November 2023 – April 2024

Advocacy implementation phase

- ✓ Results launch: May 2024

Global Results Quick Data

Global Average Scores

Out of 100

Transparency

45

**Public
Participation**

15

**Legislative
Oversight**

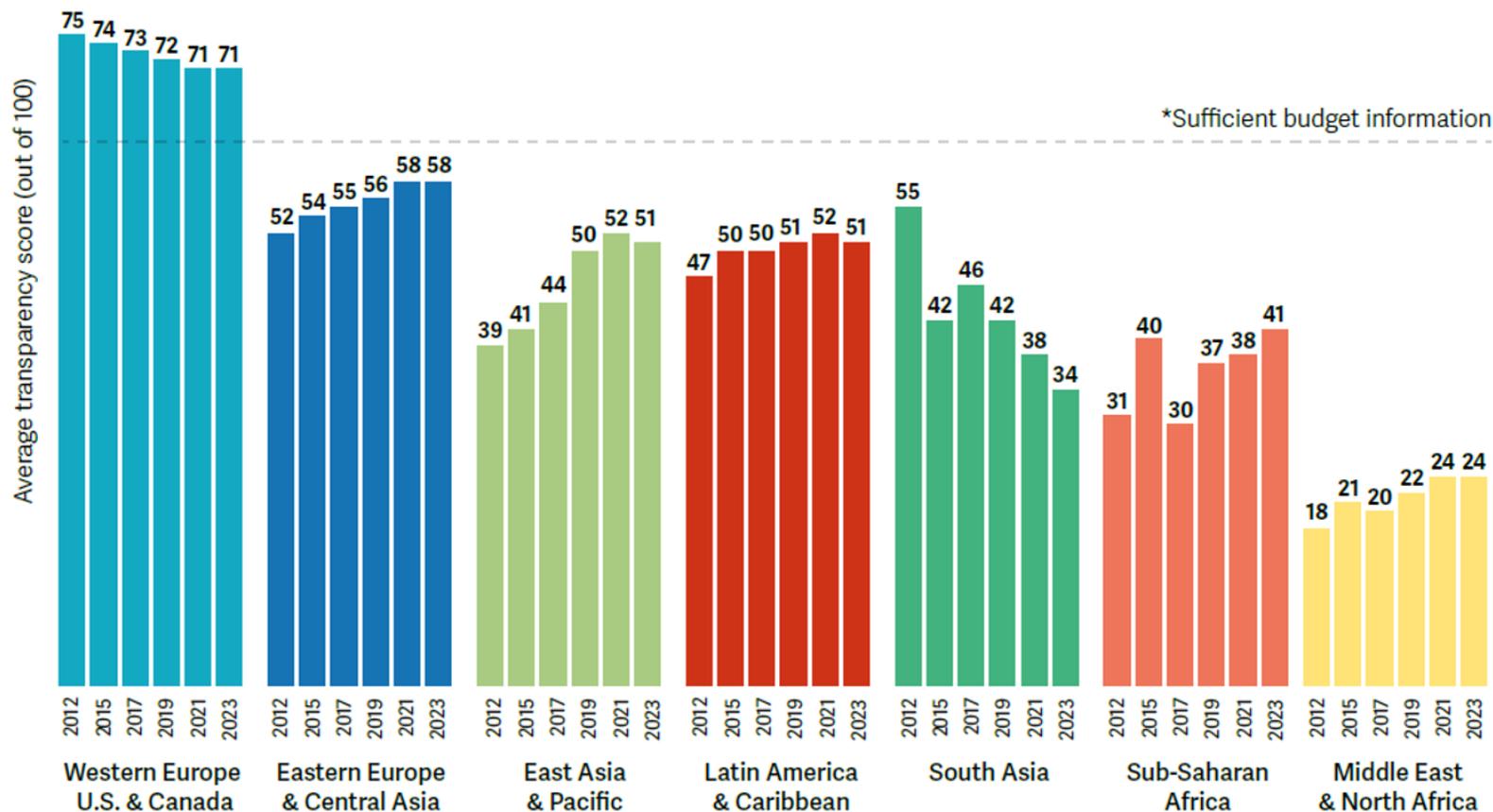
45

**Audit
Oversight**

62

(For 100 comparable countries assessed in OBS 2012 – OBS 2023. Due to rounding, some bars display the same average number but are slightly different heights, which reflect unrounded figures.)

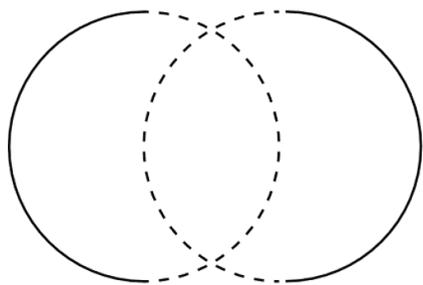
Regional trends, OBS 2012 – OBS 2023



RESULTS – Rwanda

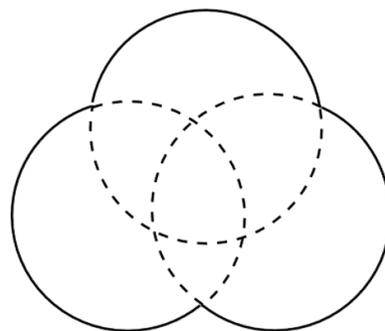
The Open Budget Survey (OBS) 2023

OVERVIEW: RWANDA'S RESULTS



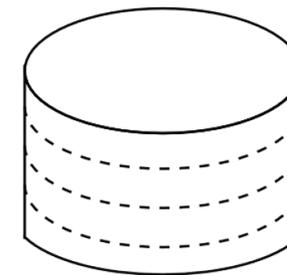
Transparency :

50 / 100



Public
Participation:

16 / 100



Budget Oversight

56 / 100

THE OPEN BUDGET SURVEY (OBS) 2023

#OBS2023

RWANDA



Rank
59 / 125

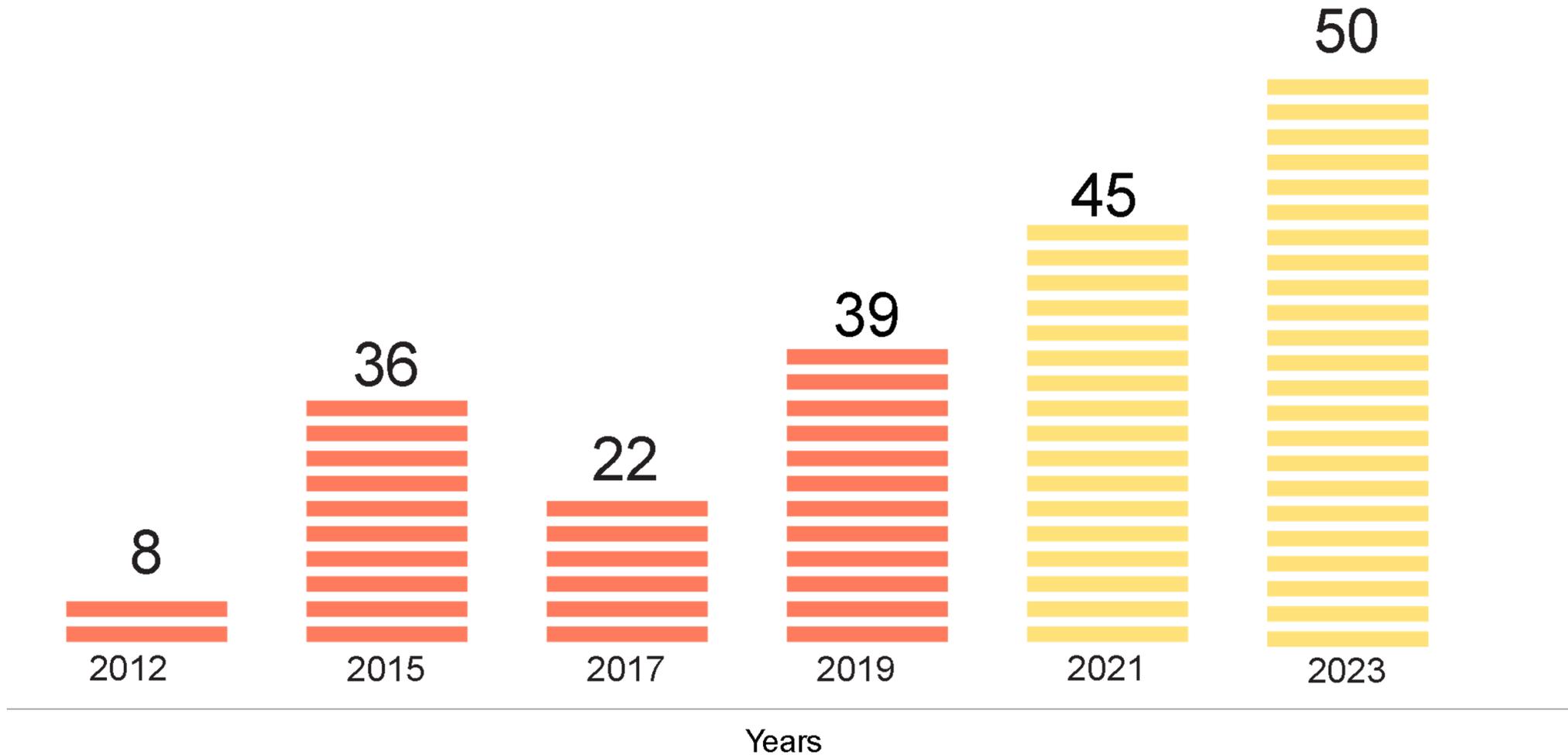
Score
50 / 100

TRANSPARENCY

TRANSPARENCY

- This part of the OBS measures public access to information on how the central government raises and spends public resources. It assesses the online availability, timeliness, and comprehensiveness of eight key budget documents using 109 equally weighted indicators and scores each country on a scale of 0 to 100.
- **A transparency score of 61 or above indicates a country is likely publishing enough material to support informed public debate on the budget.**
- Rwanda has a transparency score of 50 out of 100.

HOW HAS THE TRANSPARENCY SCORE FOR RWANDA CHANGED OVER TIME?



PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF BUDGET DOCUMENTS IN RWANDA

Key

-  Available to the public
-  Published late, or Not Published Online, or Produced for Internal Use Only
-  Not Produced

Document	2012	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Pre-Budgets Statement(PBS)						
Executive's Budget Proposal (EBP)						
Enacted Budget (EB)						
Citizens Budget (CB)						
In-Year Reports (IYR)						
Mid-Year Review (MYR)						
Year-End Report (YER)						
Audit Report (AR)						

HOW COMPREHENSIVE IS THE CONTENT OF THE KEY BUDGET DOCUMENTS THAT RWANDA MAKES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC?

KEY

 **61-100 / 100**

 **41-60 / 100**

 **1-40 / 100**

Key budget Document	Document Purpose and Contents	Fiscal year assessed	Document content score
Pre-Budget Statement	Discloses the broad parameters of fiscal policies in advance of the Executive's Budget Proposal; outline the government's economic forecast, anticipated revenue, expenditures, and debt.	2022-23	 39
Executive's Budget Proposal	Submitted by the executive to the legislature for approval; details the sources of revenue, the allocations to ministries, proposed policy changes, and other information important for understanding the country's fiscal situation.	2022-23	 51
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2022-23	 95
Citizens Budget	A simple and less technical version of the government's Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, designed to convey key information to the public	2022-23	 75

HOW COMPREHENSIVE IS THE CONTENT OF THE KEY BUDGET DOCUMENTS THAT RWANDA MAKES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC?

KEY

 **61-100 / 100**

 **41-60 / 100**

 **1-40 / 100**

Key budget Document	Document Purpose and Contents	Fiscal year assessed	Document content score
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made , and debt incurred at different intervals ; issued quarterly or monthly.	2022-23 & 2021-22	 78
Mid-Year Review	A comprehensive update on the implementation on the budget as of the middle of the fiscal year; includes a review of economic assumptions and updated forecast of budget outcomes.	2022-23	 74
Year-End Report	Describes the situation of the government's accounts at the end of the fiscal year and , ideally , an evaluation of the progress made toward achieving the budget's policy goals	2022-23	Published Late
Audit Report	Issued by supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts	2022-23	 43

WHAT CHANGED IN OBS 2023?

- Rwanda has increased the availability of budget information by:
- However, Rwanda has decreased the availability of budget information by:

Publishing the Mid-Year Review
online in a timely manner

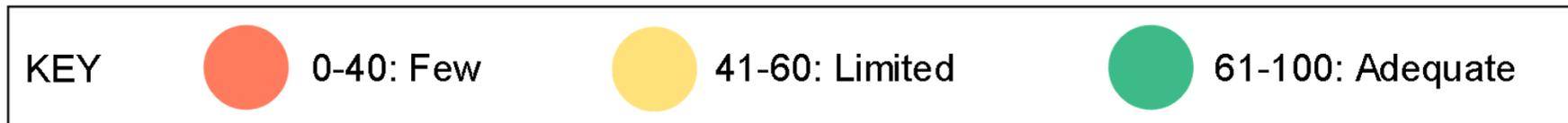
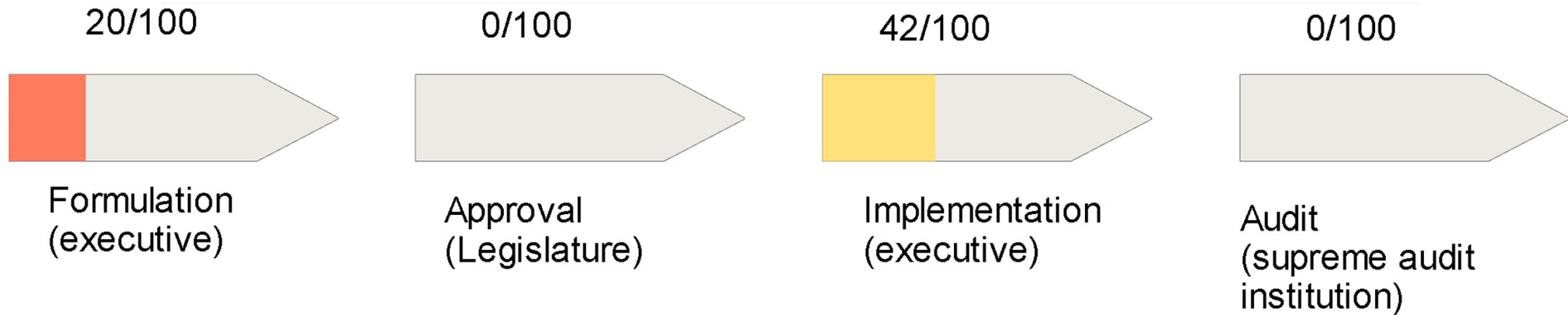
Reducing the information provided
in the Pre-Budget Statement

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- The OBS assesses the formal opportunities offered to the public for meaningful participation in the different stages of the budget process. It examines the practices of the central government's executive, the legislature, and the supreme audit institution (SAI) using 18 equally weighted indicators, aligned with the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency's Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policies, and scores each country on a scale from 0 to 100.
- Rwanda has a public participation score of 16 (out of 100).

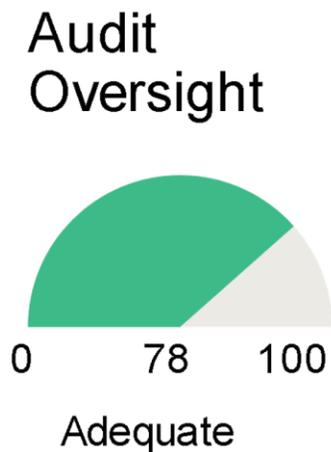
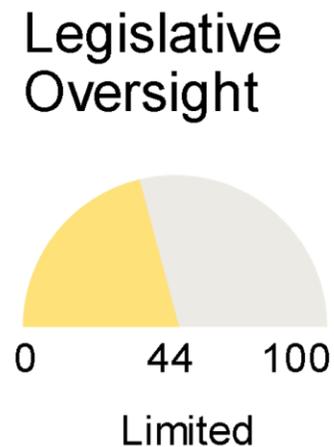
EXTENT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE BUDGET PROCESS



BUDGET OVERSIGHT

BUDGET OVERSIGHT

- The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information on independent fiscal institutions.
- The legislature and supreme audit institution in Rwanda, together, provide limited oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of 56 (out of 100). Taken individually, the extent of each institution's oversight is shown below:



KEY



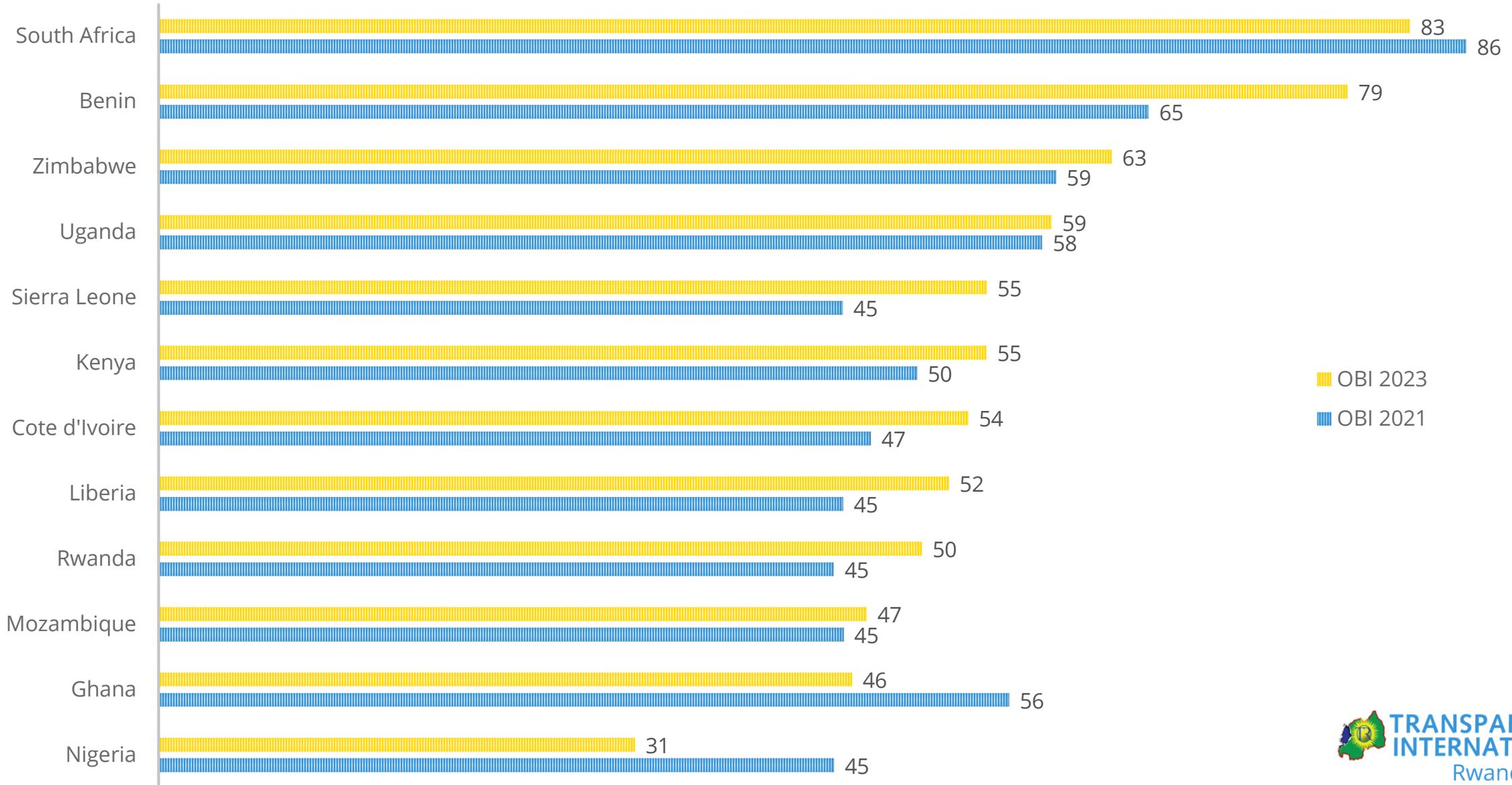
THE EMERGING PRACTISE OF ESTABLISHING INDEPENDENTS FISCAL INSTUTIONS

Rwanda does not have an independent fiscal institution (IFI). IFIs are increasingly recognized as valuable independent and nonpartisan information providers to the Executive and/or Parliament during the budget process.

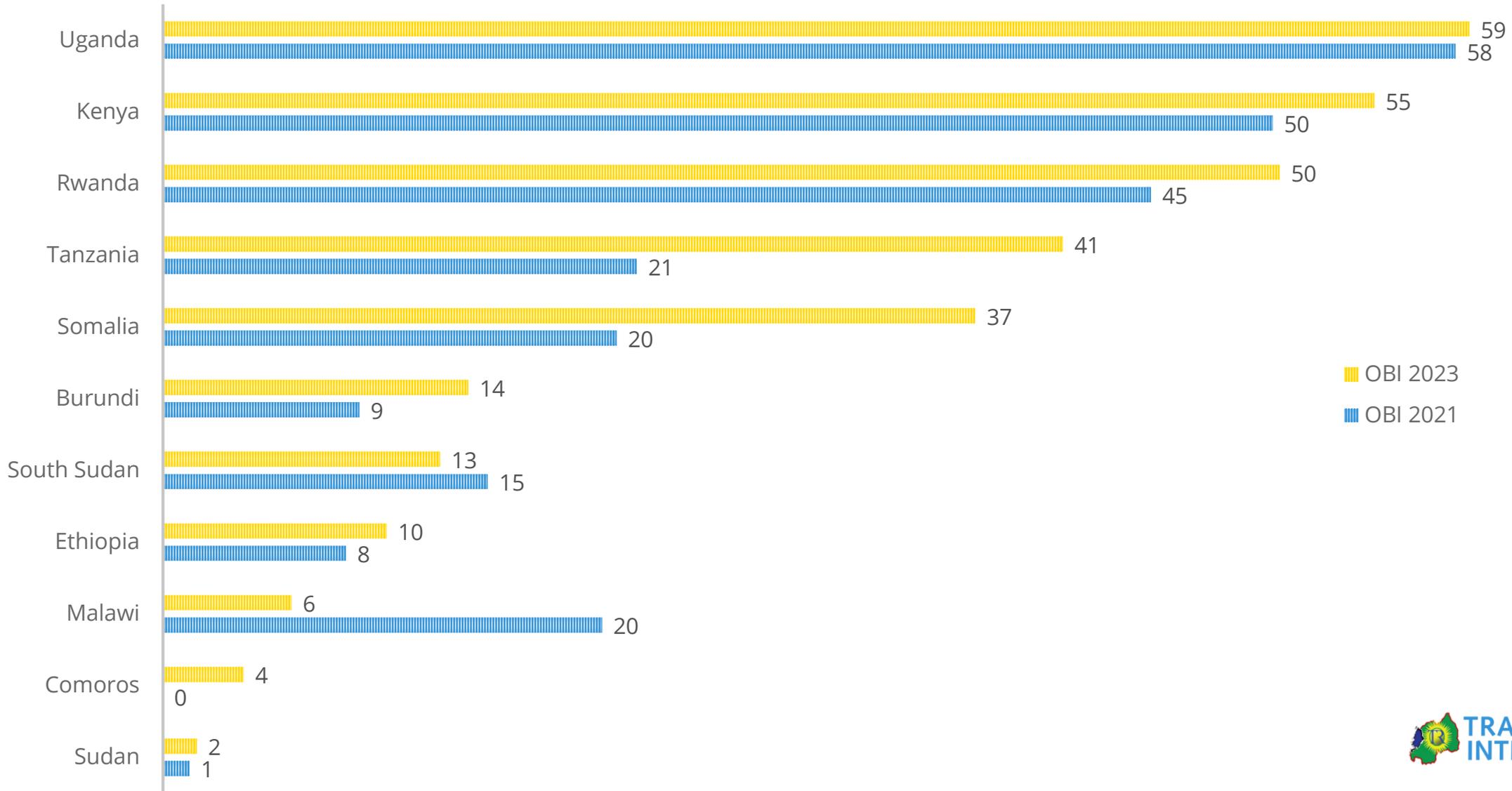
*These indicators are *not* scored in the Open Budget Survey.

Sub-Saharan Africa Results

Sub Saharan African Open Budget Index Performance



East African Open Budget Index Performance



RECOMMENDATIONS

Transparency

Rwanda should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- **Publish the Year-End Report online in a timely manner. The Year End Report should be made publicly available online within 12 months following the end of the fiscal year.**
- **Include in the Executive's Budget Proposal data on the financial position of the government and data on the macroeconomic forecast.**

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning should include information on financial and non-financial assets held by the government and projections for interest rates for the upcoming budget year. Additionally, the Executive's Budget Proposal should include an analysis that shows the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on estimates of expenditures, revenue, and debt (i.e., sensitivity analysis). Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning should consider including more information on external and domestic debt with maturity profiles.

- **Improve the comprehensiveness of the Audit Report and Pre-Budget Statement. The Office of the Auditor General could improve the Audit Report by ensuring that the Audit Report contains all expenditures, including extra-budgetary funds.**

Public Participation

Rwanda's Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning has established prebudget deliberations during budget formulation and public consultations during budget implementation but, to further strengthen public participation in the budget process, should also prioritize the following actions:

- **In partnership with the Ministry of Local Government, expand mechanisms during budget cycle (from formulation to implementation to audit) to engage any civil society organization or member of the public who wishes to participate. The ministries should consider making evidence of public participation, especially input from citizens, a public and accessible document for progress evaluation.**
- **Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.**

We note the existence of the Home Grown Initiatives such as Cell Assemblies (inteko z'Abaturage), National Women Council, Youth Council, people with disability council, National Children Council, Imihigo and Umuganda, which could be further strengthened with the thought of enhancing transparency and improving contributions from citizens and civil society. This also ensures that the process is open to further follow-up by the citizens and civil society and to improve collaborations between government, citizens and civil society actors. The Government can capitalize also on the Sector Working Groups (SWGs) to engage with other stakeholders in the budget process.

Public Participation

Rwanda's Parliament should prioritize the following actions:

- **Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval.**
- **Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the Audit Report.**

Rwanda's Office of the Auditor General should prioritize the following actions to improve public participation in the budget process:

- **Establish formal mechanisms for the public to assist in developing its audit program and to contribute to relevant audit investigations.**

Budget Oversight

Rwanda's Parliament provides limited oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and weak oversight during the implementation stage. To improve oversight, the following actions should be prioritized:

- **The legislature should debate budget policy before the Executive's Budget Proposal is tabled and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.**
- **The Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to legislators at least two months before the start of the budget year.**
- **Legislative committees should examine the Executive's Budget Proposal and publish reports with their analysis online.**
- **A legislative committee should examine in-year budget implementation and publish reports with their findings online.**

Budget Oversight

- **In practice, ensure the legislature is consulted before the executive reduces spending due to revenue shortfalls.**
- **A legislative committee should examine the Audit Report and publish a report with their findings online.**

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by the Rwanda Office of the Auditor General, the following actions are recommended:

- **Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.**



THANK YOU !

 @transparencyrwanda

 Transparency International Rwanda

 @TI_Rwanda

 www.tirwanda.org

Toll free: 2641

(To report cases of corruption)