Economic Governance and National Development Planning in the Arab Region

• budget processes that support national institutions to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
• A member of PartnersGlobal Network, Partners-Jordan (PJ)
• Established in 2006 as a local not for profit national
• Center committed to advance civil society, promote
  – mediation, conflict management, create culture of change,
  – and encourage citizen participation in Jordan’s social and
  – political development.

• Additionally the center focuses on
  – strengthening ongoing government reform efforts by facilitating
    government-civil society dialogue and cooperation, and offers a
    range of skills and services
  – designed to strengthen democracy and citizen participation.
• Seeking a more transparent and accountable Government, developed two yearly programs 2008.
• Transparency of the national budget
• Participatory budgeting with municipalities
Budget Transparency

• Public finance systems that are transparent — with effective formal oversight and opportunities for public participation — are essential for the efficient and effective use of scarce public resources.

• Governments have a responsibility to be transparent in how they raise and spend public funds, and citizens have the right to participate in making decisions about budgets and monitoring how these decisions are implemented.
Participatory approach

• While public participation in budget processes contributes to decision making and is critical to accountability, it cannot replace scrutiny by the legislature and the supreme audit institutions, which have formal oversight authority over governments.
Budget Transparency

• After a decade of steady progress
## OPEN BUDGET SURVEY 2017

### JORDAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transparency Open Budget Index</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Jordan provides the public with substantial budget information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Participation</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Jordan provides few opportunities for the public to engage in the budget process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Oversight</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>The legislature and supreme audit institution in Jordan provide limited oversight of the budget.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How does budget transparency in Jordan compare to others?

- Global Average: 42
- Jordan: 63
- Morocco: 45
- Egypt: 41
- Tunisia: 39
- Algeria: 3
- Iraq: 3
- Lebanon: 3
- Sudan: 2
- Saudi Arabia: 1
- Qatar: 0
- Yemen: 0

The chart shows the level of budget transparency in various countries compared to the global average and Jordan.
OBI 2017 results

How has the OBI score for Jordan changed over time?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extensive</th>
<th>Substantial</th>
<th>Limited</th>
<th>Minimal</th>
<th>Scant or None</th>
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OBI 2017 results

How comprehensive and useful is the information provided in the key budget documents that Jordan publishes?

![Bar chart showing the level of information provided in various budget documents for Jordan.]

- Pre-Budget Statement: 56
- Executive’s Budget Proposal: 62
- Enacted Budget: 95
- Citizens Budget: 67
- In-Year Reports: 78
- Mid-Year Review: 52
- Year-End Report: 57
- Audit Report: 62
## OPEN BUDGET SURVEY 2017

### Public availability of budget documents from 2006 to 2017

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<td>Audit Report</td>
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- **Available to the Public**: Green
- **Not Produced**: Red
- **Published Late, or Not Published Online, or Produced for Internal Use Only**: Yellow
Participation

• INSUFFICIENT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES IN EVERY COUNTRY

• Providing opportunities for public participation in the budget process is key to creating a more inclusive democracy. Without citizens’ active participation — particularly citizens from marginalized or vulnerable groups — budget systems may only serve the interests of powerful elites.
• Transparency alone is insufficient for improving governance. Public participation in budgeting is vital to realize the positive outcomes associated with greater budget transparency.
How does public participation in Jordan compare to other countries in the region?
Participatory budgeting at local level governments - municipalities

• Train municipalities employees and local NGO’s on:
  • Accountability – HRBA (Human Rights Based Approach)
  • Participatory budgeting
Participatory budgeting at local level governments - municipalities

• Survey to identify needs and priorities
• Use survey results to effect change on municipalities budget
• Use town hall meetings to establish committees (citizens and employees)
Participatory budgeting at local level governments - municipalities

• Results were rather shocking; priorities were catering for marginalized or vulnerable groups (Children, women and the youth)
• Examples of what citizens priorities in the development needs were;
  • Children friendly cities and/or towns
  • Empowerment of woman
  • Enabling young entrepreneurs and small businesses
What's next

• An initiative to introduce participatory approach to the national budget process in order to formalize it in the future.