59 *Transparency*

35 *Participation*

59 *Oversight*

Egypt's Open Budget Survey 2025 scores, out of 100



Open budgets, stronger accountability: *Egypt's Open Budget Survey 2025 results* and the road ahead

Egypt recorded its strongest Open Budget Survey round on record. This brief reads the results against Egypt's fiscal-reform agenda and sets out the opportunities for the next phase.

Dcode CONNECT · The Open Budget Forum

From Transparency to Action · Cairo, 27 July 2026

Dcode Consulting

Policy brief · Open Budget Survey 2025
July 2026

The bottom line

Egypt's budget is more open, more participatory and better scrutinised than at any point in the survey's history. The opportunity now is to make those gains durable and put them to work.

59

Transparency

Up 10 points from 49 in 2023, two points from the 61-point sufficiency threshold.

35

Public participation

Held at its 2023 level, the highest in the Middle East and North Africa.

59

Oversight

Up 5 points from 54; legislative oversight reached 61, the "adequate" band.

1 **Open budgets are part of fiscal credibility**

Clear, timely information on revenue, spending and debt anchors expectations, supports access to finance and builds the public trust that reform needs. Egypt's OBS 2025 result is an independent, internationally comparable marker that its fiscal-transparency reforms are taking hold.

2 **The gains rest on specific reforms**

The audit report on the state's final accounts published online, an earlier statement of budget strategy, and a Mid-Year Review expanded with revenue and debt detail.

3 **Participation is a regional strength**

Mechanisms run across several parts of government: the Ministry of Finance's transparency and citizen-engagement unit, the Sharek 2030 platform and the Sotak Masmou initiative.

4 **The next phase: consolidate, activate, expand**

Anchor the new practices so they endure, turn published information into engagement, and extend disclosure to fiscal risks, where the global frontier is moving.

About the Open Budget Survey

The Open Budget Survey (OBS) is the independent, comparative assessment of budget transparency, public participation and oversight produced every two years by the International Budget Partnership (IBP). OBS 2025 is the tenth round since 2006. Each country is scored from 0 to 100 on each pillar using evidence assessed by an in-country researcher and reviewed with government; IBP considers a score of 61 or above sufficient. In Egypt, Dcode Consulting serves as the independent national research partner, IBP owns and publishes the methodology and results, and the work is supported under the EU-funded COAB II programme.

Part one Why open budgets matter now

Governments everywhere are budgeting under strain. In that setting, transparency is part of fiscal credibility, not an add-on.

High public debt, elevated interest costs and uncertainty on several fronts at once, from geopolitics and trade to technology and climate, make fiscal outlooks harder to predict and public trust harder to sustain. Clear, timely information on how public money is raised, planned and spent is one of the few tools that works on all of these at once.

The international evidence is consistent: greater fiscal transparency is associated with stronger credit standing and lower borrowing costs. In a high-debt, high-rate world, that is a direct fiscal dividend.

Egypt is pursuing a declining debt path and a sustained primary surplus, with fiscal transparency among the structural commitments of its reform programme, from expanded debt reporting to broader coverage of the general government. The OBS 2025 result is independent evidence that these commitments are becoming practice.

What open budgets deliver

Three dividends

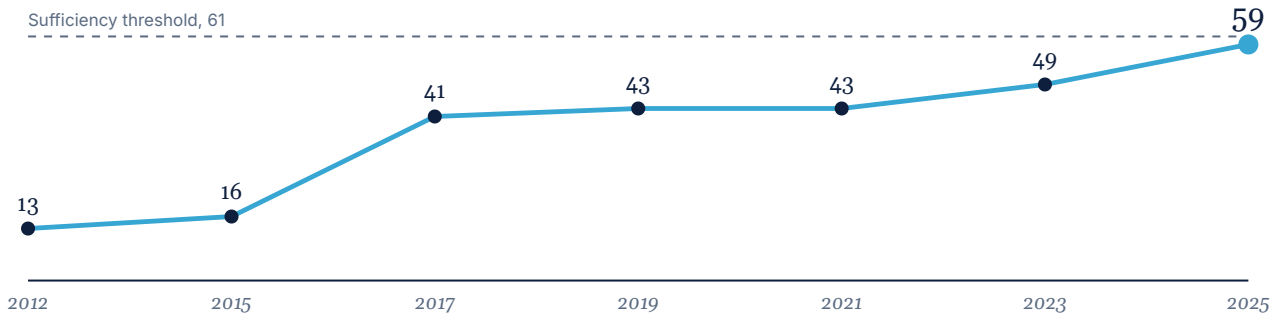
Credibility. Investors and partners can see the fiscal position and its risks.

Better spending. Published information, public input and scrutiny catch problems early.

Trust. Citizens can see how their money is used, and how their input is used.

A decade of steady progress

Egypt's transparency score across OBS rounds, against IBP's sufficiency threshold of 61



Source: International Budget Partnership, Open Budget Survey, Egypt country results 2012–2025.

What moved the score in 2025

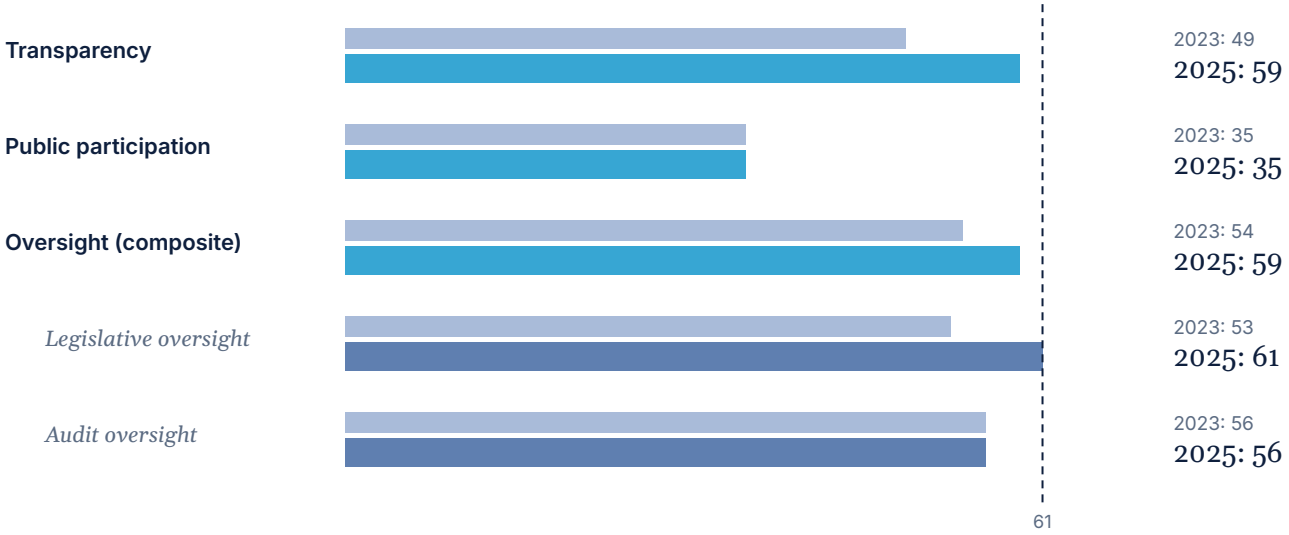
Reform	*Why it matters*
Audit Report published online	The supreme audit institution's report on the state's final accounts is now publicly available, completing the budget calendar.
Earlier statement of budget strategy	The public can see the government's fiscal plans before the detailed budget proposal reaches Parliament.
Expanded Mid-Year Review	Updated revenue and expenditure estimates, more detailed revenue sources, and explanations of changes in borrowing and debt estimates.

Part two Three pillars, three stories

Transparency moved closest to the threshold, participation held its regional lead, and legislative oversight crossed into the adequate band.

Gains on two pillars, a lead held on the third, and the legislature into "adequate"

Egypt's OBS scores, 2023 and 2025 (0–100). Dashed line: IBP sufficiency threshold of 61.



Source: International Budget Partnership, Open Budget Survey 2023 and 2025. The oversight composite combines legislative and audit oversight.

01 Transparency: within reach of sufficiency

At 59, Egypt is two points below the score IBP considers sufficient. The ten-point gain in one round reflects documents that are now published on time and in more detail, rather than new documents alone.

02 Participation: a regional lead

Egypt held its participation score of 35, the highest in the region. Participation is the weakest pillar globally, which makes sustained, structured engagement a genuine differentiator.

03 Oversight: the legislature crossed into "adequate"

Legislative oversight rose from 53 to 61, reaching the adequate band, while audit oversight held at 56. Together they lift the oversight composite to 59.

Implication *Egypt now has a platform on all three pillars. The next gains come less from publishing more and more from using what is published.*

Part three Good practice, and accountability in action

Egypt's results rest on routines that already work, in more than one part of government.

Budget execution reporting

Egypt is one of only two countries in the region that publishes a Mid-Year Review, the document that lets the public compare actual spending and revenue with the budget at the year's midpoint. In this round it was strengthened with updated estimates for the year under way, more detailed revenue sources and explanations of changes in borrowing and debt estimates (IBP, OBS 2025).

Participation across government

Mechanism	*What it does*
Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement unit, Ministry of Finance	Local consultations, pre-budget hearings and accessible budget publications, including the Citizen Budget.
Sharek 2030	Invites citizen input into the national investment plan (Ministry of Planning).
Sotak Masmou (Your Voice is Heard)	Channels service-delivery feedback from every governorate and reports on complaints received and resolved (Ministry of Local Development).

Community spotlight

From budgets to services

Building on a budget-literacy model piloted in Fayoum and Alexandria, a health-sector initiative in Beni Suef works with local officials and young people to follow health spending and service delivery, feeding citizen input into planning and budget cycles. It connects published budgets to the services people actually receive.

How open budgeting improves lives

Transparency, participation and oversight work as a chain. Each link strengthens the next.

1. **Information**
   Budgets published on time and in detail
2. **Participation**
   Public input shapes decisions
3. **Oversight**
   Decisions carried out and corrected
4. **Better services**
   Public money better spent

Part four The next phase: consolidate, activate, expand

Each is a positive extension of a direction already visible in the data, and each is a whole-of-government effort.

Consolidate

Anchor the routines behind the 2025 gains, such as timely publication of the budget strategy and the Audit Report and the expanded Mid-Year Review, so that they endure. Countries that sustain OBS progress share this pattern of institutional anchors.

Activate

Turn published information into engagement: parliamentary hearings on the Audit Report, published feedback showing how public input shaped decisions, and in-depth review of the Mid-Year Review.

Expand

Extend disclosure to the areas with the largest fiscal implications: tax expenditures, contingent liabilities and guarantees, state-owned-enterprise positions and multi-year fiscal sustainability.

Where the global frontier is moving

Twenty years of OBS evidence point to four areas that now define budget accountability, each a natural next step for Egypt.

Area	*Why it matters*
Fiscal-risk disclosure	Tax expenditures, contingent liabilities and quasi-fiscal activity are where disclosure is thinnest worldwide and where hidden fiscal risks sit.
In-year legislative scrutiny	Protecting review time and scrutinising changes to spending during the year.
Audit follow-up	Globally, whether governments act on audit findings is one of the slowest-moving indicators.
Feedback on participation	Publishing not only what input was received but how it shaped decisions, a practice few countries follow.

Tested models Egypt can adapt

Elsewhere, governments have institutionalised civil-society sessions that review budget-execution reports and track the resulting recommendations; audit institutions have opened formal channels for citizens to contribute to audit programmes; and finance ministries publish a running register of the status of each audit recommendation. Each closes the accountability loop through an administrative routine rather than institutional overhaul.

For consideration Opportunities across the next budget cycles

Sequenced by horizon and framed as extensions of work already in motion, across government, Parliament, the audit institution, civil society and development partners.

Horizon	Opportunities
Near term *this budget cycle*	Publish the statement of budget strategy online on the OBS timetable. Carry the fiscal-risk disclosures begun in the Mid-Year Review into the budget proposal. Hold public hearings on the newly published Audit Report. Build accessible budget guides on the Citizen Budget. Sustain support for the whole accountability ecosystem.
Medium term *one to two OBS rounds*	Extend disclosure to tax expenditures, contingent liabilities and state-owned-enterprise positions. Publish a medium-term fiscal sustainability analysis with the budget. Strengthen specialist support for in-year legislative review of debt, state-owned enterprises and sector spending. Track how public input shapes decisions, building an evidence base.
Longer term *one full cycle*	Anchor public participation in a formal framework. Publish a long-term fiscal sustainability outlook. Build specialist scrutiny capacity on debt sustainability and state-owned-enterprise performance. Treat fiscal-risk, debt and state-owned-enterprise transparency as core parts of public financial management.

The prize Credibility, standing and regional leadership

1 **Fiscal credibility**

Transparency on fiscal risks increasingly informs sovereign assessments, with direct implications for borrowing costs.

2 **Reform standing**

The OBS result is an externally verified marker of progress on Egypt's fiscal-transparency commitments.

3 **Regional leadership**

Egypt leads the region on public participation, a natural platform for peer learning.

In conclusion From openness to accountability

The question for the next round is not whether Egypt can keep publishing, but whether it consolidates, activates and expands.

Egypt's OBS 2025 results confirm what its own trajectory has been showing: sustained commitment to budget openness produces measurable, internationally comparable results, and does so when fiscal credibility and public trust matter most. Countries that turn early disclosure gains into durable accountability share three things: institutional anchors that outlast any single administration, capable budget institutions committed to openness, and civil-society engagement that keeps demand for accountability alive. Egypt has the foundation for all three.

Dcode view *On the evidence of 2025, Egypt is well placed to move from transparency to accountability, and to set the regional benchmark in doing so.*

The Open Budget Forum

Dcode Consulting convened the Open Budget Forum, "From Transparency to Action", in Cairo on 27 July 2026 under the Dcode CONNECT platform and the EU-funded COAB II programme, with the participation of the Ministry of Finance. The Forum marked the OBS 2025 results with senior stakeholders from government, Parliament, civil society and development partners, and turned to the reform agenda ahead.

Sources

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About this brief. These materials draw on data developed by the International Budget Partnership. Prepared by Dcode Consulting, Egypt's independent national research partner for the Open Budget Survey, with support from the EU-funded COAB II programme. The views expressed are Dcode's and do not necessarily reflect those of IBP, the European Union or the Government of Egypt.

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