



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**SIERRA LEONE MAKES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE OPEN  
BUDGET SURVEY (OBS) GLOBAL RANKING**

The Ministry of Finance is pleased to inform the general public that Sierra Leone has made significant progress in the 2023 Global Report on the Open Budget Survey by ranking 47 out of 125 countries on transparency, an improvement of 17 points over the 2021 ranking of 64 out of 125.

The Open Budget Survey (OBS) is the world's only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess:

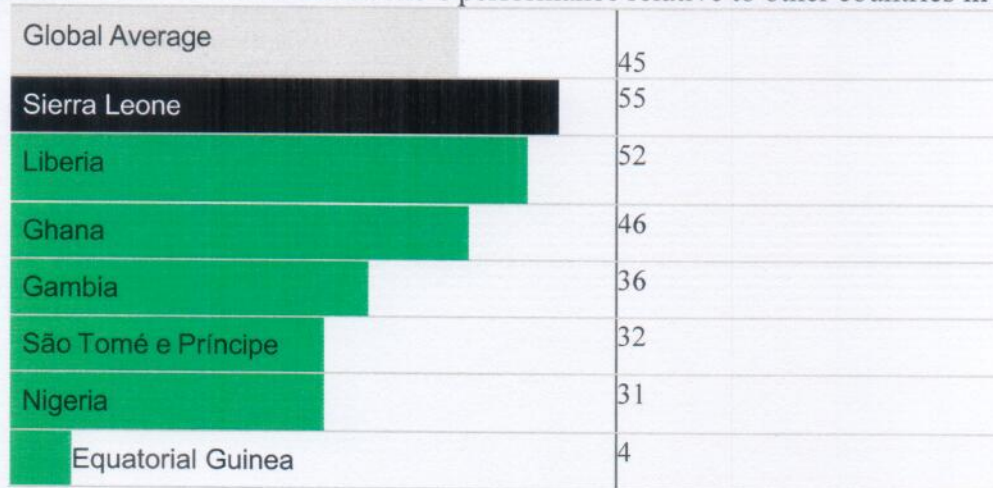
- (i) public access to central government budget information (**transparency** on how public resources are generated and utilised);
- (ii) formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process (opportunities for **participation** in budget policy decisions); and
- (iii) the role of budget oversight institutions, such as legislatures and national audit offices, in the budget process (**oversight** by independent legislatures and audit institutions).

Sierra Leone registered significant progress on **transparency**, scoring 55 (out of 100) and ranked ahead of Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tomé e Príncipe. In this area, 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. The areas assessed include Pre-Budget Statements, Executive Budget Proposals, Enacted Budgets, Citizens Budgets, In-Year Reports, Mid-year reviews, Year-End Reports, and Audit Reports.

Sierra Leone's transparency score of **55** in the OBS 2023 is higher than that of 45 in 2021 and 38 in 2017. The improvement in 2023 reflects Government efforts in implementing reforms to ensure the availability of budget information through increased information provided in the Enacted Budget and In-Year Reports among others.

The Government is committed to implementing reforms in the other areas of **Public Participation** and **Budget Oversight** to ensure continued improvement in the ranking of Sierra Leone and public financial management.

The chart below shows Sierra Leone's performance relative to other countries in transparency.



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