





# **Enhancing Budget Transparency and Participatory Budgeting in the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Aynura Bakaybaeva
Division Head in the State Budget Department,
Ministry of Economy and Finance,
Republic of Uzbekistan,
Chair of PEMPAL BCOP



## Regulatory and Legal Framework to Enhance Budget Openness



- Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures to Ensure Openness of Budget Data and Active Citizens' Participation in the Budget Process" (No IIII-3917 dated August 22, 2018)
- ✓ <u>Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan</u> for 2020"
- ✓ Article 166¹ of the Budget Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Nesolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Additional Measures to Ensure Active Citizens' Participation in the Budget Process" № ΠΠ-5072 dated April 13, 2021)
- Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Additional Measures to Ensure Openness of Government Bodies and Organizations as well as Effective Implementation of Public Scrutiny" (№ УП-6247 dated June 16, 2021)
- ▼ Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures to Further Increase Financing of Public-Informed Activities Developed through the "Open Budget" Portal" (№ ПП-5250 dated September 22, 2021)
- ✓ Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures to Further Improve Participatory Budgeting Practices and to Support Proactive Mahallas" (№117 dated April 10, 2023)





#### 2018





In June 2018 fiscal transparency was evaluated based on the IMF's Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency.

The evaluation concluded that Uzbekistan scored "basic" or "good" for 16 of 36 principles, which revealed the need for targeted comprehensive efforts in this area.

	RATING				
LEVEL OF PRACTICE	Not met		Basic	Good	Advanced
LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	High	Med	lium	Low	
IIIII ORTAITEE					



I. Fiscal Reporting	II. Fiscal Forecasting and Budgeting	III. Fiscal Risk Analysis and Management		
Coverage of Institutions	Budget Unity	Macroeconomic Risks		
Coverage of Stocks	Macroeconomic Forecasts	Special Fiscal Risks		
Coverage of Flows	Medium-term Budget Framework	Long-term Fiscal Sustainability		
Coverage of Tax Expenditures	Investment Projects	Budgetary Contingencies		
Frequency of In-Year Reporting	Fiscal Legislation	Asset and Liability Management		
Timeliness of Annual Accounts	Timeliness of Budget Documentation	Guarantees		
Classification	Fiscal Policy Objectives	Public-Private Partnerships		
Internal Consistency	Performance Information	Financial Sector		
Historical Revisions	Public Participation	Natural Resources		
Statistical Integrity	Independent Evaluation	Environmental Risks		
External Audit	Supplementary Budget	Subnational Governments		
Comparability of Fiscal Data	Forecast Reconciliation	Public Corporations		

### MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO ENHANCE FISCAL TRANSPARENCY:





For the first time, a mediumterm budget (for 2019 and budget targets for 2020-2021) was prepared and approved



A new division for public financial statistics and budget transparency was established in the Ministry of Finance

The **Openbudget.uz open budget information portal** was launched



Since 2018 the Citizens' Budget is regularly produced and published







# Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures to Ensure Openness of Budget Data and Active Citizens' Participation in the Budget Process":





- since 2019, participatory budgeting has been introduced - a portion of local budgets is used to finance activities informed by citizens.



- Since <u>2020</u>, the state budget and budgets of State Earmarked Funds (SEF) <u>are</u> <u>approved by law</u>;

- drafts of the State budget, SEF budgets, main areas of fiscal policy as well as reports on the execution of the state budget and SSPF budgets must undergo public discussions prior to their submission to Parliament (Oliy Majlis);



- measures have been taken to expand budget data dissemination channels, and encourage proactive public participation in the budget process, to ensure an open dialogue with the citizens

(placement of budget data on the official website and Telegram channel of the Ministry of Finance, delivery of thematic workshops and round tables, participation of representatives of the Ministry of Finance in TV and radio programs, publications in the media).



In **March 2019**, the IMF mission **updated its fiscal transparency evaluation**.

Measures to enhance budget openness helped to <u>improve</u> fiscal transparency indicators <u>for</u> 8 <u>principles</u> of the IMF Code vs. June 2018 evaluation.

As of March 2019, Uzbekistan was in compliance with 23 out of 36 IMF Code principles.



June 2018	Changes in Implementation Practice	March 2019	
Statistics	Established in the Ministry of Finance	Good	
Medium-term Budget Framework	Forecasts for key aggregated fiscal indicators for three years included in the budget for 2019.	Basic	
Fiscal Policy Objectives	The budget for 2019 includes a fiscal policy statement and quantitative fiscal policy targets re. public debt and consolidated deficit of the state budget and earmarked funds.	Good	
Performance Information	The budget for 2019 includes input data for key policy areas, as well as expected outcomes for some policy areas.	Basic	
Public Participation	A Citizens' Budget published along with the budget for 2019, with a brief overview of economic and fiscal prospects as well as a description of fiscal policy impact on citizens' lives.	Basic	
Macreconomic Risks	The budget for 2019 includes sensitivity analysis of fiscal forecasts to key macroeconomic assumptions.	Basic	
Specific Fiscal Risks	A statement on specific fiscal risks included in the budget for 2019.	Basic	
Financial Sector	The budget for 2019 describes possible direct financial sector risks related to the deposit insurance system.	Basic	





The Law "On the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020" included a stand-alone chapter on ensuring transparency in executing the consolidated budget.

Ministries, agencies, State Earmarked Funds <u>every quarter</u> disclose information on:

- ✓ **budget funds allocations** by subordinate budget organizations;
- ✓ financial statements;
- implementation of projects financed by capital investments;
- ✓ tenders performed and **public procurements** done.



<u>Local governments</u> are required to publish <u>Lists of Procured Goods and Services; sites</u> where construction, reconstruction and repair works are performed that are financed with additional local budgets' sources of revenue, as well as information on the <u>financing of construction and repair work</u>.

The Tax and Customs Committees after each quarter publish <u>lists of tax and customs preferences</u> as well as information on the amounts of such preferences, by taxpayers.





#### EXPANDING PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Additional Measures to Ensure Active Citizens' Participation in the Budget Process" № ΠΠ-5072 dated April 13, 2021.

- An updated version of the "Open Budget" portal with enhanced functionality launched, to ensure:
  - adaptation of the portal to the introduction and selection of activities shaped by citizens' suggestions that are put for financing by district (city) budgets;
    - broader citizens' engagement in participatory budgeting and public voting;
  - measures to ensure convenient operation of the portal **on all devices** (mobile phone, tablet, laptop).



Since May 1, 2021 the following financial information is published in the media and the Internet:

- ✓ revenues and expenditures of extrabudgetary funds that belong to government bodies;
- ✓ procurements by legal entities where the government stake in registered equity (registered capital) is 50 per cent and higher, and legal entities owing 50 per cent and more of registered equity (registered capital);
- ✓ amounts and recipients of public subsidies and grants.

The Regulation on the procedure for posting information on official websites in order to ensure the budgetary process openness approved. The procedure, formats and deadlines for posting information on the official websites of ministries and agencies established.

Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on May 7, 2021, № 3299

The Administrative Code and the Budget Code include a provision whereby since April 1, 2021, organizations that violate the procedure and deadlines for posting information on official websites shall be subject to fines of 1 to 2 amounts of the base reference value.

Compliance shall be monitored by the Chamber of Accounts.





### The Openbudget.uz budget information portal

An updated version of the Open Budget portal launched in 2021.



https://openbudget.uz/home



### The «Openbudget.uz» hortal.

### MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

# Every quarter information is published on procurements, contracts and expenditures of budget organizations broken down by region



Senous (=505	The state of the s			
Expenditure group	Estimate	Cash expenses of the organization		
Total	2 017 176 657,69	1 978 395 677,85		
Group I "Wages and Related Payments"	1 453 944 163	1 419 767 357		
Wages and salaries	1 393 911 657	1 353 973 496		
Salary in cash	1 393 911 657	1 353 973 496		
Basic salary	1 336 788 220	1 296 993 483		
Top-ups and supplements	57 123 437	56 980 013		
Group II "Payroll charges"	348 477 915	335 356 368		
Social contributions / withholdings	348 477 915	335 356 368		
Actual social contributions/withholdings	348 477 915	335 356 368		
Unified Social Contribution	348 477 915	335 356 368		
Group IV-"Other Expenditures"	214 754 579,69	223 271 952,85		
EXPENSES FOR GOODS AND SERVICES	185 246 887,93	65 981 952,85		

#### City Children's Complex No. 1

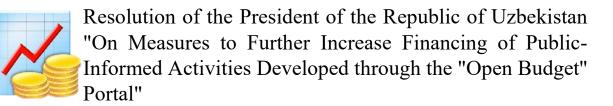
№	Contract №	Individual account	Contract duration		Contract amount	Lot №	Organization	TIN
1	Дог. № 2213-20 от 04.01.2021	401421860262837073310054001	04.01.2021	31.12.2021	9 000 000	2012547	Republic Cash-in-Transit	201052396
2	Дог. № TS-260 от 04.01.2021	401421860262837073310054001	04.01.2021	31.12.2021	2 040 000	2012581	"IT-MED" MCHJ	305926021
3	Дог. № 2 от 05.01.2021	100021860262837073310054001	05.01.2021	31.12.2021	18 751 200	na.	City Children's Complex No. 1	203104448
4	Дог. № 1 от 05.01.2021	100021860262837073310054001	05.01.2021	31.12.2021	10 096 800	n.a.	City Children's Complex No. 1	203104448
5	Дог. № TS-6 от 05.01.2021	100021860262837073310054001	05.01.2021	31.12.2021	8 285 000	<u>1917335</u>	JV Ltd. SAMARKAND ENGLAND ECO MEDICAL	207154368
6	Дог. № TS-6 от 05.01.2021	100021860262837073310054001	05.01.2021	31.12.2021	8 285 000	<u>1917335</u>	JV Ltd. SAMARKAND ENGLAND ECO MEDICAL	207154368

School№305



### Funding for public-informed activities has been increased:

5% - from district (city) budgets in each region; 30% - from the total of additional sources and district (city) budgets





additional 57.9 billion UZS to districts and cities with less than 1 billion UZS formed in the Civil Initiatives Fund;



additional 59.5 billion UZS to districts and cities that received more than 100 proposals through the Open Budget information portal.



"Advocates' Corner" have been set up in each makhalla and aul (village) to assist in submitting proposals and voting on the "Open Budget" information portal





### THE PROCEDURE FOR CHANNELING BUDGET RESOURCES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### CITIZENS' INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTATION MILESTONES:

- **1. submission** of proposals/projects by citizens to improve district (city) infrastructure **20 days**;
- 2. preselection based on approved criteria 20 days;
- **3.** putting preselected proposals/projects for public voting **20 days**;
- **4.** identification of winning proposals/projects based on public voting outcomes;
- **5.** public scrutiny and monitoring of citizens' initiatives implementation



#### Two rounds annually:

Round 1 – (February - March) Round 2 – (July - August)

**Evaluation and Selection Criteria for proposals/projects** submitted by citizens' action groups to improve district (city) infrastructure were developed







### **Khokimiyats (municipalities) in districts/cities:**

local authorities initiate the launch of applications/proposals/projects submission and arrange informing citizens (through mahallas (municipalities), media, TV and other information sources) about :



 start of submission process for applications/proposals/projects to improve district/city infrastructure;



deadline for submitting aplications/proposals/projects;



• procedure for submitting applications/proposals/projects;



criteria for selecting appications/proposals/projects



### The Ministry of Economy and Finance, Association of Makhallyas (municipalities)



organize workshops for citizens and mahalla (municipality) representatives to explain the procedure and criteria for selecting applications /proposals /projects



Citizens' action groups and individual proactive citizens develop proposals (projects) to address the most pressing issues in their makhalla, districts and cities, and submit them via the **Open Budget platform**.





### The Selecton Committee



- 1) selection of proposals (projects) developed and submitted by citizens' action groups and individual proactive citizens against established criteria;
- 2) internal feasibility and compliance check by khokimiat staff;
- 3) for failed proposals and projects a notification with justification of refusal is issued (sent to the email address indicated by the project sponsor)



#### STANDARD COMPOSITION OF SELECTION COMITTEE:

1

Chair of the district (city)
Council of
People's
Deputies Committee
Chair;

1

Deputy Khokim (Mayor) of the district (city) for construction issues TBA (to be agreed)

Representative of the district (city) Council of People's Deputies (at least 2) 1

Head of district (city)
department for
poverty alleviation
and employment

1

Head of district (city) department of economy and finance

1

Chief specialist of district (city) economy and financedivision for mahallas and budget transparency (Working body)

1

representative of the justice department of the district (city)

T.B.A.

Representative of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Karakalpakstan/Main Department of Economy and Finance of regions/City of Tashkent T.B.A.

Representative of the Public Council at the district (city) administration T.B.A.

Representative of not-for-profit NGOs



<sup>\*</sup>If necessary, other specialists may be involved in the Selection Committee at the suggestion of khokims (mayors) of the district (city);

<sup>\*</sup>the number of Committee members shall be odd (at least 9 members).

### **Public Voting**





### Hokimyats (municipalities) of districts / cities

proposals (projects) selected after verification are put up for voting by citizens arranged on the "Open Budget" platform

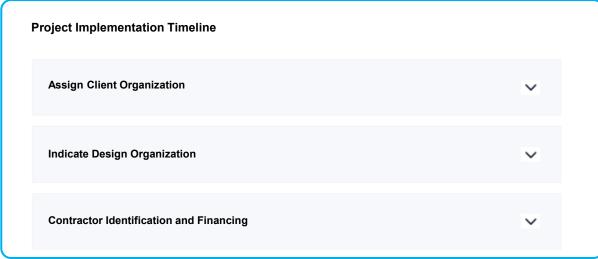


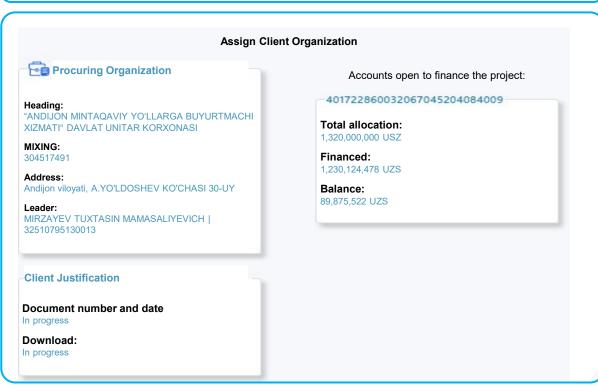
The Selection Committee counts the votes and anounces

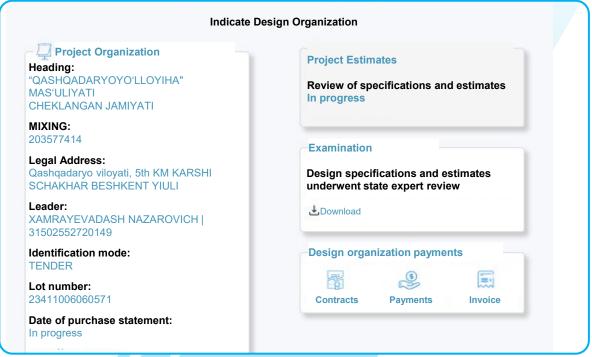
a list of winning projects

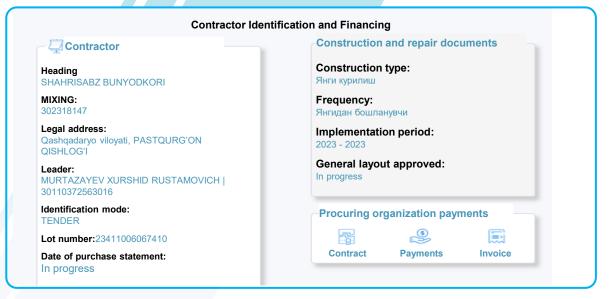


#### Participatory Budgeting Projects Implementation Timeline





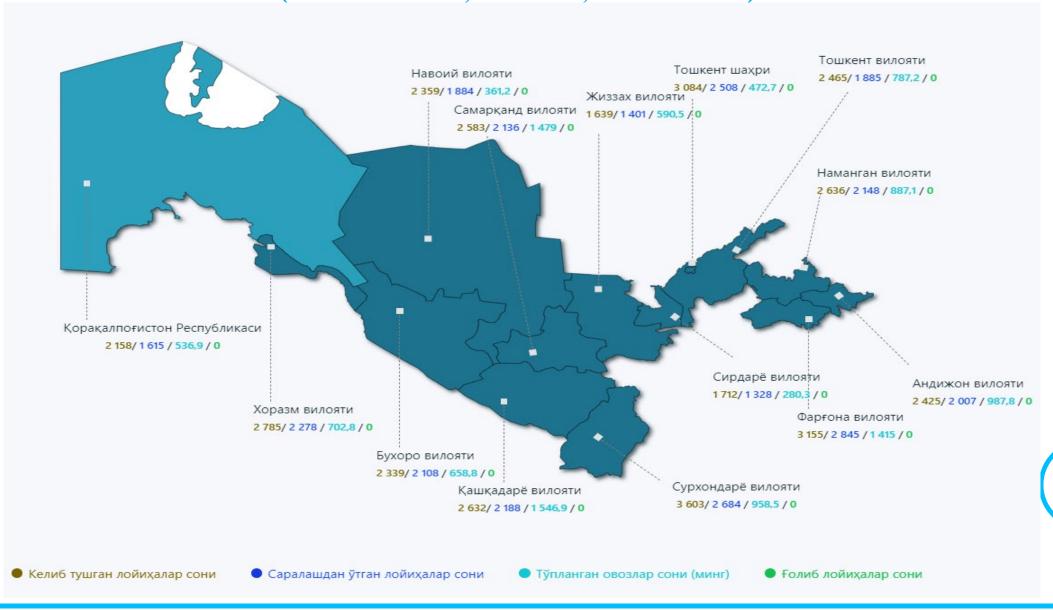






### The Openbudget.uz» budget information portal (current status, season 1, March 2024)





#### **OVERALL OUTCOMES FOR 2021-2023**





Winning projects

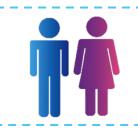
Votes received by winning projects
Share of total votes







#### Participating citizens:



Men - **65%** Women - **35%** 

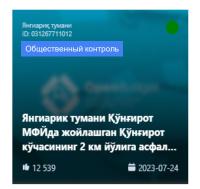
### **Public Scrutiny of Participatory Projects' Implementation**

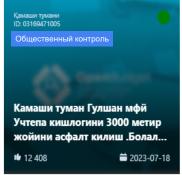


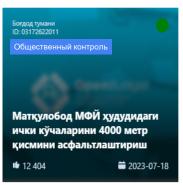
### The Open Budget portal offers a public scrutiny mechanism for participatory projects' implementation.



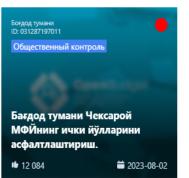
#### Projects/initiatives (556)







Budget allocated: 1,424,373,806,304 UZS







#### **Public Scrutiny**



Project status pictures









#### Happy



Satisfied



Unsatisfied

### PLANS TO EXPAND PARCITIPATORY BUDGETING PRACTICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



Starting from 2024, at least 50 percent of the funds allocated annually from the state budget for the "Green Belt" project shall be used to finance "My Garden" projects to create "green gardens" and "green public parks" based on public opinion through the "Open Budget" portal.

(Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistana № УП-199 dated November 23, 2023)





Starting from the 2024-2025 academic year, the "My School" project will be implemented as a pilot in one district (city) of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and the city of Tashkent.

Schools will receive funds from the state budget at 150 times the base amount.

Student choice shall determine their use for items needed for the school such as whiteboards, computers, and sports equipment.



Thank you!