About the Lebanon Citizen Budget Dashboard

Overview

How public money is collected and distributed is one of the most pressing political and economic questions of our time.

Lebanon's score on the Open Budget Survey (9/100), stands below the regional average of countries of the Middle East and North Africa. It is hard for citizens and other stakeholders to have an overview of public revenue and spending and to make year-to-year comparisons or follow trends.

The Lebanon Citizen Budget Dashboard is an initiative of the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan and the budget directorate at the Directorate General of Finance to improve budget transparency and accessibility and to increase the value of budgetary and fiscal information. It is one of several tools that aim to raise awareness and build engagement on budget matters, promote budget transparency and pave the way for informed citizen participation. It provides both current and executed budget data and comparative trends for the period 2017-2020.

The Lebanon Citizen Budget Dashboard was developed with the initial support of UNICEF, under the project "*Enhancing Budget Transparency, Accountability and Inclusiveness in Lebanon*".

Methodology

The Lebanon Citizen Budget harvests the metadata from the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon, the official Budgets Law, unaudited spending reports provided by the Ministry, the Public Finance Monitor reports and other fiscal reports published on the Ministry's website, in addition to references from the International Monetary Fund.

The dashboard provides you with an overview of public revenue and spending, budgeted and effective, and sheds light on the fiscal deficit. It allows you to navigate revenue and spending data through a series of questions that shed light on the Government's main activities. Whether you want to know more about tax and non-tax revenues, the contribution of State-Owned Enterprises to revenues, the wage bill, debt costs, public investment and off-budget expenditures, or want to identify the main functions of spending, you can check our reports and roll over the visuals to get more information. Definitions and insights are also included to help you better understand the figures, indicators and trends.

Data is provided in LBP and at the official exchange rate of 1507.5.

As we are still in the early stages of development, the data provided today covers the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. More will keep coming so stay tuned and send us your feedback!

The experts

A multidisciplinary team of economists and data experts from the Institute and Insights-Analytica joined efforts under the guidance of the Institute's President Ms. Lamia

Moubayed Bissat, to collect, clean and transform the data, design the dashboards and provide analytical insights. It was composed of (*by alphabetical order*): Mr. Iskandar Boustany, Ms. Sabine Hatem, Mr. Naji Kotob, Ms. Tonia Salameh and Mr. Mohamad Shuman.

About the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan

The Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan (IOF) is a specialized public autonomous institution operating under the tutelage of the Lebanese Minister of Finance.

Created in 1996, shortly after the end of the civil war, the Institute is a knowledge hub that contributes to capacity development in public financial management through policy research, training and partnership building.

Our team provides policy advice and contributes to design visions and work plans for Public Finance Management (PFM) policy reform grounded in evidence and good practices.

We are dedicated to the development of skills and competencies in PFM at all levels of the State apparatus. We also devote attention to improving the financial literacy and access to information of youth, SMEs and CSOs and work with more than 100 local, Arab and international organizations to keep abreast of good practices and mobilize high-level expertise and financial resources to support the reform momentum.

About Insights Analytica

Insights Analytica (IA) was established in 2020 to provide research and data services to private and public entities. IA gathers a group of subject-matter experts covering a wide range of expertise including data specialists, visualization experts, economists, Public Financial Management consultants and financial analysts.