

# Kenya's County Budget Transparency Survey 2025

Open Budgets, Stronger Accountability



## About Bajeti Hub

Bajeti Hub is a Kenyan non-profit organization working to advance transparency, accountability, participation, and equity in national and sub-national budgeting processes. We believe that greater transparency, inclusion, and equity in how public budgets are formulated and executed lead to enhanced accountability and better services, especially for poor and marginalized populations.

Our approach entails developing a rigorous body of evidence on public finance, developing citizens' and civil society capacities to deliberate on budget decisions and engage with governments, and partnering with development partners, governments, civil society actors, and citizens to co-create sustainable models in the PFM space.



## What is the CBTS?

The **County Budget Transparency Survey (CBTS)** remains one of the most rigorous and consistent assessments of budget transparency at sub-national level globally. Now in its sixth edition, CBTS 2025 evaluated three core dimensions of budget transparency:

### Timeliness Component

✓ Timeliness component assessing timely publication of 10 key budget documents by counties across the budget cycle accounting for 5 out of possible transparency index points. The survey is conducted throughout a full budget cycle.

### Availability Component

✓ Availability component focuses on public availability of 10 key budget documents on the official websites accounting for 25 out of possible transparency index points.

### Comprehensiveness Component

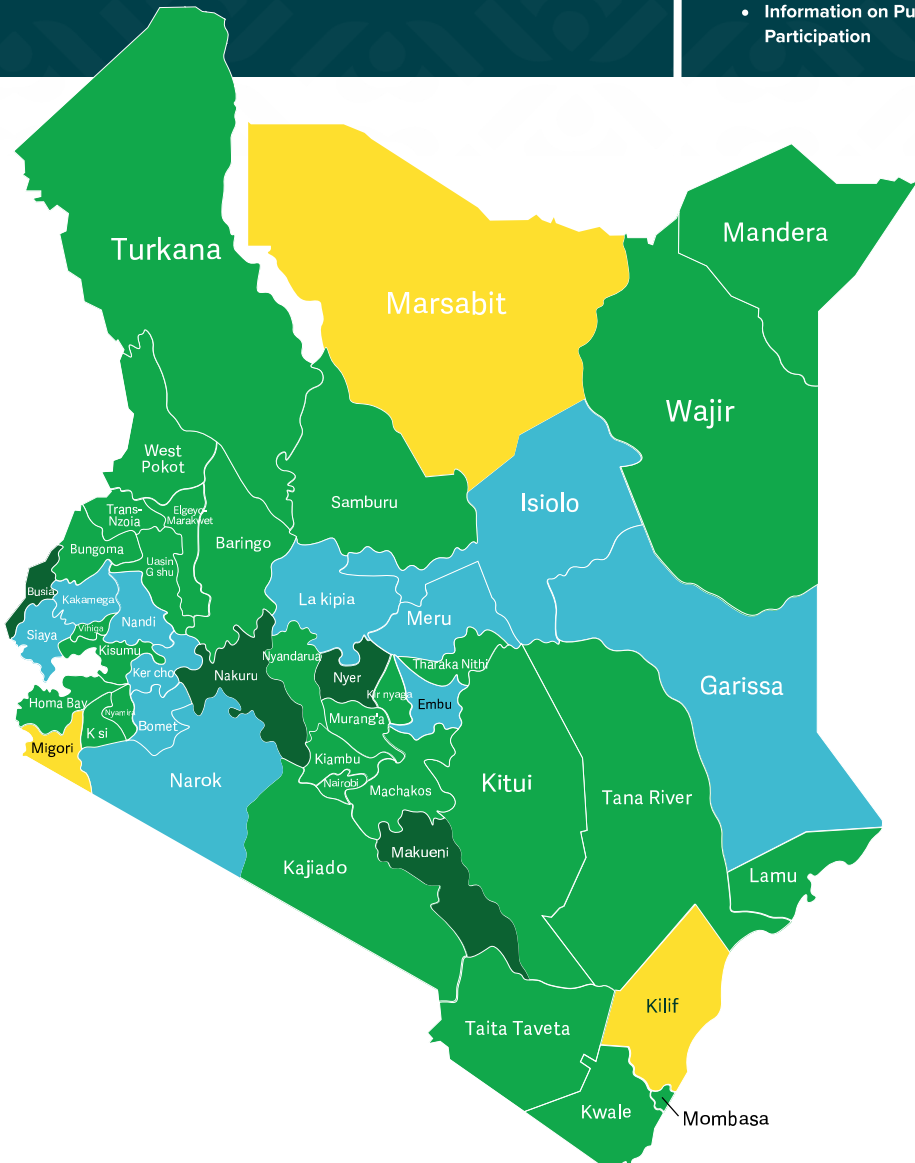
✓ Comprehensiveness component evaluates the level of information provided in the key budget documents published in the timeliness and availability surveys, accounting for 70 out of possible transparency index points.

#### 10 Key documents evaluated in Timeliness and Availability Survey

- County Budget Review and Outlook Paper
- Annual Development Plan
- County Fiscal Strategy Paper
- Quarterly Budget Implementation Reports (Quarter 1-4)
- Citizens (Mwananchi) Budget
- Finance Act
- Approved Programme-Based Budget

#### Thematic Areas evaluated in Comprehensiveness survey

- Information on Revenue
- Information on Priorities
- Information on Expenditure
- Non-financial Information
- Information on Public Participation
- Information on Pending Bills
- Information on Capital Projects
- Information on Fiscal Responsibilities
- Information on Narrative Justifications



## CBTS 2025: State of Budget Transparency in Kenya's Counties

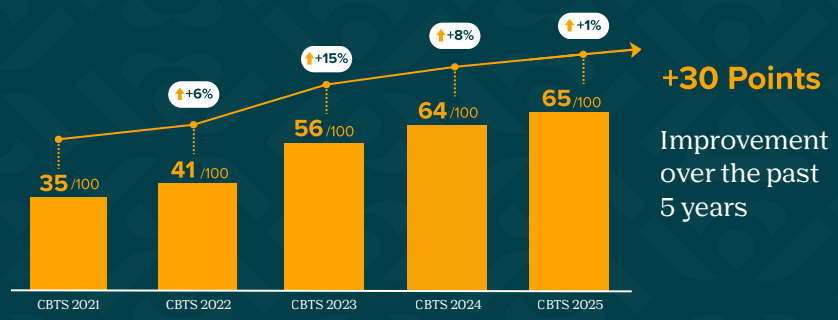
Bajeti Hub's Performance Scale

- 81-100: A
- 61-80: B
- 41-60: C
- 21-40: D
- 0-20: E

County 5-Year Budget Transparency Score (Out of 100 Points)

1. The overall average transparency score in CBTS 2025 stands at **65** out of **100** points, reflecting a one-point improvement from CBTS 2024.

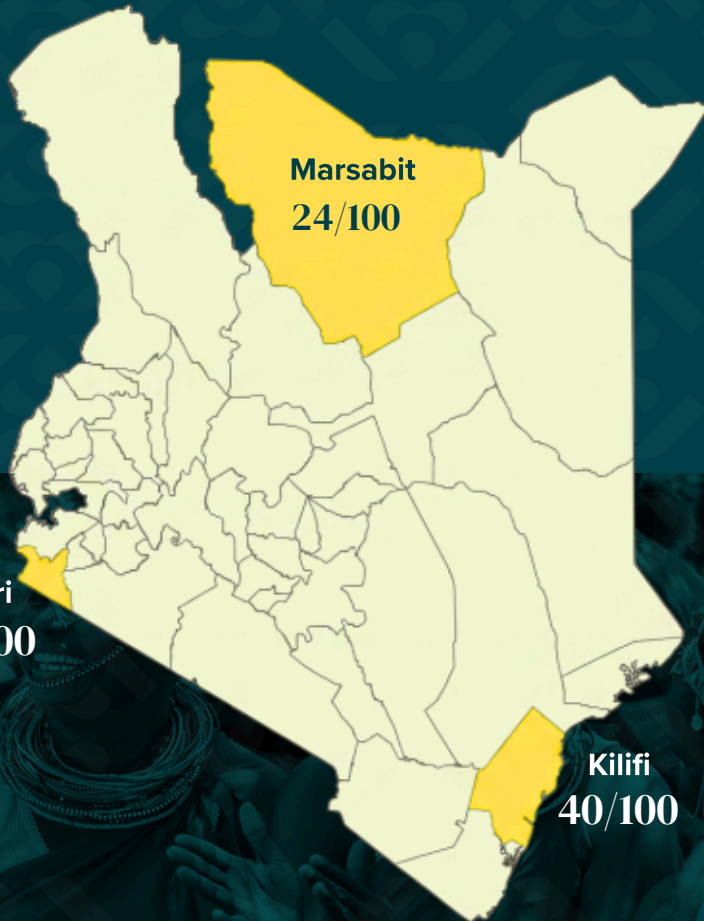
This demonstrates sustained and consistent progress over the past five years in advancing budget transparency across Kenya's counties.



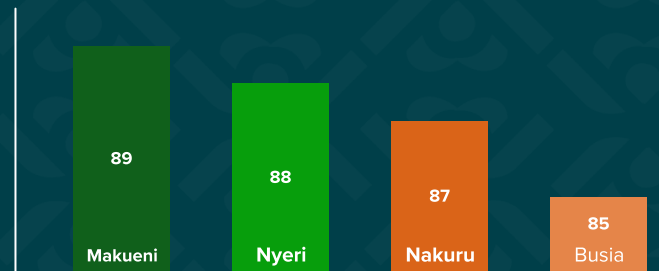
2. For the first time, no county scored below the 'D' category of 21-40 points on the overall transparency index. Only **three counties** fell within the 'D' category.

3. Over the last three survey cycles, the highest performance category (**81-100 points**) has seen a steadily growing number of counties.

signaling continued improvement in budget transparency practices across the country.



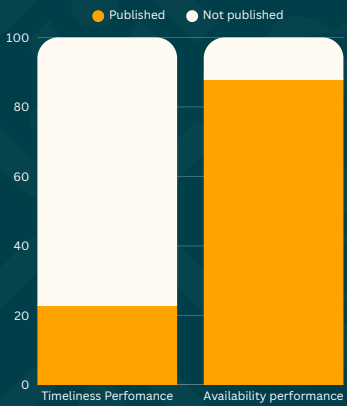
CBTS 2025 TOP COUNTIES SCORE



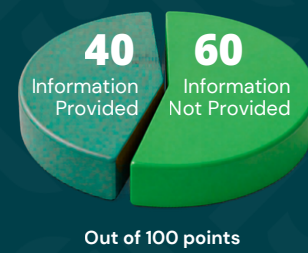
4. Timeliness in publishing budget information emerged as the weakest aspect of budget transparency in CBTS 2025.

5. Citizen Budgets were both the least published and the least comprehensive budget documents.

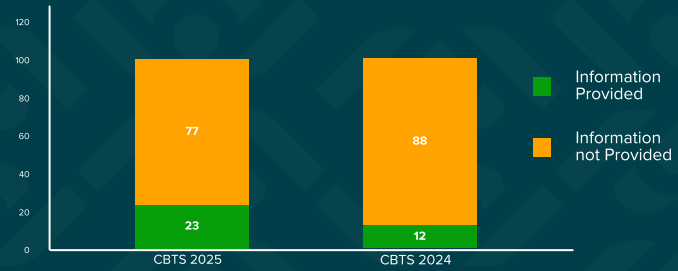
Although **35 counties** published Citizen Budgets, the documents contained, on average, only **40 out of 100 points** of the required budget information.



While counties recorded a high document availability rate of 88%, only 23% of the required budget documents were published within the timelines prescribed under public finance laws.



6. CBTS 2025 average score on public participation increased to **23 out of 100** points from **12 out of 100** points in CBTS 2024.



7. Transparency performance by Regional Economic Blocks

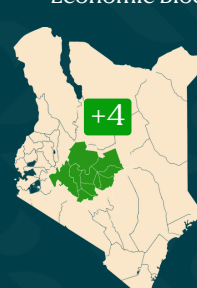
Southeastern Kenya



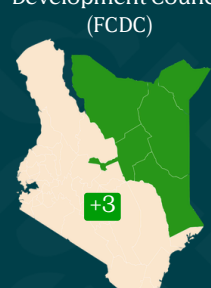
North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB)



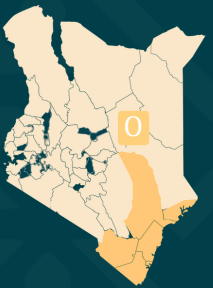
Mt. Kenya/Aberdares Region Economic Bloc



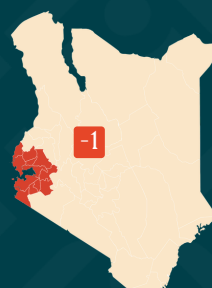
Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC)



Jumuia ya Kaunti za Pwani



Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB)



Nairobi



Narok-Kajiado



What next?

To find out more, scan this QR code to view the full **CBTS 2025 report** or visit our websites at [www.bajetilens.org](http://www.bajetilens.org) and [www.bajetihub.org](http://www.bajetihub.org)

