



Infographic Report



Malawi  
**Infrastructure Transparency**  
Index  
2025 Report

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI) Assessment evaluates Malawi’s transparency in public infrastructure projects, highlighting a total ITI score of 25.41, which is significantly lower than the international average (43.07) and peers like Uganda (32.26) and Costa Rica (66.95).

The assessment identifies strong legal frameworks (Enabling Environment score of 78.20) but shows critical weaknesses in Capacities and Processes (6.92), Citizen Participation (3.72), and Information Disclosure (20.85), indicating a gap between policy and practice. Institutional disparities are evident, with top performers like the Northern Region Water Board and poor scores for ministries and local councils.

The report suggests enhancing institutional capacities, mandating routine data publication, improving citizen engagement, using digital platforms for transparency, and encouraging peer learning to align Malawi with global standards. Implementing these recommendations could translate policy effectiveness into improved public accountability and infrastructure delivery.

### Malawi Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI) Assessment

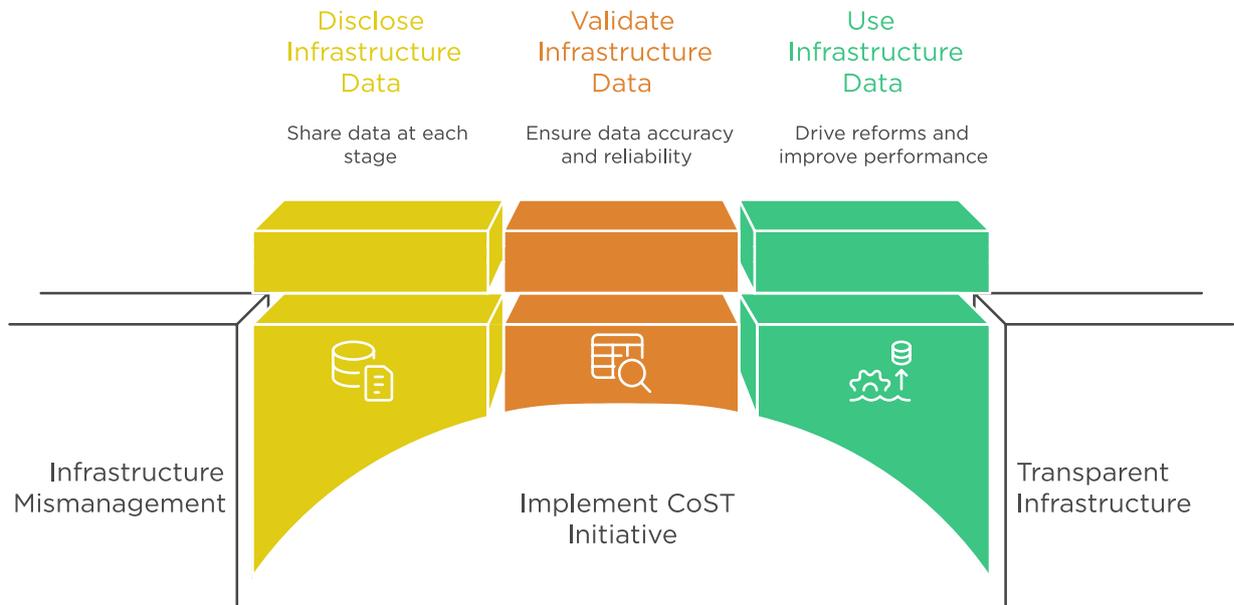
Characteristic	Overall ITI Score	Enabling Environment	Capacities and Processes	Citizen Participation	Information Disclosure
Malawi	25.41	78.20	6.92	3.72	20.85
Uganda	32.26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Costa Rica	66.95	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
World ITI Average	43.07	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## ABOUT COST

CoST has created a flexible approach aimed at enhancing infrastructure transparency, participation, and accountability, grounded in four core features: disclosure, independent review, multi-stakeholder engagement, and social accountability. Disclosure involves publishing crucial data points throughout project cycles according to CoST IDs and OC4IDS standards. Independent reviews assess the quality of this data, turning it into actionable insights that highlight both issues and best practices. Multi-stakeholder engagement unites government, private sector, and civil society to collaboratively enhance accountability and performance in public infrastructure projects. Lastly, social accountability ensures that the disclosed data and findings are utilized by all stakeholders to strengthen accountability mechanisms and foster necessary corrective actions within the sector.

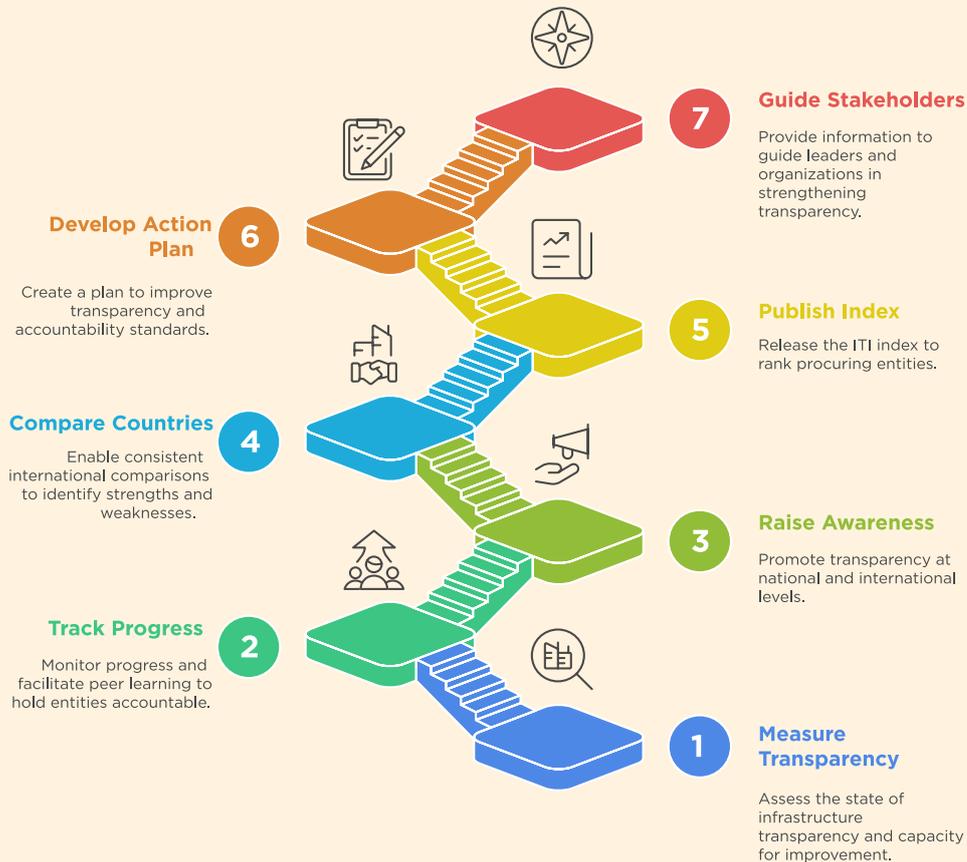
# CONCEPT

## Improving Infrastructure Transparency



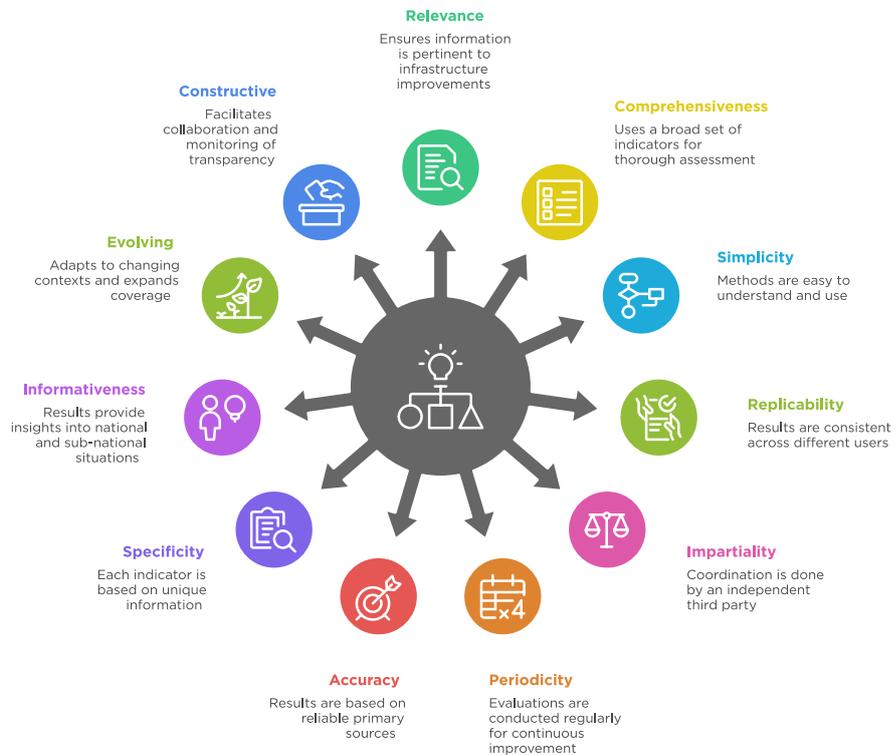
# OBJECTIVES

## Achieving Infrastructure Transparency



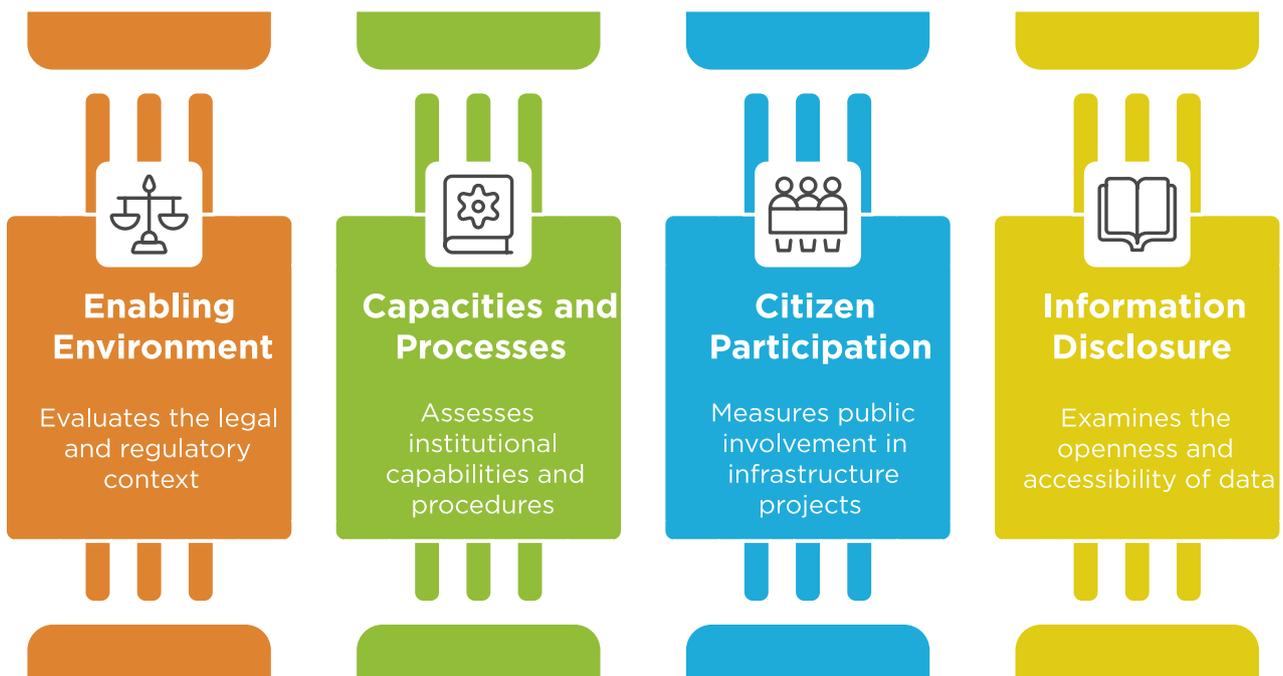
# PRINCIPLES

## ITI Implementation Principles



# STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

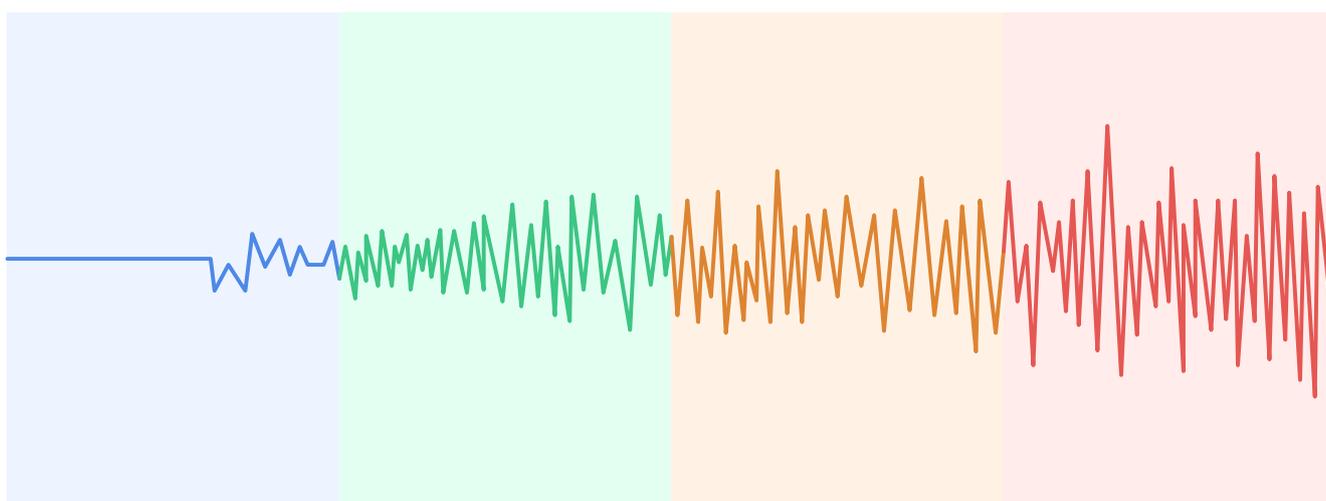
## Infrastructure Transparency Framework



## EVALUATION PROCESS

Data collection methods range from independent to self-reported.

Independent ← → Self-Reported



### Dimension 1

Evaluators independently assess national conditions

### Dimension 4

Evaluators independently assess data disclosure

### Dimension 3

Officer self-assesses citizen participation

### Dimension 2

Officer completes survey, triangulated with evidence

Each of the four ITI dimensions has its distinct evaluation process.

**Dimension 1** focuses on the enabling environment, assessing national conditions for transparency through indicators evaluated independently by two evaluators to eliminate bias. If there are discrepancies, a third evaluator resolves them, ensuring data quality.

**Dimension 2** evaluates the capacities and processes of Public Disclosure Entities (PDEs) to disclose information, using a survey filled by a designated officer, verified through triangulation with endorsements and supporting evidence.

**Dimension 3** pertains to citizen participation, evaluated via the same survey completed by the information officer, with methods chosen by the local evaluation team. Lastly, Dimension 4 reviews the scope, quantity, and quality of information disclosed by PDEs, assessed through desktop research with two or three evaluators following a similar independent evaluation method as Dimension 1.

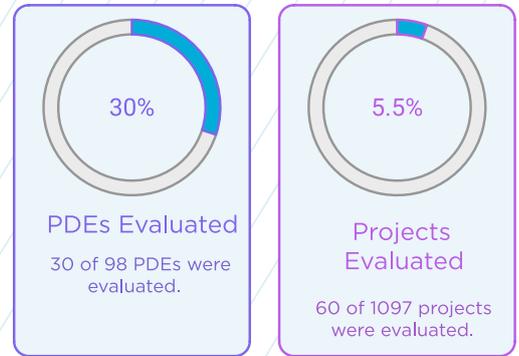
## DATA COLLECTION

Information Sourced	Source (Website)
 <b>Access to Information Regulations 2021 (PPDA)</b>	<a href="https://ppda.mw/storage/documents/resources/Acess%20to%20Information%20Regulations%202021.pdf">https://ppda.mw/storage/documents/resources/Acess%20to%20Information%20Regulations%202021.pdf</a>
 <b>Access to Information Act 2016 (NPC)</b>	<a href="https://npc.mw/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Access-to-Information-Act-2016.pdf">https://npc.mw/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Access-to-Information-Act-2016.pdf</a>
 <b>Independent Procurement Oversight Authority (IPPI)</b>	<a href="https://ippi.mw/">https://ippi.mw/</a>
 <b>Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDA)</b>	<a href="https://www.ppda.mw/">https://www.ppda.mw/</a>
 <b>Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Act 2017</b>	<a href="https://ppda.mw/documents/Public_Procurement_and_Disposal_of_Assets_Act_2017_3.pdf">https://ppda.mw/documents/Public_Procurement_and_Disposal_of_Assets_Act_2017_3.pdf</a>
 <b>Procurement Regulations 2020 - Sections 22 &amp; 23</b>	<a href="https://ppda.mw/storage/documents/resources/PROCUREMENT%20REGULATION%202020_240118_103327.pdf">https://ppda.mw/storage/documents/resources/PROCUREMENT%20REGULATION%202020_240118_103327.pdf</a>

## Data Collection for Information Disclosure

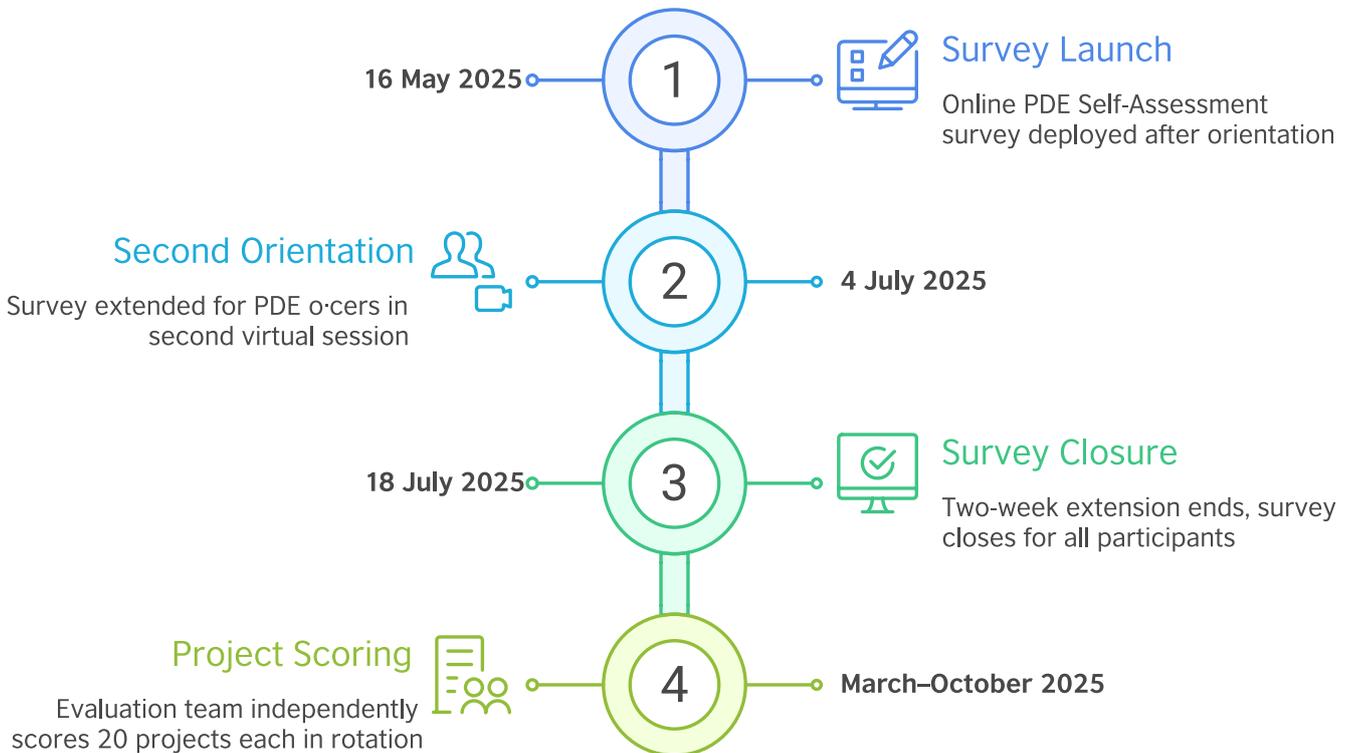
Characteristic	IPPI Platform	PSIP Platform
 <b>Data Source</b>	Project-level data for 30 PDEs and 60 projects	Comprehensive coverage of the PSIP
 <b>Verification</b>	Cross-verified with PSIP if unavailable	Cross-verified with IPPI if unavailable
 <b>Role</b>	Primary digital repository for project data	Authoritative digital repository for project data
 <b>URL</b>	<a href="https://ippi.mw">https://ippi.mw</a>	<a href="https://psip.malawi.gov.mw">https://psip.malawi.gov.mw</a>

## PDE and Project Sampling Overview



The final database included 98 PDEs and 1097 projects, from which 30 PDEs and 60 projects were evaluated.

## Key Milestones in PDE Self-Assessment 2025

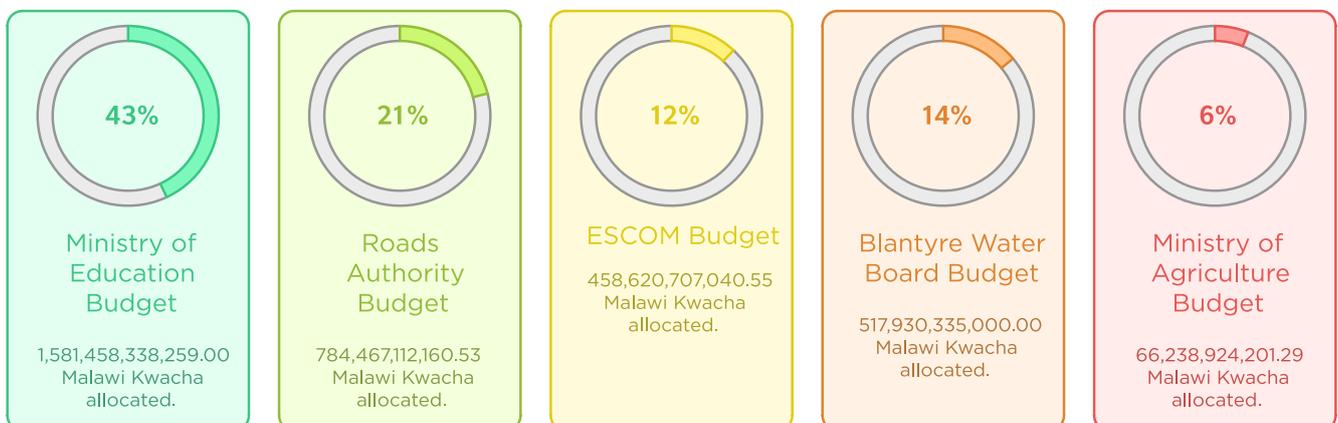


## DATA COLLECTION FOR DIMENSION

Characteristic	Officer Name	Position
Mzuzu City Council	Precious Mandala	Acting Director of Public Works
Lilongwe Water Board	Kennedy Jackson Malunga	Infrastructure Planning Engineer
Ministry of Agriculture	Kalilangwe	Chief ICT Officer
Roads Authority	Chikondi Soko	Projects Engineer
Northern Region Water Board	Rodwell Namagonya	Ag. M&E Officer

## PROCURING ENTITIES SAMPLE

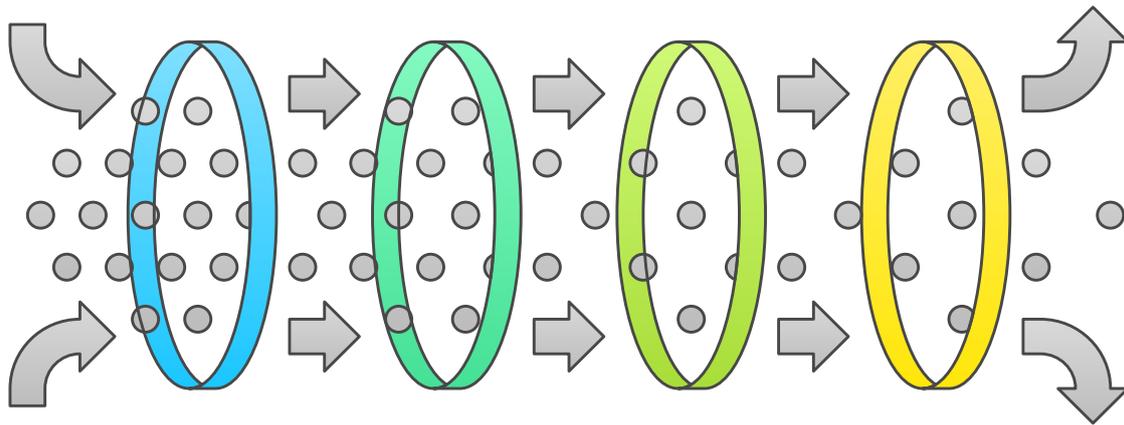
### Cumulative Budget by Sector



Budget allocation varies significantly across sectors, with education and transport receiving the largest shares.

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT SAMPLE

### Project Selection Process



#### Rank by Expenditure

Projects ranked based on highest cumulative expenditure

#### Select Highest Expenditure

The project with the highest expenditure is selected

#### Generate Random Numbers

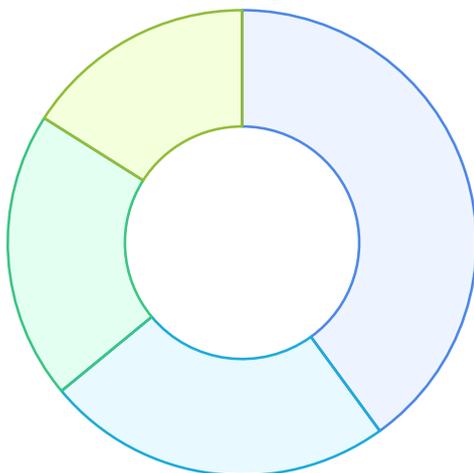
Random numbers generated for remaining projects

#### Select Random Project

The project with the largest random number is selected

## NON-RESPONDING PDES

### Distribution of Non-Responding Public Entities in Malawi (entities)



#### 10 Ministries

Government ministries with non-responding officers



#### 6 Councils

City and district councils with non-responding officers



#### 5 Educational Institutions

Universities and institutes with non-responding officers



#### 4 Water and Electricity Boards

Water and electricity companies with non-responding officers

# CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

## Challenges in Infrastructure Project Evaluation

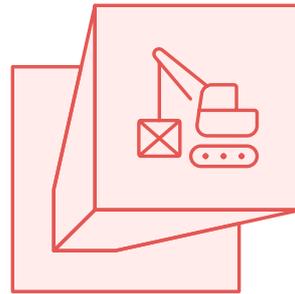
### Limited PDE cooperation

Limited cooperation severely hinders evaluation effectiveness.



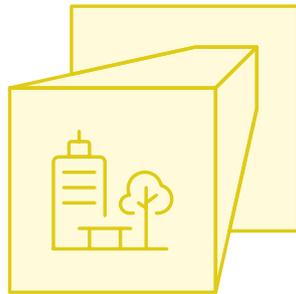
### Multi-sectoral project ownership ambiguity

Multi-sectoral projects significantly complicate ownership assignment.



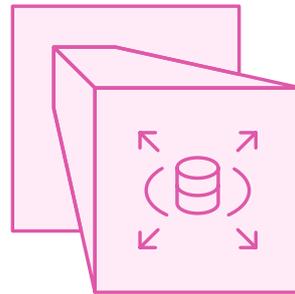
### Single-project institutions

Single-project institutions offer minimal evaluation options.



### Complex database access

Complex database access causes delays but has limited impact.

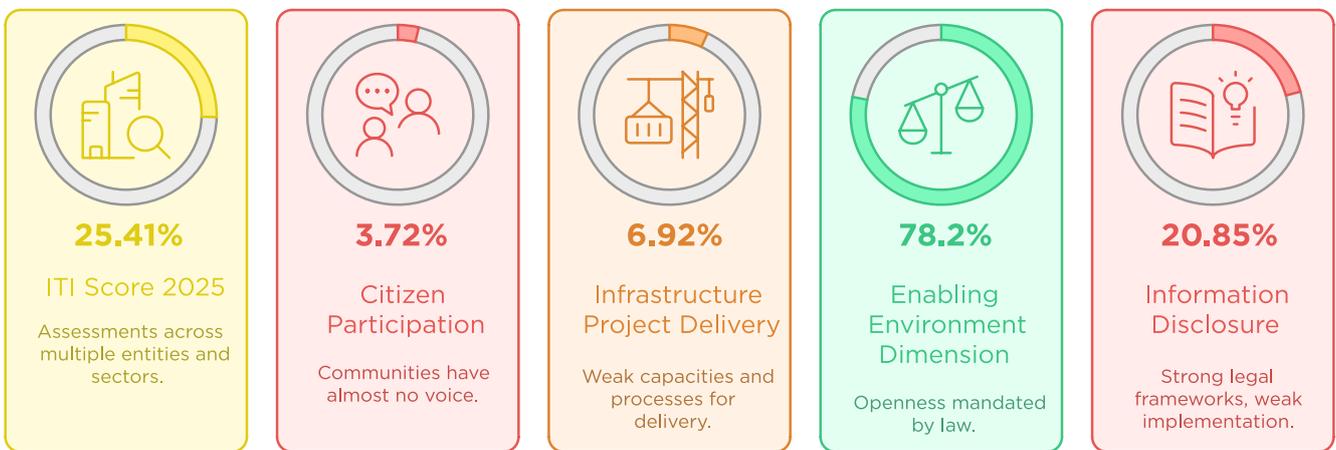


## RESULTS

This presents the key results of the indexing of the 60 projects and interviews with the PDEs that were selected for the assessment. The results are presented and discussed objectively and will describe and discuss the levels of transparency and the quality of processes related to public infrastructure information disclosure at national and sub-national levels in Malawi, the enabling conditions for strengthening transparency in the sector, plus the transparency-related practices applied.

### National ITI Score

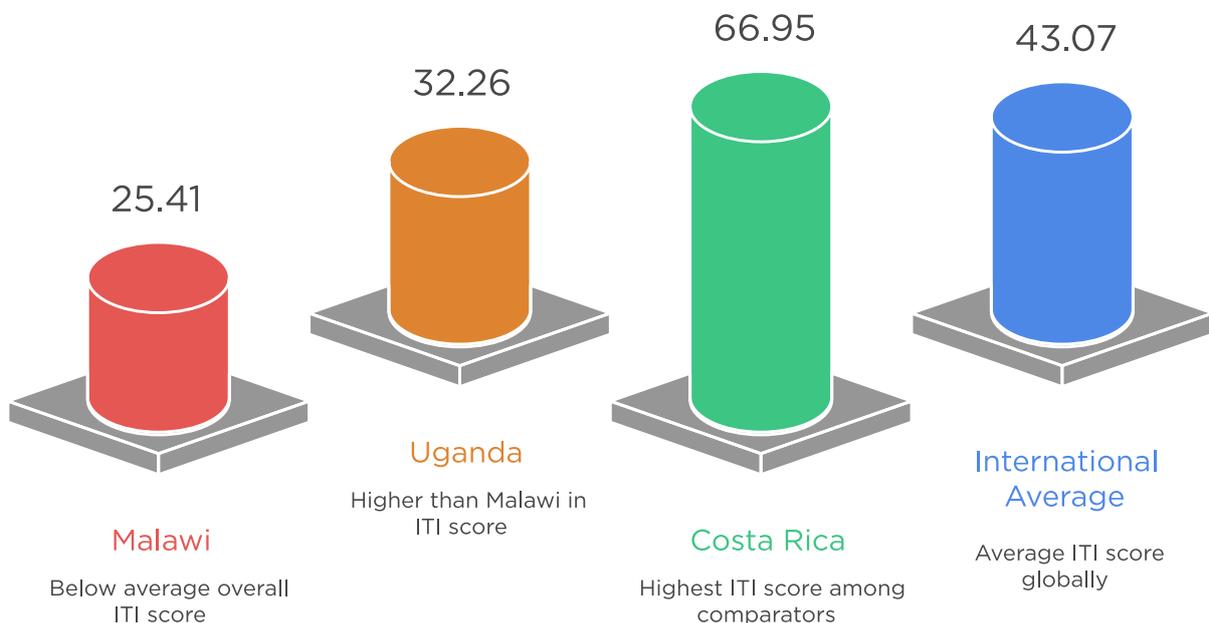
#### Malawi National Infrastructure Transparency Index 2025



Malawi faces significant challenges in infrastructure transparency, citizen participation, and project delivery, despite a strong legal framework.

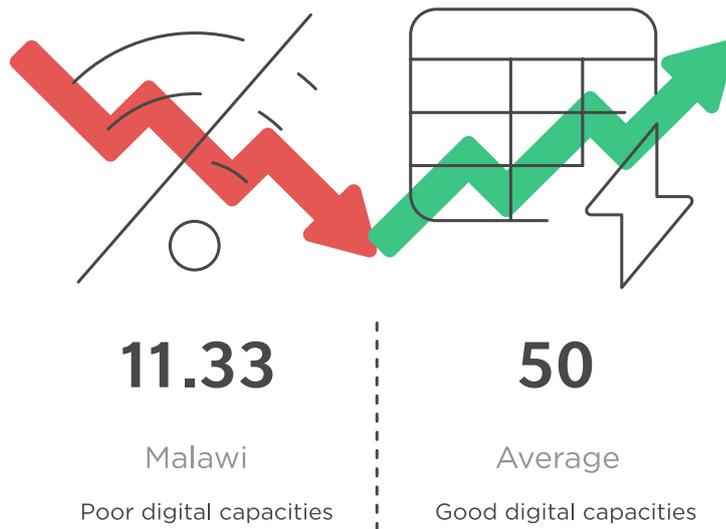
## INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

### International ITI Score Comparison



## CAPACITIES AND PROCESSES

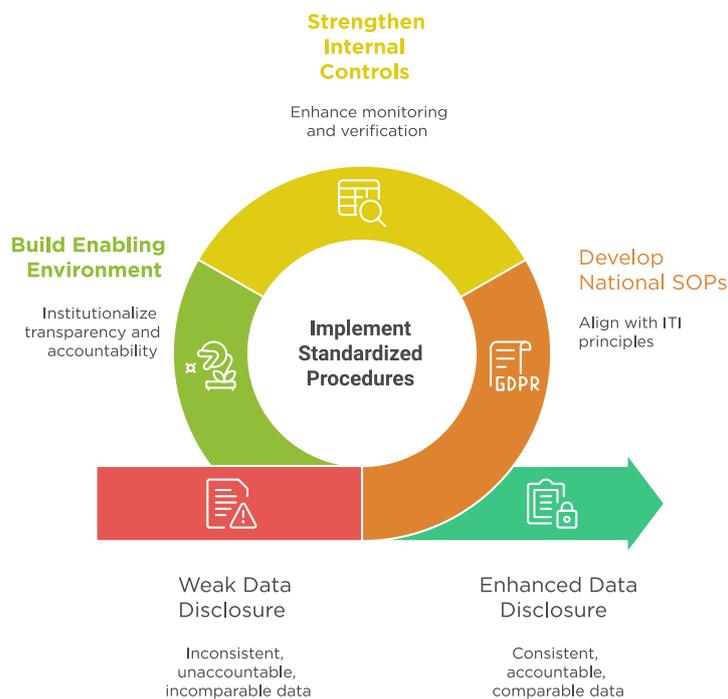
### Digital Capacities Score



#### Procedures to Disclose Information Scores

This sub-variable assesses whether formal, documented procedures exist for infrastructure data collection, review, validation, approval, and publication. Malawi's performance (5.87) is very weak.

#### Improving Infrastructure Data Disclosure in Malawi



## CONCLUSION

Malawi's Infrastructure Transparency Index score of 25.41 underscores a national commitment to transparency bolstered by strong legal frameworks and multi-stakeholder collaboration. However, this progress is also limited and uneven, with significant deficiencies in institutional enforcement, digital infrastructure, and end-to-end project data disclosure - particularly beyond the project identification phase. The stark contrast between high-performing sectors like Water and Waste and underperforming ones such as Health and Governance reveals a fragmented approach, where transparency is often driven by isolated leadership or external influence rather than systemic reform.

### Overall Scoring and Assessment

The Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI) score for Malawi is 25.41, which is considerably lower than the international average of 43.07. This result highlights the presence of some strengths within Malawi's infrastructure sector, but it also reveals significant gaps in both transparency and accountability.

### Sectoral Transparency Levels

Transparency varies widely across different sectors and entities in Malawi. The water sector stands out for its relatively high level of transparency, a result attributed to established reporting structures and a

proactive approach to publishing procurement and project information.

### Access to Information

Access to infrastructure-related information is a persistent challenge. Many procuring entities lack standardized and institutionalized procedures for data collection and disclosure.

### Enabling Environment

Malawi has developed a strong legal and institutional framework to promote transparency, as reflected by a high score of 78.20 in the Enabling Environment dimension.

### Citizen Participation

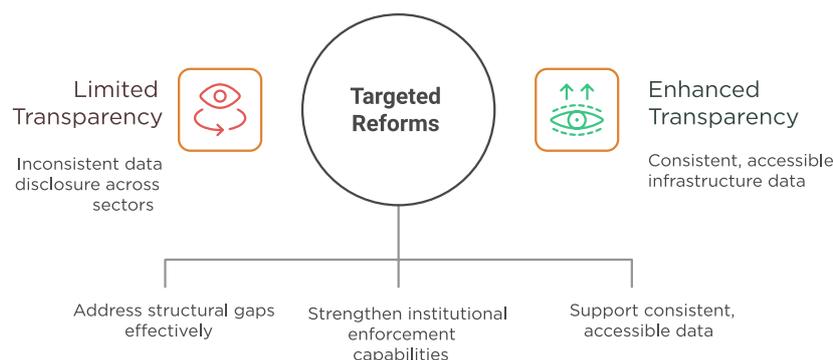
Citizen participation in infrastructure projects remains minimal, with a participation score of only 3.72%.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to Improve ITI Performance:

- Strengthen Institutional Capacities
- Institutionalize Transparency Practices
- Enhance Citizen Engagement
- Leverage Digital Tools
- Foster Peer Learning and Replication
- Promote Sectoral Transparency Reforms

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