

ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED FOR LUMINATE GROUP



Period April 2018-April 2019



Manual
do Orçamento



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GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR
FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

ANNUAL REPORT

Period April 2018-April 2019

This annual report was prepared for the Luminate Group covering the period April 2018 through April 2019, in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Grant Agreement signed in April 2018. The Grant supports the activities of the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency, a multi-stakeholder initiative hosted by the International Budget Partnership.

The main objective of the Grant is to support GIFT's core work which aims at strengthening norms, incentives, peer-learning, technical assistance, high-level dialogue and use of technologies, to advance and institutionalize more transparent, participatory and accountable fiscal decision-making processes and policies around the world.

This annual report summarizes activities and progress toward the goals described in Attachment A of the contract, included at the end of this document for easy reference. It contains two sections, one providing an overview of the governance network activities in the last 12 months and the second focusing on the goals and indicators of Luminate's investment, related to participation, fiscal transparency, open data piloting, and open data publishing. An annex includes an annual operating plan and a budget for the GIFT network for the period May 2019- April 2020.

This report was elaborated by the GIFT Network Director, Juan Pablo Guerrero, and presented on May 31, 2019.

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SECTION 01

General overview of GIFT
governance activities
between April 2018 – April 2019

Four important happenings should be outlined in the last year of GIFT governance activities: the growth of its membership, significant changes in the membership rules, the establishment of a system to incentive improvements in fiscal transparency and participation and strengthen technical collaboration among Stewards, and the production of an assessment about the GIFT sustainability model and the future of the network, resulting from Lead Stewards discussions and agreements.

a) Growth of Membership

In this period, the Ministry of Finance of Argentina, the Ministry of Finance of Chile, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Benin, the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, the Ministry of Finance of Colombia, the Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (Civil Association for Equality and Justice) from Argentina and the Public Expenditure and Public Accountability Secretariat (PEFA), became new members of the network.

WELCOME TO THE NETWORK!

With the admission of these seven institutions, GIFT counts with 47 stewards, integrated as follows:

GIFT Stewards by Sector



47
Stewards

- 19 budget authority institutions
- 14 national or regional civil society organizations
- 6 expert organizations or technical networks
- 4 multilateral organizations
- 3 private non-profit foundations
- 1 international development institution

07

GIFT has continued working with agencies, organizations and institutions which have shown willingness to advance fiscal openness and to benefit from the network's streams of work. The GIFT Network Director and stewards such as the World Bank and IBP have invited new stakeholders to engage in GIFT activities, in processes in which they become partners of the network, before formalizing a more engaged relationship with GIFT such as full membership (stewards). These are the cases of the Court of Audit of Slovenia, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Senegal, the Ministry of Finance of Liberia, the Scottish Exchequer, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform of Ireland, the Ministry of Finance of Mongolia and Fundación Solidaridad of the Dominican Republic and Centro de Investigación Económica y Presupuestaria (CIEP) of Mexico. These participants do not have to fulfill the stewards' functions but are expected to uphold the values and principles articulated in the High-Level Principles for Fiscal Transparency and to consistently and continually advance fiscal openness and share the experience within the network.

b) Changes in Membership Rules

The General Stewards Meeting took place in Portugal in October 2018 and the most important result was the support given by the Stewards to the changes introduced in July 2018 by the Lead Stewards to the Operating Rules. These changes establish:

- That all members will present a set of concrete and measurable plan of actions to improve fiscal transparency and participation and report back periodically on progress. This will facilitate the ability of Stewards to cooperate in particular topics and monitor results, as they

CHANGES IN THE OPERATING RULES FOR BETTER ENGAGEMENT

are expected to continue encouraging and supporting the network peer learning and technical collaboration.

- That stewards are free to step down and terminate collaboration with the network. Nonetheless, to maintain Steward status they must report regularly on the progress toward their goals and commitments; failing to respond to the network's communications, omitting to report progress and not attending the General Stewards meeting more than two times will result in losing Steward status.

Raising the bar for the GIFT members in their fiscal transparency and participation objectives, represents a timely and relevant evolution for a network that is moving strongly towards becoming a group of fiscal transparency champions, willing to work together in continuously advancing our agenda and leading by example.

To monitor implementation and foster a closer collaboration among Stewards, GIFT Coordination Team has setup a community dashboard where all actions being implemented by the Stewards are registered and monitored. The aims of this Encounter Dashboard are to:

- Encourage and facilitate collaboration, co-creation and innovation among Stewards by providing a platform to disclose ongoing and future plans to identify shared goals and challenges;
- Identify the commitments of the Stewards to strengthen, support and lead activities and plans within the network;
- Analyze trends on fiscal transparency to provide input on the modeling of international fiscal transparency norms;
- Document progress achieved and challenges faced by the Stewards, with a special focus on impacting Public Financial Management and service delivery.

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GIFT

Encounter

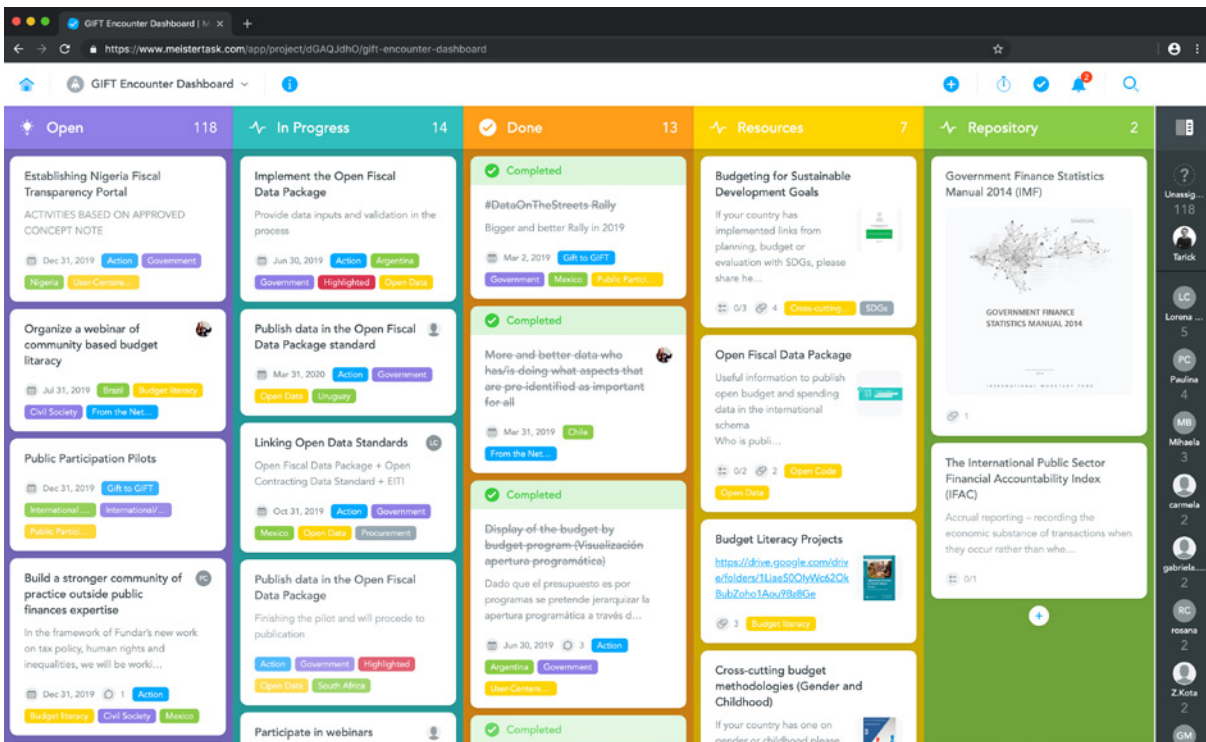
Dashboard

The Encounter Dashboard is setup to be a flexible project management tool that will strengthen GIFT community of practitioners. It has been introduced to the GIFT members during the first quarter of 2019, after they presented their activities, goals and contributions to the network (gifts to GIFT) before the end of 2018. GIFT has also developed the [Rules for Engagement](#) which describe the operation of the dashboard in further detail.

Some of the trends that we can already identify are: 1. high interest in publication of open data as a strategic tool to achieve other objectives; 2. a bigger focus on increasing the number and types of users of fiscal information through budget and data literacy efforts initiated both from civil society or governments, and in some cases in cooperative schemes; 3. thematic focus of fiscal transparency, mainly for gender, performance budgeting and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); 4. upcoming plans to integrate public participation along the budget cycle. The Dashboard is also an opportunity to provide guidance and resources on specific topics that are of interest of the Stewards, such as methodologies for transparency in environmental finances, gender budgeting and linking the budget to the SDGs.

FISCAL
TRANSPARENCY
& PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
TRENDS CAN
BE IDENTIFIED

Underneath is an image of the Encounter Dashboard.



c) A lead stewards discussion over the sustainability and the next steps for the network

GIFT Lead Stewards, the Coordination Team and other relevant stakeholders, led by consultant Andrés P. Falconer, an expert on organizations and networks development, assessed and discussed the financial sustainability of GIFT. The assessment, based on interviews with close to 30 stakeholders and on a workshop conducted with GIFT's Lead Stewards, has been condensed in a report (link to report) which establishes that GIFT, through its credibility and reputation built over nearly a decade of work, its solid partnerships and capable and respected Coordination Team, is very well positioned to enter a new phase, and is looking into the future in a timely manner, with foresight and leadership.



SECTION 02

Goals and
Indicators

Indicator #1

Public participation principles and mechanisms in policy agendas

The GIFT public participation principles, practices and mechanisms published in the Guide continued to be part of reform and discussions around the world on fiscal transparency (now available in Spanish and French). At the beginning of the investment by Luminate, this indicator focused primarily on countries considering and discussing the public participation principles as part of their budget reform agendas. Fortunately, at this point of time, we can observe some results taking root in countries. For instance, the introduction of public participation in the budget cycle in the National Development Plan in Colombia, where GIFT will be part of the design of the practice to implement; the inclusion of public participation as a strategic institutional planning component in the Dominican Republic, as well as consultations with civil society groups, interested in various topics, across the budget cycle; shepherd the passage and implementation of the Budget Modernization Act which institutionalizes transparency and citizen participation in the budget process in The Philippines; Mexico has given attribution to the MoF on public participation which it previously did not have; Nigeria, South Africa and Benin, as well as other countries engaging as partners, such as Senegal and Liberia becoming part of the participation pilots with GIFT and IBP over the next 36 months. These are activities presented by the members as part of their engagements before the network, except for those that were implemented before the establishment of the new rules.

a) GIFT Stewards and partners creating public participation opportunities

GIFT has invited Stewards and partners to take part of network activities in the framework of Open Data Day as ways for engaging the public in using fiscal information and engage in following the money. In 2019, these activities were the #DataOnTheStreets Rally and the Better Budget Dataquest for Sustainable Development. By hosting or taking part of the rally and the Dataquest, stewards and partners get an introduction into public participation mechanisms without undertaking overwhelming activities, which helps to break barriers related to questions about the possible effects of participation, while simultaneously building up links between the process of transparency and public participation.

■ #DataOnTheStreets Rally

The Rally is an initiative convened jointly by civil society and the government units in charge of data disclosure, to allow and facilitate the public to use open data on public investment projects, as well budget transparency platforms. The goal is to promote researching, checking and verifying in situ progress on the construction projects. Using georeferenced data, the participating individuals and teams are expected to check the works and to identify how the information published in digital platforms reflects the actual investments and how such public works impact their environment. Ultimately, participants are expected to tell their stories and share the findings on social networks. As such, in some cases, the Rally has become a mechanism for social



audit on public works in which participants have used the information to demand accountability. This feedback has triggered, in some cases, corrections or improvements as ministries of finance and other authorities use such information otherwise unnoticed. It is an initiative of public participation in the budget execution phase by digital means to generate a more informed, participative and involved society.

The Rally was implemented in **Chile, Colombia and Mexico**, involving four GIFT Stewards (Observatorio Fiscal de Chile, MoF in Colombia, MoF in Mexico and Fundar Mexico). During the last two weeks of February 2019 1,011 persons participated and 447 construction projects were supervised.

Below are examples of participations to supervise public construction works using spending open data and fiscal transparency platforms in Chile and Colombia. The whole report on the event can be read [here](#), where the examples and results of each event are described.

Chile

Some highlights from the Rally in Chile are that conveners included civil society, government institutions such as the Public Investment Ministry and the private sector. More than 500 individuals registered and visited 263 construction projects across the country.

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RALLY INTERNACIONAL #DATOS EN LA CALLE
LLEVANDO LOS DATOS A LAS CALLES

¿Conoces la obra pública de tu comunidad?
PARTICIPA en el #RALLYVIDE

- 1 INSCRIBETE** • Del 1 al 24 de febrero en bit.ly/RallyMexico2019
- 2 INICIO WEBINAR**
Dinámica del Rally y uso de las plataformas
OBRA PÚBLICA ASISTIDA
Y ESTRATEGIAS Y EJECUTIVAS
12 de febrero - 10:30 a.m.
- 3 VISITA** • Del 12 al 27 de febrero asiste a las obras públicas: Documenta
DESCUBRE Y DOCUMENTA
Visita y comparte tus experiencias
en redes sociales. Sube videos, fotos, infografías,
textos o utiliza cualquier otra estrategia.
GANA PUNTOS EXTRA
Participa en los siguientes
RETOS para ganar puntos
extra!
• Ve a Visita
• Gana fans
• BE en Datos en la Calle
• BE en Comunidad
- 4 GANA**
2 de marzo - 5:00 p.m. - Los ganadores
serán anunciados en CENTRAL.
Todos los participantes que asistieron al Rally recibirán una
comunidad de pertenencia en TAP y SOCIAL TIC.
5 GANA PUNTOS EXTRA
Los 3 primeros lugares serán reconocidos como
ganadores del concurso de innovación.
¡Espera los premios sorpresa!

NO OLVIDES
• EQUIPE TRABAJOS
• @Transparencia
y utilizar los **HASHTAGS**:
#DatosEnLaCalle - #RallyMX



Some highlights from the Rally in Mexico are that even though this is a new administration, the support to fiscal transparency continued with the support of GIFT and a local civil society organization (Fundar- GIFT Steward). 496 persons registered to participate and visited 179 construction projects across the country.



TESTIMONIAL
VIDEO OF THE
#DataOnTheStreets
RALLY

■ Better Budget Dataquest for Sustainable Development

The Better budget Dataquest is a data expedition, aiming at generating innovative and independent proposals for improving budget execution for sustainable development. In such events, GIFT government stewards and civil society partners invite the public to an open meeting in which teams of up to five people explore the open data of public expenditure

and compare it with other relevant data (social indicators, statistics, etc.) and contextual information. The objective is to present findings on the implications of budget allocation and implementation on one of the following categories: gender, inequality or environment. The selection of such topics derived from the Sustainable Development Goals. Besides inviting the public to provide independent and original analyses and proposals for innovative solutions, the dataquests provide an opportunity for open data publishers to expand the knowledge about the budget and data. Finally, it provides an opportunity to observe the challenges that data users can face and thereby improve their Publication.



The dataquest events targets a sector of intermediate to advanced knowledge in the field of data science, economics or journalism (or similar). Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina and Uruguay organized dataquest events in February-March 2019, which included 14 GIFT stewards from government, civil society and international organizations. The complete report of these activities can be read [here](#), and some examples and testimonials can be seen below.

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Event in South Africa



Event in Indonesia





Video of the
winning team
from Indonesia



TESTIMONIAL
VIDEO OF THE
#BetterBudget
DATAQUEST

b) Expanding discussion and mainstreaming of public participation in the budget cycle

Additionally, GIFT continued participating on related activities during the grant period bringing public participation into the agenda of public finances, including:

2018

- The IMF Public Finance Management on-line course on edX, where Fiscal Affairs Department experts explain that well-designed PFM institutions, including fiscal transparency and accountability systems, effectively support economic policy objectives, inclusive growth and sustainability. Fiscal transparency is a recurrent subject in the course, which devotes a section to public participation (Two editions, [first in 2018](#) and [second starting in May 2019](#)).
- Recent legislation reform discussions on participatory budgeting in Slovenia based on meetings and workshops (co-organized by the Court of Audit and the Parliament and GIFT, April).
- The workshop on Digital Tools, Information Technologies and Citizen Engagement, with the Ministry of Finance of Croatia, held in Zagreb, with the attendance of 25 representatives from more than 15 countries, back to back with the OECD Senior Budget Officials-PEMPAL meeting on fiscal transparency and budget reform (May). [Read more](#).
- The official national launch of the new Brazilian Fiscal Transparency Portal, which included a dialogue on citizen engagement and technologies and a technical workshop on information technologies, transparency and public participation, hosted by the Secretariat of Budget and Planning (Ministry of Finance), the Ministry of Transparency and Comptroller-General of the Union and the GIFT network, in Brasilia, with the attendance of 25 representatives of budget agencies and accountability CSOs from the GIFT community (June 2018). [Read more](#).
- The Financial Forum and the workshop on participatory budgeting in Moscow (in coordination with PEMPAL countries, September). [Read more](#).
- The workshop on participatory budgeting during the General Stewards Meeting in Cascais, Portugal, held in coordination with the PEMPAL network, which included a field visit to learn more about the participatory budget experience, and hosted representatives from civil society and governments from 31 countries (October). [Read more](#).
- The World Bank's Global Partnership for Social Accountability Global Forum (GPSA), where links between building human capital, fiscal transparency and citizen engagement were strongly established (October). [Read more](#).
- The technical collaborative visit and workshop hosted by the South Africa National Treasury in Pretoria with a delegation led by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning of Nigeria, including public servants of other ministries as well as representatives of civil organizations and private sector of Nigeria, sponsored by CABRI and GIFT (December). [Read more](#).
- The training to officials from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of South Sudan, organized through the UNICEF South Sudan Country Office (December). [Read more](#).

2019

- Discussions with ministries of finance and CSOs in Kosovo, Ukraine, Ireland and Scotland (January). [Read more](#).
- The PEMNA (Public Expenditure Management Network in Asia) countries meetings in Seoul, covering 15 countries in Asia¹ (March 2019). [Read more](#).

1. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

c) GIFT principles in global normative discussions and standards

Based on its principles and experience, GIFT provided feedback to processes of norm revisions, standards or new norms produced during the period covered by the report in the following cases:

- The US General Accountability Office's study on open government data, which identifies key practices for transparently reporting open government data, and evaluates the US Treasury's new open spending website against these key practices and other standards (August).
- The Latin American Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS in Spanish) consultation on engaging civil society in SAI work (August).
- The triennial Strategic Development Plan of INTOSAI's Professional Standard Committee (on SAI independence, audits results communications and dissemination, and use of new technologies and innovative communication approaches to engage the public, October).
- The IMF Fiscal Transparency Code IV Pillar on resource revenue transparency (December).
- The PEFA Indicators Program Handbook (November) and the PEFA indicator on Gender Budgeting (April 2019)
- UN SDGs advisory group and discussions on budgeting and planning for the SDGs (January 2019- ongoing)

GIFT also provided recommendations to the [Government of Canada](#) for ambitious commitments on fiscal transparency in the framework of producing an OGP new national action plan (April), the ministries of finance of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Nigeria, on portals designed to address users' needs, and to the New Zealand Government on its call for public submissions on the initiative to create an Independent Fiscal Institution –(IFI) (October). In the latter case, GIFT's submission focused on the contribution an IFI can make to pro-actively promote more public debate on fiscal policies and more effective accountability.

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It is important to register that the [Guide on principles and mechanisms](#) has been published in Spanish and French (Arabic and Russian translations are upcoming in 2019).

The screenshot shows the website guide.fiscaltransparency.net. The page title is "PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES GUIDE". Below the title, there is a navigation menu with links for "ABOUT", "PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CASES", "GIFT PRINCIPLES", "RESOURCES", and "SUBMIT YOURS". The main heading is "PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CASES AROUND THE WORLD". Below this, there is a sub-heading: "The primary goal of this Public Participation Guide is to provide guidance about how to integrate public participation into fiscal policy and the associated benefits". There are three main buttons: "ALL CASES SUMMARY TABLE", "CASES COMPILATOR", and "DOWNLOAD SUMMARY GUIDE". Below these buttons, there is a "SUBMIT YOURS" button. At the bottom, there is a world map with several orange location pins indicating where public participation cases have been implemented. The map includes labels for various countries and regions.

Indicator #2

Fiscal transparency – brief impact stories

One important highlight of this period is that we are starting to see more clearly some interactions and results that prove right the Network's theory of change. In some cases, user-centered publication provide desired outcomes; in others, better government-civil society communication deliver good results; and in some cases, impact is registered in specific sectors, policies or marginalized groups. In the following subsection we separate two types of results: publication benefits and social impacts.

a) Publication gains

User-centered publication

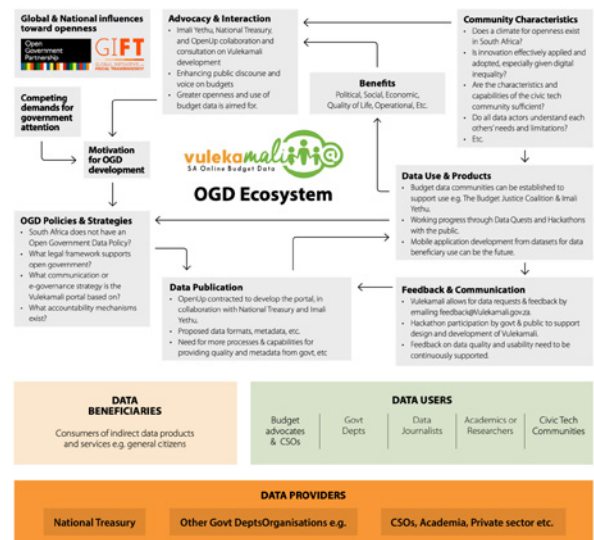
Improving the publication of fiscal information has been a core part of the activities of the GIFT network of the past few years. Through the construction of a conversation between civil society and Ministries of Finance, we have been able to foster user-centered publication in different countries that are part of GIFT, the following exemplify two of them:

South Africa

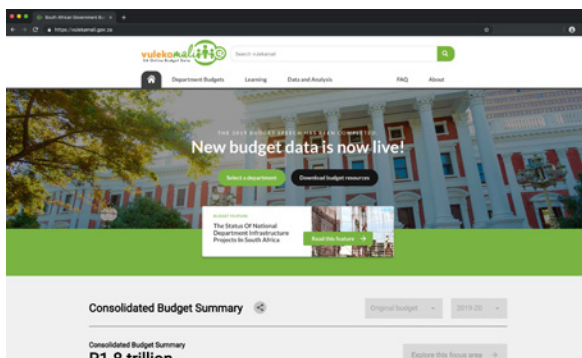
The country has long been ranked at the top positions of the Open Budget Index of the International Budget Partnership, however until recently the publication of information was focused in the production of Law Established reports, published online in closed formats. With the engagement in GIFT activities since 2015 we have been able to witness an evolving relation between civil society, through PSAM and the National Treasury. In 2018, the country has become an example of how government-civil society engagement can lead to a policy for user-centered disclosure of fiscal information.

The design, production and launch of Vulekamali, the fiscal open data portal for the country was worked in a coalition among eight civil society organizations – called Imali-Yethu and the National Treasury.

In these [articles published in the Vulekamali Newsletter](#), the actors reflect on the process of creating fiscal transparency to encourage public participation and the data ecosystem that allows the publication to happen. Graphic explaining the open data ecosystem for Vulekamali.



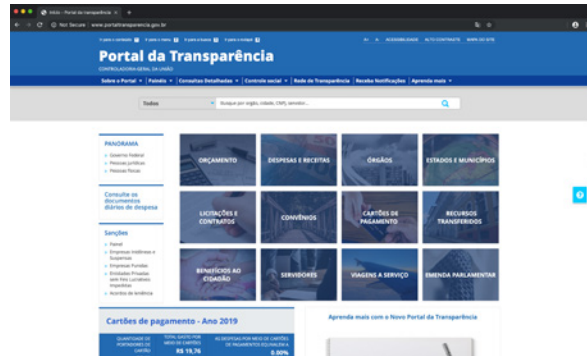
18



Brazil

Brazil was one of the first countries to make data transparent, back in 2004, regarding an important deal of information related to financial and non-financial issues through the transparency portal of the Ministry of the Comptroller. However, the complexity of making these large amounts of data attainable and understandable to the users is a conflict that should not be disregarded by publishers. With this in mind, in June 2018 the Government updated the transparency portal with increased focus in a user-centered approach, which was presented before GIFT stewards, with a workshop on digital tools and public participation (more about the workshop can be read [here](#)).

The redesign includes better queries and open data of financial transactions. This is a great improvement in usability from the original version of the site in which users needed to have scrapping abilities to have the complete datasets needed for analysis.



As can be read in [this post](#) from Transparencia Brasil, this update will undoubtedly facilitate analysis for civil society. However, they do remind the importance of keeping up these efforts to also include physical progress of projects, final allocation of municipal budgets and non-financial targets and performance.

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In the next [video](#) there is an introduction to both portals relating their respective process by the involved actors in each country, which was part of GIFT webinar series of 2018:



Open Data Improvement

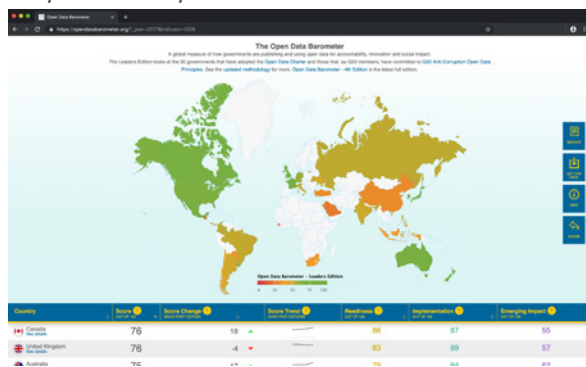
Mexico - Open Data Barometer ● ● ●

Mexico has been one of the leading success stories in budget transparency in the last years, increasing 11 positions in the Open Budget Index from 2015 to 2017, ranking now in the 6th position globally. The policy in the country has been driven by strong use of digital tools to provide user-centered publication. As such, being a strongly active member of GIFT, in 2016 it was the first country to adopt the Open Fiscal Data Package to provide open data of budget and spending from 2008 to date.

The publication includes allocations and the different stages of the transaction with the lowest level of disaggregation of line items, as well as in all economic, administrative and functional classification. Furthermore, the data is now updated quarterly with the same level of disaggregation and format.

With this improvement in publication, Mexico is now ranked among only 9 countries publishing budget open data and 4 countries publishing spending open data, in the Open Data Barometer of the World Wide Web Foundation.

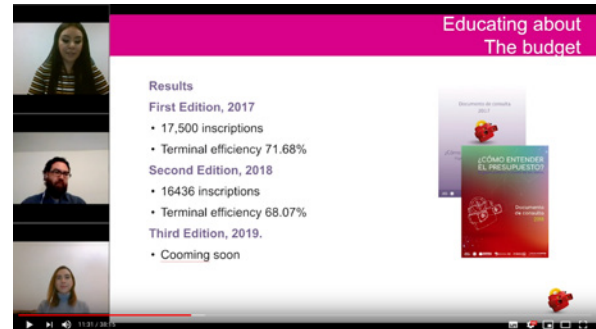
Map of the Open Data Barometer



The publication has also been paired with user-centered tools for disclosure of information, including platforms and social media to communicate and publicize the potential of use, as well as budget and data literacy efforts, one of the most noticeable being the How to Understand the Budget: the Budget through its Data Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). This open course was a collaboration between the MoF and a civil society organization, SocialTic, to create abilities for interpreting and reusing fiscal data, including budget and spending among other data. The course has been

successfully finished by 23,732 persons in the 2017 and 2018 editions.

More about this course can be viewed in this [video](#) of GIFT webinar series.



El Salvador - Fulfilling the fiscal responsibility law through open data ● ● ●

At the end of 2016, the Legislative Assembly approved the Fiscal Responsibility Law, promoted by the Ministry of Finance of El Salvador, to improve the management of public finances. Within the frame of the Law, fiscal policy decisions should be enticed within its parameters and quantitative goals, to ensure fiscal sustainability and macroeconomic stability of the country. These expected results depend on the effective application, which is influenced in turn, on the political will of the government and the willingness and ability of the MoF to implement it.

In the context of the implementation of the aforementioned law, the MoF decided to update the Fiscal Transparency Portal launched since 2010, as an opportunity to make better use of it as the official channel through which accounts are given to the population on the state of financial management and the means through which the reports required by the Law are disclosed. The update of the Portal was a response to the need to have more effective accountability mechanisms, which are important in a context of transparency in the management of public finances, to increase trust of economic agents, private national and foreign governments, as well as to obtain efficiency, effectiveness and impartiality in the management of public resources.

The MoF of El Salvador has been an active member of GIFT since 2015 and as such, they decided to update the portal into a user-centered tool considering the potential of current digital tools available. With this in mind, the new Fiscal Transparency Portal was redesigned not only in image, but in structure, and included mapping the origins of the data and redefining the process of updating. Through this process it was possible to rethink completely the form of publication which led to the presentation of the portal in November 2018 (view more in this [video](#)).



The portal includes open data on revenues and its sources; budget and spending; macroeconomic statistics and debt. It is also paired with explanatory videos that introduce the users to the topics presented in the portal, reducing the asymmetries of capacities.



This site represents the new trend on fiscal openness, which does consider the potential users of the published information and contemplates reuse of data as part of its basic pillars to make it actionable for better governance.

b) From fiscal transparency to social impact

As one of the main value propositions of the GIFT network, fiscal transparency can result in better use of public resources, when the data is actually used by its citizens. Dialogue and participation in the budget are necessary to help ensure that the disclosed information responds to the public needs. To date, one of GIFT's contributions has been to encourage this dialogue between ministries of finance and civil society organizations, resulting in the disclosure of more meaningful information in more friendly and accessible formats.

The following stories provide elements that describe and illustrate the above change relation in different contexts and topics.



Gender-based Violence Spending in Argentina



Budget Allocations for HIV in Indonesia



From Fiscal Transparency to Sustainable Cities

Gender based violence spending in Argentina

The Asociación Civil para la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ), an organization with a specialized track record of analyzing public policies to guarantee human rights, joined the GIFT network in 2017. Meanwhile, another GIFT steward, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of Argentina, opened a significant amount of disaggregated data in a new user-centered fiscal transparency portal called “[Presupuesto Abierto](#)”, which discloses on a daily bases information about the execution of the budget. In the next video, Renzo Lavin, Co-Director of ACIJ, explains how the accessibility to this data has facilitated their work and enabled them to hold an informed discussion with the MoF. Among other benefits it has led to corrections in the proposed allocations for gender-based violence policies by identifying and exposing publicly the mismatch between the political promise to invest in programs to help address gender violence and its consequences, and the actual budget allocations.



As mentioned before, ACIJ hosted a Better Budget Dataquest with GIFT in February 2019, an open event for civil society data experts to link fiscal open data with government programs and policies information. The Argentinian MoF participated in the event with presentation of how to use the open data and providing technical assistance to the participants. A few months later, ACIJ started a [budget and data literacy effort directed to organizations](#) focused on gender aspects, which includes a guide and videos on how to analyze budget with a gender perspective, expanding the abilities of the CSO community to use the open spending data published by the government for incidence. Budget and data literacy efforts are some of the most popular actions to be implemented among Stewards in 2019. As a result, SCOs came up with the claims that more fiscal resources were needed to back up the political claim of a government supporting anti violence gender programs.

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Gender and Budget - Analysis and Monitoring



Gender and Budget - Adjusting by inflation



Budget Allocations for HIV in Indonesia

The Ministry of Finance of Indonesia was among the first countries to introduce a [budget open data portal](#) as part of their fiscal transparency efforts. The GIFT Network was part of this important step, back in 2016, which included a workshop with GIFT Stewards from around the world hosted in Jakarta by the MoF. With more accessible budget information, CSOs

such as Seknas-Fitra (GIFT Steward), have been able to engage in constructive conversations with the MoF and local governments as well on budget issues.

With new and relevant information, Seknas-Fitra has also been able to act as intermediary with grass-roots organizations to facilitate their understanding of the published information and how it can be used to better focus their agenda. A specific result of these actions has been changes in the allocation of budget directed to HIV in different regions of the country. In the next video Yenti Nurhidayat explains this chain of events that have led to better protection of vulnerable groups.



The dialogue between the MoF, Seknas-Fitra and other CSO has also derived in budget and data literacy efforts. As such, together they organized the GIFT Better Budget Dataquest in early 2019 in two Indonesian universities, expanding the capacity to use the budget open data to analyze public policies. This has already triggered a better-informed debate on budget allocations and ways to engage the public in fiscal policies.

Budget for sustainable urban mobility in Mexico

Mexico has been one of the early adopters of mainstreaming fiscal transparency reforms in different topics through digital tools, including open data and digital platforms. The MoF has been part of GIFT since its initial phase back in 2013 and became a Lead Stewards in 2017. As such, it has been a key actor to showcase how user-centered fiscal transparency efforts can benefit organizations with a variety of backgrounds and interests, such as regional development, maternal health, inclusion or human rights. Linking relevant budget data with the government information which they are familiar with, these organizations have led to several stories to improved efficiency, efficacy and impact of the public resources.

In the blog post that can be consulted [here](#), Lorena Rivero, a former Director General for Performance Monitoring and Information Analysis at the Mexican Federal MoF (and today a member of the GIFT team), describes describes how fiscal transparency led to a simpler analysis of the implications of budget distribution in sustainable urban mobility by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, which urged the way of transforming the whole approval process of investment projects of a specific fund from amount orientation to quality of investment and sustainability considerations.

The case reflects the fact that a discussion cannot be really balanced, productive and constructive if the government officials and public representatives do not have access to equivalent amounts of quality of information. The provision of the relevant data in the correct formats can help an informed discussion and open for real opportunities in the way public resources are allocated and executed.



Indicator #3

Piloting the Open Fiscal Data Package

Piloting the OFDP (the tool) has continued in the period covered by the grant, with an important change in focus on the quality and comprehensiveness of the data. In previous pilots, uploading the data “as it is” (its present format) was privileged in order to provide feedback to the operation of the tool. However, in order to enhance the reach and relevance of the tool, changes were introduced to allow governments to provide more comprehensive data, with more frequent and timely updates.

From there, since the end of 2018, the GIFT Coordination Team not only supports piloting and publishing the data through the OFDP, but in preparation for such step, provides feedback on the data structure and comprehensiveness to achieve a better publication, even when the country is already publishing budget and spending open data. Having this in mind, GIFT set up a helpdesk to assist implementers on structuring and publishing their fiscal data (this can be read here: http://bit.ly/TowardsaSchemaForSpendingOpenData_HelpdeskIncluded). Furthermore, this is reflected in new documentation set to provide guidance on the expectations of the data structure that can be consulted here <http://bit.ly/PublishingBudgetAndSpendingOpenData>.

24

South Africa

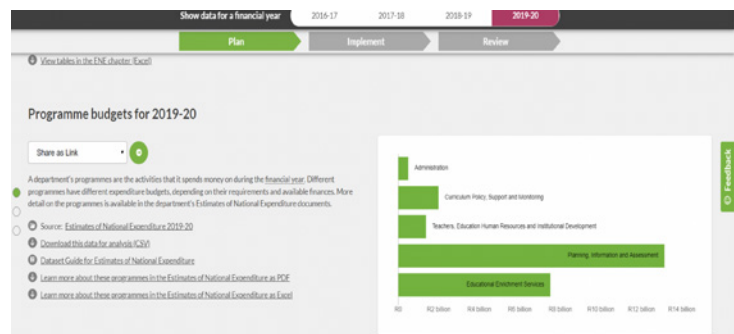
Stage

Finished piloting and fiscal open data published.
Continues to improve implementation with signed MoU.

Findings

After a successful [piloting](#) of the OFDP reported in the semi-annual report, the coalition of government and civil society that manages the fiscal transparency portal, [Vulekamali](#), decided to use it as the tool to power their open data and visualizations through the OFDP [API](#), such as the ones that can be seen in the image below or in this [link](#).

This is the second publication by a country’s national government, after Mexico, that includes not only approved budget but also actual spent and is periodically updated in a quarterly manner. As part of the collaborative framework to support the South African efforts, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the National Treasury representing the government-civil society coalition, Open Knowledge International and GIFT. It is worth noting that the MoU was approved by both the South African government and civil society.



While publication is an important milestone, the use of the data provides its worth. Considering this, the OFDP is being used in a series of hackathons and Datathons that are being hosted country wide. In March 2019, they hosted the [Better Budget Dataquest](#) organized [by GIFT](#).



Team 🏆 #DataKwesta 🏆 looked at the maintenance of road infrastructure, focusing on potholes. They proposed a platform that can be used by anyone to report issues related to road infrastructure. You can read more about their project at hackdash.org/projects/5c7a4... #BetterBudgetSA



National Treasury and 9 others

4:05 PM · Mar 7, 2019 · Twitter Web App

6 Retweets 5 Likes



This weekend saw dozens of young South Africans coding for a #BetterBudgetSA! It was inspiring to see so many young people get involved and develop skills while solving problems! You can read more about the projects at create.vulekamali.gov.za 🙌



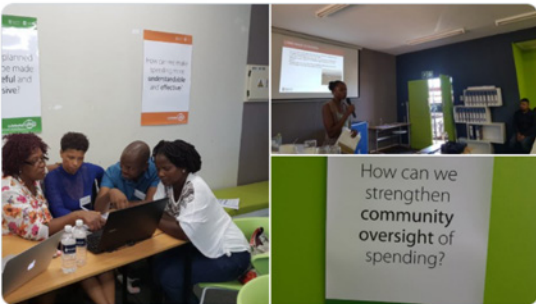
National Treasury and 9 others

9:59 AM · Mar 4, 2019 · Twitter Web App

8 Retweets 12 Likes



Team @imali_yethu representatives from @SECTION27news and @equal_education sharing their use of #budgets for social justice advocacy and doing the most for #BetterBudgetSA @vulekamali



Daniel McLaren and 8 others

8:14 PM · Feb 28, 2019 · Twitter Web App

12 Retweets 15 Likes



#ECD is an important aspect of eradicating #inequality in #SouthAfrica so it's great to see one of the teams in #BetterBudgetSA prioritising early childhood development #SDG4 #OpenDataDay



vulekamali and 5 others

6:09 PM · Mar 2, 2019 · Twitter Web App

4 Retweets 10 Likes

25

Dominican Republic

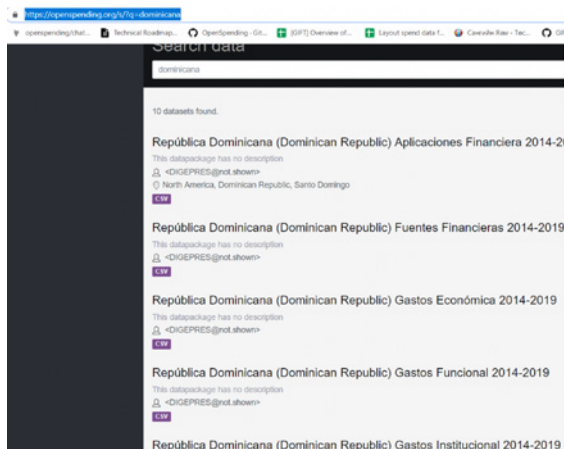
Stage

Findings

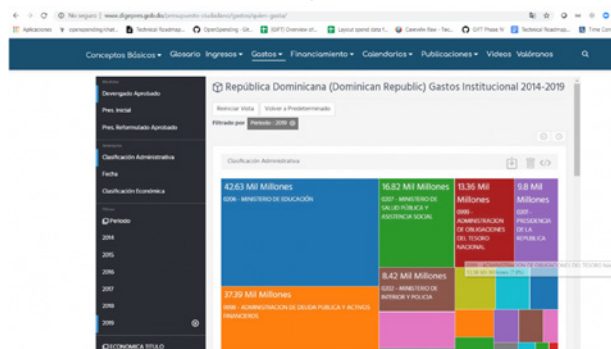
Finished piloting and fiscal open data published. Continues to improve implementation.

In 2016 the Department of Budget had piloted an older version of the OFDP finding issues with the forms of update and stability of the platform. Those issues have been addressed in subsequent iterations of the platform. Furthermore, the country established in its new commitments with the GIFT Network to publish data using the OFDP, which explains why the piloting resumed after the GIFT Stewards meeting in October 2018.

Considering that some representatives of the MoF were familiar with the OpenSpending previous version, they achieved fast publication that has continued to improve recently. It is worth highlighting that the publication was achieved with minimum intervention from GIFT, which are good news for the OFDP. The complete datasets can be consulted from the OpenSpending Viewer [here](#).



The visualizations have already been included as part of the Department of Budget [website](#) as can be seen in the image below:



In the coming weeks we will continue working with the MoF in refining the structure of publication of the dataset and providing them guidance to get the most out of the API of the OFDP for user-centered visualizations.

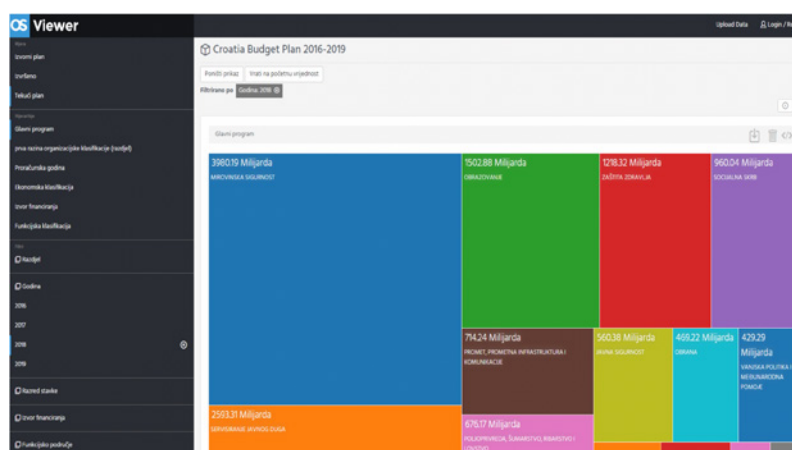
26

Croatia Stage Findings

Finished piloting, programmed launch in July 2019.

The MoF of Croatia and GIFT stepped up the speed of the piloting process aiming at publication with the visit of the Coordination team of GIFT past January (more of the visit can be read [here](#)). Important changes took place, such as including the spending stage along with the planned budget, which is highly relevant for analysis of budget credibility. In addition, instead of an annual update of closed year data, the dataset now will be updated on a biannual basis. The tool has also been adjusted to be displayed in Croatian.

Minor adjustments are being finalized for the public launch, programmed for July 5th, but the data can already be consulted [here](#).



Argentina Stage Findings

First phase of piloting completed; more trials and adaptations ongoing.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has set up a comprehensive Financial Management Information System, which allows to publish daily updates on the national government spending.

The GIFT Coordination Team and the Secretary of the Budget (part of the MoF) piloted and mapped the Argentinian Dataset with the MoF ([here](#)) and have encountered issues regarding two important topics: the updates frequency and budget classification.

Regarding the first point, the MoF seeks to update the spending data daily, which is challenging for the OFDP. We have developed therefore a way in which the tool automatically fetches the data to automate the process. For this, several improvements have to be done (issues [1411](#), [1446](#)) and in the coming months the development will focus more on improving the pipelines process. It is worth noting that the tool was originally developed for one-time publication, so this is a significant improvement for meaningful publication.

On the second point, Argentina has two types of economic classifications, the one recognized by its government that is in line with their chart of accounts and the other similar to the IMF Financial Statistics Manual. This has led to an ongoing discussion on how to [map against the OFDP](#). Finally, an additional level for the Program classification is currently being added to map two types of subproject -one is for operational projects and second one for investment projects-. This can be consulted [here](#).

Uruguay **Stage** In process.

Findings

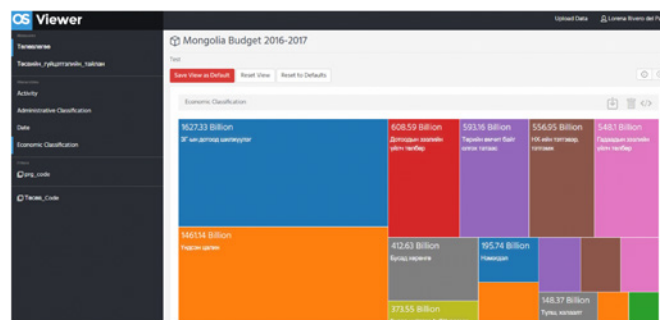
The piloting with the Office of Budget and Planning has resumed following their engagement hosting one of the Open Data Day Events. Important changes are being implemented in the structure of how the data has been previously published, now to include the ids of the classifications and the descriptions on the same dataset. Furthermore, instead of an annual upload we are now developing a pipeline that will allow quarterly updates of the spending data and to consult all historic data in the same dataset.

Some minor modifications are still being implemented in the data specification regarding cross- classifications, which will benefit other publishers as well. (This remaining issue is being followed [here](#)).

Mongolia **Stage** In process.

Findings

After some exchanges we have receive the data structured as expected, although the certainty of the quality is still in question. We have found limitations for the extraction of the data directly from the Treasury transactional system, considering that they use a licensed software for this (Freebalance). The existing data has already been uploaded as can be seen in the photo below. No bugs needed to be fixed for the Cyrillic alphabet (non-latin), which is an important finding since it was the first pilot of this case.



(This data is still in private mode for the pilot).

El Salvador

Stage

In process.

Findings

We have determined to use the data of investment projects budget and spending data to start the pilot. This will make an interesting use case for the OFDP in a focus area.

We have now received the data and will be uploading in the coming weeks when finished with the ongoing changes for Croatia, Uruguay and Argentina.

The Philippines

Stage

Data feedback.

Findings

While the Philippines has longtime been leader on the budget transparency arena, some complication in the whole government open data policy are still being dealt with, changing the open data portal at the present time. We have now received the initial sample of data from the Budget Department and we have sent some feedback on the data structure and completeness. (Attached is the evidence of the exchange).

Indonesia

Stage

Data feedback.

Findings

The MoF has published budget open data as part of their fiscal transparency portal launched in 2016. Nonetheless there are still areas for improving the dataset published, including the time it takes for the dataset to be generated from the platform (sometimes up to 15 minutes) and the lack of spending data. We have recently engaged in the framework of the Open Data Day to provide feedback on the published data to make it through the OFDP which would make it better for the users. However, considering that the area in charge of the budget is not the same as spending this process might take longer time. (Attached is the email with recommendations).

Additionally, interest has arisen to use the OFDP to publish subnational governments spending. For instance, South Africa national government has started to publish subnational spending information, and Mexico City Government has piloted the ODFP working directly with GIFT.

South Africa Provincial data

Stage

Findings

The National Treasury compiles the spending data of the provinces and has already published the tabled provincial budgets, which can be consulted [here](#).



However, the Vulekamali coalitions is actively searching for ways to improve publication.

national treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INVITATION TO A WORKSHOP
PROVINCIAL BUDGET FORMATS GUIDE

National Treasury will host a workshop for civil society as part of promoting transparency and engaging openly on the budget. As part of this promotion of transparency in budget information, National Treasury is inviting interest groups or civil society coalitions which are interested in budget matters and the presentation of financial information, to provide inputs on how National Treasury can improve the presentation of budget publications and information to ensure better public accessibility.

National Treasury will thus host a workshop to discuss the current Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure (EPRE) publication format. The purpose of the workshop is to understand the relevance and usefulness of the EPRE publications in its current format from a user's perspective; and to determine how best to improve the presentation.

Details of the workshop are as follows:

Date: 03 June 2019
Venue: National Treasury, 40 Church Square (Budget Council)
Time: 10:00 – 12:30

Please indicate your attendance by sending your RSVP to Morija Hicken on Morija.Hicken@treasury.gov.za by 24 May 2019.

For your convenience and for the purposes of the discussion, please have a look at the 2019 EPRE Provincial Budget Formats Guide (<https://bit.ly/2JfE8mz>), which will be updated for the preparation of the upcoming 2020 provincial budget publications.

The actual province-specific EPREs can be accessed through the National Treasury's website (<https://bit.ly/2QZz64t>) and Vulekamali budget portal (<https://bit.ly/2W1ncyQ>).

Issued by National Treasury
Date: 03 May 2019

Enquiries: Ms Amukelani Xaba or Mr. Nathan Africa
Email: Amukelani.Xaba@treasury.gov.za ; Nathan.Africa@treasury.gov.za

Mexico City Stage Findings

In process, waiting for date of official publication.

The new government of Mexico City has established a new Agency for Digital Innovation which will develop tools for transparency and government efficiency. As part of the fiscal transparency branch they have decided to publish the spending data through the OFDP.



In the past months we have piloted the tool and found several issues to achieve upload, but it is finally up and running and can be seen in this [link](#).

TRANSPARENCIA PRESUPUESTARIA

¿A dónde va el presupuesto de México?

Explorar el gasto Aprobado de 2019 según ¿Quién gasta? y Elige una clasificación

Explorador Gobierno de la Ciudad de México

- Recursos de la Ciudad transferidos a las Alcaldías
- Proyectos financiados con Recursos Federales Transferidos
- Estándar Internacional de Datos Presupuestarios Abiertos

This is a private preview.

Indicator #4

Open Data Publishing

The GIFT has strongly encouraged the publishing of information in open data and has bared in mind the importance of facilitating the process of doing so for our different partners. Last year we developed the [Open Data Tutorial](#) in cooperation with one of the Networks' Lead Stewards, Mexico. This tutorial composed of ten short videos and supporting documents concentrates tools that enable the data opening process to contribute to a successful fiscal transparency policy. The Tutorial got great interest by the Stewards, reason why it was developed in [Spanish](#) and [English](#). It is worth noting that the tutorial videos have been watched more than 12 thousand times.

While some countries are still in the process of publication, in the last months some countries have started to make their open budget and spending data available as listed below. We have also continued to provide support to countries already publishing through the OFDP, such as Mexico and South Africa to avoid the possibility of any setbacks. In the following section we provide an update of the countries publishing open data for budget and spending, presented in alphabetical order.



30

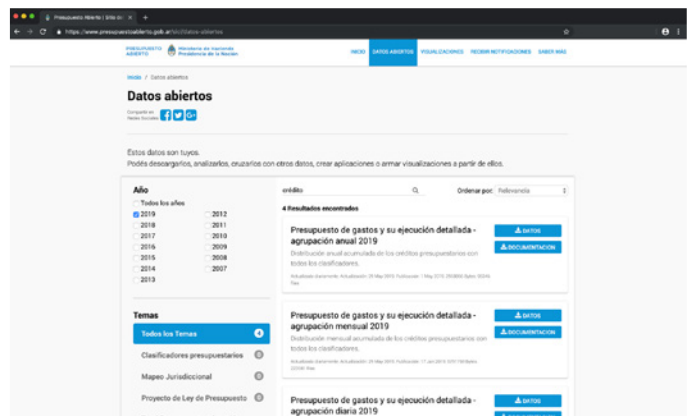
Argentina

The Ministry of Finance representative in the Network has expressed how through the GIFT peer-learning they understood that the government could greatly improve their fiscal transparency efforts without increased costs.

Since then, the Ministry launched a redesign of their “citizen site” which became the “open budget” site. This new form of publishing includes daily updates of expenditures in CSV file, disaggregation to line item (highest disaggregation of expenditures), metadata, license of use, visualizations and use tutorials. This is, so far, the dataset of this kind with the shortest updating frequency.

The government is in process of publishing in the OFDP, more in this regard can be consulted in the piloting section of this report.

Open data



Visualizations



The MoF participated in the Better Budget Dataquest 2019, in which they were able to see how the public used the data, they found that while disaggregation was very granular, it was too complicated for basic-intermediate users. This has fed back the process of publication and now the MoF publishes a structure as the one that the OFDP creates.

Brazil

On June 28, the Ministry of Transparency and the General Comptroller of the Union (CGU in Portuguese) launched Brazil's new Transparency Portal (www.transparencia.gov.br) to the public and hosted a workshop for the GIFT Network.

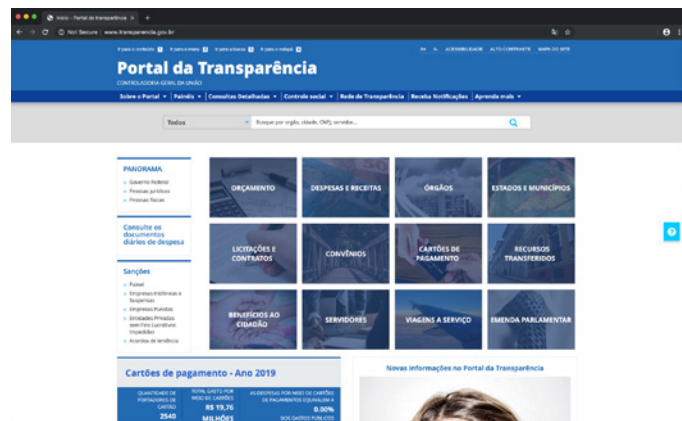
While Brazil has long published great amounts of fiscal information, through their engagement with the Network they have recognized the importance of encouraging the use of the published information as well as considering the user side of the information.

With that in mind, a new interface, with enhanced accessibility, responsiveness, search engine, navigation, and interactive tables, integrated pages and matrixial navigation, the Portal includes new information on, for example, procurement and contracts, travelling expenses, CGU's reports. The Portal is also now boosted with new tools, such as social media, collaboration, notifications and open data.

Tutorials



New site



Data visualizations



Open data



Dominican Republic

As already mentioned in the section of Piloting, once the pilot was resumed in the Dominican Republic, they achieved a particularly fast publication.

The data of spending and revenue is updated monthly and is produced directly from the internal systems, which gives certainty on the quality and frequency of update, which is vital for good and meaningful fiscal transparency.

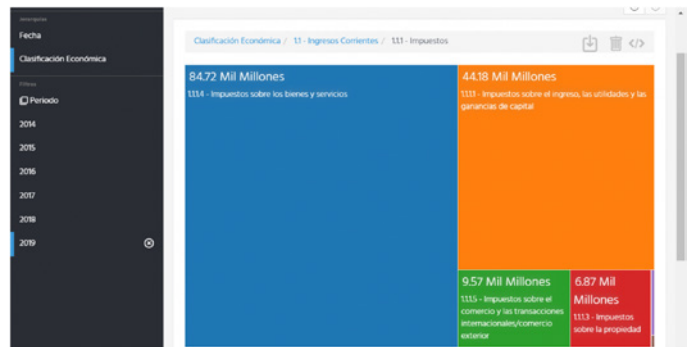
Some adjustments will need to be done, particularly that the datasets are fragmented into one per budget classification, while the data should be presented together and use the filters to display different visualizations.

A very positive highlight of this data is a high level of detail of revenue sources.

[Embedded visualizations of the administrative classification](#)



[Embedded visualizations of the revenue sources](#)



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El Salvador

The MoF of El Salvador has been an active Steward of GIFT in the last years. From their participation in meeting and events, they decided to launch a fiscal transparency portal in which GIFT had an active role. The portal was presented in November of 2018.

This Portal covers the aspects of the recently approved Fiscal Responsibility Law. While the Law does not indicate how to publish the information required, the government decided to make it accessible in open data. With this in mind, the site contains a large amount of budget and spending open data, as well as related to debt, a highly important topic in the public finances of the country.

The site shows how a country, not specially characterized by a strong

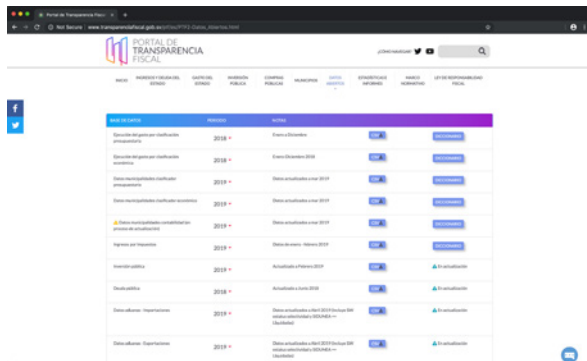
[Landing page with modern design](#)



The MoF of El Salvador has been an active Steward of GIFT in the last years. From their participation in meeting and events, they decided to launch a fiscal transparency portal in

[Open data of different topics](#)

(Worth noting the amount of historic data -spending from 2007- and comprehensiveness with metadata)



[Short explanatory videos](#)



Indonesia

The MoF of Indonesia has continued to improve its fiscal transparency portal, launched with GIFT in 2016. The portal includes open data of the budget allocations from 2010-2019.

The dataset only contains data of budget allocations, without actuals spending.

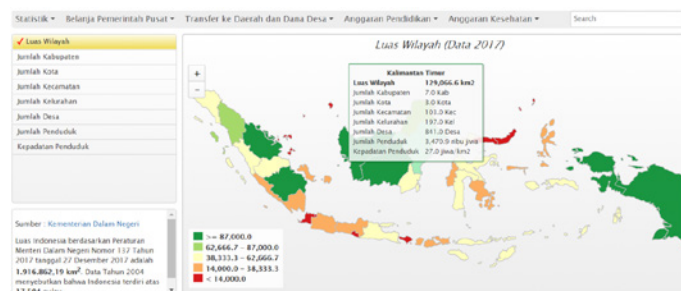
The MoF could benefit from using the OFDP since the querying process of the data set is long and could be more user friendly. Reason why we have started a pre-pilot phase of data feedback with them.

[Data queries to the budget datasets](#)



33

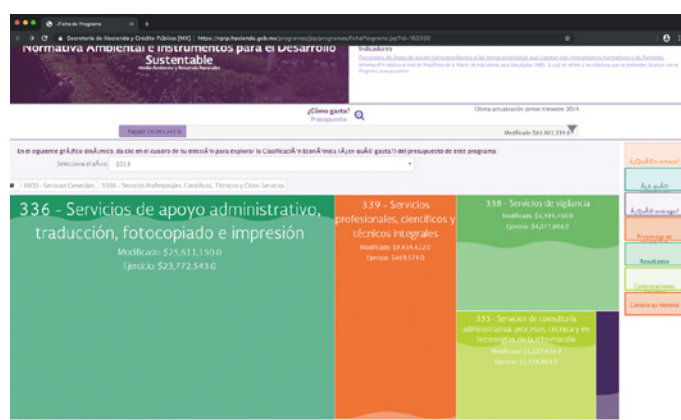
[Regional distribution of budget](#)



Mexico

Mexico has continued to publish quarterly updates of the spending data using the OFDP, both embedded in its site and using the API. GIFT-OKF have continued to provide support and have been actively aiding the new administration, which came into power in December 2018, to continue the publication process. We believe it is crucial to increase support after elections to avoid possible setbacks, and we have been so far successful to achieve so in this case.

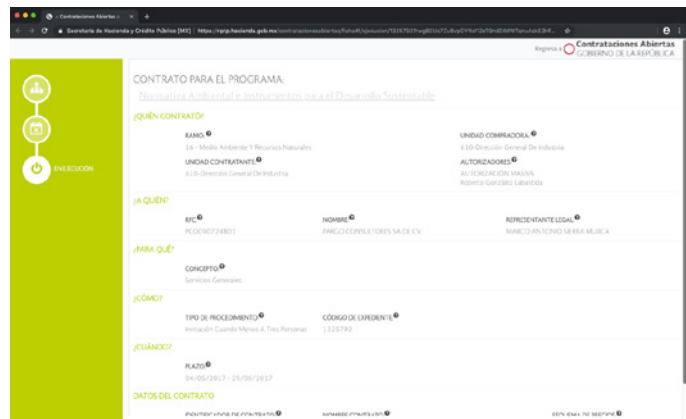
[Visualization of budget allocations and spending per program linked to non-financial performance indicators](#)



We are now transitioning with them from quarterly to monthly publication of the spending data.

The fiscal transparency portal has social media established aside from the MoF official account. Check on Twitter [@TPresupuestaria](#)

Linking of the OFDP and the Open Contracting Data Standard

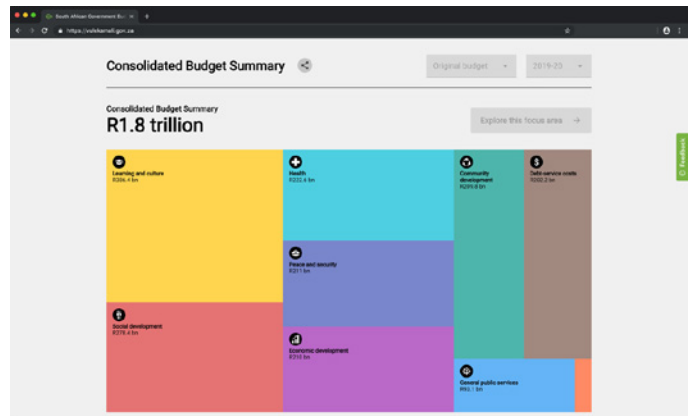


South Africa

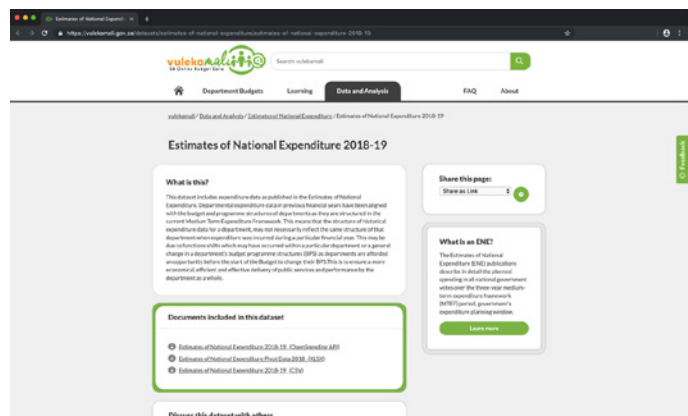
While South Africa has long been ranked at the top positions in the Open Budget Index of the International Budget Partnership, the reports had only been presented in the traditional table-oriented report form. With the launch of Vulekamali, a site co-designed by the National Treasury and a civil society coalition, Imali-Yethu, led by the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM), GIFT Steward, there is an emergent focus in open data.

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Constantly adding new visualization using the Open Fiscal Data Package



Open data



Moreover, one remarkable attribute of this initiative is the importance given to the users of the data to improve publication. Several events such as hackathons and dataquests are being constantly hosted throughout the country to encourage the use of the data and improve the publication.

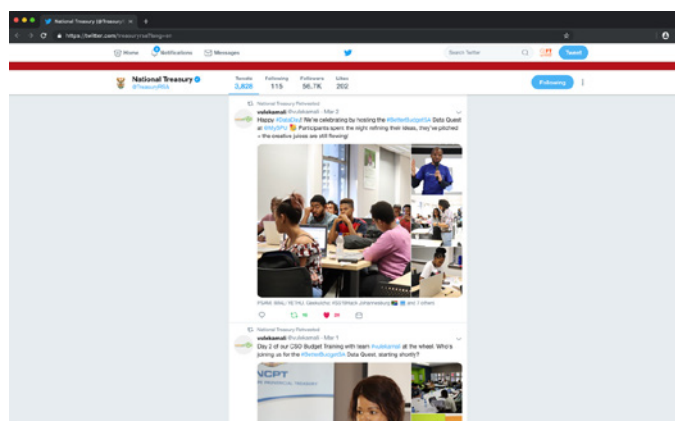
The team is now working to improve the publication of provincial data, which will be published through the OFDP as well.

The Vulekamali portal has social media established aside from the Treasury official account. Check on Twitter [@vulekamali](https://twitter.com/vulekamali)

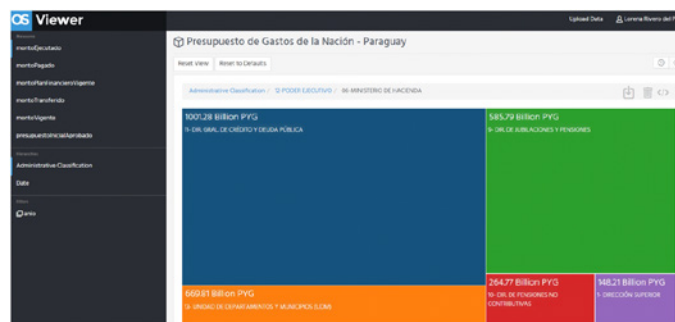
Paraguay

Technical Secretariat of Planning & Economic & Social Development has been an active supporter of open data leading to the publication on the OFDP in 2017.

Events



Open Spending Viewer of Paraguay

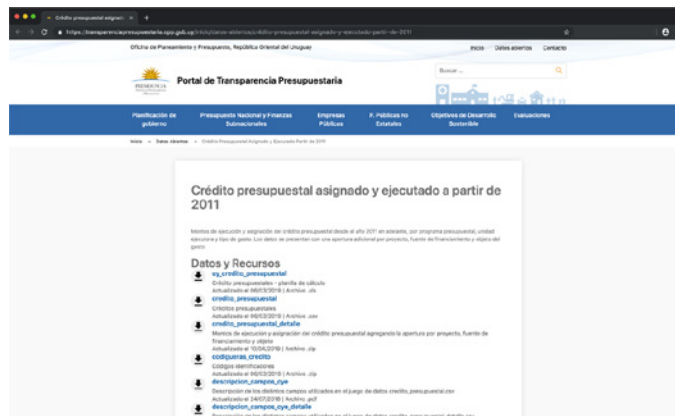


35

Uruguay

The Office of Budget and Planning (OPP) has continued to improve publication since presenting its fiscal transparency portal in October 2017 at GIFT General Stewards meeting.

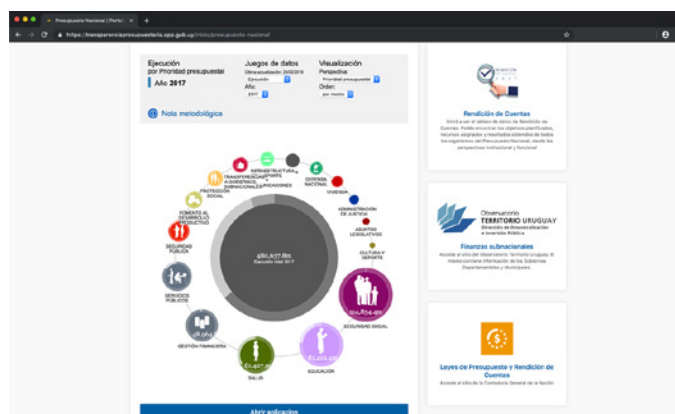
Historic spending data from 2011



The open data published of budget and spending was used to host the Better Budget Dataquest, for which the OPP extracted sections of the budget to categorize it by SDGs for the use of the participants.

Visualization of the data

OPP will be able to benefit from the use of the OFDP to be able to hold the historic data of budget and spending in the same structure without having the ids and descriptions of the data in different datasets, which will empower re-users of the data.



Agreement goals and indicators

The Grant will support the activities of GIFT, a multi-stakeholder action network housed by IBP.

Goals	Progress Indicator	At Time of Investment	Year 1	Year 2
Indicator #1	Participation: Number of countries considering, planning, designing and implementing Public Participation (PP) mechanisms such as the ones illustrated in the GIFT PP Guide, and sharing experiences on PP in fiscal policies.	Use of the PP principles at international & country level discussions, with more adoption & sharing of practices. Mexico, Guatemala, OECD-SBO, PEMPAL and Francophone Africa countries have formally discussed PP and 20 countries have shared country-level practices	UNDESA, PEMNA, OECD-SBO, IMF PFM MOOC, PEFA, Pillar for the Fiscal Transparency Code 7 countries implemented open data day events in collaboration among government and civil society.	6 new countries + 2 groups of countries use the PP GIFT resources for learning and sharing experience
	Fiscal Transparency: Brief impact stories on GIFT-supported activities that lead to fiscal transparency gains in focus countries ² .	N/A	7 new stories 3 social impact stories in 2 focus countries 4 stories of GIFT supported activities that led to fiscal transparency gains in focus countries.	At least 2 new stories
Indicator #3	Open data piloting: Number of countries piloting the Open Fiscal Data Package (OFDP).	The budget departments of 6 countries: Mexico, Croatia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Guatemala and Brazil, have piloted the OFDP. South Africa and Dominican Rep in process.	11 countries Argentina, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mongolia and South Africa.	10
Indicator #4	Open data publishing: Number of countries publishing information on open formats using the Open Fiscal Data Package (OFDP) or similar tools.	2 countries: Mexico and Paraguay have published fiscal information using the OFDP.	9 countries 4 using the OFDP (Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay, South Africa) 5 publishing with different tools and piloting the OFDP (Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Indonesia, Uruguay).	5

2. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Africa, Ukraine, UK, US, Zimbabwe.

Annex

As annex, this report is accompanied by a compressed file with the following documents that are mentioned in the sections above:

- MoU between GIFT, OKI and the National Treasury of South Africa _Signed
- Emails for the Open Data for Indonesia
- Emails for the Open Data for Ireland
- Emails for the Open Data for the Philippines

GIFT Coordination Team



Network
Director



PFM Technical
Adviser for
Francophone
countries



Representative
in Africa



Manager for
Technical
Collaboration
& Cooperation



Lead
Technical
Advisor



Technology &
Communications
Coordinator



Program
Assistant



fiscaltransparency.net
guide.fiscaltransparency.net

 @FiscalTrans

 /FiscalTransparency

 /FiscalTransparency