Global Open Fiscal Data Package Roadmap

**DISCUSSED IN THE GENERAL STEWARDS MEETING (JULY 7, 2015) & APPROVED IN THE GIFT LEAD STEWARDS MEETING (JULY 8, 2015)**

GIFT, The World Bank, Open Knowledge
21 July 2015 Approved Version

This document sets out the background for and establishes the roadmap towards a global tool for publishing budget information in open data formats, identified as the global open fiscal data package (or specification); it establishes the objectives, the background, the components, the institutional setting and the work plan for the development of the global open fiscal data package. This is an opportunity to publish budget information using a useful, practical, free and accepted mechanism for countries that have not been able to develop such formats yet, and an alternative option for countries that are seeking or paying providers to publish open budget data, ensuring at the same time a tool that provides comparability of the data at the global level.

# GIFT and Open Data

The [Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency](http://fiscaltranspareny.net) (GIFT) is a multi-stakeholder action network working to advance and institutionalize global norms and significant, continuous improvements on fiscal transparency, participation, and accountability in countries around the world. The stewards of the GIFT network of organizations believe timely, accurate, and open data is an important component in achieving these goals. Fiscal data in general and budget data in particular, when open, support transparency, participation, and accountability. GIFT seeks to facilitate work on a open fiscal data package as a way to further openness, participation, and norms around publishing budget data.

# Objective

The output of the GIFT open fiscal data work stream is to develop a global open fiscal data package (open fiscal data specification) with the open fiscal data information developed by the World Bank (WB) through the BOOST initiative in close to twenty countries alongside the technical specification already under development by Open Knowledge (OK), along with associated tools to support the generation, manipulation, analysis, and presentation of budget information in open data formats.

The key benefits of the development of the package include:

1. Ensuring budget information disclosure in a high-quality open data format;
2. Reliability of the published budget information disclosed;
3. Comparability of the data, both in time and in space dimensions, that is between different periods and nationally, sub-nationally and internationally, from a global approach;
4. Free use and accessibility of the use of the open fiscal data package;
5. World-wide acceptance of the data;
6. Usability and reusability of budget data by national and subnational government units;
7. Innovative visualizations for use, understanding and analysis;
8. Adaptability to developing country contexts;
9. Facilitating the assessment and tractability of committed actions; and
10. Addressing and reflecting specific civil society and CSO demands (thanks to the GIFT-IBP network).

To date, there is no such development for fiscal information at the international level: although various countries have developed open data formats for the disclosure of fiscal information, the quality, reliability and diversity of the data are vastly variable and the comparability is quite limited. The development of the global open fiscal data package would in fact provide an opportunity to many countries to publish fiscal information using a useful, practical, free and accepted mechanism for countries that have not been able to develop such formats yet, and would display an alternative for countries that are seeking or paying providers to publish open fiscal data, ensuring at the same time a tool that provides comparability of the data and therefore, enhanced relevance at the global level.

A specification, to define the term, is a set of data fields, rules on how to populate those fields, and explanations on how to describe the data in those fields (metadata). A specification allows for predictability of the data presentation as well as, with quality metadata, clear understanding of what the data is all about. As such, a specification ensures comparability, a key component of open data. Furthermore, a specification can be designed for both beginner publishers, with a core set of fields, as well as for advanced users who may wish to take advantage of a fuller set of fields.

With an accompanying set of tools to transform, input, and analyze the data published in compliance with the specification, the products from this effort will support producers and consumers of the data in the ways identified above as benefits. The main objectives will include to recognize existing country efforts on open fiscal data and encourage further efforts on fiscal transparency; to encourage improvements in fiscal data quality at the country level; to facilitate country-level fiscal policy analysis and policy debate; and to facilitate cross-country analysis and debate.

GIFT is facilitating and coordinating the collaborative work of the World Bank’s BOOST team and OK to produce the open data specification; to this goal, a set of activities since January 2015 are itemized below, among them the open fiscal data workshop facilitated by GIFT on June 2, 2015 (more on this workshop below, as well as to note the workshop participants articulated the benefits of an open fiscal data specification enumerated above). The remainder of this document delves into additional background information around GIFT’s open fiscal data work, further details from the June 2 workshop, and, towards the end, a work plan of activities.

# Summary and Background

An open fiscal data package is intended to streamline the publication of fiscal data, increase the use of visualization tools supplied with fiscal data, make it comparable and ease the re-use of fiscal data for CSOs, journalists, academics, citizens, public servants and others. The premise is that a standard format of fiscal data will improve both its publication and consumption.

Many governments have developed open fiscal data packages for public consumption of fiscal information. The World Bank has developed the [BOOST](http://wbi.worldbank.org/boost/boost-initiative) initiative, an international collaborative effort launched in 2010 to facilitate access to fiscal data and promote its effective use for improved decision-making processes, transparency, and accountability. BOOST organizes fiscal data in a standard easy-to-use format and makes it available, with government consent, to the general public (often in conjunction with nonfinancial indicators). The [Open Budgets Portal](http://wbi.worldbank.org/boost/) is a one-stop shop tool within the BOOST portfolio that brings visibility to countries’ efforts in the field of open budgets, facilitates access and promotes use of spending data, along with motivating other countries into action. As of this writing, 15 countries are represented in the Open Budgets Portal. Users of the portal can download the entire public expenditure landscape of the countries in consolidated files, with the underlying data being rigorously collected, cleaned, and verified.

BOOST at a Glance

The BOOST program seeks to facilitate access and use of expenditure data to improve the quality of expenditure analysis and fiscal transparency. Deployed in over 50 countries, BOOST collects and compiles detailed data on public expenditures from national treasury systems and presents it in a simple user-friendly format. BOOST can then be used by government officials, researchers, and ordinary citizens to examine trends in the allocation of public resources, analyze potential sources of inefficiencies, and become better informed about how governments finance the delivery of public services.

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In 2014 Open Knowledge (OK), with support from the Omidyar Network (ON), Google, and International Budget Partnership, developed the [Budget Data Package](https://github.com/openspending/budget-data-package). Budget Data Package is an open technical specification for government budget and spending data. It is a lightweight and user-oriented specification, intended to eliminate the technical friction experienced by researchers and journalists working with existing financial data.

These specifications (OK Budget Data Package and the World Bank’s BOOST initiative) are set to be the basis of an internationally vetted specification to publish budget data in open formats. OK has piloted (in Mexico) a first version of Budget Data Package and will conduct further pilots in collaboration with a variety of partners. BOOST has been deployed in over 50 countries globally, of which 15 are publicly available through the Open Budgets Portal, providing user-friendly platforms where all expenditure data can be easily accessed.

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| Open Knowledge tool tested in MexicoUsing the recently created open budget data specification “Budget Data Package”, Open Knowledge has created a tool that allow users to publish data visualisations with OpenSpending directly from CKAN. The tool was developed in partnership with the Office of the President of Mexico with support from the World Bank and the Partnership for Open Data (POD). The tool demonstrates the potential uses of Budget Data Package and was developed in order to: * Significantly reduce the time required for publishing budget and spending data to civil servants
* Pilot the new open budget specification, Budget Data Package, which Open Knowledge released a draft version of in July 2014
* Integrate use of the Budget Data Package into existing widely used tools such as CKAN which is used as data portal system by dozens of governments around the world including Mexico.
* Pilot a collaboration between the Office of the President of Mexico and Open Knowledge focused on discovery of user needs and implementing excellent user experience

The integration tool created enables the government of Mexico to open key financial data with significantly less required resources. For details see the [full report](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J-TI94i4s15xXTayJldthOTENoV-1sp24PwfOPZHBLs/edit) (<https://okfn.org>). |

The benefit of developing the fiscal data package (specification) from the BOOST efforts (large corpus of data, taxonomies, formatting of fields) is that the large amount of budget data from BOOST will tremendously enhance precision and practicality of the specification. These real-world budget datasets showcase actual budget data publisher needs such that the specification is apprpriately updated to reflect the nature of a variety of budget data.

GIFT is acting as a convener and manager of the process, including an Advisory Group, with the support of the Omidyar Network. GIFT will act as the broker and manager of the specification revisions towards sustainability, promotion, coordination, and continued improvement of these specifications and associated tools.

GIFT, the BOOST team and OK have developed an operational roadmap of how to take the work on the Budget Data Package and BOOST towards the next version of the specification.

The GIFT Lead Stewards discussed and provided inputs to this roadmap proposal and approved the work plan strategy on July 8, 2015. The benefits, already articulated above, the incentives, and the scope of an open fiscal data specification emerged from an important workshop where the foundational aspirations for an open fiscal data effort coalesced.

# Open Budget Data Research

GIFT and other researchers in the open budget data community have produced reports, papers, and case studies on open fiscal data and technology as vehicles to transparent, accountable, and participatory practices in governments. In 2012 GIFT commissioned Open Knowledge to produce a report on global projects using technology to further the aims of fiscal transparency: “[Technology for Transparent and Accountable Public Finance](http://community.openspending.org/resources/gift/).” While not focused solely on open budget data, the report noted several motivations for publishing fiscal information (including budget data), and recommended the pertinence of developing a light-weight, demand-driven standard for the release of structured expenditure information to enable its comparability between countries. The Annex 2 of this roadmap suggests a preliminary list of the variables that could set out the first main components of comparability in the Open Fiscal Data Package.

In an important work from the World Bank in 2013, Min and Dener wrote “[Financial Management Information Systems and Open Budget Data: Do Governments Report on Where the Money Goes?](http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2013/09/18304492/financial-management-information-system-open-budget-data-governments-report-money-goes)” The authors conducted a thorough stakeholder mapping of open budget data producers, which will be updated with user case scenarios for the current specification effort, and proposed the following definition of open budget data: “the government budget data that are made accessible to the public (online) in editable (machine-readable) and reusable format, without any restriction (free/legally open).” This may include transactional level data but not extrabudgetary funds, tax expenditures, quasi-fiscal activities, fixed assets, and contingent liabilities.

GIFT, in 2015, commissioned three case studies of the uses of open budget data and a landscape report on the current state of affairs around open budget data. The authors identified a set of motivations for publishing open budget data, which include legal requirements for disclosing open budget data, data analysis through visualizations, monitor proposed from actual spending, improve recognition from peers on the issue of transparency, and strong demand of budget information from civil society groups, among others. As for uses of open budget data, the reports noted the following: advocacy, monitoring spending, develop new applications based on the data, non-experts provided a simplified version of the budget, media reports to follow the money, data visualizations, among others. The authors also suggested there is a need to delve further into a standard set of data fields for publishing open budget data.

# June 2015 Workshop

On June 2, 2015, GIFT hosted a workshop with a dozen experts on a proposed joint effort surrounding the development of the open budget data specification. These experts represented ministries of finance, a federal budget office, standard setters, finance experts, and other technical experts. The intended output from the workshop was to develop the elements for a roadmap (work plan) of coordinated efforts for producing a next-stage development of an open fiscal data specification aimed at addressing problems faced by fiscal data users along with a set of candidate countries willing to pilot the specification as soon as possible. Through the course of the workshop discussion, participants expressed ideas on the key elements of a roadmap and critical matters to keep in the forefront in activities. These experts around the table aided the thinking about the open fiscal data specification work and helped produce strong, compelling ideas about motivations, incentives, and goals for the work.

The workshop contributed to the following key roadmap elements, objectives of the specification, scope of the specification, and specification attributes. A full summary of the workshop is provided in a separate document.

## Key Roadmap Elements

The workshop participants emphasized that a **user-centered design process** is key to success for this effort, with documented stories of how users are currently using fiscal data and associated tools. The process should also include noting user wishes regarding data, format of data, access to data, analysis of data, etc. One element in the process is a full stakeholder mapping, including data publishers, finance and line ministries, CSOs, SAIs, donors, private sector, tool developers, journalists, etc. The result of the process is a clear user needs analysis. It is worth mentioning that the International Budget Partnership, the World Bank and GIFT, have been putting together a survey on the demand and uses of fiscal open data. This project aims to enhance the understanding of relevant stakeholders around the developing world with respect to the current uses for budget work, as well as the ways in which existing barriers are perceived to hinder further engagement. Once completed, before the end of 2015, this research work will feed into the efforts of the open fiscal data package.

**Incentives**. The potential incentives for an open fiscal data specification include publishing in easy, cheap, and fast means; comparable data with potential for cross-country comparability; increased use of fiscal data by government entities; extended internal oversight capacity; tracking commitments; identification of good practices along with recognizing countries as leaders in publishing open fiscal data; journalists using more accurate data; increased trust in government when more transparent publishing of fiscal data; improved visualization of fiscal data; and greater efficiency in updating data.

## Key Matters for Consideration

### Motivations for Using an Open Fiscal Data Specification

In addition to the benefits noted before, and the incentives just mentioned, the motivations for publishers to use an open fiscal data specification are the following: (1) Assessment and evaluation of the fiscal is likely to be easier for a wider range of government stakeholders when the fiscal is uniform and available from a single point of access. (2) An integrated, national infrastructure for disseminating open fiscal data can lead to a reduction in duplicative efforts across departments, thereby reducing expenditures as well. (3) Greater efficiency of sharing open fiscal information across government departments can also lead to a more efficient distribution of resources. (4) Internal stakeholders from within the government often need fiscal data from other governmental departments, yet do not have access either at all or only through cumbersome channels. Publishing open, accessible data is beneficial to a range of government personnel. (5) Recognition from other governments and affiliations such as the Open Government Partnership can be an incentive to publish open fiscal data. (6) The re-use of open fiscal data can foster innovative and creative advancements from civil society and business entities. (7) Published open fiscal data is one means to encourage greater public participation among society members.

### Scope of the Specification

The desired specification will be of high quality through its development by fiscal and technical experts. The specification will allow for updates of fiscal data, on at least an annual basis with the scalability to permit quarterly or other update frequencies. The specification will note accounting moments according to budget practices in different countries. The specification should be usable at all level of government, not just at the national level. Also, the specification will take into consideration efforts at open fiscal publishing from a variety of examples at the sub-national level, where there are lessons to be learned.

### Specification Attributes

The specification should also afford certain capabilities, workshop participants noted. These include the provision of a progressive array of implementation options, permitting governments to publish a set of core open fiscal data elements as well as allow other countries to expand and adapt a specification to its own stage of development and availability of fiscal data. Second, the open fiscal data specification should allow for interoperability with existing taxonomies, existing standards, and mapping tools available to cross-walk between sources. The linking of data sets is important for knowledge generation. Third, geotagging is a low cost yet impactful specification element, so important to include in the specification. Fourth, to count with extensive documentation including documenting the specification development process, the steps of using the specification, data provenance, practical implementation techniques, and tool use. Fifth, share data in formats most meaningful and usable for both producers and users. Sixth, adhere to open data principles such as machine readable, reusable, and open access.

### Peer Learning and Technical Assistance

Workshop participants also encouraged an open forum for exchange, debate, and discussion of the format or the specification or the package that certain countries are working on. Part of the work effort should include an open forum for countries to share experiences as they manage their data with certain contents and in their individual contexts. Further, some countries will require the assistance of people who can help package and format fiscal data into a specification. For example, the World Bank satisfies this task for some of its BOOST countries. In other contexts, a country will need a technical advisor to manipulate the data into the format prescribed by a specification.

# Advisory Group

In the process of developing the Open Fiscal Data Specification, GIFT will seek out technical and process advisers to serve on an Advisory Group (AG).

## Rationale for Advisory Group

The Advisory Group is recommendable for the following reasons:

1. Other groups of experts have produced open data standards (e.g., IATI, Open Contracting, and EITI). An AG with some of these experts as advisers could guide the development of an open budget data standard by sharing previous experiences on elaborating a specification on open data formats. The role of each AG member, then, is to share advice with the work team for their consideration.
2. Examples of publishing budget data exist, so learning from these experiences will aid in the development of an open budget data specification.
3. Open data is a significant movement now, but there is a concern about the use and the quality of open data and its relevance to civil society. An AG of knowledgeable experts in similar processes can point out the elements we need to take into consideration to develop a specification that is useful for the demand side.
4. There is a need for coordination in global open data efforts around joined-up data such that open budget data are integrated with other open data efforts resulting in coordination to fill the gaps of linking to other global efforts in the field. The AG can advise how to link the data.
5. The AG provides a broad array of discussion and ideas and ways forward on points of consideration and decision. The discussion will be enriched with the AG’s perspectives to provide other ideas and reflections and guidance on addressing problems in cases where a clear solution is not evident, resulting in innovative solutions.

Regular virtual meetings of the AG once every two months along with extraordinary meetings when special consultations are needed. To be a member of the AG is voluntary, but GIFT would support members for their time, attention, and means to attend the meetings.

## Advisory Group Characteristics

* Experience in specification/standard development team in open data.
* Technical expertise designing a specification/standard.
* Knowledge of the stakeholders in the open budget data space.
* Experience in public finance statistics and budgets.
* A "champion" who can influence governments and other stakeholders to adopt the specification because he/she knows key government leaders and understands the data side. This person could be from government or the World Bank or other institution with significant influence.
* Budget-Specific Characteristics:
	+ Extensive knowledge of budget formulation and structure.
	+ Practical and extensive experience building and publishing a national level budget.
	+ Familiar with open budget data principles from the publishing side.
	+ Aware of the various characteristics and stakeholders of the demand side of open budget data.
	+ Expertise in the various specifications and standards related to budget and accounting work, such as specifications from the likes of the World Bank, IMF, and the International Federation of Accountants.
	+ Familiar with eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL).

## Institutions or Networks to Provide Candidates for the Advisory Group

* The World Bank
* International Monetary Fund
* International Budget Partnership
* Brazil Secretary of the Federal Budget
* US Treasury
* Open Contracting
* Publish What You Fund
* International Aid Transparency Initiative
* Natural Resource Governance Institute
* Open North

# Open Budget Data Work Plan

This document is a general work plan towards an open budget data specification, as approved by the GIFT Lead Stewards, with special attention on developing the data and mechanisms to compare data across the BOOST countries.

There are two significant challenges when embarking on an open data standard/specification project. The first problem is the range of Public Financial Management (PFM) challenges that affect the comprehensiveness, granularity, consistency, and overall quality of fiscal information produced by financial management information systems. Wide variations in the ability of PFM systems to produce consistent reliable data is a clear constraint to a top-down approach to an open data specification requiring instead a more bottom-up perspective to identify common ground for maximal uptake and participation. The second aspect is the difficulty in ensuring long term commitment in disseminating fiscal data in user friendly formats, a combination of above mentioned PFM systems flaws compounded by issues of internal capacity, regulatory frameworks (i.e., open licensing), political will, and various institutional bottlenecks. A variety of studies and international initiatives have highlighted the enduring struggles in encouraging step increases in fiscal data accessibility in the developing world. While there is evidence of improvement – notably emerging new practices in the Latin American region as well as the proliferation of global fiscal transparency initiatives and platforms such as OGP, GIFT, IBP and the World Bank’s BOOST program – these principles are far from being adequately and consistently operationalized.

Keeping these two aspects in mind, this work effort values a gradual, incremental bottom-up approach to support progress towards implementation of an open data specification that builds on the significant lessons learned through the implementation of the World Bank’s BOOST program.

To address these challenges, the work effort will include the following elements (with a time line of these and additional activities below):

1. An initial stocktaking exercise illustrating current wide ranges in performance of PFM systems as emerged from the deployment of BOOST platforms in over 50 countries across all regions;
2. The development of the specification as the creation of a cross-country interface disseminating comparative data for all countries featured in the World Bank Open Budgets Portal for a set of relevant fiscal dimensions;
3. The implementation of the specification in the countries where budget data has been already systematized by the World Bank’s BOOST initiative as well as other countries where there is opportunity and interest by authorities;
4. Application of the country pilot interventions to test feasibility of approach and specification with engagement of civil society organizations to ensure the use of the tools as much as the identification of a demand of these data from independent partners; and
5. Awareness/dissemination events to enhance sensitization and uptake.

## 2015 February - May

* Developed the initial roadmap and presentation elements. Includes motivation for an open budget data standard, benefits of a standard for government publishers, list of potential technical advisory group members, and a rough draft of the work plan.
* Assembled the initial development team, including OK and BOOST.
* Informal coalition building with potential partners who commit to refine, test, and comment on the standard-setting process.

## 2015 May-June

* GIFT Coordination Team, OK, and BOOST iteratively drafts the full and detailed roadmap towards a formal open budget data specification.
* The roadmap will provide as much detail as possible regarding the steps necessary to move forward.
* The roadmap will also propose the desired composition of the Advisory Group.
* OK –BOOST team propose named candidates for the Advisory Group for GIFT consideration.

## 2015 June Workshop

* Workshop 2 June to further refine the roadmap, share lessons of existing pilots, and receive feedback from government personnel who are involved in the technical application and management of budget data.
* Purpose of the workshop was to deeply explore, with the technical practitioners in the room, the merits as well as the areas for improvement regarding both the BOOST model and the Budget Data Package.
* Activities in the workshop
	+ Background and summary of open budget data specifications to-date.
	+ Hear from the technical practitioners about their needs and demands for a budget data specification
	+ Overview of BOOST, including revealing user feedback and response to that feedback and specific pilots
	+ Overview of the Budget Data Package, including revealing user feedback and response to that feedback and specific pilots
	+ Review and revise roadmap work plan as well as anticipated advisory group member characteristics and coalition partner suggestions

## 2015 July

* Final discussion of the proposal at the Stewards General Meeting and roadmap presented to GIFT Lead Stewards July 7-8 for approval.
* OK revises Budget Data Package to develop v0.2 of the specification by end of July.
* Update and dissemination of BOOST documentation of the specification, which describes the data elements in BOOST.(<http://wbi.worldbank.org/boost/boost-initiative> and <http://go.worldbank.org/S14MC5Z9L0>).
* GIFT Coordination Team continues to perform the project manager role and contacts possible candidates of the Advisory Group.

## 2015 July - October: Tools

* OK begins work on tools: creation, validation, presentation. Work continues through October. OK develops documentation associated with each tool.
* OK and WB begin work on comparison tool, taking in to account the work that the WB has already undertaken in creating a cross-country interface. Work continues through October.

## 2015 July – September: Advisory Group

* With approval from the GIFT Lead Stewards, finalize desired composition of five-member Advisory Group.
* Extend invitations to Advisory Group members.
* Secure the participation of the Contract Advisory Group members.
* Revise roadmap with input from Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will extend the detail of the steps necessary to move a specification to a standard.

## 2015 August-September

* OK and WB format selected public BOOST data into Budget Data Package v0.2 by September.
* BOOST continues documenting mini case studies of the 15 countries in the Open Budgets Portal, noting successes already achieved. (The WB should be sharing information about reviews and evaluations of the program that could provide feedback to this effort.)

## 2015 September - December: Pilots and Use Case Scenarios

* After the required authorizations, BOOST and OK pilot Budget Data Package with several (three to five) countries (including at the sub-national level) in preparing BOOST or other data. Start in September; conclude pilots by December. Candidate countries: Brazil (one state), Paraguay, Mexico, UK (OK only), Moldova, Tunisia (basic information); other countries to be considered (Armenia or Tanzania for instance).
* OK-BOOST regularly produce written documentation of lessons learned during the course of the pilots.
* OK-BOOST develop and analyzes demand-side use cases for a specification from stakeholders such as data users, public servants (particularly, Ministries of Finance), journalists, CSOs, SAIs, private sector consumers, and software developers.
* BOOST continues piloting activities in additional countries, summarizes feedback, and proposes modifications to budget data management within BOOST, especially with an eye towards comparing data points across countries.

## 2015 October - December: Coalition and Support Building

BOOST launches a cross country interface featuring existing countries in the portal

Garner general support for an open budget data specification through the identification and support from key stakeholder organizations. Aim for eight organizations to become partners in the coalition by agreeing to list their organization as an open budget data coalition partner. This outreach is both technical and political.

* As the pilot activities progress during this time period in late 2015, seek the formal endorsement of an open budget data specification from four countries. These countries may be from the first round of pilots or into a second round of pilots anticipated in 2016. The goal is to have four formal endorsements by July 2016.

## 2016 January - March: Round Two of Pilots

* OK-BOOST expand the pilots of the budget data package into another set of 3-5 countries.
* OK-BOOST reformulate the pilots based on lessons learned from round one of pilots.
* OK-BOOST documents the lessons learned from the round two pilots.

## 2016 January - March: Publicity

* Compile gathered outputs such as pilots, user scenarios, mini case studies, and early endorsements into a coherent publicity effort.
* Produce blog posts, webinars, newsletter articles, and cross-pollinate on various platforms such as OGP outlets, various mailing lists, and the Global Partnership for Social Accountability.

## 2016 April - June: Revise Specification, Interoperability, Taxonomies

* OK revises budget data package to a v0.3 based on inputs from the use case scenarios and two rounds of pilots.
* OK facilities technical interoperability between the budget data package and other specifications such as the Open Contracting Data Standard.
* OK and BOOST enhance the effective use of existing taxonomies while proposing practical applications and uses of those taxonomies in the budget data package and BOOST systems.

# Annex 1

# Background Information and Documents

* Budget Data Package https://github.com/openspending/budget-data-package
* July 2014 round table meeting documents: https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6wLVP6U7FhDeG55S2dFUEYxRkE&authuser=0
* Executive Summary of Budget Data Package: https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6wLVP6U7FhDcmFORVNJOW9JSmc&authuser=0
* [BOOST](http://wbi.worldbank.org/boost/) and Open Knowledge presentations are attached (June 2015)

# Annex 2

**List of preliminary fiscal dimensions in cross country interface**

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| 1 | Wage bill |
| 2 | Capital spending |
| 3 | Use of goods and Services |
| 4 | Interest on debt |
| 5 | Subsidies |
| 6 | Social benefits - transfers |
| 7 | Debt repayment |
| 8 | Spending in education |
| 9 | Wage bill in education |
| 10 | Capital spending in education |
| 11 | Use of goods and services in education |
| 12 | Spending in primary education |
| 13 | Spending in wages in primary education |
| 14 | Spending in secondary education |
| 15 | Spending in wages in primary education |
| 16 | Spending in primary + secondary education |
| 17 | Spending in wages in primary + secondary education |
| 18 | Spending in tertiary education |
| 19 | Spending in wages in tertiary education |
| 20 | Spending in health |
| 21 | Wage bill in health |
| 22 | Capital spending in health |
| 23 | Use of goods and services in health |
| 24 | Spending in agriculture |
| 25 | Wage bill in agriculture |
| 26 | Capital spending in agriculture |
| 27 | Spending in Irrigation |
| 28 | Spending in roads |
| 29 | Capital spending in roads |
| 30 | Spending in Social Protection |
| 31 | Spending in Environment |
| 32 | Spending in Energy/mining etc. |
| 33 | Sub-national spending |
| 34 | Transfers (% total spending) |
| 35 | Transfers (% overall local resources) |
| 36 | Spending in education |
| 37 | Income taxes |
| 38 | Corporate taxes |
| 39 | Customs |
| 40 | VAT |

Clarification note: Countries that use both economic and functional Government Finances Statistics should be able to reproduce all the above dimensions without much effort (although it would still require some data manipulation to account for inter-governmental transfers.). So the data enlisted relates to existing classification systems (they basically all map onto the GFS economic classification, COFOG, and general/central government).

# Annex 3

# Glossary of Terms

BOOST: The World Bank has developed the BOOST initiative, an international collaborative effort launched in 2010 to facilitate access to fiscal data and promote its effective use for improved decision-making processes, transparency, and accountability. BOOST organizes fiscal data in a standard easy-to-use format and makes it available, with government consent, to the general public (often in conjunction with nonfinancial indicators).

Budget Data Package: an open technical specification for government budget and spending data. It is a lightweight and user-oriented specification, intended to eliminate the technical friction experienced by researchers and journalists working with existing financial data.

Open Fiscal Data: public financial information used in fiscal reporting that is freely available in a machine-readable format to use, modify and share.

Open Data: data and content can be freely used, modified, and shared by anyone for any purpose.

Specification: a set of data fields, rules on how to populate those fields, and explanations on how to describe the data in those fields (metadata). A specification allows for predictability of the data presentation as well as, with quality metadata, clear understanding of what the data is all about.

User Centered Design: starting a design and development process with the end user embedded into the process and incorporating the end user needs into the design (design of a product, software package, etc.).