**Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT)**

**2023 Workplan**

(January 8th, 2023)

Based on the *2022-26 Strategic guidelines for annual workplans* approved by GIFT’s Lead and General Stewards at the August 2022 General Assembly meeting, the network’s priority activities for the 2023 workplan are to:

1. Advance transparency and public participation in fiscal policies in international norms and at country level;
2. Provide capacity building for more effective and inclusive use of public resources; and
3. Consolidate GIFT as a cohesive action network comprised of champions, set to become a source of knowledge, experience, innovation, and practices that have impact.

The paragraphs below outline how the GIFT network will perform each of these activities.

1. **Advancing transparency and public participation in fiscal policies**
2. **Global norms harmonization**
3. In the first quarter of 2023, GIFT will host a dialogue on how International Financial Institutions (IFIs) can further promote fiscal openness during emergencies, in partnership with the International Budget Partnership (IBP), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Inter-American Development Bank.
4. GIFT will continue to disseminate the [Transparency Principles for Tax Policy and Administration](https://fiscaltransparency.net/transparency-principles-for-tax-policy-and-administration-a-public-consultation-from-october-2021-to-january-2022/). Dialogue on the principles with network members at the national level and with IFIs will continue, similar to that held with Chile’s Observatorio Fiscal, and between IBP Nigeria and the Nigerian national tax authorities in late 2022. Further, with the support of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Support Unit, GIFT and IBP will produce a state-of-the-evidence review on tax and revenue transparency, adding a new chapter to the OGP’s latest [Skeptic’s Guide to Open Government](https://www.opengovpartnership.org/skeptics-guide-to-open-government-2022-edition/).
5. GIFT will organize a first meeting on methods and techniques for SDG and cross-cutting priority budget tagging, with stewards that have worked on the issue, and based on the guidelines GIFT drafted to assist ministries of finance with knowledge, tools and systems that can support linking the budget with development outcomes.
6. **Public participation mechanisms**
7. As the first phase of the [Fiscal Openness Accelerator](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/foaproject/) ([FOA](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/foaproject/)) public participation project concluded in September 2022, GIFT/IBP submitted a proposal in December 2022 to the United States Department of State (USDoS) to begin a second phase of the project in 2023. The second phase, proposes to add five new countries: Cameroon, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Madagascar and Zambia to the five original participating countries: Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. While awaiting a reply, GIFT will continue hosting virtual meetings with FOA countries on a bi-monthly basis towards monitoring progress and providing a platform for peer-learning and support.
8. GIFT will continue its partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Lesotho to provide technical assistance to national stakeholders on the co-creation of impactful public participation mechanisms in the budget process.
9. In collaboration with [DAI](https://www.dai.com/), GIFT will provide technical support for the public participation segment of the [Guatemala–National Institutions Strengthening](https://www.dai.com/our-work/projects/guatemala-national-institutions-strengthening-nis) (for Accountable Governance) project, funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
10. In collaboration with the World Bank Group (WBG), GIFT will continue providing technical assistance and support to the Government of Cote d’Ivoire, for the implementation of a public participation mechanism in the budget process, as part of the country’s OGP National Action Plan.
11. **Fiscal transparency innovative approaches for inclusive budgets and development**
12. GIFT will participate in the 22nd session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration of the United Nations (UN) taking place in March 2023. The session focuses on various pertinent topics, including public financial management (PFM) in times of emergency and the role of digital technology in the use of public resources. GIFT will also contribute to the UN World Public Sector Report 2023, drafting a piece to be included in the chapter titled *“How can governments assess competing priorities and address difficult policy trade-offs that have emerged since 2020?”.*
13. GIFT will continue its partnership with UNICEF Egypt in providing support to the Egyptian Ministries of Finance and Planning on fiscal transparency and public participation with a special focus on children and youth.
14. GIFT will continue working with UNICEF Lesotho to further develop training materials on various topics including program-based budgeting, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) focused budget planning, monitoring, and reporting, and cross-cutting development objectives (minorities, vulnerable groups, etc.) in budgets.
15. **Budget authority/CSO partnership events**
16. The #DataOnTheStreets Rally and the #BetterBudget Dataquest for Sustainable Development events use open data to improve PFM systems’ information, encouraging collaboration between civil society and ministries of finance. Chile, Mexico, Mongolia (in partnership with the WBG), Indonesia and the Philippines, organized national level events in 2022, with GIFT’s support. Colombia, Bogotá, Mexico City and Guanajuato also hosted events, at their respective sub-national levels of government. These partnership events will continue to be organized in 2023 to promote the use of open data and citizen engagement in evidence-based monitoring, data analysis and in the dissemination of fiscal information towards increasing budget literacy and improved PFM information systems, public policies, and local service delivery.
17. During the first quarter of 2023, GIFT will host its annual global winners’ showcase event, where organizing and winning participant teams from the different countries will meet each other, engage in peer learning, share lessons learned, and inspire each other to progress further. From this, the GIFT team will also draft a short documentation piece (a blog or the like) to share information on the winning teams’ projects with its wider network audience.
18. **Increasing and improving knowledge exchange**
19. **Peer-collaboration and technical assistance for stewards**
20. Technical meetings and workshops will be held to support GIFT stewards upon request. Such collaboration will continue to focus particularly on peer learning events that will engage cities and local governments, as a way to integrate the new local members of the network (Bogota, Guanajuato, Cascais and Ozurgeti) in the dynamics of the exchange of experiences and knowledge among stewards.
21. The Europe Foundation in Georgia requested additional online and in person training on public participation at the national and subnational levels, as well as the facilitation of a discussion on the role of fiscal transparency and public participation in fiscal decentralization processes. GIFT will continue supporting these activities in 2023.
22. The European Union and GIZ in El Salvador have requested that GIFT provide significant in-country support in 2023. This technical assistance will focus on fiscal transparency and public participation and is expected to cover the period 2023-2026.
23. **Fiscal transparency online course**
24. The [Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development online course](https://aftx.learning.fiscaltransparency.net/) opened for public registration from July 13, 2022. Representatives from all countries can now benefit from the course, including those that already have high levels of fiscal transparency and were not previously invited to attend the course. As there is no cost in taking the course, an unlimited number of participants, including interns and junior officials, can also potentially benefit from it. By the end of 2022, approximately 200 additional participants had registered to take the online course in English or French, from many different countries. GIFT submitted a proposal to the USDoS in December 2022 to produce the course in Spanish and Arabic to broaden its potential reach, to actively disseminate the course in the four languages to increase the number of participants taking the course, as well as to implement strategies to ensure an increased course completion rate.
25. As a supporting material to the online course, but also to generate a comprehensive and reliable reference in the fiscal transparency field, a guide on Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development will be published and disseminated in January 2023.
26. **Digital tools for user-centered fiscal transparency**
27. GIFT will continue providing assistance to different countries on the [Open Fiscal Data Package](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/ofdp/) (OFDP) to publish government budgets and spending data. The OFDP or GIFT Data Portal is now completely hosted by GIFT and managed by its Coordination Team.
28. GIFT published and disseminated a guide, titled [*Hands-on the 9,560 data points of the Global Data Barometer’s Public Finance Module: A step-by-step guide*](https://fiscaltransparency.net/gdb-pfm-data-guide/) in November 2022. GIFT will continue supporting the dissemination efforts of the fiscal data module of the [Global Data Barometer](https://opendatabarometer.org/?_year=2017&indicator=ODB) (GDB) in 2023. Following a request from IBP’s Policy team, GIFT produced a detailed note for comment in September 2022, highlighting Open Budget Survey comparability and potential joint efforts. GIFT will continue its efforts to engage the IBP Policy Team in this initiative.
29. **Consolidating GIFT as a cohesive action network**

In 2023, GIFT will seek to consolidate the network’s current membership of 58 stewards, including four local governments. Greater integration among new members, including the Ministry of Finance of Liberia, will be promoted, and more collaboration and peer-to-peer learning activities will be sought. While additional country membership will not be actively incentivized, GIFT will consider applications from countries that have already expressed interest in becoming members, such as Cote d’Ivoire and Senegal.

GIFT will organize the 2023 Stewards General Meeting in a virtual format, following the successful experiences of 2021 and 2022, with the hope of securing sufficient resources to host an in-person meeting in 2024.

In October 2022, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation informed GIFT that after more than 10 years of continuous funding, its support for the period 2023-24 would be provided in a concluding grant, due to the Foundation’s strategic change in direction. GIFT will work on filling the large core support funding gap emanating from this by: increasing its collaboration with UNICEF and DAI (Guatemala and possibly Liberia); the three year pledge support provided by the European Union and GIZ in El Salvador; and potentially securing funding for at least one of the proposals submitted to the USDoS in December 2022.

As the new IBP Executive Director will assume office in February 2023, and in order to avoid a simultaneous leadership transition in GIFT and IBP, the GIFT Network Director has accepted the Lead Stewards’ recommendation that GIFT’s leadership transition be delayed by approximately a year, to ensure that IBP’s transition is settled before GIFT’s one takes place. The extension of GIFT’s Executive Director’s tenure until the end of 2023 will also facilitate a smooth funding transition and should ensure that funding is secured for the period 2024-25.

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| **Timeline** | **2023 GIFT Coordination Team summary of activities** |
| **1st Quarter** | * Lead Stewards meeting * Technical assistance in the documentation of Mongolia’s first #Dataquest * First mission to Guatemala in collaboration with DAI * Launch of the guide on Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development * Technical assistance in Cote d’Ivoire * Technical assistance in Lesotho (collaboration with UNICEF) * Workshop on the role of IFI’s in promoting fiscal openness in emergency responses * FOA international virtual meeting * User engagement initiatives’ annual global winners’ showcase online event |
| **2nd Quarter** | * Technical assistance in El Salvador (collaboration with EU-GIZ) * Technical assistance in Egypt (collaboration with UNICEF) * Technical assistance in Georgia * Tax transparency principles discussion in two member countries * Rallies and data quests in GIFT network community * Technical assistance in Lesotho (collaboration with UNICEF) * Technical assistance in Cote d’Ivoire * Technical assistance in Guatemala (collaboration with DAI) * FOA international virtual meeting * GIFT peer learning event with local governments * Meeting on methods and techniques for SDG and cross-cutting priority budget tagging |
| **3rd Quarter** | * Technical assistance in El Salvador (collaboration with EU-GIZ) * Technical assistance in Egypt (collaboration with UNICEF) * Technical assistance in Lesotho (collaboration with UNICEF) * Technical assistance in Cote d’Ivoire * Technical assistance in Guatemala (collaboration with DAI) * FOA international virtual meeting * GIFT peer learning event with local governments * Lead Stewards meeting * Virtual Stewards General Meeting: Methods and techniques for inclusive development budgeting |
| **4th Quarter** | * Lead stewards meeting * Technical assistance in Guatemala (collaboration with DAI) * Technical assistance in Egypt (collaboration with UNICEF) * Technical assistance in Lesotho (collaboration with UNICEF) * Technical assistance in Cote d’Ivoire * Technical assistance in El Salvador (collaboration with EU-GIZ) * Tax transparency principles discussion in two member countries * FOA international virtual meeting |
| **Throughout the year** | * Provide tailored technical collaboration and practical assistance on technologies and open data formats for fiscal transparency and public participation * Participation in capacity building and dissemination events organized by lead stewards, stewards and partners * Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development online course activities * Participation as mentors and judges for user-engagement initiatives * Dissemination and communication activities * Fundraising, per project monitoring and reporting activities |