

## Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT) 2024 Workplan

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 2024 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

- **Design and implementation of inclusive public participation mechanisms**

- i) The Fiscal Openness Accelerator (FOA) project successfully concluded in September 2022, with Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa adopting new approaches to co-create mechanisms for public participation. Building on the methodology and experience gained from it, from 2023 GIFT expanded collaborations and efforts to provide substantial direct support to ministries of finance in enhancing budget transparency and implementing public participation mechanisms. This extends to 2024, for example, through partnership with DAI, efforts are in progress with Liberia, and similar proposals are in consideration for other countries.

- **Fiscal transparency innovative approaches for inclusive budgets and development**

- i) GIFT will continue its partnership with UNICEF Egypt in providing support to the Egyptian Ministry of Finance on fiscal transparency and public participation with a special focus on children and youth.
- ii) GIFT will attend the Committee of Experts on Public Administration of the United Nations (UN) taking place in April 2024.

- **Budget authority/CSO partnership events**

- i) 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. During 2023, events took place in the Philippines, Mexico (national), and Guanajuato (Mexico) and Bogota (Colombia) at the subnational level, demonstrating these stakeholders' sustained commitment to fostering user engagement and promoting open budget data. These partnership events will continue to be encouraged in 2024 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.

- ii) GIFT will also actively participate in related events globally, including those hosted by the Alan Turing Institute.

## **2. Increasing and improving knowledge exchange**

### **• Peer-collaboration and technical assistance for stewards**

- i) Technical meetings and workshops will be held to support GIFT stewards upon request.
- ii) The Europe Foundation in Georgia has requested support with an assessment of public participation as well as training at the subnational government level. GIFT will undertake key activities in this regard in 2024.
- iii) With funding from the European Union and in partnership with GIZ, GIFT signed a multi-year contract in October 2023 to provide fiscal transparency and public participation support in El Salvador. Several activities are to take place in 2024, with a country visit scheduled for March 2024.
- iv) As part of the ongoing collaboration with UNICEF Egypt, the partnership will capitalize on the knowledge and experiences gained in previous years through an enhanced focus on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) tagging initiative and further development of the public participation streams. By integrating peer learning into these workstreams, the partnership aims to foster greater inclusivity and effectiveness in promoting transparency and engagement in fiscal matters.

### **• Fiscal transparency online course**

- i) The [Fiscal Transparency for Development online course](#), available in English and French, offers a unique presentation of theoretical and practical knowledge on various aspects of fiscal transparency in an accessible format. From October 2021 to March 2022, the course saw participation from 18 invited countries. Open for public registration since July 2022, it has continued to attract participants from various countries worldwide.
- ii) In August 2023, the U.S. Department of State reaffirmed its commitment to support the course, with a new grant extending from 2023 to 2025. This renewed support is being used to produce the course in Spanish and Arabic, strengthen communications and outreach efforts to increase course enrolment, and to implement more targeted engagement activities and strategies aimed at increasing the course's completion rate.

### **• Digital tools for user-centered fiscal transparency**

- i) GIFT will continue to provide assistance to countries on digital tools for user-centered fiscal transparency, including through the provision of direct support and participating in collaborative peer learning events.

## **3. Consolidating GIFT as a cohesive action network**

In 2024, GIFT will seek to consolidate the network's current membership of 58 stewards. Greater integration among members will continue to be promoted, with collaborative and



peer-to-peer learning activities sought. While active incentives for additional country membership are not in place, GIFT remains open to applications from countries expressing interest.

A GIFT Lead Stewards workshop will be held in April 2024 to determine GIFT’s future direction beyond 2025. Flowing from that, further meetings will likely be held throughout the year. GIFT will organize the 2024 Stewards General Meeting in a virtual format, following past successful experiences.

Timeline	2024 GIFT Coordination Team summary of activities
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development course in Spanish</li> <li>• Development of Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development course in Arabic</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Liberia (collaboration with DAI)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Egypt (collaboration with UNICEF)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Georgia (collaboration with Europe Foundation)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in El Salvador (collaboration with EU-GIZ)</li> <li>• Participation as judge in Alan Turing’s Policy priority for SDGs and Artificial Intelligence challenge</li> </ul>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Stewards workshop</li> <li>• Development of Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development course in Spanish</li> <li>• Development of Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development course in Arabic</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Liberia (collaboration with DAI)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Egypt (collaboration with UNICEF)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Georgia (collaboration with Europe Foundation)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in El Salvador (collaboration with EU-GIZ)</li> </ul>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead stewards meeting</li> <li>• Launch of Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development course in Spanish</li> <li>• Development of Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development course in Arabic</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Liberia (collaboration with DAI)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Egypt (collaboration with UNICEF)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Georgia (collaboration with Europe Foundation)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in El Salvador (collaboration with EU-GIZ)</li> </ul>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewards General Meeting</li> <li>• Development of Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development course in Arabic</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Liberia (collaboration with DAI)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Egypt (collaboration with UNICEF)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in Georgia (collaboration with Europe Foundation)</li> <li>• Technical assistance in El Salvador (collaboration with EU-GIZ)</li> </ul>
<b>Through out the year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide tailored technical collaboration and practical assistance on technologies and open data formats for fiscal transparency and public participation</li> <li>• Participation in capacity building and dissemination events organized by lead stewards, stewards and partners</li> <li>• Advancing Fiscal Transparency for Development online course promotional activities</li> <li>• Promotion of user-engagement initiatives</li> <li>• Participation as mentors and judges for user-engagement initiatives</li> <li>• Dissemination and communication activities</li> <li>• Project monitoring and reporting activities</li> </ul>