

GIFT Work Plan for 2017

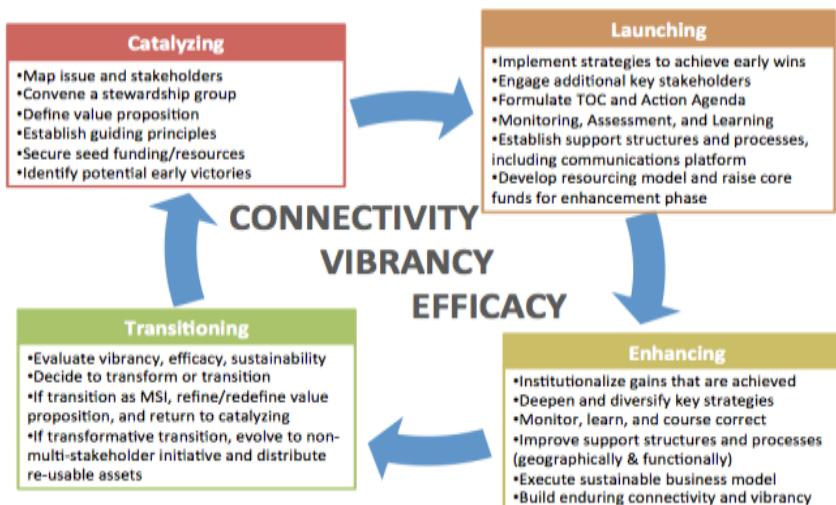
Lead Stewards Meeting, January 17, 2017
Second version - January 31, 2017

Introduction

2017 is a transition year for GIFT. The World Bank's Development Grant Facility (2013-16) has concluded, the first independent evaluation has been delivered and the lead stewards have defined, on September 2016, the core strategic objectives and areas of work for the next phase of the multi-stakeholder action network, from 2018 to 21. Part of the activities proposed for 2017 will be directly related with this new strategic plan, while others will still be linked to previous engagements, based on preceding work plans approved by the lead stewards and related to the agreements with other funders of GIFT (Omidyar Network and Hewlett Foundation). Considering that the activities for 2017 are completely covered with the funds awarded in the period 2014-15, the transition year will also include a fund-raising effort, for which the basic tasks are completed, given the favorable results of the evaluation and the definition of the core strategies for the new phase of GIFT by the lead stewards.

In the life cycle of GIFT as a multi-stakeholder action network, the phase ending in 2017 is the *launching* phase, which included the implementation of the original strategies to achieve early wins, engaging additional key stakeholders, establishing support structures and processes, and monitoring and learning from experience and impacts. This transition year will set the basis for the *enhancement* of GIFT. The period 2018-21 will be the *enhancing* phase of the network, which will include institutionalizing the gains achieved, deepen and diversify key strategies, monitor, learn and correct the course if necessary, and build enduring connectivity and vibrancy of the network. To fully understand the scope of this transition, please refer to the Summary of the strategic meeting planning and the document attached called "Strategy note for the enhancement phase of GIFT".

Life-Cycle Stages Of A Multi-Stakeholder Action Network





This work plan proposal results from the discussion at the Lead Stewards Meeting of January 17th 2017. The plan covers from January through December 2017 and highlights the most significant activities, processes and engagements programmed for this period. It is based on the work plan that was approved by the lead stewards in June 2016 and describes the five main activity streams of the network: 1) norms on fiscal transparency and participation; 2) peer-learning and technical assistance through the Open Government Partnership Fiscal Openness Working Group; 3) production of practical lessons and innovations in fiscal transparency approaches; 4) use of new technologies and open data platforms to further help countries to disclose fiscal information and 5) the development and expansion of the GIFT multi-stakeholder action network.

Work stream 1 – Global Norms - Increase harmonization of global architecture of fiscal transparency

The Guide on public participation principles and mechanisms in fiscal policy

The Guide was completed by the end of 2016 and formally launched at the OGP Global Summit in Paris in December, with the presence of ministers of finance representatives from the Philippines, Mexico, South Africa, Uruguay, Tunisia and Paraguay and lead stewards representatives. The on-line virtual document, which includes the ten principles on public participation in fiscal policies and nine mechanisms from nine different countries, is meant as a “living” document that will have a strong interaction with users. During 2017, GIFT will highly prioritize its work on public participation in fiscal policies and will continue discussing and disseminating the principles and practices with partners, as well as documenting new cases that illustrate the variety of viable approaches for integrating public engagement in fiscal policies (more on the research section).

Fiscal Transparency in areas that affect people's lives

GIFT strategy for 2018-2021 puts citizens and the taxpayers as the main objective of fiscal information disclosure, which means going deeper in the *High-Level Principles on Fiscal Transparency, Participation, and Accountability*, to develop the areas where budget information and fiscal policies directly affect people. Therefore, GIFT will continue the updating of the Expanded Version of the High-Level Principles, addressing particularly those principles that support citizen efforts to monitor how their taxes are collected and how public money is being spent, and to have a say in fiscal policies. Specific attention will be devoted to the public availability of budget information, and formal and informal mechanisms of public engagement. As this more detailed and practical approach to the High-Level Principles identifies areas of interest for the public, GIFT will seek to engage with other communities, including discussions on public service delivery, anti-corruption and revenues. GIFT will subsequently seek to find partners to further address research and implementation related to areas that could serve as an entry point in increasing public interest in the budget information disclosure topic and increasing the impacts of fiscal transparency, participation and accountability.

The OECD's Toolkit on Budget Transparency

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a GIFT steward, has finished the draft of the “Shared Toolkit on Budget Transparency”, with the support of GIFT stewards (World Bank, IMF, IBP, PEFA) and the Coordination Team. The final was presented in January to the G-20 Anti-Corruption Committee, and the working group on the toolkit, coordinated by GIFT, will follow up with the final edits to the toolkit if needed. We are pleased to information that final draft



of the toolkit ensures an inclusive, cross-institutional basis for the toolkit that helps users navigate their way through the existing range of fiscal transparency norms and guidance materials.

Work stream 2 – Peer-to-Peer Learning at the OGP Fiscal Openness Working Group

GIFT will organize workshops for practical discussions between government technical teams and civil society organizations, and on that basis, will be providing peer-to-peer technical assistance to governments. The goal of improving the dialogue among national level actors on fiscal transparency and public engagement, with the participation of ministry of finance and civil society representatives from other countries, will continue in the framework of the Open Government Partnership Fiscal Openness Working Group.

These efforts will therefore include coordination with the OGP Support Unit, the working groups (Anticorruption, Extractives, Open Parliament) and with sectors working in access to information, particularly those related to the proactive disclosure of budget information. At the same time, stewards and lead stewards will continue sharing operational links, in-country work, in-kind resources such as research opportunities and convening power, knowledge in specific areas, participation in relevant networks, or helping to disseminate the GIFT message to key constituencies.

GIFT has planned tentatively to hold regional workshops in the following places:

- Guatemala (February 9-10) - convened by the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance, both GIFT stewards, on the topic of fiscal observatories/councils and the role of public participation in the budget sustainability discussions, this event will give the opportunity to continue the work with the MinFin-GT on the use the Open Fiscal Data Package (OFDP) for budget information disclosure on open sources, and with ICEFI (steward) on public participation.
- Mexico – General Stewards Meeting (March 8-9), hosted by the Secretary of the Treasury, focusing on updates of the stewards around the table, the work on fiscal transparency portals, open data and public participation, and engaging the stewards on the GIFT strategy and activities in the near future;
- Paraguay (May) – GIFT will organize a regional FOWG meeting in Latin America, hosted by the Economic Development Secretariat of Paraguay (steward) in partnership with other stewards (World Bank and the OECD), with the goal of promoting a dialogue with civil society on fiscal transparency and addressing the interest of Paraguay to use the OFDP;
- Sri Lanka (first semester) – IBP/GIFT partner such as the Verite Research has worked on this country's fiscal transparency commitments in the NAP and has participated in FOWG Asia meetings (2015); continuing this collaboration and also aiming to expand the network to Asian members, GIFT will invite the Sri Lanka Ministry of Finance to participate in international workshops, and in partnership with other stewards (WB), will seek to support their efforts to disclose budget information on portals, as part of the proactive chapter of the new access to information legislation;
- Uruguay (second semester) – hosted by the Office of the Budget (steward) and as part of the collaboration to support efforts for innovative ways to disclose budget information, this event will launch the Uruguayan fiscal transparency portal, and give opportunity to continue working on the use of the OFDP;
- Regional FOWG meeting in Africa (second semester) – public participation and open data;
- Regional FOWG meeting in Central Europe (Croatia / Slovenia) – public participation and open data.



At the same time, and having as a goal to engage with more African countries, and specifically, Francophone ones, GIFT will consider to include representatives from countries such as Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire (in the process of becoming OGP members), and Benin and Burkina Faso (countries that are not part of OGP but could become involved in the FOWG) in some of the FOWG workshops.

Additionally, GIFT will continue to support fiscal transparency, accountability and participation commitments in the National Action Plans of OGP countries. In 2016, GIFT provided comments and recommendations to Italy, Nigeria, Tunisia, Guatemala, Macedonia. For 2017, GIFT will work with at least four additional countries and will try to engage, coordinating with the OGP Support Unit, on earlier phases of the making of the NAP, to increase the chances for more ambitious commitments.

Public participation indicators in the Open Budget Survey, 2017 edition

By the end of the year, the International Budget Partnership will launch the 2017 edition of the Open Budget Survey, which includes revised public participation questions that are better aligned with the GIFT principles and seek to capture better the diversity of institutional formats that national governments use to incorporate public participation into budgetary processes. During the first semester of 2017, GIFT will support IBP efforts to incentivize ministries of finance to participate in the government review phase of the OBS research process, as a way to increase ownership of the survey's results by governments. The FOWG regional meetings and the General Stewards Meeting will provide an opportunity for this.

Work stream 3 – Research on evidence, practical approaches and innovations on fiscal transparency

As mentioned, the production of new examples of mechanism of public participation in fiscal policies to add to the initial nine will be the priority for 2017. The guide includes a methodological document to help governments and civil society organizations to share their experience on public participation. In 2017, the network members with the support of the GIFT coordination team, will encourage stake-holders to make proposals to be added to the guide. To identify such practices around the world GIFT will use engage Stewards and other contacts in Ministers of Finance to pinpoint practices in their countries; work on alliance with *Participedia*, which works with students to document practices of participation; and connect with relevant networks, with the support of the OGP Support Unit. In addition, we will create a GIFT prize for valuable experiences in public participation in fiscal policy, for which we will launch an open call for the submission of practices. GIFT will request the External Review Group to be the jury for the competition. The prize for the first three places will be a trip to a seminar to present and discuss the cases.

GIFT will assist in systematizing the examples (if needed, the coordination team will take care of the systematization completely) and publish the mechanisms that could add valuable experience to the collection. The goal is to have at least twelve additional mechanisms by the end of 2017. In parallel, the network will extensively use the guide in the peer-to-peer and learning workshops and will disseminate this product with relevant stakeholders.

While facilitating peer-to-peer learning has been part of GIFT's normal activities, an effort to better document these exchanges and extract lessons will be put in place. The recording of these experiences will constitute an important component of the learning method of the network.



Given the high degree of complexity, “learning by doing” will be part of the work of GIFT during the transition year, with a more systematic way of documenting these exchanges.

Work stream 4 – Global Open Fiscal Data

The Global Open Fiscal Data Package (OFDP)

In 2016, the OFDP was used by the Ministry of Finance in Mexico to present the 2017 Federal Budget and to publish in open data the budgets of the past 10 years. Because of the Mexican endorsement of the tool, the OFDP was afterwards piloted by the ministries of finance of Croatia, Guatemala, Uruguay and Paraguay.

In 2017, GIFT will continue working with these countries, providing support for the publication of data using the package. Crucially, to ensure outcomes and impacts, GIFT will ensure that the package adequately targets user groups in respective countries to make sure that user groups gain sufficient capacity to use the data analytically when budget data is published. In addition, we will seek to pilot the OFDP in three additional countries (conversations on the matter have started with South Africa and Brazil).

In partnership with the World Bank, GIFT will also seek to organize an international workshop on fiscal open data with the US Treasury Department, which has been working on the implementation of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, better known as the DATA Act, for more than two years. The DATA Act seeks to link more than 400 interconnected data elements from hundreds of financial and management systems across the federal government to provide a more transparent accounting of federal funds. In a unique model of centralized design, Treasury has developed key resources that have formed a foundation to organize data across the entire federal enterprise. The workshop would provide an opportunity to the GIFT stewards using the OFDP to learn about the US experience on the issue, and vice-versa.

Work stream 5 – GIFT Governance framework – GIFT membership and fund raising

New GIFT stewards

A number applications for GIFT stewardship from agencies and organization were presented to the Lead Stewards in January 2017 (a document introducing these applications is available upon request):

- Office of Planning and Budget, Presidency, Uruguay
- Ministry of Public Finance, Guatemala
- Ministry of Finance, Croatia
- Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM), South Africa
- Social Watch, Benin
- The MITRE Corporation
- The Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI)
- Open Contracting Partnership

The incorporation of these additional strong members to the action network brings GIFT’s membership to 37. With these additions, GIFT’s membership includes 14 government institutions,



15 budget civil society organizations, international donors, international financial institutions, specialized organizations and networks.

During 2017, following the mandate from the lead stewards strategic planning meeting, the network expansion will focus on a broader regional representation, including two African governments and two Asian ones. This expansion might include, for the first time, a country that is not yet a member of the OGP community, but that becomes a steward of GIFT and member of the Fiscal Openness Working Group as a previous step on its effort to fulfil the criteria to become eligible for OGP.

Fund raising

The results of the independent evaluation in 2016 and the strategic planning meeting of September 2016 set the ground for the strategy of the next phase of GIFT, which will be the presentation cards of GIFT for fund raising. The conditions for this activity are favorable, given the role to play on it from the lead stewards. In conformity with the Operating Procedures (section 6), the lead stewards are expected to define strategic priorities with the network director and consider general and specific policy issues affecting GIFT; approve the annual work plan and the budget of the network director and review her/his performance; and mobilize additional resources through fund raising.

As a good starting point for the fund-raising campaign, it is important to consider that the objectives, milestones and indicators of the grants covering the period 2014-2017 (awarded by the World Bank, Omidyar Network and the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation) have been met, which adds to the satisfactory results of the independent evaluation. Therefore, GIFT is in a good position to engage in conversations with additional potential donors and ready to officially communicate the results of the evaluation and the strategy for the new phase of GIFT.

GIFT Budget for 2017

Revenue of GIFT (2013-17)

	Sources of funding for GIFT 2013-2017				Total
	2013-14	2015	2016	2017	
World Bank DGF	750,000	750,000	750,000	-	2,250,000
W&F Hewlett	1,000,000	-	-	-	1,000,000
Omidyar Network	-	250,000	465,000	285,000	1,000,000
Available funds for the period July 2013 - December 2017					4,250,000

Expenditure of GIFT (2013-17)

	GIFT Budget July 2013 - December 2017				
	2013-14	2015	2016	2017	Total
Open Fiscal Data Package	-	89,159	150,053	79,900	319,113
TA-Learning-FOWG	158,734	173,529	139,318	187,544	659,125
Norms work	130,295	124,217	70,754	33,226	358,492
Research on impact & practices	74,875	226,412	119,723	53,574	474,583
Governance	40,703	102,032	56,275	50,500	249,510
Coordination-Engagement	286,661	462,573	538,433	492,237	1,779,904
Administrative support	19,773	116,927	155,113	117,459	409,272
Total	711,042	1,294,850	1,229,668	1,014,440	4,250,000