Enhancing Spending on the Global Development Goals
An initiative by Oxfam and Development Finance International

What is Government Spending Watch?
Government Spending Watch is an advocacy, campaigning, analysis and data transparency initiative which aims to increase government spending in developing countries on global and national development goals (agriculture/food, education, environmental protection and combating climate change, gender empowerment, health, social protection, and water and sanitation).

Why Government Spending Watch?
Though the Millennium Development Goals were agreed in 2000, there has never been comprehensive information available on what developing countries are spending on these goals. There are other initiatives to generate very detailed budget data; to analyse global and domestic resources available for the MDGs; and to improve budget quality – but not specifically to provide a comprehensive global database, analysis and campaigning hub on MDG-related spending.

Since 2009, Development Finance International has partnered with Oxfam, as well as New Rules for Global Finance, Save the Children, UNESCO, UNICEF and Water Aid, to:
• build a growing database of government spending on the goals;
• produce several major analytical reports based on the data.
• raise advocacy for spending, notably on education, health, social protection, WASH;
• increase transparency and action on these issues by the IMF; and
• increase spending for Education for All and the Global Water Partnership.

During this process, DFI and Oxfam have seen massive demand for this data and analysis, and for scaling up advocacy and campaigning on these issues. This comes from governments, parliamentarians, and civil society stakeholders in developing countries; multilateral and bilateral donors; international CSOs; and academic and other analysts. There are also many global, regional and especially national campaigns in developing countries to increase budget spending on the goals, track spending and results, and improve budget process and transparency. But these are often fragmented so they fail to learn from best practice, and lack the data and analysis they need to compare progress with other countries, or with global or regional targets or promises.

What is Happening Now?
DFI and Oxfam have therefore scaled up their work and in April 2013 will be launching:
1. the Government Spending Watch 2013 report. This assesses the global economic crisis impact on budget deficits, revenue and spending levels; the degree to which countries and donors are keeping spending promises; the impact of IMF programmes; and availability and quality of data. It makes recommendations to increase government and donor spending efforts; increase flexibility in IMF programmes; improve data availability and transparency; and scale up advocacy and campaigns on these issues.
2. the **Government Spending Watch website**, which aims to become a hub for campaigning and advocacy, and research and data, across the world. It contains the GSW database, all the latest analysis and research, and examples of/links to key successful campaigns in different sectors, at global, regional and national levels (The URL will be [www.governmentspendingwatch.org](http://www.governmentspendingwatch.org) and the website will be live on 19th April 2013); and  

3. the **Government Spending Watch database**, which contains detailed data on government spending from over 50 countries. This shows data disaggregated by country, sector, type of spending (recurrent/capital); source of funding (government revenue/on-budget donor aid); and budgeted/planned and actual performance. It is presented in local currency, US$, nominal, real and per capita terms, and as a % of GDP and total spending.

**Which Countries Does GSW Data Cover?**
The map below shows the countries currently and soon to be covered by GSW.

![Map of countries covered by GSW](image)

**What Happens Next?**
Oxfam and DFI are working together to further scale up the impact of the initiative:

- to promote a step change in the scale and coordination of global, regional and national advocacy for public spending to achieve the global development goals,
- to improve availability/quality of analysis on MDG-related spending and on-budget aid; and
- to increase availability and transparency of data on MDG-related spending and on-budget aid at national level, by institutionalizing demand for and supply of these data.

For more details on the GSW initiative, please contact:
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