

Fourth Annual Report Web Update

GTF164 Global Development Network (GDN)

Strengthening Institutions to Improve Public Expenditure Accountability

Policymakers in 14 developing countries in the global South will now have access to evidence-based policy options for improving budget allocations in the education, health and water sectors. *Strengthening Institutions to Improve Public Expenditure Accountability*, an ambitious 5-year Global Development Network (GDN) project, funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), has worked towards achieving this goal in Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines and Uganda.

Efficient public spending will ultimately benefit not just the poorest sections of the population, but also society as a whole by ensuring better quality of life and equitable access to services. Initiated in October 2008, participating teams from the respective countries are playing an important role in monitoring government spending that is aimed to benefit policymakers and government officials who allocate resources for education and health services, and the leading investors in the water sector.

The project is:

- Building and strengthening institutional capacities for public expenditure monitoring and analysis and conducting rigorous analysis at the district, state and national levels;
- Developing policy alternatives and shaping debates to increase the use of evidence-based options in the three crucial development sectors;
- Creating 'go-to' organisations for public expenditure analysis;
- Producing internationally comparable information on public expenditures to build benchmarks for quality of public spending; and;
- Constructively engaging with government officials, policymakers, civil society organisations and media

As the project enters its penultimate stage, various measures are being undertaken to provide sustainability beyond its duration. Partners are institutionalising public expenditure monitoring, seeking additional funds to continue and extend the analysis, and developing training modules and guides to enhance knowledge sharing. The length of the project and the robustness of the research have supported the development of strategic relationships between partners and governments in their countries. GDN is providing hands-on technical support by engaging sector experts, organising global and regional training workshops, and encouraging peer-review to gain from cross-country comparisons. The project will be completed by October 2013.

For more information and to read reports, please click here: www.gdn.int/pem.



Rising above the HIV social stigma: Sri Wahyuni, beneficiary of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Photo: Poh Si Teng, video journalist and multi-media producer.