# **MODULE 1. SHARE**

# **SKILLS PRACTICE: COMPARING SPENDING ON DIFFERENT SECTORS**

**Aim of exercise**

To practise analysing spending on different sectors in a sample budget in order to be able to conduct a similar analysis using your own country budget.

**Activity**

In this exercise you are asked to carry out an analysis of a simple practice budget, calculate the share of the budget allocated to different sectors, and to start to think about how this might relate to advocacy asks/messages. This is expected to help you start to think about how to think about general advocacy messages before doing your own detailed budget analysis - i.e as a practice budget - but would also need to be replicated with your own government budget to support thinking about advocacy messages and asks that would be targeted at your government on the basis of this evidence.

The figures in the practice budget are deliberately constructed for some key advocacy points to be drawn out – it is expected it will help you start thinking about these areas. You should look at the whole budget and think about how funds are distributed, keeping in mind what you have read so far in this module. Do also note that the figures in the practice budget are highly simplified. This will give you some initial practice before moving on to analyse your own budget, which will likely be a much more complicated task.

**Step 1:** Review the sample budget below and answer the following questions:

* What are the priority areas (based on the percentage share of the total budget)?
* What do you think about the budget allocation to education, compared to other areas?
* Are there any areas that it might be possible to reduce to free up more money for education?
* What questions arise from the figures below?
* Is further information required in any areas?
* What key advocacy issues are emerging in relation to your analysis?

| **Sector/Ministry/Department** | **Approved budget(millions)** | **% Approved** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ministry of Defence | 1,888.33 | 12% |
| Ministry of Roads, Transport & Rural Infrastructure | 2,389.37 | 15% |
| Ministry of Agriculture | 473.73 | 3% |
| Ministry of Education | 2,550.38 | 16% |
| Ministry of Health | 1,281.14 | 8% |
| Ministry of Water and Sanitation | 420.45 | 3% |
| Office of the President | 1,188.47 | 8% |
| Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development | 1,829.39 | 12% |
| Public Administration | 554.84 | 4% |
| Debt, interest payments | 3,082.87 | 20% |
| TOTAL | 15,658.97 | 100% |

**Step 2:** Once you have done this on the practice budget, if you are able to locate sector-by-sector figures for your country’s budget but not the percentage share for each sector then try calculating this for yourself. In order to calculate the percentage, divide the sector/ministry approved budget amount by the total spending, and multiply it by 100. Once you’ve calculated the percentage share for education and other sectors then you can answer the questions above for your own budget (unless your government publishes a credible Citizens Budget).

**What to do in a workshop setting**

**Time allowed:** approximately 45 minutes in group, and feedback in plenary (10 minutes per group)

1. Ask participants to work in groups to and review the sample budget and identify key advocacy messages as a group they would .
2. Give feedback in plenary on the key points and the rationale for agreeing these.
3. If you are able to locate similar figures for the country you are working in then you can use those instead of the sample budget.

*NB: In order to help steer the discussions the facilitator should review the budget in advance to familiarise themselves with it and identify key issues that might come up in discussions and try to probe at what collective advocacy messages groups prioritise.*