

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INTERNATIONAL AND OXFAM RESEARCH REPORT JULY 2017

THE COMMITMENT TO REDUCING INEQUALITY INDEX

A new global ranking of governments based on what they are doing to tackle the gap between rich and poor



A computer classroom in Oneputa Combined School, northern Namibia. The Namibian government is committed to reducing inequality and secondary education is free for all students. Photo: John Hogg/World Bank

In 2015, the leaders of 193 governments promised to reduce inequality as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Without reducing inequality, meeting the SDG to eliminate poverty will be impossible. Now Development Finance International and Oxfam have produced the first index to measure the commitment of governments to reducing the gap between the rich and the poor. The index is based on a new database of indicators, covering 152 countries, which measures government action on social spending, tax and labour rights – three areas found to be critical to reducing the gap.



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Today, at a roundtable in New York alongside the UN HLPF, DFI and Oxfam are launching the Commitment to Reducing Inequality index (CRI), a new global index which ranks 152 governments on their policies in three areas critical to reducing the gap between rich and poor: social spending, progressive taxation and labour rights. The report finds that no government in the world is doing enough to reduce inequality, and 112 of 152 are doing less than half of what they could. Sweden tops the index and Nigeria is bottom. Many low- and middle-income countries like Namibia and Liberia do well overall and on specific policy areas.

These conclusions are based on the latest available data from governments and global institutions, compiled by DFI into a comprehensive database, and validated by many Oxfam country offices, to build a unique perspective on the extent to which governments are tackling inequality. Full results and analysis can be consulted in [the report](#) and [methodology document](#).

The report calls for much greater concerted policy action by governments across the world to reduce inequality in all three policy areas, and for a dramatic scaling up of coordinated global and national investment to improve the data on inequality and policies to reduce it. The index will be updated annually, becoming an early warning system tracking progress on policy actions to fight inequality across the world.