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 Onepula 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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Oxfam America hosted a Washington roundtable on the CRII, focusing on findings relating to the USA as well as broader findings for developing and developed countries. DFI presented ke y findings , especially the negative impact of planned Trump administration tax, spending and labour policies on the US position in the index. Approximately 30 senior experts on US and global policy attended and made excellent suggestions for improving the next round of the Index, as well as for applying it at a state-by-state level in the United States, and for maximising the policy impact of the Index in a US context.