# **MODULE 3. SENSITIVITY**

# **SKILLS PRACTICE: BREAKING DOWN SPENDING BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS**

**Aim of exercise.**

To carry out a practice exercise to begin to think about the significance of funding allocations to different regions.

**Activity**

**Step 1:** Review the information provided below on education expenditure per province.

|  | EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION PER PROVINCE | POPULATION PER PROVINCE | PER CAPITA SPENDING |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| Province 1 | 9,000,000 | 45,000 | 200 |
| Province 2 | 30,000,000 | 250,000 | 100 |
| Province 3 | 16,000,000 | 150,000 | 106 |
| Province 4 | 15,000,000 | 60,000 | 250 |
| Province 5 | 2,000,000 | 17,500 | 114 |

**Step 2:** Answer the questions below:

1. Which province got the biggest share of the education expenditure?
2. What was its share?

Province: Share:

1. What was the per capita spending on education in each province?

| Province 1 |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Province 2 |  |  |  |
| Province 3 |  |  |  |
| Province 4 |  |  |  |
| Province 5 |  |  |  |

1. What are your thoughts on this allocation?
2. If you were presented with this data, what would you do with the information? What else might want to find out more information around?

**Step 3:** Try finding information about funding allocations to the different geographical areas in your own country’s budget. How fair do you think the allocations are? Whether or not you can do so will depend very much on how the budget is presented, on the complexity of your budget system, the degree of decentralisation and whether the government has an allocation system for spending across different regions. This means the reality of carrying out a similar exercise in your context will be infinitely more complex.

If it’s impossible to do this with the information that is publicly available, you might want to consider asking for a meeting with the minister and/or ministry officials to discuss the issue with them. What thought has been given to the fairness and equity of budget allocations across the different geographical areas of the country?

**What to do in a workshop setting**

**Time allowed:** approximately 1 hour in small groups/alone and feedback in plenary (20 minutes per group)

Participants should carry out the above exercise and discuss the questions in small groups and then give feedback on key points and issues for advocacy in plenary.