CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Exploring results of early OGP initiatives

Background and objectives

Since the Open Government Partnership (OGP) was launched in 2011 nearly 70 governments have made over 2250 individual open government reform commitments. Many of the early commitments made by governments that presented action plans in 2011 and 2012 have now been implemented. These cover transparency, accountability and public participation reforms related to a wide range of public policy topics. The Independent Review Mechanism has produced reports analyzing the progress of all these early OGP plans. These reports look at whether the commitments made by governments were relevant to open government principles, ambitious in their potential impact, and the degree of implementation when the report was published.

OGP is now interested in exploring the results emerging from commitments made in 2011 and 2012, assessing the progress made since the release of the IRM reports, evaluating OGP's impact at the level of individual commitments in OGP countries and assessing whether citizens are starting to benefit from these reforms and tell that story in a compelling manner.

Research description

Central research question
- *What are the changes in policy, practice and services that have come about as a result of the implementation of an OGP commitment and how have these changes benefited citizens?*

- Leading questions to provide context to the reforms and arrive at answers to the above are provided below
    - What was the nature and extent of the specific problem the open government commitment was intended to solve? Why was this problem important to solve at the particular time and what were the challenges posed by the national (or local) context?
    - What were the commitment/initiative's goals and objectives? Who was it intended to benefit (specify the target population and the intended direct or indirect benefits to citizens)?
    - Who were the key actors in government and civil society in enabling the adoption and implementation of the commitment? What roles did they play, what were some of the challenges they had to overcome and how did they do so?
    - What were the results demonstrated by the initiative at the time of completion of the IRM report? What are the results that have been achieved since, including benefits to the target population and citizens? How can this be measured? This should include statistics and comparison with baseline indicators if available. The final case study should include a portrait study of at least one citizen affected by the results of the initiative.
    - What are some of the sustainability concerns/challenges? What are the key lessons learnt and takeaways for others aiming to implement similar initiatives?

- A secondary question the case study should address is: To what extent did OGP facilitate the outcomes or has helped provide a platform for reformers in government and civil society to adopt or implement the public policy change?

Scope

The proposed research should:
- Assess a commitment from the 2011-2012 OGP National Action Plans from the suggested list of ambitious commitments available here: http://bit.ly/1SeTvnz
- Researchers are welcome to suggest commitments that are not in the list above, including commitments from action plans submitted after 2012, but have shown sufficient progress in implementation to enable assessment of outcomes for the intended beneficiaries. You can send your suggestions, making the case for why your proposed commitment would make for a compelling case study, to: shreya.basu@opengovpartnership.org.

Grant details
- Grants of 5000 USD will be provided for each commitment researched. Depending on the nature and scope of the commitment and the anticipated fieldwork required, small extensions will be considered after the initial selection of the proposals. The grants may also be extended after the delivery of the first drafts for producing derivative outputs like extended videos with key interviews and 'commitments in action.'
- Researchers are welcome to propose studies that include multiple commitments from one or more countries based on their expertise, interest and networks.

Deliverables and timeline

The final deliverables will include: written case studies (4 pages maximum per commitment), documented interviews with key stakeholders, a 'portrait study' of an individual who has been impacted by the results of the open government reform, video/audio and photo evidence to the extent possible and a research poster. The assessments should include statistics and numbers relevant to the impact of the commitment. The contracts may be extended after the submission of the first draft for additional derivative outputs, including working with a video production team for capturing the case studies in video format.

The projected timeline for the research process and submission of deliverables is as follows:

April 12	Deadline for submission of proposals
April 30	Successful applicants notified
April 30 – May 10	The assessment committee works with selected applicants to fine tune/finalise research approach and project plan, identify and plan outreach to relevant stakeholders
May - June	Research and fieldwork
July 10	First draft and interviews due
July 30	Feedback provided on first draft and possible extension of grants for derivative video outputs
August 31	Second drafts due
September 21	Feedback provided on second draft
October 15	Final case studies (including 'portrait study' of an individual impacted by the reform) due
October 25	Research posters due
December (dates TBC)	Launch at OGP Global Summit

Process for submission of applications

Teams should submit a proposal of no more than 4 pages, along with a full set of CVs (limit of 2 pages each). This proposal should include:
- **Justification:** To include:
  - the specific commitment(s) for the research, and the criteria used for this selection. (Tell us why you think your chosen commitment(s) will make for a good story on open government.)
  - methodological approach,
  - anticipated data sources
- **Research team profile:** Profile of the researcher or research team including qualifications and organizational capacities.

- **Project plan:** including milestones, consistent with the overall timeline provided above.
- **Total grant amount requested**: based on number and nature of commitments and including costs for any in-country travel required.

Researchers are encouraged to use OGP data (IRM reports, NAP review tool data, existing case studies) to supplement their own data sources. Video and photo evidence are encouraged. Proposals should not duplicate previous research. See http://bit.ly/1MkjGKl and http://bit.ly/1UBfiZS for previous and ongoing research on OGP commitments.

Selection criteria

Criteria	Weight (points)
A. Justification	
1. Justification of criteria for selection of commitment(s), making the case for why the chosen commitment will make for a good story on open government	10
2. Clarity and rigour of methodological approach	10
3. Primary and secondary data sources to be used	10
B. Research Team Profile	
4. Organizational capacities and relationships at country level to carry out the proposed research	10
5. Qualifications and experience of researcher/research team	5
C. Project Management:	
6. Adequacy of project planning (including milestones consistent with the overall project timeline) and quality control	5

Please note that in making the final selection on the grants to be awarded, the assessment committee will take into account the diversity of open government topics, countries and regions represented. Multi-country studies on a single open government topic are out of the scope of this call.

Who should apply?
Researchers/research teams or journalists with:
- At least 5 years of expertise and experience in the government transparency and accountability field
- Strong track record of publications in academic forums, peer reviewed journals or leading newspapers and new media channels
- Experience in interacting with a wide variety of actors e.g. policymakers, government officials and civil society actors.
- Capacity to undertake the research (e.g. knowledge, networks, country or regional expertise etc.)
- Researchers/journalists based in or with local presence in the country of the proposed commitment(s) under study are encouraged to apply.

Please submit your proposals by 12 midnight EST April 12. All questions and proposals should be sent to: shreya.basu@opengovpartnership.org