

HEALTH COMMITMENTS FACT SHEET

Healthcare accounts for a large proportion of government budgets. However, increased spending alone does not improve outcomes and quality of care remains uneven. Data can empower citizens to have more choices and to take control of their own healthcare. Open government can build effective health systems, generate investment in critical health research and innovations, and improve care for the most marginalized communities.

Key Takeaways:

- Shift from data availability to data use.
- Enable and encourage public participation in the rollout of major health policies.
- Create systems for citizen monitoring of health-service delivery.

Numbers at a Glance

43 OGP members have included health commitments in their action plans to date.

120 health commitments to date
54 are currently being implemented.

92 commitments have been assessed by OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM).

16 have transformative potential impact.

8 are starred.

8 have shown significant early results in increasing government transparency, citizen participation, or public accountability.¹

How many OGP participants are doing health?

About a quarter of OGP members (**25**) are currently implementing health commitments. It is a fairly common topic in OGP, although not the most popular.

What are OGP participants doing about health?

- **75 of 120 (62.5%)** commitments concern data publication on performance of the health sector. (e.g. patient outcomes) and other digital services that improve health sector transparency and service delivery.
- **40 of 120 (33.3%)** commitments involve citizens are participating in decisions about health such as clinical construction, or policy design.
- **14 of 120 (11.6%)** commitments are about accountability. For example, Kigoma implemented social audits of medicine delivery to the public hospital.
- **Several** health commitments have raised concerns about privacy, especially concerning the release of patient or local data. For example, the UK commitment on National Health System data provided an important opportunity for discussion on privacy in healthcare.

¹As of November 1, 2018. Since delays can occur between Action Plan submission, IRM report releases, and when data are updated in OGP databases, data may not reflect the most up to date information for every country/local entity. Scored Major or Outstanding on the Independent Report Mechanism's (IRM) Did It Open Government metric.

So what?

The IRM assesses commitments for whether they are verifiable, relevant to open government, would create change on the ground, and are on their way to credible completion. We call these “**starred commitments.**” **8 of 92** health commitments have been starred, or roughly **9%**. This is significantly higher than the overall average of **5%**. Half of these commitments were from the most recent set of action plans.

Do we know anything about early results?

- Just under half (**48%**) of health commitments are complete or near completion, which is above average for OGP commitments completion levels.
- Roughly **20% (8 out of 37)** of health commitments received “major” or “outstanding.” This is about average for OGP commitments; **1 in 5** commitments assessed at the end of their two-year cycle received a rating from the IRM of “major” or “outstanding” changes. Note, assessment comes at the end of the second year of action plan implementation.

What does it all mean?

- **OGP governments should move from data availability to data use.** Efforts to do so could include:
 - Working with stakeholders to identify core datasets and privacy concerns;
 - Installing accountability measures for performance and ethics concerns with built-in citizen triggers for review and auditing;
 - Enabling and encouraging public participation in the rollout of major health policies, including procurements;
 - Creating systems for citizen-monitoring at the point of delivery.

Notable Commitments

The results of the following commitments were marked as “major” by the IRM. Note the heavy emphasis on healthcare system data publication and the relative lack of accountability or participation commitments.

Dominican Republic: Health clinic information systems

The Dominican Republic created a tool that gives the public access to information about the location and contact details of clinics, their specialties, portfolio of services, budget allocation to human resources, and payments received from government subsidies.

Uruguay: “At Your Service” system

In Uruguay, the A Tu Servicio platform publishes vital healthcare information, empowering citizens to take control of their healthcare. Citizens can now track healthcare costs, compare providers, and view treatment wait times online to make more informed decisions.

Romania: National health care data

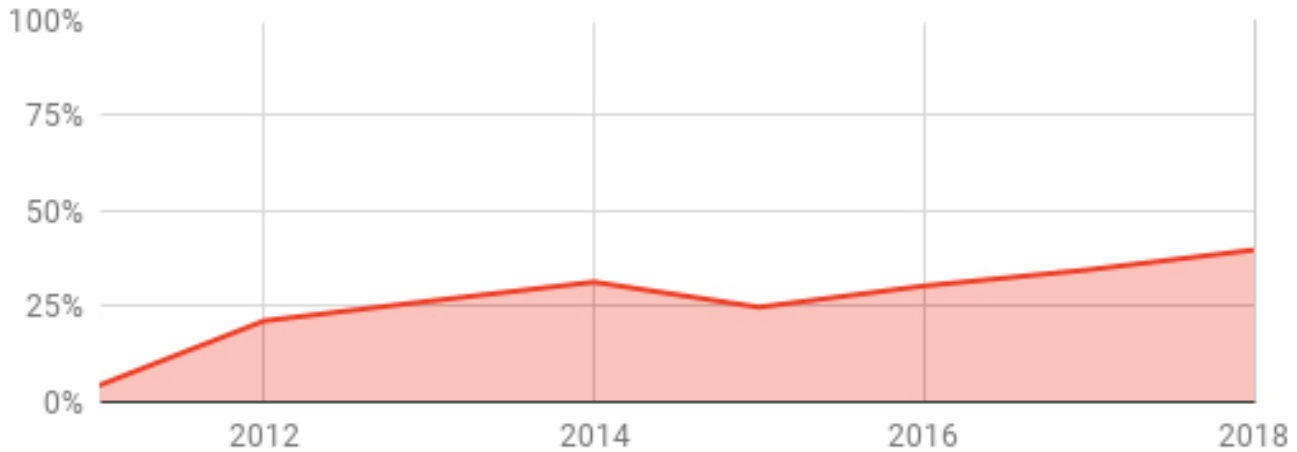
Romania published data from its public health system on public health units’ procurement and ethical councils.

Mongolia: Citizen feedback on public services

Newly-trained social accountability activists are calling on the government to respond to their healthcare needs and improve service delivery. Trainees who evaluated medical procurements in their community identified potential savings equivalent to ten percent of the health budget.

Health Commitment Growth

■ Proportion of members implementing health commitments



Members Working on Health

Members with Active Commitments in 2011:

- Indonesia, Mexico

Members with Active Commitments in 2012:

- Bulgaria, Colombia, Denmark, Georgia, Kenya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Paraguay, Spain, Tanzania, Indonesia, Mexico

Members with Active Commitments in 2013:

- Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United Kingdom, Norway, United States, Bulgaria, Colombia, Denmark, Georgia, Kenya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Paraguay, Spain, Tanzania

Members with Active Commitments in 2014:

- Armenia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Paraguay, Romania, Spain, Tanzania, Uruguay, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United Kingdom, Norway, United States

Members with Active Commitments in 2015:

- Colombia, Peru, United States, Armenia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Paraguay, Romania, Spain, Tanzania, Uruguay

Members with Active Commitments in 2016:

- Bojonegoro Regency, Buenos Aires, Kigoma, Tbilisi, Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Colombia, Peru, United States

Members with Active Commitments in 2017:

- Afghanistan, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Denmark, Nigeria, Spain, Bojonegoro Regency, Buenos Aires, Kigoma, Tbilisi, Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Uruguay

Members with Active Commitments in 2018:

- Afghanistan, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Denmark, Nigeria, Spain, Albania, Bojonegoro Regency, Buenos Aires, Bulgaria, Canada, Elgeyo Marakwet, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kaduna State, Macedonia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Tbilisi, Uruguay

Open
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Partnership

