Water
Fact Sheet

Water delivery can be greatly improved by investing in open government approaches of transparency, participation, and accountability in the water sector. Worldwide, the challenges are increasingly complex and widespread. OGP members are in a unique position to address many of the root causes of water issues, including corruption and poor quality, as well as lack of prioritization, access, equity, and accountability.

KEY TAKEAWAYS[1]

➜ **Water is the least popular area for public service delivery commitments in OGP.**

➜ **Identify drivers of poor quality and access:** OGP members can ensure that the public has access to information on ambient and point-of-service water quality, as well as information on the responsible parties for decision-making, or, in some cases, pollution or overuse.

➜ **Create systems for citizen participation and official accountability:** OGP members can often improve quality over time by deepening channels for citizen input and innovation and ensuring that officials have the duty to respond to public inquiry. This is especially important since follow-up on disclosure by officials often improves quality over time.

➜ **Consider gendered impacts of water policy:** Water policy decisions disproportionately affect women and girls, who are often responsible for taking long treks to collect water for their families, which put them at significant risk of violence and injury.[2] OGP members can use water commitments to make clean water collection safer and more equitable.

WATER COMMITMENT UPTAKE

65 water commitments have been included in OGP action plans since 2011.	**39** water commitments have been assessed by OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM).	**37** OGP members have made water commitments. 21 members are currently implementing water commitments.

1 This fact sheet analyzes OGP commitment data as of March 2020. For a deeper gap analysis and strategic discussion, please refer to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene section of the OGP Global Report, available at opengovpartnership.org.
2 UNICEF, Collecting Water is Often a Colossal Waste of Time for Women and Girls, https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92690.html.

Open Government Partnership

Water
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NOTABLE COMMITMENTS

Brazil:
Transparency and Accountability of the Water for All Program
Brazil is organizing and disclosing data on the execution of the Water for All program through a universal data platform. This will allow the public to continuously monitor the program's progress and results and enhance its accountability.

Uruguay:
Civic Participation in National Water Plan
In 2016, Uruguay launched a dialogue on the National Water Plan. Nearly 2,000 citizens, academics, and government representatives contributed ideas for the plan and its implementation. The suggestions spanned policy topics, such as environmental sustainability, spatial planning, and drought and flood risk management. Uruguay also included a follow-up to this commitment in its 2018 action plan.

Paraguay:
Digital Platform for Water and Sanitation Systems
The SIASAR digital platform is an online tool that will allow for public monitoring and evaluation of data on local water supply and rural sanitation systems. The platform will act as a communication channel between interested parties in different sectors. A working group made up of representatives from NGOs, municipalities, and donor groups will oversee the promotion and uptake of the tool throughout the country.

WATER COMMITMENT PROGRESS
Water has grown as a policy area in OGP, although it remains unpopular.

Proportion of OGP members implementing water commitments

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%

2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019
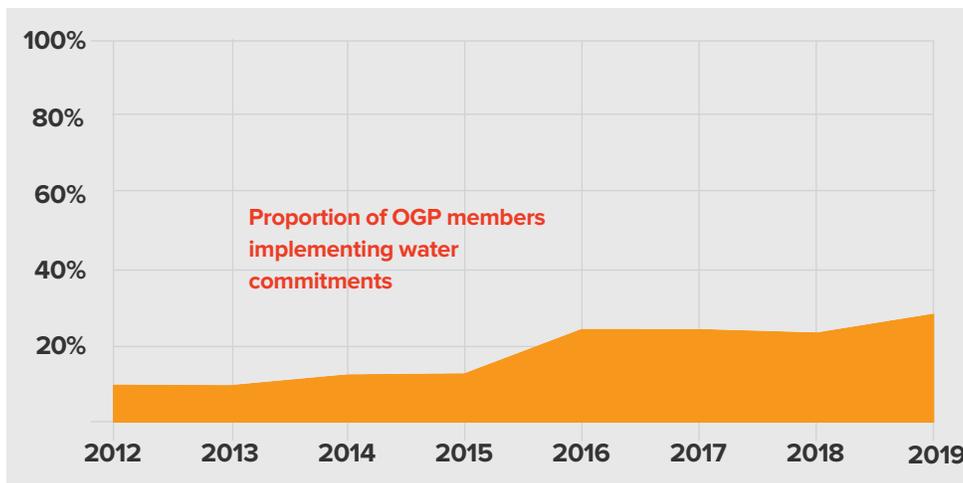
WHAT ARE OGP MEMBERS DOING ABOUT WATER?

✓ **Water and sanitation services transparency**

✓ **Water governance transparency**

✓ **Citizen monitoring and feedback in water and sanitation services**

QUICK STATS ON PROGRESS
Out of all IRM-assessed water commitments:

81% are ambitious

63% have been substantially completed

30% have significantly opened government[4]
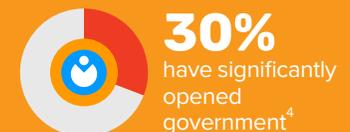
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3 Exemplary commitments that have high specificity, transformative potential impact, significant completion at the time of assessment, and are relevant to OGP values.

4 This variable measures how much government practice has changed as a result of a particular commitment. Major and outstanding scores indicate the commitment made significant improvements to government openness.