



Right to Information Fact Sheet

The legal right to request information from the government can lead to more open, accountable, and participatory government. OGP members are required to have laws enabling the fair access to information. Through OGP, the effectiveness of these laws can be improved by removing additional barriers to information and creating platforms to report on fraud or corruption.

KEY TAKEAWAYS¹

- Right to information (RTI) commitments are **highly impactful**, yet the proportion of members working on RTI through their OGP action plans is **decreasing**.
- **Reanimate RTI work in OGP by focusing on effective implementation of legislation:** OGP members can establish structures for carrying out RTI legislation and train officials on records management and information provisioning.
- **Move toward proactive publication of government-held information:** OGP members could commit to publishing landholding information of politically exposed persons and environmental pollution permits. RTI systems should also mandate publication of metadata on the system performance, disaggregated by agency and level of government.
- **Create more opportunities for citizens to use information:** Future commitments could establish mechanisms through which citizens can monitor and provide feedback on the RTI system.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMITMENT UPTAKE

273

RTI commitments have been included in OGP action plans since 2011.

227

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

63

OGP members have made RTI commitments. 28 members are currently implementing RTI commitments.

Seven of the world's ten top-rated countries for RTI legislation improved their legislation or its implementation through OGP.² These countries include: Croatia, Mexico, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Albania, Liberia, and El Salvador.

¹ This fact sheet analyzes OGP commitment data as of March 2019.

² Global Right to Information Rating, <https://www.rti-rating.org/country-data/>.



NOTABLE COMMITMENTS

Sri Lanka

Online Infrastructure for RTI

Sri Lanka committed to creating a robust right to information infrastructure with the goal of reducing government corruption. In particular, the country created a Right to Information Commission to ensure that citizens' requests are addressed efficiently. Sri Lanka also undertook mass trainings for public servants to comply with the new legislation.

Croatia

Improving the Legislative Framework for RTI

In 2012, Croatia successfully amended its Act on the Right of Access to Information to include a legal obligation to consult with the public about new legislation and enforce a directive on the re-use of public sector information. Since then, Croatia has worked to publish accessible data on public authorities that are subject to the Right to Access to Information law and to ensure that requests for information are fulfilled more efficiently.

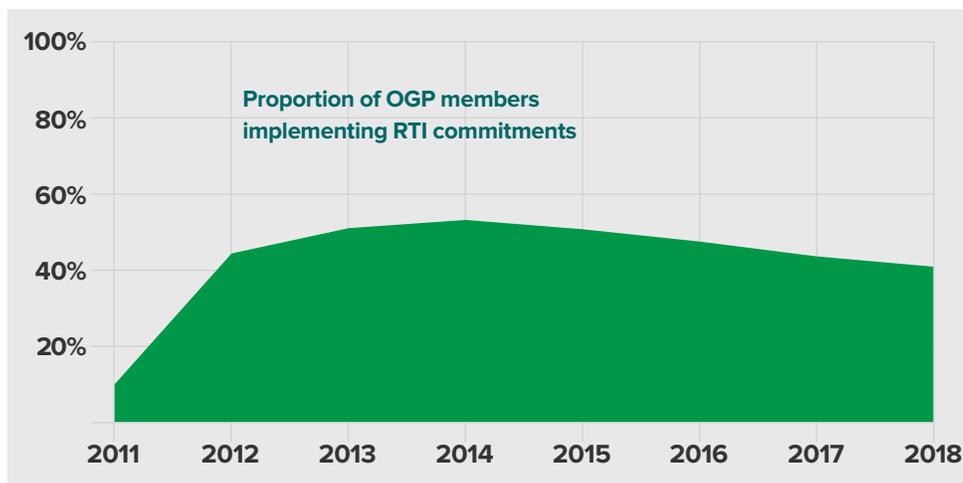
Ghana

Passage of RTI Legislation

In March 2019, Ghana passed the Right to Information law, which they had worked to achieve through their OGP action plans since 2013. The law will allow citizens, journalists and civil society organizations to more easily access government data.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMITMENT PROGRESS

The number of OGP members implementing RTI commitments has decreased since 2014.



WHAT ARE OGP MEMBERS DOING ABOUT RIGHT TO INFORMATION?

- Using online platforms to submit and service RTI requests
- Creating RTI legislation or regulation
- Implementing existing legislation
- Improving management of government records
- Publicly disclosing data requested through RTI

QUICK STATS ON PROGRESS

Out of all IRM-assessed right to information commitments:



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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.

