

# Why Join OGP Local?

## Support Offer for Local Members

- Online structured orientation and ongoing learning program, with specific modules for government, civil society, and intermediaries or trainers who can help deliver similar support offline.
- A formal mentorship program, inviting members and other local open government experts to serve as mentors.
- Thematic and issue-based learning circles.
- Easier access to information on assistance available through peers, practitioners, and partners.
- Featuring open government achievements through OGP's communication channels and incentive programs.
- Knowledge products on open local government (crowdsourced also from the community).
- "Office Hours" with OGP staff.

**Multi-stakeholder approaches to tackling local challenges:** The challenges that lie before local government are immense and too big and too complex for governments to address on their own. OGP creates and/or strengthens a platform for governments and civil society to come together and identify solutions to challenges, and leverage civil society and other stakeholders in implementing reforms. For instance, to improve the business environment to attract investment in South Cotabato, local government, business and civil society have joined to make contracts open to level the playing field for business, with civil society playing an important role in monitoring contracts.

**OGP has the unique ability to bring together national and local stakeholders for horizontal and vertical collaboration and learning within and across local or country jurisdictions:** For example, in Argentina, local governments and civil society are part of the dialogue to shape the national open government agenda, and the national government and civil society organizations are working on providing training and technical assistance to local government who are only just starting their open government journey. In Nigeria, the national government and Kaduna State are encouraging other States to embrace initiatives like Kaduna's open budgeting process and citizen monitoring of public services, and are offering technical support to those willing to do so. Canada is working with provinces, territories, and municipalities to break down barriers to integrate pan-Canadian open data services through the establishment of common principles, standards, and licensing across all levels of government.

OGP's international platform is also providing avenues for spreading innovation across countries. For instance, Uruguay and a number of local jurisdictions are adopting the DecideMadrid platform, Tbilisi is learning from Brazil's participatory budgeting reforms and South Cotabato is learning from Croatia's experiences in open legislation.



**International visibility, recognition, and support:** OGP can shine a global spotlight on the work of reformers and successful reforms through its global convenings, stories, videos, and peer exchange opportunities. The spotlight can open avenues for securing additional support for their work. For example, Sekondi-Takoradi in Ghana is receiving support from the OGP Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for their work on addressing sanitation issues in underserved communities. With the help of the MDTF grant, Sekondi-Takoradi is establishing a registry of households and landlords with no access to toilets, sensitizing media, involving civil society organizations in raising awareness, running behavioral change campaigns and engaging local financial institutions to provide support.

**Access to knowledge resources, experiences, and expertise:** OGP's vast network of practitioners can offer expertise and practical lessons to locals seeking to advance open government reforms in a variety of different policy areas. For example, the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative (COST) is working with Jalisco, Mexico to provide training for civil society, helping them play a more active role in project monitoring and raising levels of accountability within government and procuring entities. Kigoma, Tanzania is implementing a land transparency commitment through a partnership with Cadasta, and exchanges ideas with Bojonegoro, Indonesia. Tbilisi, Georgia received technology and data support via The Engine Room to provide technical capacity building to the Municipal Development Services Agency to produce portals as outlined by their commitments.

**Build and strengthen coalitions for reform:** OGP helps forge coalitions to advance reforms connecting those well versed with open government approaches to those who are less familiar. For example, The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) in partnership with the Wales Council for Voluntary Organisations (WCVA), Involve, and Northern Ireland Environment Link collaborated on an Open Government Pioneers Project to help people share the tools, techniques, and resources required to engage and challenge their governments to inclusively serve them better. The project was formally linked to the UK's participation in OGP, using open government commitments to help people secure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to eradicate poverty, tackle inequality and sustain natural resources at home and abroad. Similarly, civil society groups engaged in Indonesia's national OGP processes have worked with groups of villagers in a number of villages and trained them on facilitation, participatory planning and budget literacy, access to information, and social auditing. Such coalitions can also be forged across multiple jurisdictions as is the objective of the Local Open Contracting Initiative led by Hivos and funded through the OGP Trust Fund.

## **Contact OGP Local**

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