

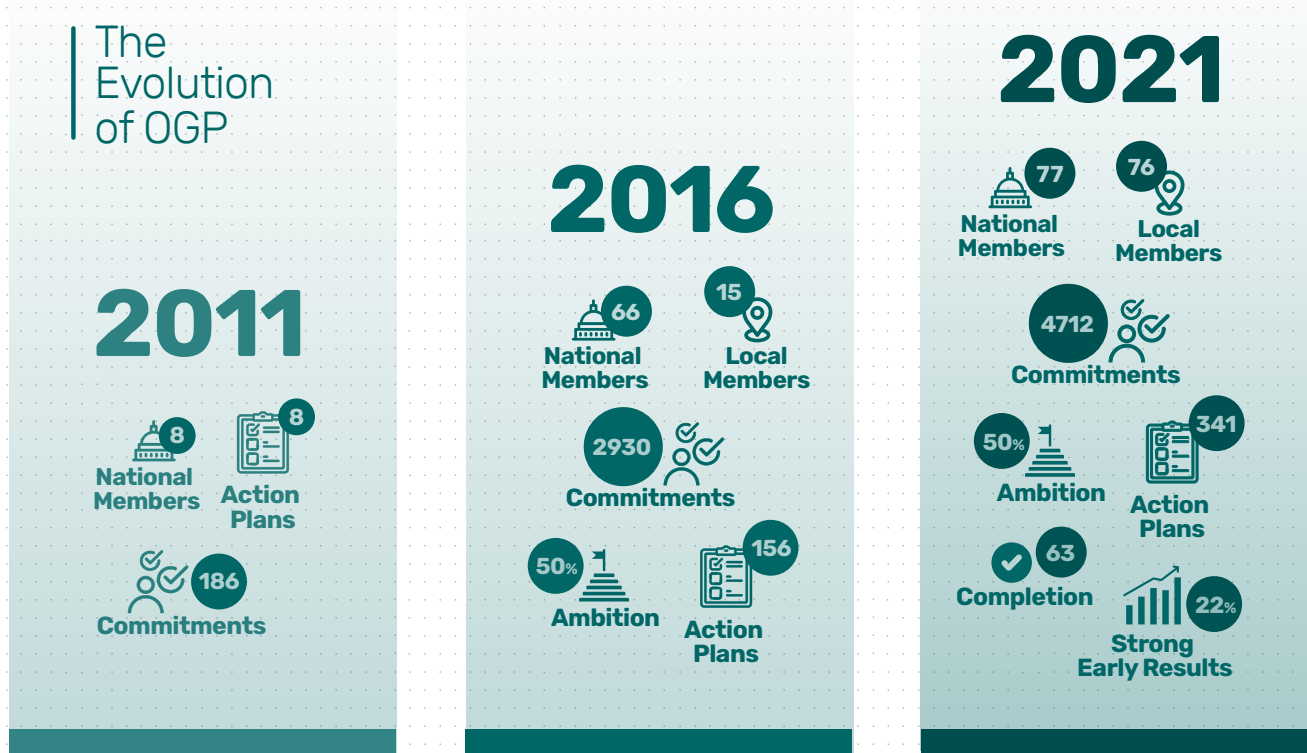
A Snapshot of 10 Years of OGP

How has OGP evolved in the last 10 years?

The [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\)](#) was founded as a movement of reformers inside and outside of government working to open government across the globe. Reformers co-create action plans that advance open government policies and are independently assessed on their progress.

Since its founding in 2011, OGP has grown in membership, diversity of policy areas, and the strength of the co-creation processes. Aside from increasing its membership from the original eight national members, OGP admitted a pioneer cohort of 15 local governments in 2016. OGP's current 153 members (77 countries and the growing 76 OGP Local members) have co-created 341 action plans along with civil society organizations in their communities. OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) has evaluated these action plans through the years, assessing that about half of OGP commitments are ambitious, two-thirds are completed, and one in five significantly change government practice.¹

The figure below shows a snapshot of OGP's evolution in its first decade.



¹ The IRM measures the design and implementation of action plans using five key metrics: verifiability, relevance to OGP values, potential for results (indicator used to determine ambition), completion and early results. For more information, click [here](#).



What does the evidence say about the OGP mechanism?

Co-creating action plans between actors inside and outside of government is at the heart of the OGP mechanism. Recent [OGP analysis](#) has shown that:

- High levels of collaboration between government and civil society is linked to more ambitious and implemented action plans, leading to measurable improvements in government openness.
- Where the OGP process is strongest, OGP outcomes tend to be strongest.
- In action plans submitted between 2017 and 2019, the analysis found that [implementing IRM recommendations](#) is associated with higher-quality action plans.

An [independent evaluation of OGP](#) highlighted that government and civil society members value the OGP platform for offering inspiration, peer learning, and opportunities to gain international prestige for the work on opening government. The OGP mechanism is influential at two levels:

1. Demonstrating a global coalition for open government, including contributing to the global agenda through international meetings and summits, campaigns, and advocacy on policy areas; and
2. Supporting reforms at the country level, including peer exchange opportunities that stimulate leadership among political leaders.

The independent evaluation of OGP also found that stakeholders appreciate that OGP action plans provide definite mechanisms to move intent towards action, build inter-agency collaboration, and secure partner support to advance reforms.

How have OGP commitments evolved?

Throughout the years, OGP members have strengthened and diversified their action plans, covering [more policy areas and sectors](#). Greater diversification is also reflected in the actors involved in the OGP process. During the early years of OGP, action plans focused on a limited number of issues like right to information, fiscal openness, open data, and e-procurement. They were primarily kept within the executive branch of government and engaged traditional governance and transparency civil society organizations. More recent action plans cover, on average, about eight different policy areas and five sectors, more than double of what they covered in the early days. More recent action plans also involve line ministries, independent state institutions, local governments, oversight institutions, other branches of government and more sectoral civil society organizations.

Some of the policy areas included in recent action plans include beneficial ownership transparency and digital governance. Recent [OGP analysis](#) found that countries consistently produce strong anti-corruption commitments but rarely use their action plans to improve civic space. The analysis also found that countries that make commitments related to beneficial ownership and budget transparency, in particular, have become more open in these areas.

What are the key challenges for the OGP mechanism?

The evidence shows that the OGP model works. However, more remains to be done to reach its full-potential. Some key challenges include:

- Increasing the ambition of commitments in the action plans. This is the strongest predictor of early results, particularly in certain reform areas.
- Increasing implementation of commitments in the action plan, especially in low income countries.
- Upholding democratic values, such as accountability, civil and political rights, and political integrity, a necessary condition for open government and open societies.
- Improving government feedback to civil society during the co-creation and development of action plans.

The Global Context for Open Government in the Next Ten Years

As the Partnership enters its second decade, OGP finds itself in a changed global context than when it was created. Some open government areas showing progress are:

- **In recent years we have seen a growing exercise of civil liberties** with record numbers of protests.; examples of deliberative democratic reforms like climate assemblies in Europe; and increasing referendums around the world.
- **There has been progress in specific open government policy areas like improved right to information (RTI) legislation.** Over 100 countries have RTI laws and according to experts more journalists know about and are using these laws.
- **More open data are available in specific areas.** More countries are publishing open datasets, e.g. related to budgets, contracting and public services such as education and health.
- **Several anti-corruption tools are becoming global norms.** Beneficial ownership transparency is becoming a global norm, with international standards, directives, and increasing country-level reforms, and more countries are opening up their procurement processes than ever before.

However, the advances toward openness are not adding up against the backsliding in democracy:

- **Democratic freedoms and civic space are under threat.** In 2020, 82% of the countries in the [Rule of Law Index](#) experienced a decline in at least one dimension of civic space (civic participation, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of assembly and association). Since 2010, the [Economist Intelligence Unit's](#) civil liberties scores show widespread declines in OGP countries. [As of 2021](#), 6 of OGP's 77 national members had expanded civil liberties over the decade; 7 had stayed the same; and 65 had declined.
- **Global freedom has been in decline for 15 consecutive years.**
- **The world is undergoing a wave of autocratization.** [Indices of democracy](#) have regressed to levels unseen since the beginning of the millennium. Per the [Global State of Democracy Report 2021](#), the number of countries moving towards authoritarianism is three times the number of countries moving towards democracy. Currently, [one-third of the world's population](#), 2.6 billion people, lives in countries undergoing autocratization).
- Despite efforts worldwide, **corruption levels have stagnated.**
- **Progress towards improving the rule of law has also been halted.** Following a four-year pattern, more countries declined (74.2%) than improved (25.8%) in the [World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index](#).

A new strategy for 2023-2028 provides an opportunity to engage the open government community to re-think the role and ambition of OGP - both the partnership, and the institution - in a highly changing world.

OGP is calling on its community of reformers to step up and actively participate in developing a new strategy of OGP for 2023 -2028. Please find other recommended readings to enhance your participation in the co-creation of OGP's strategy below.

- [OGP Vital Signs: 10 Years of Data in Review](#)
- [Independent Evaluation of OGP](#)
- [OGP at Ten: Toward Democratic Renewal](#)
- [OGP Policy Progress Reports](#)
- [OGP Timeline](#)
- [OGP's 2021 Annual Report](#)
- [OGP Stakeholder Survey](#)