

# IBERO-AMERICA

Political corruption has tremendous consequences worldwide. Transparency in political finance, political influence, and state administration can help reduce corruption and make democratic processes more legitimate, more pluralistic, and more representative. Open data on decision-making and decision makers can be a powerful tool to identify whose interests shape how governance decisions are made and implemented.

New data from 67 OGP countries, including 17 Ibero-American countries, shows that there are significant gaps in data frameworks and data availability across a variety of areas related to countering political corruption. This module is part of the [Broken Links: Open Data to Advance Accountability and Combat Corruption](#) report<sup>1</sup> which offers an overview of data frameworks and data availability in OGP countries across eight policy topics using data from the [Global Data Barometer](#).<sup>2</sup> The goal of the report is to identify areas for improvement and generate recommendations for future OGP commitments.

This module focuses specifically on the state of data frameworks and availability in the Ibero-American countries in OGP assessed by the GDB (see *Countries in this analysis*). This regional analysis includes:

- A summary of GDB's assessment of the state of data to counter corruption in the region
- An overview of OGP commitments across policy areas assessed
- Highlights in featured policy areas with data from both GDB and OGP
- Examples of regional innovations

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<sup>1</sup> You can find the report *Open Data to Advance Accountability and Combat Corruption* here: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/broken-links/>.

<sup>2</sup> View more details about the Global Data Barometer here: <https://globaldatabarometer.org/>.

## Countries in this analysis

### Ibero-American countries assessed by GDB and included in this analysis

- ❖ Argentina
- ❖ Brazil
- ❖ Chile
- ❖ Colombia
- ❖ Costa Rica
- ❖ Dominican Republic
- ❖ Ecuador
- ❖ El Salvador
- ❖ Guatemala
- ❖ Honduras
- ❖ Mexico
- ❖ Panama
- ❖ Paraguay
- ❖ Peru
- ❖ Portugal
- ❖ Spain
- ❖ Uruguay

## Key takeaways

- **Some countries still lack publicly available data on key anti-corruption priorities.** Only a few Ibero-American countries publish data on lobbying and company beneficial ownership, for example.
- **Data quality remains an area for improvement.** Datasets often lack high-value elements, such as common identifiers that enable monitoring and oversight across datasets. Most data is also not published in an open format, making it hard to use.
- **Countries have lacked commitments to reforms in certain policy areas in their OGP action plans.** Many Ibero-American countries have committed to public procurement and right to information performance reforms, but more commitments are needed, particularly around lobbying and political finance.

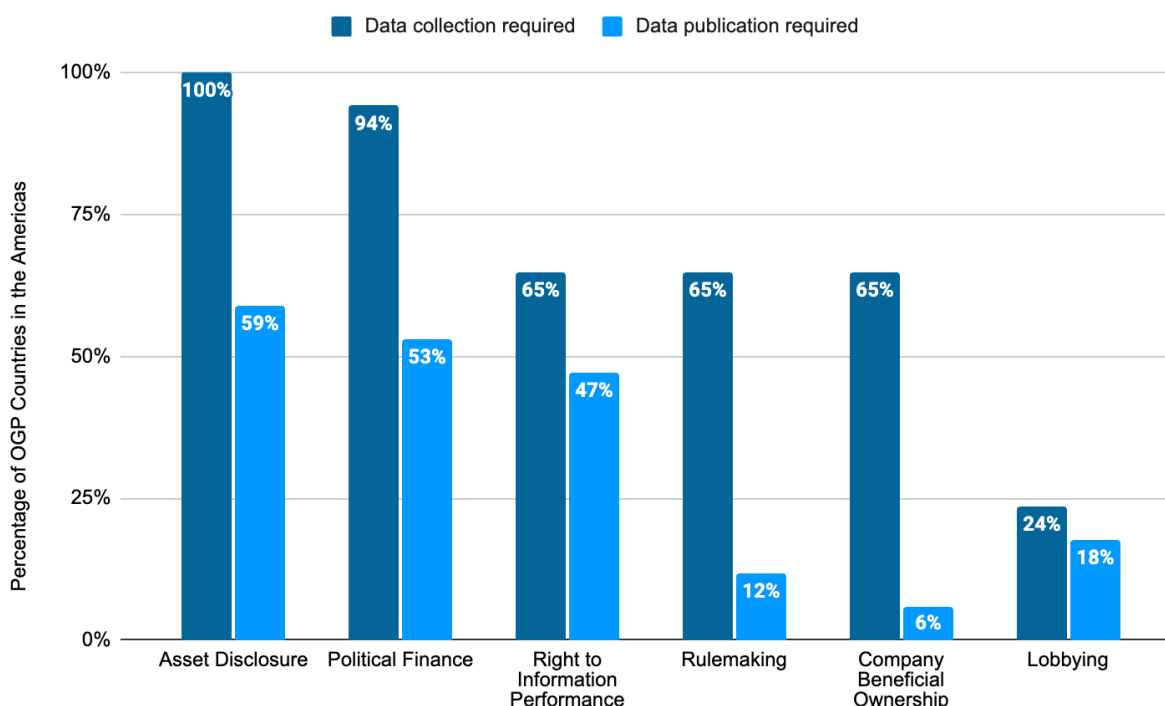
# Overall State of Data to Combat Corruption

## Legal frameworks

A majority of Ibero-American countries require data collection across policy areas, with the exception of lobbying (see Figure 1).<sup>3</sup> However, major gaps exist between required data collection and publication. For example, while all Ibero-American countries require collection of asset disclosure data, only three-fifths require the data to be published. Legal frameworks on company beneficial ownership data show the largest gap, where two-thirds of Ibero-American countries require data collection but only one country requires data publication.

### Figure 1: Gaps between required data collection and publication

This figure shows the percentage of OGP countries in Ibero-America with data collection and disclosure requirements across policy areas. The sample includes the 17 OGP countries in Ibero-America assessed by the Global Data Barometer.



Note: This analysis only considers binding laws and policies that exist and are operational. See the About Broken Links section for details.

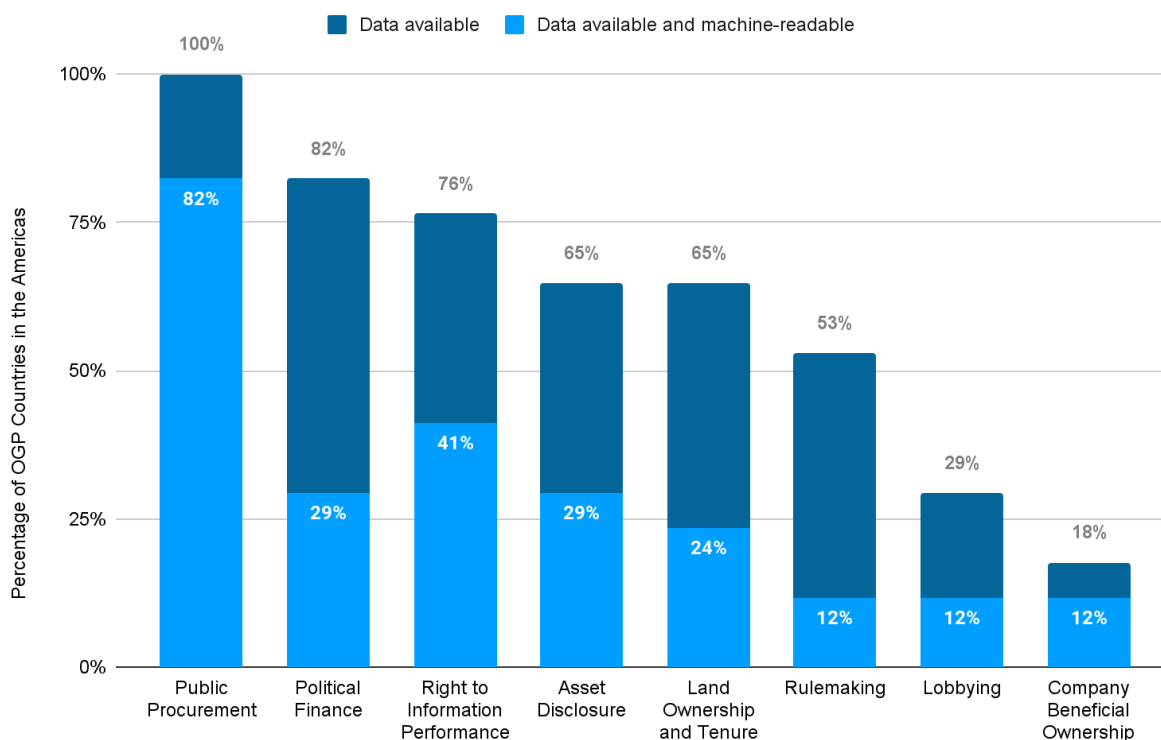
<sup>3</sup> The Global Data Barometer assesses whether countries have set requirements to publish data through binding policy, regulations, or law. Legal frameworks governing public procurement and land tenure data have not been assessed by the GDB. However, information on the availability of procurement and land tenure data was collected (see *Data Availability and Usability*).

## Data availability and usability

While most OECD member countries publish public procurement and political finance data, a significant percentage of countries lack publicly available data on other key anti-corruption priorities, such as lobbying and company beneficial ownership (see Figure 2). Where countries do publish data, making this data available to the public in an open format remains a challenge. In most areas, around one-quarter of Ibero-American countries publish data in a machine-readable format, which makes it difficult for users to analyze the data for monitoring and accountability purposes.

### Figure 2: Gaps between data availability and usability

This figure shows the percentage of OGP countries in Ibero-America with available data and the percentage with machine-readable data. The sample includes the 17 OGP countries in Ibero-America assessed by the Global Data Barometer.



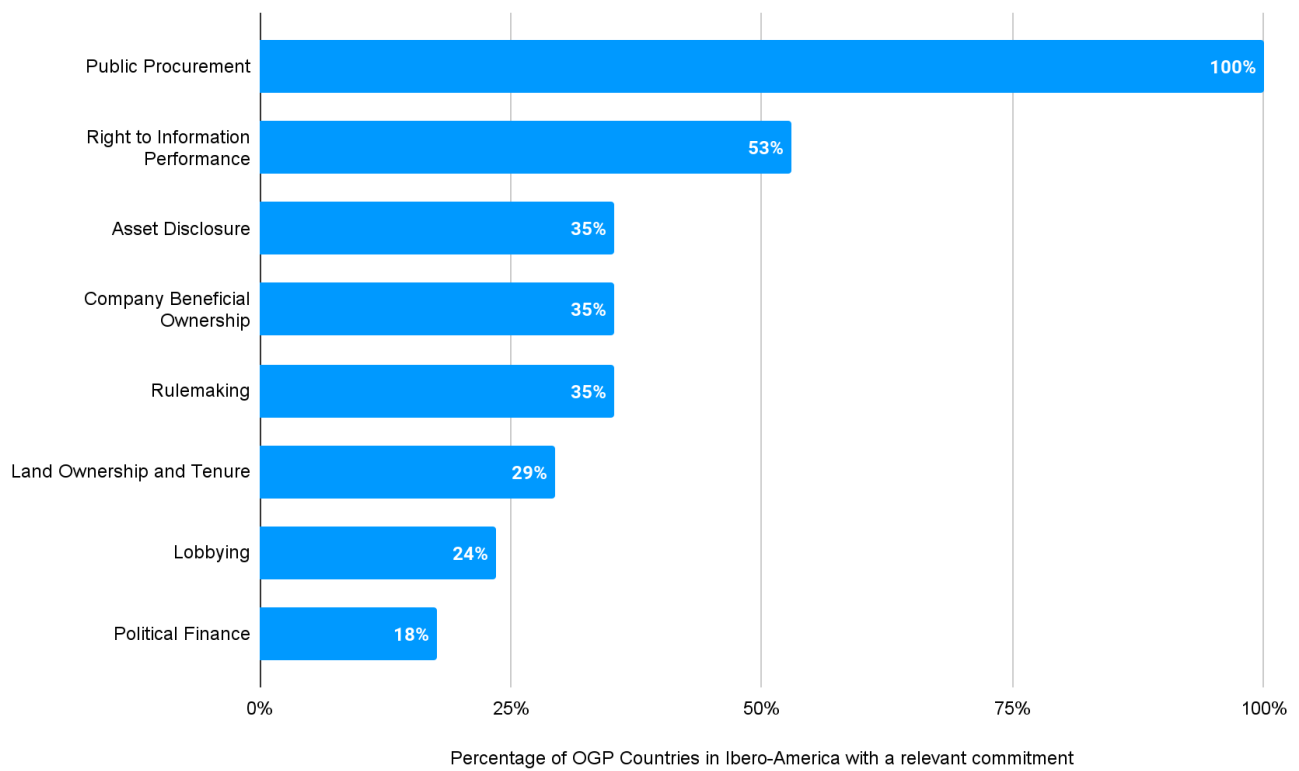
Note: For this analysis, countries with “partial” disclosure are considered cases of “no” disclosure. See the About Broken Links section for details.

# State of Progress Through OGP

While many Ibero-American countries have advanced open government reforms to counter corruption, many countries have not used OGP action plans to advance commitments in certain areas (see Figure 3). While all Ibero-American countries have made a commitment on public procurement, few countries have used their OGP action plans to address reforms in other key areas, including lobbying and political finance.

**Figure 3: Progress made through OGP commitments**

*This figure shows the percentage of OGP countries in Ibero-America that have made at least one relevant OGP commitment across each area assessed in this report. The sample includes all 17 OGP countries in Ibero-America.*



## Featured Policy Areas

The following policy areas were selected for a more detailed analysis based on a variety of factors, including regional priorities, areas of momentum, and areas for growth.

### Political finance

Knowing who gave to campaigns, politicians, and parties is essential to ensure that officials serve voters and not the highest bidders. Knowing that campaigns spend that money on legitimate expenses also ensures that everyone follows the same rules. Additionally, it can shed light on corporations' ideological and political stances, so consumers make informed decisions.

#### Key findings from the Global Data Barometer

- **Nearly all countries legally require collection of political finance data, but many lack publication requirements.** All Ibero-American countries require political finance data to be collected except Honduras. However, only nine of the 17 countries require that the data be made public.
- **Most countries publish updated information, but the data lacks usability.** Most Ibero-American countries make political finance data freely available, with the exception of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Paraguay. Four countries publish machine-readable data (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Costa Rica), while only three countries have openly licensed data (Costa Rica, Spain, and Peru). No countries publish political finance data that is openly licensed and bulk downloadable.
- **Many political finance datasets lack high-value information.** Half of Ibero-American countries do not publish data that includes names of donors or donation amounts linked to donors. Only four countries use unique identifiers for each donor in their datasets, which helps ensure cleaner data and can link multiple donations to the same donor (Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Argentina).

#### State of progress through OGP

- **Few countries have made a commitment related to political finance through their OGP action plans.** Only three Ibero-American countries (Argentina, Guatemala, and Panama) have made a political finance commitment. No country is implementing a commitment through their current action plan.<sup>4</sup>
- **No commitments involve open data.** The three political finance commitments made by Ibero-American countries involve increasing transparency of political finances. None of the commitments, however, have explicitly referenced open data principles.

#### Regional innovations

<b>Argentina</b>	Argentina provides <a href="#">bulk downloadable</a> political finance data, along with user-friendly visualizations. <sup>5</sup>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<a href="#">Historical data</a> on political finance is available in machine-readable format from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. <sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> As of September 2022, 17 national and 21 local OGP members from Ibero-America had submitted at least one action plan. See an updated list of OGP national and local members [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> Cámara Nacional Electoral, "Financiamiento de Campañas", <https://www.electoral.gob.ar/financiamiento/index.php>.

<sup>6</sup> Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones, "Political party reports on contributions and donations", [https://www.tse.go.cr/contribuciones\\_partidos.htm](https://www.tse.go.cr/contribuciones_partidos.htm).

## Right to information performance

Right to information (RTI) laws give the public insight into how government decisions are made and implemented. Most OGP countries have right to information laws. Almost all of those laws require agencies to publish information on how they are being executed.

### Key findings from the Global Data Barometer

- **Some countries lack legal frameworks governing RTI performance data.** Eleven of the 17 Ibero-American countries in OGP have an operational law that requires the collection of RTI performance data. Only eight countries legally require that the data be made publicly available.
- **Datasets typically lack high-value information.** Nearly all of the 13 countries who publish RTI performance data include details on the number of requests received and processed, except for Colombia. However, only some countries publish data on appeals to RTI determinations (Argentina, Brazil, and Spain) or details about reasons for withholding certain information (Brazil, Ecuador, and Mexico).
- **RTI performance data is freely available, but not usable.** All 13 countries who publish RTI performance data make it freely accessible, but only eight upload data in a timely manner. Spain is the only Ibero-American country whose data is also openly licensed, machine-readable, and bulk downloadable.

### State of progress through OGP

- **Ibero-American countries have made many commitments related to RTI performance.** Transparency of RTI performance data has been a popular area for commitments among Ibero-American countries, especially in comparison to other regions. Nine countries have made a total of 15 commitments that specifically reference the collection or publication of RTI performance data. Four of these commitments specifically reference open data principles.
- **Commitments in this area have seen strong early results.** Four of the seven commitments assessed by OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism have shown strong early results in opening government ([Brazil](#)<sup>7</sup>, [Dominican Republic](#)<sup>8</sup>, [Honduras](#)<sup>9</sup>, and [Uruguay](#)<sup>10</sup>).

### Regional innovations

<b>Dominican Republic</b>	The Dominican Republic provides <a href="#">real-time, disaggregated statistics</a> on right to information performance that can be exported as a dataset. <sup>11</sup>
<b>Spain</b>	Spain's <a href="#">RTI performance data</a> contains statistics on number of requests, appeals, and reasons for withholding information. <sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Brazil, "Development of the 'Access to Information Library'" (BR0047), <https://opengovpartnership.org/members/brazil/commitments/br0047/>.

<sup>8</sup> Dominican Republic, "Evaluation and Monitoring the Sub-Portals Transparency" (DO0041), <https://opengovpartnership.org/members/dominican-republic/commitments/do0041/>.

<sup>9</sup> Honduras, "Public Information Quality for Everyone" (HN0033), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/honduras/commitments/hn0033/>.

<sup>10</sup> Uruguay, "Responses to Requests for Access to Public Information" (UY0029), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/uruguay/commitments/uy0029/>.

<sup>11</sup> Dirección General de Ética e Integridad Gubernamental, "Portal Único de Solicitudes de Acceso a la Información: Estadísticas Generales", <https://saip.gob.do/estadisticas-generales>.

<sup>12</sup> Ministerio de Hacienda y Función Pública - Dirección General de Gobernanza Pública, "Datos del Derecho de acceso a la información pública", [https://transparencia.gob.es/transparencia/transparencia\\_Home/index/Derecho-de-acceso-a-la-informacion-publica/Datos-derecho-de-acceso.html](https://transparencia.gob.es/transparencia/transparencia_Home/index/Derecho-de-acceso-a-la-informacion-publica/Datos-derecho-de-acceso.html).

## Rulemaking

In most modern countries, parliaments delegate the formation of regulations to ministries, departments, and agencies. Just as with lobbying data, the public and watchdog organizations need to know how to take part in the formation of regulations, who participates, how it influences the outcome, and whether those regulations were subject to challenge.

### Key findings from the Global Data Barometer

- **Many countries require collection of rulemaking data, but not publication.** Eleven of the 17 Ibero-American countries in OGP have operational legal frameworks that require collection of rulemaking data, but only two countries require the data to be published (Chile and Spain).
- **Datasets lack usability.** While nine countries publish rulemaking data online in some form, two countries lack freely accessible data (Mexico and Spain) and four do not update data in a timely manner (Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Spain). Brazil is the only country whose rulemaking data is openly licensed, machine-readable, and bulk downloadable.
- **Most rulemaking datasets do not include high-value information.** Most datasets include information on proposed regulations. However, few countries publish data on public comments (Brazil, Ecuador, and Uruguay), challenges to regulations (Ecuador), or final regulations and justifications (Colombia, Ecuador, and Uruguay).

### State of progress through OGP

- **Some countries have made OGP commitments on rulemaking transparency.** Six of the 17 countries have made at least one commitment related to rulemaking data (Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, and Spain). Spain is the only country implementing a commitment through their current action plan.
- **Commitments do not typically involve open data.** While these rulemaking commitments aim to increase transparency in general, only one commitment made by Portugal specifically references open data principles.<sup>13</sup>

### Regional innovations

#### Brazil

Brazil's open data portal contains [information on public consultations](#) that is openly licensed and bulk downloadable.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Portugal, "Access to Administrative and Environmental Information" (PT0007), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/portugal/commitments/pt0007/>.

<sup>14</sup> Brazilian Open Data Portal, "Open Data for Participation in Consultations", [https://dados.gov.br/dataset/participacao-em-consultas-publicas/resource/a141ecc8-26f9-4f0c-aa2c-1ef5748bdb36?inner\\_span=True](https://dados.gov.br/dataset/participacao-em-consultas-publicas/resource/a141ecc8-26f9-4f0c-aa2c-1ef5748bdb36?inner_span=True).