

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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 eight countries from Asia and the Pacific, 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](#) report¹ which offers an overview of data frameworks and data availability in OGP countries across eight policy topics using data from the [Global Data Barometer \(GDB\)](#).² 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 eight OGP countries assessed by the GDB in Asia and the Pacific (see *Countries in this Analysis*). This regional analysis includes:

- A summary of GDB's assessment of the state of anti-corruption data 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

Countries in this Analysis

OGP Countries Assessed by GDB and Included in this Analysis

- Australia
- Indonesia
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Mongolia
- New Zealand
- Philippines
- Republic of Korea
- Sri Lanka

OGP Countries Not Assessed by GDB³

- Afghanistan
- Papua New Guinea

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

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

³ Due to inability to find researchers, 10 of the 77 OGP countries were not included in the Global Data Barometer's assessment.

Key Takeaways

- **Data availability varies by policy area.** Most countries in Asia and the Pacific publish public procurement, asset disclosure, land ownership and tenure, and rulemaking data. Few countries in the region publish any data on beneficial ownership or lobbying.
- **Published data typically lacks high-value information and usability.** Datasets generally do not include important details, such as common identifiers to link multiple datasets. In addition, few countries publish data that is easily used. For example, public procurement is the only area where a majority of countries in the region publish machine-readable data.
- **Countries in Asia and the Pacific have advanced reforms through OGP in certain areas of anti-corruption policy.** Many countries in the region have made political finance commitments, but far fewer have addressed lobbying in their OGP action plans.

Aida Kasymalieva is the first female Deputy Speaker of Parliament at the Jogorku Kenesh (Supreme Council) of the Kyrgyz Republic. The first Kyrgyz national action plan sought to enhance consultation on regulations with a new “single electronic portal” which provides access to the legal drafts with advanced search possibilities. OGP’s Independent Reporting Mechanism assessed the platform as contributing to significantly improved civic participation. Photo by OGP.



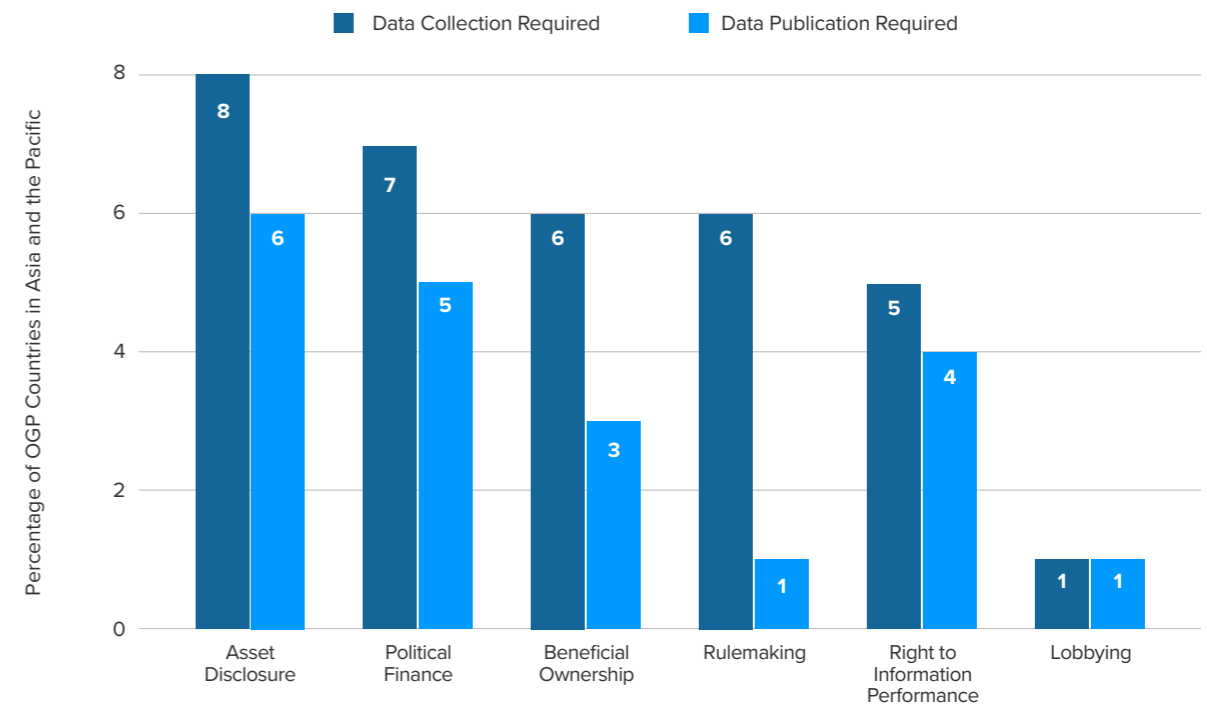
Overall State of Data to Combat Corruption

Legal Frameworks

Across nearly all policy areas, a gap exists between the number of countries with legal frameworks requiring data collection and the number requiring data publication (see Figure 1).⁴ Rulemaking and beneficial ownership data, in particular, show the two largest gaps. Only one country in the region (Australia) has a legal framework governing lobbying data.

FIGURE 1: Gaps between required data collection and publication

This figure shows the number of OGP countries in Asia and the Pacific with data collection and disclosure requirements across policy areas. The sample includes the eight OGP countries in the region assessed by the GDB.



Note: This analysis only considers binding laws and policies that exist and are operational.⁵

⁴ 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”).

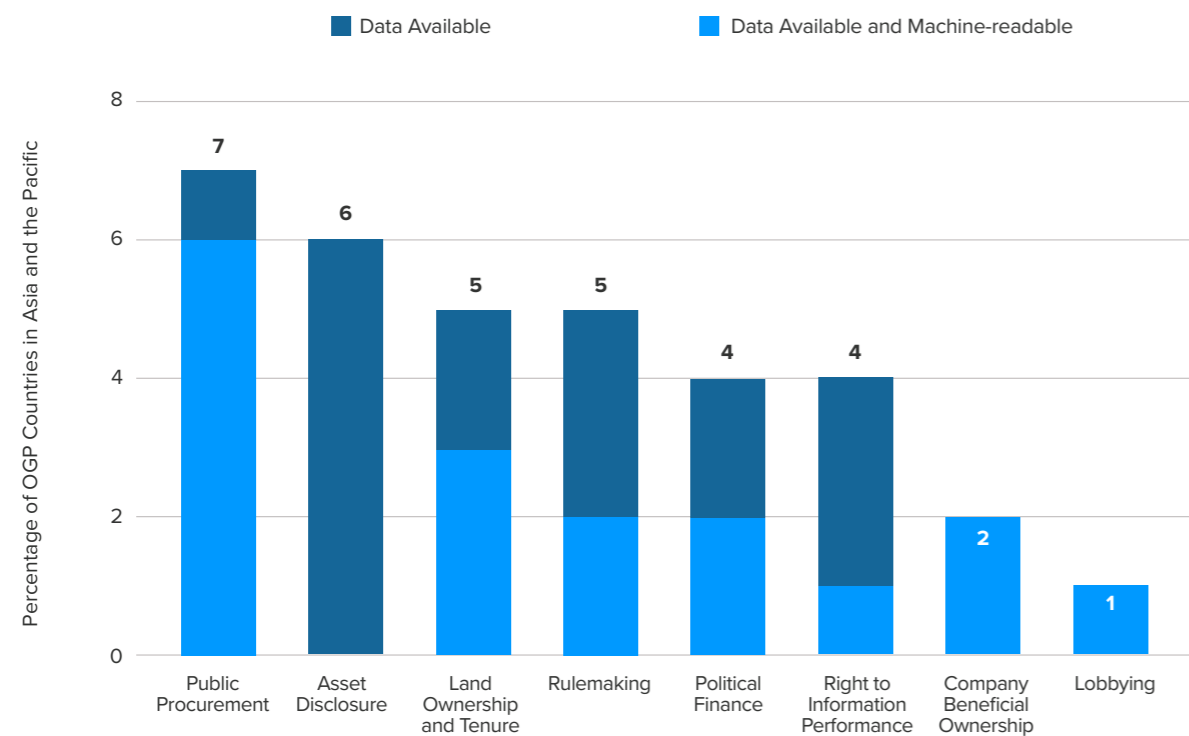
⁵ For more details see the *About Broken Links* section of the report: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/broken-links/>.

Data Availability and Usability

Many countries in Asia and the Pacific lack publicly available data on key areas to counter political corruption. Where countries do publish data, making this data available to the public in an open format remains a challenge. In most areas, a small minority of countries publish data in a machine-readable format, which prevents users from being able to analyze the data for monitoring and accountability purposes (see Figure 2).

FIGURE 2: Gaps between data availability and usability

This figure shows the number of OGP countries in Asia and the Pacific with available data and the number with machine-readable data. The sample includes the eight OGP countries in the region assessed by the GDB.



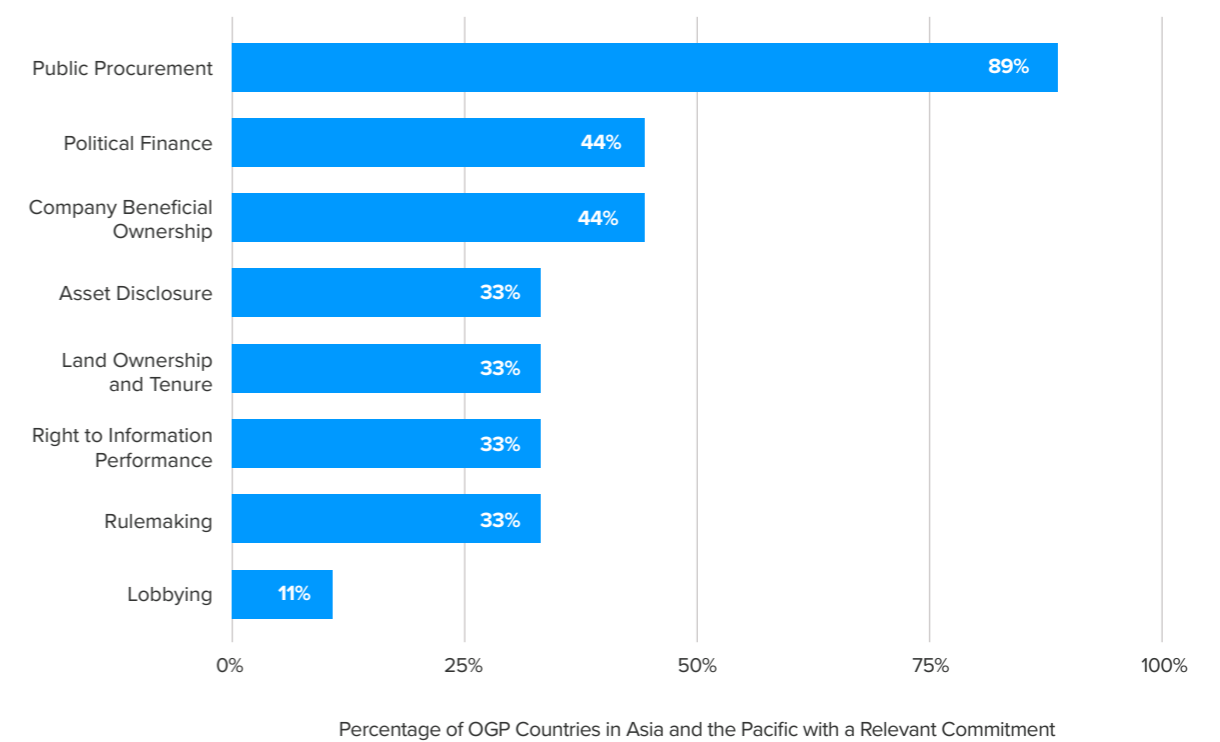
Note: For this analysis, countries with “partial” disclosure are considered cases of “no” disclosure.⁶

State of Progress Through OGP

Countries in Asia and the Pacific have addressed certain anti-corruption areas in their OGP action plans, such as public procurement, while lacking commitments in others, like lobbying (see Figure 3). Almost all countries in the region have made a commitment related to public procurement. Nearly half of countries in the region have made commitments that address political finance and company beneficial ownership.

FIGURE 3: Progress made through OGP commitments

This figure shows the percentage of OGP countries in Asia and the Pacific that have made at least one relevant OGP commitment across each policy area assessed. The sample includes all OGP countries in the region (excluding Afghanistan).



⁶ For more details see the *About Broken Links* section of the report: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/broken-links/>.

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.

Asset Disclosure

Asset declaration requirements are an essential safeguard to prevent and detect cases of favoritism, conflicts of interest, and illicit enrichment of public officials. Opening data on asset disclosure allows the public to work alongside oversight institutions in monitoring those they have entrusted to serve in their interest.

Key Findings from the Global Data Barometer

- **Most countries publish asset disclosure data.** Six of the eight OGP countries assessed in the region have asset disclosure data available online. Sri Lanka and the Philippines are the two countries that lack government-published data on asset disclosure.
- **Legal frameworks exist in all countries but have key gaps.** All eight of the evaluated countries in Asia and the Pacific have a legal framework that requires collection of asset disclosure data in some form. However, three countries (Australia, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka) do not legally require the publication of data. Only two countries (Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia) require the collection of structured data, which is necessary to publish high-quality, usable data.
- **Data usability remains a problem throughout the region.** While a majority of countries publish freely accessible and up-to-date data, the data itself is hard to use. Only three countries (Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea) have openly licensed data. No countries in the region publish asset disclosure data that is machine-readable or bulk downloadable, making it difficult for journalists and civil society, among others, to use data for monitoring purposes.

State of Progress Through OGP

- **OGP members in Asia and the Pacific have made few commitments on asset disclosure in recent years.** Since OGP was established in 2011, five members in the region (Bojonegoro Regency [Indonesia], Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka) have made ten total asset disclosure commitments, mostly focused on improving transparency.⁷ Only one member (Sri Lanka) has made a commitment in this area since 2019.
- **Most asset disclosure commitments have lacked effective implementation.** While most member commitments on asset disclosure have had high potential impact, none have achieved strong early results in opening government, according to OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM).⁸

Regional Innovations	
Kyrgyz Republic	Although asset declarations are only published in PDF format, the Kyrgyz Republic also publishes information on individuals who failed to submit asset declarations by the required deadline. ⁹

⁷ As of June 2022, eight national and eight local OGP members from Asia and the Pacific had submitted at least one action plan. See an updated list of OGP national and local members <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/our-members/>.

⁸ Learn more about how the Independent Reporting Mechanism assesses commitments <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/irm-guidance-overview/>.

⁹ State Tax Service of the Kyrgyz Republic (Государственная налоговая служба Кыргызской Республики), n.d., https://sti.gov.kg/decl_dolj.

Mongolia

Mongolia's [database](#) allows users to filter and view asset declarations by categories like name, agency, and position. However, the data is not downloadable.¹⁰

Land Ownership and Tenure

Knowing who owns land and under what system of land ownership is essential, as land is both a major target of corruption and a commonly used vehicle for money laundering. Politicians may also pass policies that are favorable to particular landholders, such as direct subsidies.

Key Findings from the Global Data Barometer

- **Some countries lack publicly available land ownership and tenure data.** Five of the eight evaluated countries in the region have land ownership or tenure data available online. The three countries that do not publish data in this area are the Kyrgyz Republic, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka.
- **No countries publish data on natural persons benefiting from land tenure.** While two countries (New Zealand and Indonesia) publish information on the legal owners of land, no OGP countries in the region include information on natural persons—individuals who benefit from land ownership or tenure, either directly or through their companies.
- **Data usability remains a problem for many countries that publish data.** New Zealand is the only country that meets all five criteria for open data (freely accessible, up to date, openly licensed, machine-readable, and bulk downloadable), while the Republic of Korea's land ownership data meets all criteria except bulk downloadable. The other three countries (Australia, Indonesia, and Mongolia) that publish land ownership or tenure data, however, do not have openly licensed or machine-readable data.

State of Progress Through OGP

- **OGP action plans in the region have largely not addressed land ownership or tenure.** Four countries have made a total of eight commitments to increase transparency of land ownership and use. Mongolia and Indonesia have each made multiple commitments in this area.
- **Commitments do not focus on open data.** None of the land ownership or tenure commitments made in the region reference an open data approach. Many commitments aim to publish land tenure information electronically, but not specifically in open, machine-readable format(s).

Regional Innovations	
New Zealand	Bulk downloadable data on property ownership is published by Land Information New Zealand, a government agency. ¹¹
Republic of Korea	Land ownership data is available for download through the Korea National Spatial Data Infrastructure Portal and is provided along with correlating spatial information. ¹²

¹⁰ Justice and Development (Шударга Ёс, Хөгжил Дэвшилд), n.d., <http://www.xacxom.iaac.mn>.

¹¹ LINZ Data Service, n.d., <https://data.linz.govt.nz>.

¹² Korea National Spatial Data Infrastructure Portal OpenAIP, n.d., <http://openapi.nsdia.go.kr/nsdi/index.do>.

Public Procurement

Opaque contracting processes show higher levels of corruption and inefficiency, decreased competition, and reduced opportunities for smaller companies. Alternatively, [open procurement processes](#), otherwise known as open contracting, produce greater competition, improved public service delivery, and significant cost savings for governments.¹³

Key Findings from the Global Data Barometer

- **Most countries publish procurement data.** Seven of the eight APAC countries evaluated by the GDB have procurement data available online. Sri Lanka is the only country without publicly available data.
- **Procurement data is published as open data in most countries.** Three countries (Indonesia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea) meet all five criteria for open data. Australia, the Philippines, and the Kyrgyz Republic follow closely behind, each meeting four of the five criteria.
- **Interoperability is an area for improvement for the region.** Australia is the only country working to link procurement data with other key anti-corruption datasets using common identifiers. Countries should focus on making procurement data interoperable with datasets such as beneficial ownership registries and government spending data.

State of Progress Through OGP

- Opening the procurement process has been a common goal among OGP members in the region. Since 2011, ten national and local members in the region have made 28 total commitments related to making public procurement processes more transparent and participatory. Sixteen of these commitments specifically reference open contracting principles. The Republic of Korea is the only country in the region that has not made a commitment related to public procurement.
- However, procurement commitments in the region have lacked effective implementation. While over two-thirds of commitments on procurement have had high potential impact, only two commitments (from [Indonesia](#)¹⁴ and [Mongolia](#)¹⁵ [have achieved strong results in opening government, according to the IRM.](#)

Regional Innovations

Indonesia

Indonesia's [procurement data](#)¹⁶ is updated monthly and published according to the [Open Contracting Data Standard](#).¹⁷

Philippines

The [Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System \(PhilGEPS\)](#) contains quarterly procurement data in a machine-readable format going back to 2000.¹⁸

¹³ Open Government Partnership, "The Skeptic's Guide to Open Government," 2022, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/skeptics-guide-to-open-government-2022-edition/#toc_3.

¹⁴ Indonesia, "Accelerate Open and Good Governance Practices in Goods and Services Procurement (ID0034)," n.d., <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/indonesia/commitments/id0034/>.

¹⁵ Mongolia, "Launch—Transparent Account System in Order to Enable Consistent, Transparent Reporting to the Public and to Provide Comprehensive Information on Budget Revenue Collection, Income and Expenditure Details, as Well as Public Procurement and Investments (MN0003)," n.d., <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/mongolia/commitments/mn0003/>.

¹⁶ SPSE ICB, LPSE, n.d., <https://lpse.pu.go.id/eproc4/lelang>.

¹⁷ Open Contracting Partnership, "The Open Contracting Data Standard," n.d., <https://www.open-contracting.org/data-standard>.

¹⁸ Philippine Government electronic Procurement System, "Open Data," n.d., <https://notices.philgeps.gov.ph/opendataSRD.html>.