

Independent Reporting Mechanism

Report on Local Action Plans 2021-2022

Executive Summary



This report draws out innovations and obstacles faced by local open government reformers over the past two years. With the OGP Local Strategy approved in May 2019, the new local program has differences from the national program, ranging from how members participate in the partnership to how they are held accountable. The IRM gathered findings from 72 commitments implemented by 29 local governments during 2021–2022, mostly in Latin America, Europe, and Africa. Some of these findings may not be fully generalizable to all local governments, particularly in Asia and the Pacific.

The OGP Local platform provides local governments with a space to co-create and implement open government reforms. This report found that local members used co-creation practices and commitments to address the needs of underrepresented communities, while centering on opportunities for public participation. The report also explores key questions on achieving open government results and building collaboration between government and civil society:



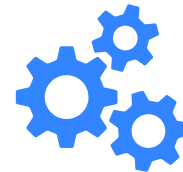
I. What does co-creation look like at the local level?

Local members used diverse mechanisms to consult stakeholders on developing action plans, such as drawing on existing local deliberative forums or virtual consultation platforms. During implementation, the local members continued to experiment with channels for engagement – for instance, some local multistakeholder forums established follow-up committees for each commitment with government and civil society members, who reported on implementation progress at monthly meetings.



II. What have local reforms achieved?

Over half of 2021 action plans contain at least one commitment focused on strengthening inclusion of marginalized groups. Commitments supported vulnerable communities in accessing services, incorporated the perspectives of women and youth in policy development, and included people with disabilities in designing public spaces. Public services, fiscal openness, and green transitions are also common areas for reform, emerging from more than 30 percent of the action plans.



III. What are the factors that shape reforms?

Building alliances and ensuring political feasibility in the design and implementation of local action plans has often been critical to success. This has been achieved by directly involving senior officials and civil society throughout the design and implementation of commitments. Some local members also supported reforms by aligning action plans with national and local government agendas. However, unforeseen political events significantly slowed a number OGP processes.





To continue strengthening open government results, the IRM recommends that local reformers:



Adopt more accountability-focused commitments, to further local governments' ability to build trust. These can provide channels for the public to call upon the government to respond to complaints and justify their decisions.



Include a broad spectrum of participants in the co-creation process, to develop commitments that best reflect issues of diversity, such as disability, gender, youth, indigenous, or LGBTQIA+ rights.



Continue to engage civil society throughout implementation to build momentum for reforms. This can help keep commitments on-track, align reforms with community needs, and build support for changes, like new legislation.



Plan ahead for resource allocation and institutional and technical support for commitments. Some local members have sought to fill resource-gaps during implementation through resource mobilization committees or annual budgeting processes.



Secure political support and build alliances for reform by involving senior officials early in the design and implementation process, building on existing government priorities, and learning from local governments undertaking similar reforms.



Consider building connections national and local OGP processes. This can support learning across different levels of government, between local OGP members, and between national and local civil society. It can also help with policy coherence and resource allocation.



Leverage the diverse network of local and national OGP members for peer learning, capacity building, and exchange of tools for reform.