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Raising Ambition through the Open Gov Challenge

Key Takeaways

- The Open Gov Challenge encourages OGP members to take ambitious actions in ten areas of open government.
- Any public sector institution across all branches and levels of government of an OGP member country can participate in the Challenge.
- OGP members can participate in the Challenge by submitting commitments as part of their regular action plans or by submitting standalone commitments.
- Commitments must meet specific eligibility criteria to be accepted to the Challenge.



The [Open Gov Challenge](#) was launched in 2023 by the OGP Steering Committee as a call to action for all OGP members with the goal of raising ambition in [ten areas](#) of open government to help strengthen our democracies. It encourages OGP members to pursue ambitious, flagship actions that demonstrate significant progress in as many areas as possible through their OGP action plan or beyond.

Each of the areas has headline actions and reforms that fit within the scope of each Challenge. The [Open Gov Guide](#) includes concrete recommendations, examples of reforms, and international standards and guidance, and can be used as a resource to help reformers meet the Challenge as it covers some (but not all) areas of the Challenge.

THE OPEN GOV CHALLENGE



9.1 Why Participate in the Challenge?

Participating in the Challenge offers OGP members a range of valuable incentives.

- Participants can use the Challenge as a political opportunity to fast track progress on their initiatives, enabling them to achieve their goals more efficiently.
- Reformers gain increased visibility and credibility within their field, enhancing their reputation among peers and stakeholders.
- Participants receive technical and peer assistance from partners specifically engaged to support the Challenge, supplying reformers with the necessary resources and expertise to succeed.
- Participants have opportunities to lead cohorts and engage with peers also participating in the Challenge, fostering leadership skills and collaborative networks on more ambitious actions.
- Reformers receive recognition in the form of awards designed for Challenge participants and are spotlighted through various communications and events, acknowledging their contributions and accomplishments.

9.2 Participation Requirements

Any public sector institution across all branches and levels of government of an OGP member country can participate in the Challenge. Where more than one public institution in an OGP member wishes to participate in a specific Challenge area, the OGP Support Unit will aim to facilitate coordination between the actors. Civil society and other partners are strongly encouraged to co-create and support a Challenge, but the Challenge must be owned and implemented by a public sector institution.

Members can participate by:

- Co-creating relevant commitments in OGP action plans, or
- Submitting a standalone action/commitment, independent of the OGP action plan. For example, this is when an opportunity arises outside of the action plan cycle, or institutions that are not (yet) part of a domestic MSF wish to make a submission.

These are not mutually exclusive options. Members can participate in more than one of the above concurrently. OGP encourages members and non-members to share stories about their work on Challenge areas for inspirational and communication purposes. These stories will not be formally assessed but can help promote the Challenge.

9.3 Eligibility of Challenge Commitments

Actions or commitments that meet all of the following criteria.

- **Thematic relevance.** The action must aim to advance the goals of a Challenge area. Members are encouraged to submit ambitious commitments that are possible game changers for practices, policies, or institutions that govern a policy area, public sector, or the relationship between citizens and state, and/or generate binding and/or institutionalized changes across government. Ambitious commitments may also be pioneering actions within the Challenge areas that no one else or very few members in the Partnership are addressing.
- **Future-oriented.** The action must be ongoing or planned, with future milestones. To be future-oriented, submitted commitments must include verifiable reforms that are yet to be implemented at the time of submission.
- **Open government relevance.** The action must be relevant to at least one open government principle—transparency, public accountability, or civic participation.
- **Government-led.** The action must be led by a public sector institution from any branch or level of government of an OGP member. Collaboration with civil society in the design, implementation, and/or evaluation of actions is strongly encouraged.

9.4 Submission Rules

Rules will depend on the mechanism through which members submit a Challenge.

- **Commitments included in action plans** will by default follow the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards (see [OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards](#)), and reporting requirements (see [Ensuring Accountability and Learning through the Independent Reporting Mechanism](#)). Submissions through action plans will be reviewed by the IRM using the methodology for assessing action plans.
 - OGP commitment templates have been modified to enable members to flag commitments as entries for the Challenge.
 - Commitments included in action plans will follow the regular action plan timelines. Members that have already submitted their action plans may use the window for amending their action plans for adding “challenge commitments” within the prescribed time frame for these.

- **Standalone actions or commitments** may be submitted at any time, through the standalone commitments form (available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [French](#)). For standalone commitments and awards entries, the submissions must meet the eligibility criteria of the Challenge. For these, collaboration with civil society in the design, implementation, and/or evaluation of actions is strongly encouraged and expected.
 - The mid-term and end-term review of the Challenge, conducted by the IRM, will take into account information available at the time of conducting those reviews.

To find out more about the Challenge, including the process to include commitments in action plans and more, please visit the [Open Gov Challenge FAQ page](#).