

Tool 3

Youth-Friendly OGP Glossary

Open government creates real opportunities for young people to move from observers to active contributors—but only if they understand how the process works.

Use this glossary to explain key OGP terms in plain language, so that young people can navigate the process with confidence, contribute to co-creation, monitor progress, and advocate for commitments that respond to their needs.

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

WHAT IS IT?

A global partnership of governments and civil society organizations working together to make governments more transparent, accountable, participatory, and inclusive.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Young people can use this platform to help influence government decisions and advocate for positive change.

Open government

WHAT IS IT?

A way of governing that encourages transparency, participation, accountability, and collaboration between governments and citizens.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Young people can access information, share ideas, and contribute to decisions that affect their lives.

Multi-stakeholder forum (MSF)

WHAT IS IT?

A group that brings together government and civil society representatives to guide the OGP process in a country.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Youth representatives may participate and ensure young people's priorities are heard.

Action commitment

WHAT IS IT?

A promise made by a government, and developed together with civil society, to deliver a specific reform by a specific date.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Governments can commit to actions that improve opportunities and services for young people.

National action plan

WHAT IS IT?

A package of commitments the government submits to OGP, with a start and end date. Since 2026, this is one option among several: commitments can also be submitted individually or in batches.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Issues important to youth can be included in the action plan in different ways and you can hold them to it.

Co-creation

WHAT IS IT?

A process where government and civil society work together to design commitments.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Youth voices can help shape solutions from the beginning, not just after decisions are made.

Public participation

WHAT IS IT?

The involvement of people in decisions, policies, and public processes that affect them.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Allows young people to contribute ideas, feedback, and solutions to public issues.

Public consultation

WHAT IS IT?

A process where governments seek input from citizens before making decisions or policies.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Young people can share their opinions and help shape policies before they are finalized.

Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM)

WHAT IS IT?

OGP's independent mechanism for assessing how well countries are implementing their commitments.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Helps young people verify whether governments are keeping their promises.

Monitoring and evaluation

WHAT IS IT?

The process of tracking progress, measuring results, and learning what works.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Young people can help assess whether commitments are making a real difference in their community.

Transparency

WHAT IS IT?

Making government information openly available, accessible, and understandable.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Allows young people to learn how decisions are made and how public resources are used.

Accountability

WHAT IS IT?

The responsibility of governments and public officials to explain and justify their actions.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Allows young people to ask questions, monitor progress, and demand that promises are fulfilled.

Inclusion

WHAT IS IT?

Ensuring that different groups of people, especially those often excluded, can participate meaningfully.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Young people from diverse backgrounds can have a voice in public decisions.

Open data

WHAT IS IT?

Public information that is freely available for anyone to access, use, and share.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Young people can use data to understand issues, create projects, advocate for change, or hold leaders accountable.

Adaptation Tip

Customize "What does this mean for young people?" with examples, such as:

- Youth councils or youth advisory boards.
- Opportunities to participate in OGP consultations.
- National action plan commitments related to education, employment, climate action, or digital rights.