

# OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025



#### **CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION	2
PARTNERSHIP IN MOTION: OGP'S BIGGEST WINS AND CHALLENGES IN 2024-25	3
PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE 2023-2028 STRATEGIC GOALS	9
STRATEGIC GOAL 1: Build a growing, committed, and interconnected community of open government	
reformers, activists, and champions	10
OGP Regional Meetings	10
Leadership and training programs on open government	13
STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Make open government central to how all levels and branches of government function	
and deliver on their priorities	14
Country-level action	14
Advancing OGP Local	16
STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Protect and Expand Civic Space	17
Encouraging civic action and cultivating champions	17
How OGP is being used to protect civic space	18
STRATEGIC GOAL 4: Accelerate collective progress on open	
government reforms	19
Open Gov Challenge	19
A Snapshot of Open Gov Challenge Commitments	20
Open Gov Week 2024	21
Advancing thematic priorities	22
STRATEGIC GOAL 5: Become the home of inspirational open governmen innovations, evidence, and stories	nt 24
Communications and knowledge products	24
FUNDRAISING	26
Fit-for-purpose Secretariat	27
BUDGET AND FINANCES	28



Government and civil society stakeholders collaborate on the Philippines' open government roadmap at a high-level roundtable at the OGP Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting. Photo by OGP.

#### INTRODUCTION

2024–2025 was an ambitious year in transition for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) — more than 30 OGP members conducted elections in 2024, a cause for democratic celebration, yet the open government ecosystem faced broader challenges, including a diminished funding landscape, increasing polarization, digital and other threats to elections, and shrinking civic space concerns.

Despite these headwinds, this annual report celebrates the reformers who have persisted in creating change through OGP by shaping policies from the local to the national levels, and in creating strong coalitions for action across sectors. In all of this, the OGP Support Unit (SU) provided the support, connections and platform needed to bring reformers' goals to life.

2024–2025 also served as a transition year for OGP to move toward the full implementation of the 2023–2028 OGP strategy. This annual report summarizes the progress that we, as the Partnership, have made across the OGP 2023-2028 strategy's five key objectives in the past year. The report recognizes the progress made by the members, partners, and OGP Steering Committee that make up the Partnership, and highlights the role of the OGP Secretariat in advancing the ambition of OGP. Specific activities and results from the OGP Secretariat are noted using the framework of the deliverables in their 2024-2025 work plan.

#### **ABOUT OGP**

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) aims to inspire, connect, and enable an ever-growing community of reformers and champions from government and civil society to take action together. Today, the Partnership includes 74 national governments, more than 150 local In the face of pressing global challenges, OGP government forward commitments and actions transparent, inclusive, participatory, through a unique co-creation and is monitored by an in-depth



PARTNERSHIP IN MOTION: OGP'S BIGGEST WINS AND CHALLENGES IN 2024-25



An interactive game played during the OGP Camp at America Abierta. Photo by OGP.

In 2024-25, OGP generated both significant momentum and navigated persistent challenges as we worked to advance the strategic priorities established in its 2023-2028 strategy, revealing both the resilience of the open government movement and the continuing hurdles to meaningful reform. OGP is continually tracking progress on its strategy by collecting partnership-wide data from various sources, including government and civil society stakeholders, IRM, and real-time tracking by the Support Unit. This will be available at the mid-point of the strategy in late 2025.

## IMPACT

#### **INSPIRING AMBITIOUS REFORMS**

95% of OGP countries implemented an OGP action plan in 2024, while 11 countries and 33 subnational members submitted new action plans.

Among commitments submitted and implemented, 40% of all commitments focused on public participation with commitments in digital transformation, inclusion, and open data were also popular.

+ Nearly 100 commitments from 30 OGP Local members marked the second-highest total of annual local commitments in OGP history.

This surge demonstrates accelerating grassroots momentum for open government reform. Beyond commitment volume, OGP saw strong national-local collaboration and scaling of local initiatives across multiple countries, including Ukraine, Morocco, Colombia, the Philippines, and Moldova.

95% of OGP countries implemented an OGP action plan



11 countries
33 local members

Submitted new action plans

# 3 new national members



55
new local members

#### **BUILDING A COALITION OF REFORMERS**

- The Partnership continues to grow, with three new national members (Maldives, Zambia, and Benin) and 55 new local members joining in the last year.
- OGP leveraged political windows of opportunity to drive increased political engagement and meaningful reforms.

In Brazil, Guatemala, Moldova, Malawi, Poland, and Zambia, strategic support from OGP helped governments advance ambitious anti-corruption and public participation initiatives. This indicates how OGP can amplify reform momentum during opportune political transitions.

+ Reformers came together for inspiration, peer learning, and accelerating domestic reforms at three OGP regional meetings in 2024 and 2025.

These convenings brought together nearly 2300 members of the open government community across the Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Africa and the Middle East.

OGP supported capacity-building among the next generation of open government reformers.

Notably, the OGP-led Open Government Leadership Collaborative convened anti-corruption leaders from 11 countries; OGP partnered with four French and Francophone African schools of government to embed open government principles in civil service training; OGP supported an accelerator supporting 20 reformers from government and civil society to scale participatory governance practices; and OGP collaborated with Apolitical to develop an open government course reaching the platform's membership of 250,000 public servants from 160+ countries.



successful Challenge commitments from

governments across national and subnational levels

#### **SPREADING NORMS**

The Open Gov Challenge saw remarkable momentum in its first year, with over 73 successful submissions from 48 governments across national and subnational levels.

Strong political support from government bodies emerged as the primary driver of participation, while OGP's strategic use of regional events created action-forcing moments that spurred commitment development.

OGP strengthened global anti-corruption efforts through strategic engagement in influential international forums.

Notably, OGP contributed to the European Commission's guidance on anti-corruption in key Global Gateway sectors, and shaped the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) Implementation Review Mechanism initiative through strategic participation in six major forums.



The OGP Ministerial Roundtable at the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly. Photo by OGP.



#### MAINSTREAMING OPEN GOVERNMENT

Countries are increasingly using open government approaches and OGP action plans to connect between different levels and branches of government.

Out of the 10 national action plans submitted in 2024, three included commitments from the parliament, four included commitments from the judiciary, and seven included subnational commitments.

OGP members are incorporating open government approaches across government functions, and seeing the benefits of more stable and institutionalized dialogue pathways for government and civil society.

In the Philippines, an executive order established a dedicated project management office for OGP, significantly enhancing implementation capacity. Sierra Leone created an OGP parliamentary caucus that successfully advocated for open government legislation, including a gender equality act incorporating transparency principles. Similarly, the Americas region's strong reform record may reflect the high rate of institutionalized multi-stakeholder forums (MSFs) that provide stable platforms for government-civil society collaboration across electoral cycles.

OGP is equipping partners to scale successful local open government approaches.

Through a partnership with the Council of Europe and the Association of Ukrainian Cities, OGP piloted a 'train-the-trainers' model that will enable Ukrainian local authorities to co-create open government action plans with civil society. This scalable approach demonstrates how OGP can meet growing demand for open government support while building sustainable, locally-owned capacity for replication in other countries.

# tep in to share ir voice will help ction across An intergenerational dialogue on climate change co-organized by UNICEF, Accountability Lab and the Asian Development Bank at the OGP Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting. Photo by OGP.

## CHALLENGES

Shifts in the funding landscape, including reduced bilateral development aid and shifting aid priorities, are significantly affecting OGP's broader ecosystem.

In particular, the freeze and subsequent cessation of the majority of US foreign aid, as well as reductions from other key bilateral aid funders, has reduced resourcing for partners working on open government priorities within OGP countries and at a global level. OGP, through the Steering Committee, is <u>working to support stakeholders</u> by convening community sharing moments and mobilizing financial support to affected actors through <u>emergency response funding</u>, particularly in countries where opportunities may be lost.

Political transitions have challenged the success of open government reforms as 35+ member countries underwent elections in the last year.

This super-year of elections saw several key OGP member countries experience incumbent party losses and resulting institutional changes, which caused implementation delays and reduced commitment to open government. OGP is helping domestic reformers to navigate new political contexts by identifying new champions and sustaining progress where possible.

The state of civic space has been mixed in recent years (as measured by V-Dem).

Outside of OGP, the repression of CSOs has largely worsened. Within OGP priority countries and in the Americas region civic space improved. Overall in 2024-25, there was a slight improvement in the number of civic space commitments across the Partnership (more details under Strategic Goal 3 below).





## STRATEGIC GOAL 1:

Build a growing, committed, and interconnected community of open government reformers, activists, and champions

OGP Support Unit 2023-2024 work plan deliverables:

 Deliverable 3: Build a stronger global ecosystem for open government



Participants of America Abierta, the OGP Americas regional meeting. Photo by OGP.

#### **OGP REGIONAL MEETINGS**

In the past year, OGP and host governments co-hosted three regional meetings, providing valuable opportunities for reformers to connect, inspire each other, and build political support as they work to advance reforms.

AMERICA ABIERTA IN BRAZIL: The Government of Brazil hosted America Abierta in Brasilia from December 3-6, 2024 – a landmark regional gathering that brought together key open government events including the Open Meeting for an Open Region (ABRELATAM), The Latin America and the Caribbean Open Data Conference (CONDATOS), the Brazilian Conference on Data Journalism and Digital Methods (CODA.Br), Brazil Data Week, and the OGP Americas Regional Meeting. This integrated approach created a powerful platform for advancing an array of open government priorities across the region. Highlights of America Abierta included:

- More than 1,200 participants attended the event from across the Americas, including government officials, civil society leaders, journalists, and advocates, who gathered across 50 sessions, workshops, and high-level dialogues.
- OGP's 2023-2028 strategy was advanced through discussions focusing on strengthening democracies, climate resilience, inclusive governance, open justice, and anti-corruption reforms. Special profile was given to countries in the region that submitted ambitious commitments as part of the Open Government Challenge.
- OGP, OECD, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) co-organized a high-level anti-corruption roundtable, bringing together key government, civil society, and donor representatives to align collective goals in fighting corruption. The session emphasized collective action between government, civil society, media, and the private sector, with participants highlighting OGP's role as an effective platform for implementing anti-corruption commitments.



A ministerial roundtable at the OGP Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting. Photo by OGP.

**OGP ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING IN THE PHILIPPINES:** The Government of the Philippines hosted the 2025 OGP Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting in Manila from February 5-7, 2025, providing a crucial platform for regional dialogue and collaboration on open government. Highlights of the regional meeting include:

- ◆ The event was attended by more than 800 government and civil society leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region, creating a valuable in-person opportunity for collaboration to co-create, learn, and improve upon open government reforms
- President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines opened the event with the full cabinet present, reaffirming the country's commitment to open government and calling for solidarity: "Through trust, collaboration, and the belief in the power of our people, we can build a world where every citizen's voice is heard and every government is accountable."
- The meeting marked significant growth for OGP in the region with the welcome of new national members including Maldives and Timor-Leste (2023), as well as 10 new local government members from Armenia, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Maldives, and the Philippines.





Participants and organizers of the OGP Africa and the Middle East Regional meeting. Photo by OGP.

A ministerial roundtable at the regional meeting. Photo by OGP.

## **OGP AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL MEETING IN KENYA:** The Government of Kenya hosted the 2025 OGP Africa and the Middle East Regional Meeting in Nairobi from March 25-27, 2025, in the context of regional challenges such as funding cuts, corruption, and shrinking civic space. With trust in governance at a crossroads, the meeting provided a crucial opportunity for reformers to exchange best practices, foster partnerships, and push for bold action.

- The event brought together 350 reformers, champions from government, civil society, and development partners from across the region. The meeting achieved strong regional representation, with all OGP member countries in the region in attendance through civil society and government leaders, with the exceptions of South Africa (represented only by civil society) and Jordan (represented by civil society and local government).
- OGP's new CEO Aidan Eyakuze and the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya Korir Sing'Oei opened the meeting, underscoring the urgency of strengthening transparency, accountability, and citizen participation across the region.
- The meeting marked an expansion of OGP in the region, with the welcome of new national members Benin and Zambia, as well as 11 local members from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tunisia.
- The OGP Support Unit organized a digital governance-focused side event on 'Implementing the Global Digital Compact', bringing together key government and civil society stakeholders from Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, and Zambia, among others, to explore the implementation of the Global Digital Compact in the region. Participants used the space to workshop what country level reform across digital governance areas would look like, and explore next steps to take towards these goals.

These regional meetings demonstrate OGP's commitment to building a growing, interconnected community of reformers while advancing the key objectives of the 2023-2028 strategy. They serve as critical platforms for sharing experiences, strengthening networks, and generating momentum for ambitious open government reforms. The momentum from these regional gatherings will continue at the OGP Global Summit in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, in October 2025. Governments and civil society were encouraged to use their regional meetings as stepping stones to refine and advance their commitments before showcasing them on the global stage.

#### LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

As part of OGP's 2023-2028 Strategy, the Partnership is equipping open government leaders with the tools they need to succeed and making connections among different parts of the community. In 2024-25, this included the following:



Leaders from civil service training institutions in France, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia, and Senegal gathered alongside OGP in Paris to launch new open government training modules. Photographer unknown.

- ▶ Anti-corruption reform leaders globally convened for OGP's flagship Open Government Leadership Collaborative program, dedicated to building a refreshed and ever-growing coalition of open government leaders spearheading transformative reforms and advancing the open government movement. OGP launched the cohort with support from the EU, and in partnership with Transparency International Lithuania, bringing together government and civil society reformers from Ghana, Nigeria, the Philippines, Colombia, Kenya, Indonesia, Moldava, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia to develop, strengthen, and implement whole-of-government anti-corruption legislation, strategies, and roadmaps through March 2025.
- ▶ OGP collaborated with the prestigious French Public Service National Institute (INSP) and Ecole National d'Administration of Côte D'Ivoire, Tunisia, and Senegal to institutionalize open government principles in public service training programs, with support from Agence Française de Développement and Expertise France. OGP provided strategic and substantive support in creating four new online learning modules on citizen participation, anti-corruption, integrity and access to information to be released in May 2025. By embedding open government principles directly into civil service training institutions, OGP is helping establish sustainable pathways for building capacity among current and future public officials across Francophone Africa.
- ▶ OGP partnered with the Institute of Public Finance and People Powered to launch the Mainstreaming Participation Accelerator, a six-month program supporting 20 reformers from government and civil society to transform pilot participatory initiatives into sustainable democratic practices. Running from March to September 2025, the program provides dedicated mentorship, step-by-step resources including a participation playbook, an in-person workshop, and international peer-learning opportunities to help participants develop strategic action plans for embedding high-quality, inclusive public participation across government sectors and processes.
- ▶ OGP is partnering up with Apolitical to develop a comprehensive open government course for public servants, with support from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office. This collaboration leverages Apolitical's platform, which reaches a quarter of a million public servants from 160+ countries, to expand OGP's educational outreach. The course covers four to five sections including cross-government reforms and deep dives into topics such as procurement and digital transformation, designed to help institutionalize open government practices within public administrations through scalable, practical learning resources. Course content is set to be finalized by June 2025, with an official launch before the end of the year.



## STRATEGIC GOAL 2:

Make open government central to how all levels and branches of government function and deliver on their priorities

OGP Support Unit 2023-2024 work plan deliverables:

Deliverable 1: Deepen country-level action



OGP regional meetings, among other events, provide avenues for country reformers to learn from each other's experiences. Photo by OGP.

#### **COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTION**

- ▶ In 2024, **95% of OGP countries (71/75) implemented an OGP action plan.** 10 new action plans were submitted in 2024, following a near-record year in 2023 with 55 action plan submissions, and reflects OGP's new flexibility allowing for gaps between action plans.
- ▶ The Partnership continues to grow with three new national members Maldives, Zambia, and Benin joining OGP. This growth demonstrates OGP's continued relevance and appeal as a platform for advancing open government reforms globally.
- ▶ **OGP members continued to expand open government across all levels and branches of government** in the last year. Of the 10 national action plans co-created in 2024:



included commitments from the judiciary

included subnational commitments

#### REFORM IN ACTION



Former OGP CEO Sanjay Pradhan met with Dominican Republic Supreme Court President Henry Molina to welcome the judiciary's participation in OGP. Photographer unknown.

## **Engaging the Judiciary with OGP** in Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic's journey to integrate its judiciary into open government reforms exemplifies OGP's strategy to expand open government across all branches of government. OGP began the engagement process by providing guidance through its new action framework and helping connect executive leaders with top judiciary officials, including the Chief Justice. OGP also arranged technical support for this endeavor through a partnership with the International Open Justice Network (RIJA), funded by the Mott Foundation and USAID.

To build momentum, OGP organized a learning exchange with Costa Rica's judiciary so Dominican officials could see open justice reforms in action. Key meetings were set up between judicial leaders and civil society — strong support from the government's OGP representative helped convince judiciary leaders to join the process.

These efforts led to the country's new OGP National Action Plan (2024-2028) that includes three judiciary commitments – the first time courts have formally participated in the country's OGP work. This achievement has positioned the Dominican Republic as an emerging regional leader in open justice, a role that will be highlighted when the country hosts the International Open Justice Convening in August 2025 with OGP's support. The country now demonstrates how OGP can help spread open government across different branches of government, creating better and more lasting reforms.

▶ OGP responded to open windows of political opportunities in a subset of countries, in collaboration with country actors, and partners. Highlights include:

MOLDOVA: OGP strategically capitalized on the momentum generated by Moldova's EU accession process to firmly reestablish OGP on the national agenda. By framing open government reforms as essential components of EU integration requirements, the OGP SU helped Moldovan reformers align their efforts in its 5th action plan with commitments related to public participation relevant to EU accession, monitoring implementation of access to information laws, and ensuring transparency in anti-corruption efforts.



MALAWI: In coordination with donors (USAID, Chandler Foundation) and civil society stakeholders, the OGP SU helped Malawi focus on transparency and anti-corruption efforts in 2024. These efforts culminated in Malawi submitting an anti-corruption challenge commitment in late 2024. During Open Gov Week, the OGP SU encouraged Malawi to showcase its progress, resulting in a public statement of commitment from the Head of State.



**GUATEMALA:** Guatemala made strides in anti-corruption reform in the favorable political climate afforded to the country after President Arévalo's election in 2024. The OGP SU's persistent efforts to prioritize anti-corruption led to the Ministry of Finance and the National Commission Against Corruption submitting a standalone commitment to the Challenge focused on beneficial ownership transparency. This commitment was further strengthened by USAID's strategic support, demonstrating how political transitions can create opportunities for meaningful reform when combined with coordinated technical assistance.



**ZAMBIA**: The participation of Malawi's Deputy Cabinet Secretary in outreach efforts to Zambia created a political opportunity to demonstrate leadership in driving OGP within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. This peer-to-peer engagement between neighboring countries exemplifies how countries already implementing reforms can become ambassadors for open government principles across their regions, expanding OGP's reach through regional influence and leadership.





The Local Leaders Roundtable at the OGP Africa and the Middle East Regional Meeting. Photo by OGP.

#### **ADVANCING OGP LOCAL**

- ▶ **OGP welcomed 55 new members to its Local program in 2024,** with all existing members recommitting to stay in the program following local elections, demonstrating the durability and value of open government at the local level.
- ▶ A new OGP Local Co-Creation Playbook was published in three languages, providing a comprehensive resource with guidance, examples, templates, and practical advice for effective co-creation processes tailored to local contexts.
- ▶ **OGP strengthened local capacity through intensive training,** including a four-week virtual onboarding program for over 200 government Points of Contact and civil society representatives, and a webinar series exploring five thematic priorities with more than 100 participants.
- ▶ **24 new local action plans were submitted** (12 from new members and 12 from existing members), with approximately 40 more expected in the coming months.
- ▶ **OGP expanded strategic partnerships for local impact,** working with partners such as People Powered and Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team to provide direct financial and technical support to 29 local members, enhancing their capacity to implement ambitious reforms.
- ▶ **OGP fostered peer learning and community building** through "Coffee Conversations," nurturing national and regional networks, and bringing members together at regional events including the EAP Regional Meeting and América Abierta.
- ▶ National-local collaboration was strengthened, including piloting the first Training of Trainers program with the Association of Ukrainian Cities in partnership with the Council of Europe, and supporting the Philippines' ambitious localization plan to assess 119 local government units across 17 regions in 2025.



## STRATEGIC GOAL 3:

Protect and Expand Civic Space

OGP Support Unit 2023-2024 work plan deliverables:

- Deliverable 4:
   Advance ambition, implementation, and leadership on thematic priorities
- Deliverable 3:
   Deepen countrylevel action



An interactive game played during the OGP Camp at America Abierta. Photo by OGP.

#### **ENCOURAGING CIVIC ACTION AND CULTIVATING CHAMPIONS**

**2024-25** saw a slight improvement in the number of civic space commitments across the Partnership as compared to previous years, with approximately one-third of OGP countries now implementing civic space commitments. This growth has been primarily driven by increased commitments around freedom of association and expression, with several countries focusing specifically on funding mechanisms for civil society organizations.

Despite this positive trend, the percentage of OGP countries passing the Open Government values check has declined over time, mirroring similar declines in non-OGP countries. The super-year of elections has brought both opportunities and challenges. With more than 30 OGP members conducting elections, political transitions are creating windows for civic space reforms in some contexts, while threatening regression in others. Early evidence suggests that the value of the OGP platform itself, improvements in the quality of dialogue as measured by MSFs, and reasoned responses can help expand civic space, though this pattern requires further research.

#### HOW OGP IS BEING USED TO PROTECT CIVIC SPACE



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

#### NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE STRATEGY

Dominican Republic pioneered a comprehensive national civic space strategy through its action plan, quaranteeing rights to assembly, association, and expression. This strategy has been submitted to the Open Gov Challenge and represents a promising model to support the framework for a free and vibrant civil society. Led by the country's General Directorate of Ethics and Governmental Integrity (DIGEIG), this strategy is a first in the country, and aims to transform citizen participation through robust spaces that strengthen democracy. The initiative follows a comprehensive co-creation process, including public consultations and stakeholder feedback on multiple draft versions.



#### **BRAZIL**

#### MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUMS AS PROTECTED DIALOGUE SPACES

Brazil has emerged as a case study of how OGP's multi-stakeholder forum (MSF) can provide a protected space for government-civil society dialogue even during challenging political periods. IRM research on country journeys reveals that the OGP platform has helped build a resilient shared framework for open government collaboration between government and civil society in Brazil. The MSF created a centralized coordination space that persisted even during the more restrictive Bolsonaro administration, with progress continuing at local and state levels despite federal-level democratic backsliding.



#### **PHILIPPINES**

#### OGP AS A TECHNICAL PLATFORM

During its previous administration, civil society and government champions in the Philippines strategically framed OGP as a 'technical/innovation space' to advance reforms like open contracting during periods where civic space has become more restricted in the country. This deliberately apolitical framing and approach helped to avoid drawing negative political attention while still maintaining progress on open governance in engagement with civil society. An independent evaluation of OGP by Oxford Policy Management in 2022 found that the OGP platform had become one of the few remaining 'safe spaces' for civil society dialogue with government amidst closing civic space.



#### **MEXICO**

#### OGP'S RESPONSE POLICY PROCESS PROMPTING ACTION

In 2017, Mexican civil society groups discovered illegal government surveillance targeting them, including by collaborators on the national OGP process. Frustrated by the government's non-response, these groups withdrew from OGP entirely. When initial diplomatic efforts failed, they invoked OGP's Response Policy for addressing violations of open government principles. The Response Policy validated the surveillance allegations and worked with Mexico's new administration on solutions, which resulted in Mexico adding a commitment to its action plan to end illegal surveillance of civil society and create proper oversight mechanisms.



## STRATEGIC GOAL 4:

Accelerate collective progress on open government reforms

OGP Support Unit 2023-2024 work plan deliverables:

- Deliverable 2:
   Advance ambition, implementation, and leadership on thematic priorities
- Deliverable 1: Deepen country



Participants of America Abierta gather by the Open Gov Challenge banner. Photo by OGP.

#### **OPEN GOV CHALLENGE**

- ▶ As of March 2025, 73 commitments have been successfully submitted to the Challenge by 24 national members and 24 local jurisdictions (member and non-member). All challenges are captured in the Open Gov Challenge Tracker.
- ▶ Anti-corruption is the most popular Challenge area with 20 commitments made thus far, followed by public participation with 14 commitments, and justice with 9 commitments.
- ▶ About half of all submissions come from the Americas region, with a surge in submissions following America Abierta in the last quarter of the year. While submissions are slowly coming in from other regions, submissions from the Americas still dominate.
- ▶ New actors are engaging OGP through the Challenge framework, with 8 new local members successfully making commitments.
- ▶ Strong political support from government bodies has been identified as a top enabling factor for Challenge submissions.
- ▶ Events appear to be drivers of Challenge submissions, with the highest number of submissions coinciding with engagements such as the Open Gov Week or regional meetings.

IN THE AMERICAS	Reformers are making challenge commitments in anti-corruption, public participation, and justice. The Americas have made more Challenge commitments than any other region so far.
IN EUROPE	Reformers are making Challenge commitments in public participation, anti-corruption, and access to information. Europe has made more access to Information commitments than any other region.
IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST	Reformers are making challenge commitments in climate and public participation. It was the first region to make at least one commitment across every challenge area.
IN ASIA	Reformers are making challenge commitments in anti corruption and fiscal openness. Almost two-thirds of commitments in the region come from local jurisdictions.

#### A SNAPSHOT OF OPEN GOV CHALLENGE COMMITMENTS



### COLOMBIA: OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE COURT RULINGS

2023-2025

This commitment aims to ensure the public can understand what the Constitutional Court does and how its rulings can help protect their rights. Thus, the Judiciary aims to increase the public's understanding of the court's work, especially for youth and Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities.



## **GHANA:** COMBATING MISINFORMATION & DISINFORMATION

2024-2028

In Ghana, digital platforms have been increasingly misused to spread misinformation and disinformation, threatening to undermine democracy. To address this, the government will collaborate with civil society to conduct a human rights assessment of existing legislation on misinformation and disinformation while protecting free speech, alongside fact-checking, media literacy, and public education initiatives.



## MOLDOVA: INCREASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

2023-2025

Moldova wants to increase the quality of consultations with the public, especially civil society representatives, by institutionalizing public participation in policy-making. The government committed to establishing and enhancing permanent consultation spaces for the public to provide feedback on issues in the public interest and revamp the e-consultation portal.



#### **QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO:**

### CO-CREATE AN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE PLAN

2023-2025

Quintana Roo does not currently have territorial or ecological planning programs, which make it more difficult to implement a plan for sustainable development in the state. To fill this gap, the government will co-create an environmental governance plan with citizens as part of its long-term sustainable development strategy.



## REPUBLIC OF KOREA: EXPAND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS AND SUPPORT 2023-2027

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of Korea has five different laws that govern anti-corruption, each with different protections for those reporting violations. The government committed to amending its current legal framework to ensure consistency in the financial support and protections that whistleblowers receive and to expand the list of violations that fall under the category of public interest whistleblowing. This commitment also includes outreach to explain these legal changes and the publication of data on whistleblowing cases.



Open Gov Week activities in Cabo Verde, South Korea, and Chile. Photographers unknown.

#### **OPEN GOV WEEK 2024**

The OGP Support Unit accelerated and platformed reform progress, and especially on the Open Government Challenge, through its annual Open Gov Week (OGW) in May 2024. This year's OGW saw over 370 events held by members from across 70 countries, bringing together government officials, civil society, experts and citizens to advance open government initiatives through public debates, assemblies, hackathons, webinars, and sharing stories and good practices. Among them, tackling corruption, governing new and emerging technologies, expanding public participation, and guarding civic space were the most popular themes. Highlights include:

- ▶ Malawi's President Lazarus Chakwera kicked off OGW activities in the country through a national speech, highlighting the platform it provides for government and stakeholders to reflect on ways they can collectively combat corruption and continue to promote access to information, while ensuring meaningful collaboration among stakeholders. Notably, he stated that "OGP has been a beacon of hope in fostering collaboration among citizens, civil society, and the government."
- ▶ In Assinie, Côte d'Ivoire, civil society and anti-corruption institutions from **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Senegal and Morocco** met to exchange experiences and ideas to enhance collaboration to fight against corruption. As a collective action, they agreed to launch a subregional working group for peer learning on various themes such as asset declaration, whistleblower protection, and illicit enrichment.
- ▶ Vinnystia, Ukraine trained representatives of civil society institutions and citizens on the implementation of the right to access public information. The Ukrainian Platform for National-Local Dialogue recognized eleven Ukrainian communities for their exceptional implementation of youth participation, development of civic hubs, and citizen engagement in Ukraine's recovery.
- ▶ In **Mexico**, OGP, Espacio Nativo and the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (INAI) hosted an open dialogue with civil society and government stakeholders to reflect on the 10 years of openness in Mexico since the constitutional reform of 2014 and what champions can do to contribute to Mexico's open government future, both at the national and local levels.
- ▶ The Mayor of **Quezon City, Philippines** joined the event organized by the Philippines OGP and the Department of Budget and management to discuss various initiatives to promote transparency, inclusion and accountability.

#### **ADVANCING THEMATIC PRIORITIES**

Over the past year, OGP members have deepened country and local action and participated in peer learning on the thematic priorities identified in the Strategy, with the support of OGP thematic partners and funders. Below are highlights on thematic progress:

➤ Over the past year, 100% of OGP national members received OGP SU/IRM support in the form of peer exchanges, technical support, or brokered financial support. Among these, 65 countries participated in at least one peer exchange; all 76 countries received technical support; and 13 countries received brokered financial support. These support mechanisms were facilitated for various purposes such as supporting onboarding, action plan co-creation and implementation; building CSO coalitions; orienting members to the Open Gov Challenge; political re-engagement; and national-local collaboration, among others.



OGP regional meetings bring together government and civil society champions to collaborate on advancing open government areas across their countries. Photo by OGP.

- ▶ OGP and the OECD jointly established the Open Government Strategies Network, following preparatory meetings at the 2023 OGP Global Summit and regional meetings in Brasilia, Manila, and Nairobi. The network will bring together representatives from OGP member countries that have adopted, are in the process of developing, or are exploring the development of national open government strategies and will offer a space to support a more strategic, comprehensive, and long-term approach to open government. Its first meeting will take place on 12 June 2025.
- ▶ OGP is deepening its commitment to climate and environment as a growing priority area of open government reform. Climate and environment has been a fast growing policy area among OGP countries, with 41% of members making commitments on the theme in 2024. In 2024, a new grant from the KR Foundation reinforced this interest and is enabling OGP to address the critical challenge of creating an even playing field for policy development towards a just, inclusive, and transparent energy transition. This work specifically targets limiting the undue influence of the fossil fuel industry on policy processes, connecting the dots where reformers are doing this important work with OGP's proven multistakeholder model to translate advocacy into policy. This work complements ongoing initiatives including the OGP Local Circle on Climate Action, partnerships with organizations working to protect environmental defenders' rights, and the Open Gov Challenge on climate and environment, positioning climate action as an increasingly important element of open government reform globally.
- ▶ OGP is driving domestic momentum on digital governance-related commitments, a growing area of interest among OGP members with dedicated focus in the past two years via a Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) grant supporting the inclusive and responsible governance of digital technology. Digital governance remains one of the fastest growing topics in OGP, with 40 percent of national action plans containing a digital governance commitment. Significant progress is evident in several countries, including the Dominican Republic's development of a comprehensive National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence within their 6th action plan, Ghana's work on developing a national strategy to combat disinformation, and Kenya's ambitious digital transformation commitment. Given renewed capacity and interest, OGP re-established the Open Algorithms Network in January 2025, which is composed of 25 civil servants from 12 countries, and builds on the work of the original community to provide space for peer learning and discussions on developments in the use and governance of algorithmic technologies and automated decision-making as they pertain to potential or existing OGP commitments.

▶ OGP continued to mainstream gender and inclusion as a key priority and cross-cutting component of open government. Widespread interest from OGP members and dedicated support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and several core support donors has helped to position gender and inclusion as the third most popular thematic area for OGP commitments, with nearly 60% of OGP countries with an active action plan currently implementing a gender-related commitment. In 2024, with support from IDRC, OGP advanced gender-focused reforms in intersectional ways across gender-responsive justice, gender-sensitive budgeting, online gender-based violence, and inclusive civic space. OGP also integrated gender perspectives throughout the Open Gov Guide, offering gendered examples and dimensions across thematic areas such as beneficial ownership, automated decision-making, open budgets, and access to justice, with dedicated chapters on gender-based violence and open gender data. This mainstreaming approach has successfully positioned gender and inclusion not only as a standalone priority but as an essential lens for all open government reforms.



Donor representatives gather for a roundtable discussion at the regional meeting in Kenya. Photo by OGP.

▶ OGP is continuing to drive progress in anti-corruption, both at a country and global level. Anti-corruption remains consistently the most popular and impactful area for OGP commitments, with nearly 50% of OGP members having an anti-corruption commitment in 2024. With support from key donors such as the EU through grants with Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and a renewal of the Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST for the Eastern Partnership region) grant, OGP members are mainstreaming key financial transparency and integrity policies, particularly open contracting and beneficial ownership transparency.

OGP also continued to shape anti-corruption norms at influential anti-corruption and democracy fora in 2024, including at the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, the International Anti-Corruption Conference, the UNCAC Implementation Review Group meeting, the Africa Beneficial Ownership Transparency Network, and the Team Europe for Democracy Network. This yielded notable outcomes such as OGP's convenor and advocacy role at the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) culminating in more than 60 country signatories to strengthen the UNCAC's Implementation Review Mechanism with more transparency and civil society participation; contributing to EU DG INTPA guidelines on anti-corruption for EU delegations; convening high-level actors to catalyze action on beneficial ownership transparency; and developing a comprehensive proposal to support the future of the Summit for Democracy. USAID funding cuts in 2025 may impact the scope and scale of OGP's anti-corruption work in several key regions. Despite these challenges, the long-standing collaboration with donors and partners continues to be vital in supporting members adopting and implementing anti-corruption commitments.

OGP has solidified justice as a core open government theme and as a key intersectional area for commitments. Justice is the fourth most popular policy area among OGP commitments, with members increasingly using the OGP platform to advance reforms that make justice systems more transparent, accessible, and responsive to citizens. A notable trend is the growing engagement of judiciaries in leading these reforms, expanding OGP's reach beyond executive branches and deepening the "Open State" approach highlighted in OGP's strategy. With support from the Charles S. Mott Foundation and strategic partnerships with organizations such as the International Open Justice Network (RIJA), OGP has helped connect reformers across borders and build momentum for ambitious justice initiatives. At regional and international forums, OGP has positioned justice as central to democratic resilience and effective governance, creating new opportunities for collaborative reform.



#### STRATEGIC GOAL 5:

Become the home of inspirational open government innovations, evidence, and stories

 Deliverable 3: Build a stronger global ecosystem for open government

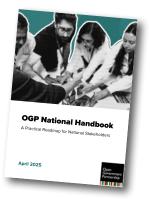


Open Gov Challenge certificates were awarded to successful submissions at the OGP Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting. Photo by OGP.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS**

In 2024-25, OGP significantly expanded its range of resources, tools, and platforms, producing more than 200 pieces of content to showcase the Partnership's work and support reformers worldwide. From <u>stylized social media cards</u> and <u>insightful blogs</u> to <u>compelling written stories</u>, <u>engaging videos</u>, <u>interviews</u>, <u>audiograms</u>, and valuable publications, OGP leveraged a number of formats to broaden its reach and deepen engagement. Key communications and knowledge products released during this period include:

- ▶ The OGP National Handbook was revamped into a more user-friendly and streamlined resource, now available as a fully online version for the first time. The new Handbook brings together everything OGP country stakeholders need to know about participating in OGP, with clearer rules and guidance for each part of the process. It also expands the Action Framework with distinct participation pathways and requirements for judicial branch institutions and national autonomous institutions, offers enhanced guidance on cocreation and action plan development, and outlines National OGP Point of Contact responsibilities in a more accessible and detailed format.
- ▶ The Open Gov Challenge Tracker, a new public repository was created to track eligible commitments to the Open Gov Challenge. This tracker serves as a transparent accountability mechanism for monitoring progress across member countries and local jurisdictions, helping to inspire action and facilitate peer learning among reformers. The tracker showcases country and local commitments across the ten Challenge areas, allowing users to filter by region, implementation status, and thematic focus.









- ▶ The Open Gov Guide was significantly expanded in 2024-25 as a comprehensive "how-to" resource for applying open government principles to real-world challenges. The guide provides concrete recommendations, examples of successful reforms, and international standards and guidance for reformers working on OGP action plans, Challenge commitments, or open government initiatives more broadly, drawing on the collective expertise and experience of reformers worldwide. With support from OGP's partners, the guide was enhanced with new chapters including disinformation and information integrity, public debt transparency, political finance regulations, company beneficial ownership requirements, open election data, and more.
- ▶ Open Government Journeys is a new series documenting long-term reform stories from OGP's oldest members. While an individual commitment in an OGP action plan can show a snapshot of progress, it does not tell the whole story. In this series, the IRM explores the challenges, major achievements, and the future of open government in some of OGP's longest members to tell that story. Understanding the steps it takes to shift the status quo to more transparent, accountable, and responsive governance holds lessons for all reformers looking to apply open government principles to real-world challenges. Brazil's Open Government Journey was launched at América Abierta, highlighting improvements in access to information, environmental policies, and multilevel government engagement, while the Philippines' Open Government Journey showcased fiscal openness innovations and extractives sector transparency.
- ▶ OGP Horizons was launched by OGP in 2024 as a series exploring cutting-edge topics in open government and capturing innovations from around the world. This forward-looking content initiative examines how open government approaches can address emerging challenges that require collaborative solutions beyond government alone. The series covers diverse topics such as the impact of artificial intelligence on the right to information; transparency mechanisms that can improve global supply chains; public participation as a tool to accelerate climate action; and government oversight of money laundering and kleptocracy, among others.
- ▶ Alearning report from phase 1 of the EU for Integrity program, which demonstrates the impact of targeted regional open government programming. The report shows how dedicated support enabled greater government ownership through better alignment of reforms across national and regional instruments, strengthened government-civil society dialogue in nearly all countries, and increased action plan ambition in Armenia and Ukraine. The program also engaged civil society by supporting 18 out of 19 first-time CSO grantees and fostering cross-country networks among reformers. These findings provide valuable evidence for donors on effective approaches to scaling open government impact regionally.
- ▶ The Summit for Democracy (S4D) Commitment Tracker was launched to monitor progress on S4D pledges embedded in OGP action plans. This tool addresses a critical accountability gap by tracking the implementation of democratic commitments made at the global level and how they translate to domestic policies. The tracker currently monitors 54 Summit pledges that have been translated into 43 OGP commitments across 16 OGP countries.
- ▶ The IRM supported members with 87 total products between January 2024 and March 2025 including 43 Action Plan Reviews, 23 Results Reports, and 17 Co-Creation Briefs. Two new products were introduced in this period: the IRM Midterm Review, which evaluates progress halfway through four-year OGP action plans, and Country Journeys, as noted above. The IRM also updated comprehensive reference materials including a new Handbook for researchers and an updated Procedures Manual, strengthening the accountability arm's capacity to support learning and implementation across the Partnership.

#### OGP Support Unit Financial Resilience and Organizational Health

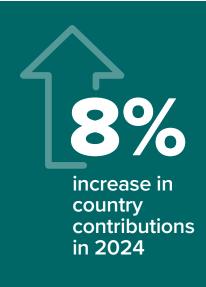
OGP SU 2024-25 work plan deliverables::

 Deliverable 4: Strengthen the financial resilience and organizational health of the OGP secretariat

#### **FUNDRAISING**

In 2024-25, OGP continued its efforts to strengthen financial resilience and sustainability, building on the progress made in 2023-24. Through strategic fundraising initiatives, prudent financial management, and continued engagement with member countries, the OGP SU has built a good foundation to support the implementation of the 2023- 2028 strategy. Additionally, enabling the OGP Secretariat to enter the new 2025-26 fiscal year with a healthy financial position, fit to withstand the funding shifts experienced in the first few months of 2025.

- ▶ The OGP SU has successfully achieved its target of maintaining a six-month operational reserve. This substantial buffer provides critical stability for the organization, allowing for strategic planning and helping the organization to navigate the financial turbulence from confirmed and anticipated reductions in aid spending from the US, the UK, and other bilateral donors.
- ▶ The OGP SU met its target of securing new funding within the fiscal year through several new and renewed agreements with key partners including DG ENEST, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, FCDO, the KR Foundation, and International IDEA. These renewed or new funding streams have strengthened the organization's financial position and support implementation of strategic priorities while allowing OGP to respond to emerging opportunities. The OGP SU continues to navigate a shifting funding landscape while aligning grant deliverables with its core mandate and strategic priorities.



#### **Country Contributions**

Country contributions remain a critical component of OGP's financial sustainability strategy. In 2024, which saw the first phase of contribution level increases approved by the OGP Steering Committee, country contributions reached \$3,128,288 coming from 38 countries, representing an 8% increase from 2023 (\$2,890,497). Three of these countries were first-time contributors: Malta, Dominican Republic and Lithuania. A matching grant by the Hewlett Foundation catalyzed this momentum by incentivizing new and increased contributions. Overall, the 2024 contributions fundraising target of \$2.9M USD was exceeded, with a second and final phase of increases planned for 2025. As critical core support, these contributions enable OGP to respond dynamically to evolving member and community needs while maintaining operational flexibility.



The OGP Support Unit at the 2023 OGP Global Summit in Estonia. Photo by Ardo Kaljuvee, Karli Saul and Mihkel Leis.

#### FIT-FOR-PURPOSE SECRETARIAT

- ▶ In 2024, OGP completed groundwork for significant organizational restructuring to better align with the 2023-28 strategy implementation, including finalizing new team structures and functions, and establishing more equitable and efficient processes.
- ► Following former Chief Executive Officer Sanjay Pradhan's announcement of his departure from OGP in mid-2024, OGP conducted an extensive recruitment process that resulted in the <u>appointment of Aidan Eyakuze as the new CEO</u>. To ensure organizational continuity during this transition, OGP put in place a new management structure with additions to the senior leadership team, and an interim CEO until Aidan assumed leadership in March 2025.
- ▶ The OGP SU also enhanced its people management practices by conducting a comprehensive review of its global compensation framework, implementing a new leadership and management structure, and launching a Staff Advisory Group to provide valuable insights on cross-organizational initiatives. Additionally, OGP strengthened its cybersecurity infrastructure, with quarterly training programs leading to a 50% reduction in security vulnerabilities.
- ▶ Looking ahead, the OGP SU will continue enhancing its fit-for-purpose organizational structure, with a focus on further developing staff capabilities and improving team coordination. A key focus will be scenario planning and risk mitigation to confront the funding shifts.

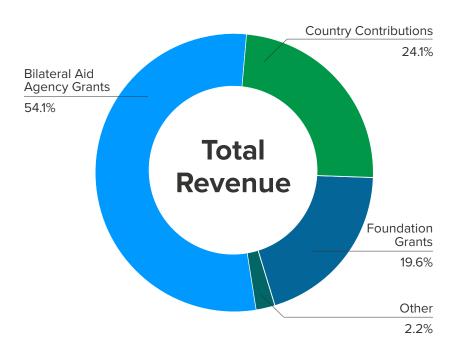


## **BUDGET AND FINANCES**

#### Revenue

All of OGP's budgets, audit reports, and other financial information are available online. All figures below are in US dollars.

Revenue	Budget	Actual
Bilateral Aid Agency Grants	\$7,121,289	\$6,828,581
Country Contributions	\$2,900,000	\$3,044,433
Foundation Grants	\$2,443,333	\$2,466,733
Other	\$547,326	\$272,343
TOTAL	\$13,011,948	\$12,612,090



#### FY 2024-25 Funders

#### **Bilateral/Multilateral Support**

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)

European Commission - Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

International Development Research Center (IDRC)

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

World Bank - Multi-Donor Trust Fund

Contributions from 36 national member governments

#### **Foundation Grants**

Charles S. Mott Foundation

Ford Foundation

Luminate

Open Society Foundations

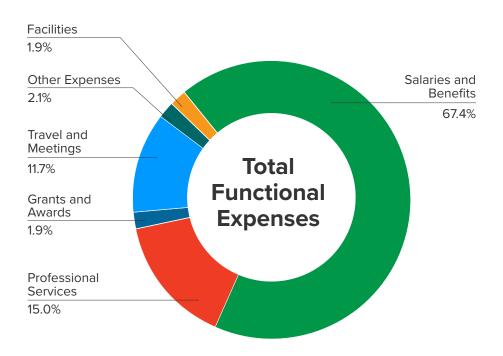
Packard Foundation

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

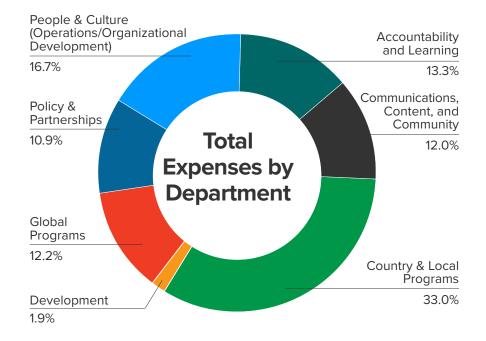
**KR** Foundation

#### **Expenses**

Functional Expenses	Actual
Salaries and Benefits	\$8,262,350
Professional Services	\$1,832,843
Facilities	\$227,462
Travel and Meetings	\$1,439,771
Grants and Awards	\$238,874
Other Expenses	\$257,617
Depreciation	\$0
TOTAL	\$12,258,917.00



Expenses by Department	Actual
Accountability and Learning	\$1,630,322
Analytics & Insights	
Communications, Content, and Community	\$1,472,320
Country & Local Programs	\$4,041,004
Development	\$233,974
Global Programs	\$1,498,775
Policy & Partnerships	\$1,340,014
People & Culture (Operations/ Organizational Development)	\$2,042,508
TOTAL	\$12,258,917.0



<sup>\*</sup>excludes JustSystems for 769,306

## **ENGAGE WITH US**

- Join us for an event.
- Stay up to date on OGP news through the monthly OGP newsletter. (Available in Spanish and English)
- Partner with us and join OGP coalitions.
- Follow us on social media:







