Open
Government
Partnership

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Open Government Partnership

2013 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Open Government Partnership was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. Since then, OGP has grown from 8 countries to the 63 participating countries. In all of these countries, government and civil society are working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) continued to grow in 2013, but just as importantly took steps to strengthen institutionally in order to support meaningful open government reforms in participating countries. In April, the OGP Steering Committee agreed on a two-year strategy that includes the following strategic priorities: 1) Enable country-level success; 2) Ensure accountability for results; and 3) Build the infrastructure to deliver. Over the course of the year, OGP made significant progress on all three of these objectives.

To help enable country-level success, the Support Unit increased its capacity to provide direct, targeted support to domestic reformers in OGP countries. An initial step was the introduction of a cloud-based contact relationship management system to track developments in all OGP countries. Over the course of the year, OGP developed and launched four multilateral partnerships to improve coordination and increase access to technical support for OGP countries. In addition, the Support Unit worked with numerous government and civil society partners to set up five thematic working groups on key open government issues. These efforts culminated in the exciting – and refreshingly unscripted – OGP London Summit (October 31 – November 1). With over 1,500 participants from more than 100 countries, the Summit showcased a

huge amount of enthusiasm, innovation, and political will to build and sustain momentum on open government reforms around the world.

To ensure accountability for results, OGP now has a fully operational Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM). In 2013, the IRM made huge strides in building a team, developing a research method, hiring and training local researchers, and producing the first round of progress reports for the founding 8 OGP countries. As expected, not everyone was happy with the IRM's findings, but few now question that the IRM is serious about holding participating countries accountable for results. That said, a big lesson learned for OGP moving forward is that the IRM's role in facilitating learning and continuous improvement is just as important as its accountability function. When the IRM shares lessons learned in real-time with the Support Unit, we are able to provide smarter guidance to participating countries on how to draft better action plans. The next step is to work on wider dissemination and more uptake of the IRM findings by both governments and civil society.

In terms of building the infrastructure to deliver, OGP significantly increased its online visibility and accessibility through the complete overhaul of our website. We were able to launch the new website approximately 2 weeks before the London Summit, complete with an interactive Summit sub-site that featured live-streaming of numerous sessions. By the end 2013, OGP was in a much better financial position, having secured financial contributions from 8 of the 9 government Steering Committee members, as well as from four private foundations. As a result, the Support Unit has been able to hire several additional staff people to fill key roles: a Program Manager for Direct Country Support, a Program Manager for Peer Exchange, and a Program Officer for Learning and Impact. With these positions now filled, we are optimistic about our capacity to provide much better support to the OGP membership in the years to come. The IRM also added two additional full-time staff, which was absolutely critical in order to prepare for the crunch of producing 35 progress reports in early 2014.

" *With over 1,500 participants from more than 100 countries, the Summit showcased a huge amount of enthusiasm, innovation, and political will to build and sustain momentum on open government reforms around the world.*

Open Government Partnership

2013 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

OGP COUNTRIES IN 2013

At the start of 2013, 58 countries were participating in OGP. Forty-seven of those countries were implementing action plans and another 11 were developing their first action plans. Over the course of the year, five more countries submitted a Letter of Intent to join OGP (Australia, Malawi, Ireland, New Zealand and Sierra Leone). One country, Russia, withdrew its previous commitment to join OGP. This left 62 countries officially participating in OGP at the end of 2013. Several countries (Cote D'Ivoire, Myanmar, Senegal and Tunisia) that are not yet eligible to join OGP announced plans to join once they cross the eligibility threshold. OGP staff joined meetings with government officials from each of these countries to discuss specific steps each country would need to take to meet OGP's eligibility requirements.

Sixteen countries developed new OGP action plans in 2013 and posted them on OGP's website. The seven countries that joined in the second half of 2012 (Cohort 3) presented their first OGP action plan at a meeting in London in April and received feedback from Steering Committee members. The eight founding OGP countries (Cohort 1) presented their second action plans at the OGP Summit in October, following consultation with civil society and a self-assessment process. Unfortunately, the timing for the founding eight countries meant that most of them did not receive their IRM progress reports in time to inform their second OGP action plan. In the future, IRM reports will be published in time to feed into the action plan development process.

Nonetheless, in some cases countries did seem to incorporate IRM recommendations. In the United States, the IRM's recommendation to develop a means of addressing 'over-classification' is reflected in a new commitment to develop a national security information panel. In South Africa, several of the IRM's recommendations seem to have influenced commitments in the new action plan, including: "Introducing a Public Service Code of Ethics" and "Introducing an Environmental Information Portal." In both the UK and Norway, there were significant improvements in the civil society consultation process between the first and second OGP action plans.

In October, 32 of the Cohort 2 countries (those that joined in early 2012) completed self-assessment reports on their first action plans. The findings from this process and their IRM progress reports, which will be published in early 2014, will inform the development of their second action plans, which are due in June 2014.

OGP BY NUMBERS IN 2013

16 countries developed almost 300 new open government commitments as part of their OGP action plans

OGP's website had a total of **161,056** unique visitors, an increase of **39%** from 2012

Over **1500** participants from **108** different countries participated in the London Summit

OGP launched partnerships with 4 multilateral institutions (World Bank, UNDP, OECD and IDB)

OGP's social media following grew from **9,519** to **20,437** (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube)

OGP launched **5** new thematic working groups

The London Summit hashtag, #OGP13, trended on Twitter in the UK on October 31st, and a Thunderclap reached a potential audience of **5.5 million** people

OGP's blog views increased from 38,124 in 2012 to 104,824 in 2013, with 201 authors now having contributed to the blog

The Independent Reporting Mechanism posted its first **8** progress reports for the founding OGP countries, reviewing their progress on **175** OGP commitments

3 Heads of State, **1** Deputy Head of State, and over **30** Ministers attended the London Summit

OGP co-hosted **2** regional meetings (Latin America and Africa), which attracted over **500** participants from **36** countries

OGP received **142** session proposals from the open government community for the London Summit

5 new countries joined OGP

Open Government Partnership

2013 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

THE INDEPENDENT REPORTING MECHANISM

The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) produces a publicly available, biannual progress report for each OGP participating country. These reports provide an objective assessment of the development and implementation of each country's OGP action plan as well as its progress in advancing open government principles. The reports conclude with technical recommendations for improvements in an effort to stimulate dialogue at the country-level between government and civil society stakeholders.

At the beginning of 2013 the IRM consisted of one staff person (the IRM Program Manager) and a concept note. By the end of the year, the IRM was fully constituted and operational, including three full-time staff, five technical experts and 43 local researchers. In October the IRM hit a huge milestone in publishing its first eight progress reports for public comment.

In the first quarter of 2013, the five-member International Experts Panel (IEP), which advises the IRM, worked collaboratively to draft a research method. The method was designed to analyze all aspects of the action plan, from the consultations during the drafting of the action plan, through implementation and reporting. The final version reflects input from various consultations, including the public comment period.

Over the course of the year, the IRM hired 43 local researchers (from Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 countries) through a competitive open process. These researchers were selected from large pools of qualified applicants, and included academics, journalists, and legal experts. The IRM organized virtual trainings for the first eight researchers and two in-person trainings (in Panama and Turkey) for the subsequent 35.

All researchers met with government officials, investigated progress on implementation, and held a series of open consultations where civil society groups could present their views on government progress. The initial draft reports were reviewed by the IEP for quality and consistency. In each case, government and civil society organizations were given the opportunity to comment on drafts of the report. Final versions of the reports (now in progress) will reflect commentary received during this process. The first eight reports were launched in September and October, with the next group of 35 forthcoming in February 2014.

Dissemination of the first eight reports was conducted at the international level on the OGP website, including with guest blogs from prominent civil society members in the countries, and in a variety of ways at the national level. For example, in South Africa, IRM researcher Ralph Mathekga was interviewed on several major media outlets and ran opinion pieces on each. The IRM manager was featured in a broadcast interview on the South African Broadcasting Corporation, and Dr. Steven Friedman wrote an editorial piece on the report. In the Philippines, Malou Mangahas of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism launched the report with the help of a popular senator and Freedom of Information Advocate, Grace Poe, inviting a great deal of commentary by civil society and other journalists.

Additionally, the IRM has released a database for the first eight countries on implementation of commitments and will release a larger database covering process and implementation of commitments for the full set of 43 countries once the progress reports for Cohort 2 countries have been published. This database will allow the IRM, the Support Unit, and the broader open government community to review progress on OGP commitments and reflect on lessons learned.

Following the publication of all the progress reports for all Cohort 1 and 2 countries, the IRM will publish a "Lessons Learned" paper for use by the OGP Steering Committee, the IEP, and other OGP stakeholders. This will be part of the process of preparing for training researchers in all 63 OGP participating countries to do real-time research during the implementation of each country's OGP action plan over the coming years.

> " *The IRM made significant progress to fulfill its organizational mandate and will build on that progress by publishing 35 Cohort 2 progress reports in the first quarter of 2014.*

Open
Government
Partnership

2013 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

DIRECT COUNTRY SUPPORT

In April 2013, the OGP Steering Committee agreed that OGP should shift its strategic focus towards deepening engagement in existing OGP countries, rather than prioritizing expansion. Central to this was working with countries to improve the quality of their action plans in terms of ambition, relevance and depth of consultation, and supporting them to implement their OGP commitments. This included the development of practical resources and guidelines, as well as improved tracking of country contacts and progress by the Support Unit.

As a crucial step to provide targeted country support, OGP built a cloud-based contact relationship management (CRM) system in the first quarter of 2013, with the capability to store up-to-date information on key contacts in all OGP countries. The system, Solve360, also allows OGP staff to send automated, personalized messages to points of contact, and has therefore resulted in a noticeable improvement in the Support Unit's ability to provide regular reminders and updates to OGP countries.

In late 2013, the OGP Support Unit started a program of targeted outreach to those countries beginning the process of creating a new OGP action plan. The objective is to provide timely, relevant advice to governments and civil society in order to improve the quality of the commitments included in these action plans, as well as the consultation process.

MULTILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2013, OGP launched formal multilateral partnerships with the World Bank, the

" *We partnered with teams of civil society and government 'co-anchors' to set up five thematic working groups on the following topics: access to information; legislative openness; open data; fiscal openness; and openness in extractives.*

United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). These four organizations were identified in recognition of the significant support that they are providing in many OGP countries, including funding, technical expertise, and support to civil society. In the future, we hope these partnerships will help facilitate increased support for: 1) OGP implementation in participating countries, 2) the organization of OGP regional meetings, and 3) initiatives to help additional countries meet the OGP eligibility criteria.

There are already a number of examples of these multilateral partners helping to deliver concrete results in OGP countries. In Ghana, the World Bank helped the National OGP Steering Committee organize nation-wide consultations for the first action plan. In Colombia, the IDB supported the re-design of the OGP action plan with the involvement of civil society and helped implement a geo-referencing system to monitor public investments. The OECD has been running a project in the Middle East and North Africa to assist Tunisia and Morocco to reach eligibility so they can join OGP. The UNDP is supporting the implementation of OGP commitments in numerous

countries, including Montenegro and El Salvador; and in countries like Ukraine, it has also played a key role in helping to broaden the consultation process on the first OGP national action plan.

PEER EXCHANGE

In 2013, OGP strengthened its efforts to promote peer exchange between different countries. The Support Unit partnered with teams of civil society and government 'co-anchors' to set up five thematic working groups on the following topics: access to information; legislative openness; open data; fiscal openness; and openness in extractives. These working groups – which are currently in a pilot phase - are designed to create safe spaces for interaction between government officials and civil society experts from different countries on how to improve the quality of OGP commitments.

The groups met on the margins of the London Summit to develop their work plans, and each group organized a high-profile launch event during the Summit itself. In the coming year, the Support Unit will work with the Peer Learning and Support subcommittee to review this initial pilot phase and assess whether the thematic working groups should be continued, and possibly expanded to include other topics.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Regional meetings continued to be an important opportunity for peer exchange. OGP helped organize two regional meetings in 2013, the first in Santiago, Chile, and the second in Mombasa, Kenya. The Latin America and Caribbean Regional Meeting was hosted by the Secretary-General of the Chilean Presidency and had over 350 participants from 20 countries. The event featured four high-level panels and ten interactive workshops, and it included space for civil society organizations to present their open government initiatives.

The Africa Regional Meeting was co-hosted by Kenya and South Africa and was attended by more than 100 delegates from 16 countries. It provided a useful space for peer learning and sharing experiences, linked up reformers from both civil society and governments across the continent, and inspired countries not currently part of OGP to consider joining.

Members of the Peer Learning and Support subcommittee also hosted four regional caucus meetings (Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Africa) at the London Summit to promote dialogue on region-specific open government accomplishments and challenges, and to continue to strengthen regional open government networks.

LEARNING AND IMPACT

In 2013, the Support Unit developed two new initiatives to incentivize and recognize innovative open government reforms from across the Partnership. The first was the OGP Bright Spots Competition, which resulted in the selection of seven impressive reformers from around the world to give TED-style talks at the London Summit. By many accounts, the OGP Bright Spots were one of the highlights of the Summit, as the talks helped bring open government alive through real stories told by real reformers. The second initiative was the development of a more formal prize competition – the Open Government Awards – that OGP will launch in 2014.

In October 2013, OGP commissioned and published 10 case studies profiling the effective implementation of open government commitments in 10 different countries (Azerbaijan, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, Moldova, United States and Tanzania). The case studies highlighted OGP commitments on topics such as open data, public service delivery, corporate accountability and election campaign financing.

In addition, OGP contacted all 47 Cohort 1 and 2 countries in August to request that they submit a two-page inspiring story describing the implementation of one of their OGP commitments. Over 20 countries submitted an example from their action plans, all of which are now publicly available on the OGP website.

Throughout the year, the OGP team continued to partner with the World Bank to produce a series of 15 webinars on a variety open government topics. Several of the webinars had over 100 participants, and the format helped facilitate real-time interaction between participants. The recorded webinars have been posted to the OGP website and shared with countries that have requested support on one of the webinar topics.

LONDON SUMMIT

The biannual OGP Summit took place in London from October 31st – November 1st, hosted by the UK Government as the lead chair of the Steering Committee. There were over 1500 participants from 83 governments, civil society organizations from across the world, and the private sector. The two-day event included approximately 50 breakout sessions, the majority of which were organized through an open call for proposals that allowed the OGP community to have a major say on the conference agenda.

Plenary sessions included keynotes and panel discussions involving the British Prime Minister, Indonesian Vice-President, Tanzanian President, Mexican President (by video), the Prime Minister of Cote D'Ivoire, US Secretary of State, senior civil society leaders, leaders of four multilateral organizations and Mo Ibrahim (a Senior Advisor to the IRM). A large number of the sessions were live-streamed, with the recordings posted on YouTube after the Summit.

Some of the highlights of the Summit included: the OGP Bright Spots Competition for innovative open government initiatives; the launch of eight new action plans by the founding OGP governments; the announcement of 37 flagship commitments by OGP countries; the launch of five thematic OGP working groups; the launch of four multilateral partnerships; and the announcement of the 2014 Open Government Awards, which will focus on the theme of citizen engagement. A festival zone gave exhibitors space to

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

> " *The blog was a lively forum for debate, with 201 authors from across the OGP community now having contributed posts. Page views on the blog rose by 174 percent year-on-year to 104,824.*

showcase innovation in open government and created space for informal exchanges between delegates.

The Summit was widely covered in the international media, with at least 381 pieces of coverage worldwide reaching a potential audience of over 415 million people. This included a prominent opinion article from Mo Ibrahim in the Financial Times. On social media, the Summit hashtag trended on Twitter in London for both days, and in the United Kingdom as a whole on the first day. A potential audience of 5.5 million social media followers was reached via a Thunderclap on the first morning.

The OGP Support Unit and independent civil society coordination team worked together to organize a one-day event for over 500 civil society members the day before the Summit began. This created the space for civil society activists from around the world to discuss how best to engage in OGP, share lessons learned from their countries on consultation, and debate some of the new frontiers in open government reform.

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2013, the Support Unit worked to build OGP's offline and online profile, and to improve the OGP website. The Support Unit continued to work closely with Hanover

Communications throughout the year to manage OGP's social media outlets, the OGP blog and media outreach for major events.

The blog was a lively forum for debate, with 201 authors from across the OGP community now having contributed posts. Page views on the blog rose by 174 percent year-on-year to 104,824. The OGP social media platforms saw a 115 percent rise in following for the year, up to 20,437.

OGP's website is a critical tool for OGP to communicate with the diverse group of stakeholders in OGP, and the website at the start of 2013 was not achieving the uptake OGP needed. After a competitive bidding process in June, the Support Unit selected New Amsterdam Ideas to redesign the OGP website and launch a new website in advance of the London Summit.

The resulting website is significantly more user-friendly and incorporates a search tool (by topic, country or type of resource), an interactive map, improved country pages and a host of other new features, including a responsive design for various mobile devices. For the OGP Summit, improvements included the capacity to live-stream video, improved social media integration, and an interactive agenda tool. On the first day of the London Summit, OGP's website received more than 7,000 visits - the most recorded to date on a single day.

OGP STEERING COMMITTEE

The OGP Steering Committee (SC) continued to play an active role in guiding the initiative in 2013. The SC met three times over the course of 2013. At a Ministerial-level meeting in London in April, the SC welcomed three new civil society members, discussed the OGP funding situation, approved the shift to a biannual calendar for OGP, and discussed and agreed on a two-year (2013-2014) strategy for OGP. The SC also approved the addition of a 4th co-chair from civil society and the recommendation to shift the first Steering Committee elections to 2014.

In July the SC met at the working level and discussed and approved a paper on encouraging ambition in OGP action plans, guidelines for the pilot phase of the OGP working groups, and a proposal on the 2014 election process for the government members of the SC. There was also a full day dedicated to soliciting Steering Committee input on the organizing themes for the London Summit in October.

Finally, prior to the OGP Summit in London, there was a half-day working-level meeting of the Steering Committee to review final plans for the Summit, discuss the initial round of IRM reports, and provide updates on the development and theme of the 2014 Open Government Awards.