

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON WATER AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

Newsletter 3, December 2020

About the OGP

In 2011, government leaders and civil society advocates came together to create a unique partnership, one that combines these powerful forces to promote accountable, responsive and inclusive governance. To date, 78 countries and a growing number of local governments—representing more than 2 billion people—along with thousands of civil society organizations, are members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Through the OGP, governments work with civil society to co-create action plans, with concrete steps or commitments, across a broad range of issues to enhance transparency, accountability and public participation in government.

Invitation to join the Community of Practice

We encourage civil society, multilateral institutions and government officials to join our Community of Practice and help us achieve clean and accessible water by:

- Bringing water sector experts into the OGP commitment process at the national or local level;
- Sharing relevant tools and resources with OGP actors;
- Developing commitment ideas and supporting implementation;
- Identifying opportunities for stronger engagement between water, sanitation and open government actors including a Water and Open Government Declaration to bring the perspectives of multiple communities together to work on water, sanitation and open government.

If you are interested in joining the Community of Practice, please contact us at WaterOpenGovernment@siwi.org



Photo Credit: Debasish Chakraborty, WIN Photo Competition 2019

The Open Government and Water Declaration

ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE WATER AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Community of Practice is delighted to announce the appointment of our new Advisory Committee to support us in creating the **Water and Open Government Declaration**. Bringing together a diverse range of experience from across the globe, committee members have already begun work on sections of the Declaration. This is a work accomplished in step with stakeholder input, received via online surveys. Members are also tasked with outreach and advocacy in support of the uptake of the Declaration by governments and civil society.

As background to this announcement, OGP members strive to formulate action plans to meet the requirements of the SDG Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, particularly by: fighting corruption in the sector, improving the quality of information and participation opportunities, expanding access, equity, and accountability in water service delivery.

The **Water and Open Government Declaration** will support OGP members and civil society in defining commitments on water and sanitation and increase collaboration between governments to learn from each other and track progress. They will work collectively to establish priorities for strategic commitments that focus on transparency, participation, inclusiveness, integrity and accountability.

- **TRANSPARENCY:** Commitments to share data on water access and quality, setting tariffs, level of service, distribution and recovering cost or investment plans.
- **PARTICIPATION, GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION:** Commitments to integrate participatory and equitable approaches to decision-making, budgeting and contracts, including citizen monitoring using technology to accelerate response; Create access to clean, affordable water for all; Address reasons for inequitable water quality and sanitation; Focus on water stressed and marginalized communities and empowering people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, women, the poor and other vulnerable groups.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY:** Commitments to enhance accountability, address corruption and improve compliance mechanisms.

The Committee will consider work on the international level, including: the OECD Water Governance Framework, Sanitation and Water for All, the human right to water and sanitation and progress made across all regions such as, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and Asia. Bringing into specific focus the WASH needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities, the Declaration will be completed over the next six months leading up to mid-2021.

The Advisory Committee includes representatives from civil society, indigenous peoples, local community members and international funding organizations. The members include:

1. From Article 19 – **Yumna Ghani** has been working on open government and water for Article 19 in Brazil, including the implementation of OGP commitments in this country.
2. From Transparency International - **Donal O’Leary** has more than 40 years of experience in the water sector, including: hydropower, water supply and sanitation and incorporating anti-corruption/governance issues in development plans for the water sector.
3. From Akvo - **Peter van der Linde** is the co-founder of Akvo, a not-for-profit foundation that creates open source, internet and mobile software and sensors to improve infrastructure and services for disadvantaged populations.
4. From Center for Regulation Policy and Governance - **Mohamad Mova Al Afghani** is Director of the Center for Regulation, Policy and Governance (CRPG) and Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the Universitas Ibn Khaldun Bogor, Indonesia.
5. From African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) - **Sareen Malik** is Coordinator and Secretary to the Board of the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation She is also the Steering Committee Vice-Chair, Sanitation & Water For All (SWA), and as part of the KEWASNET team in undertaking the study and the Sex for Water programme in Kenya .
6. From Agua y Juventud - **José Jorge Enríquez** supports the Paraguay Youth Water Network, a space for debate and exchange of successful experiences and lessons learned in relation to the management and handling of water in the country.
7. From CLOCSAS - **Jose Miguel Orellana** works with CLOCSAS, a regional organization of leaders of community water management from 14 countries in Latin America.
8. From Young Water Solutions - **Antonella Vagliente** directs and coordinates the Young Water Fellowship, Young Water Solutions’ flagship program, which provides training, mentorship and seed funding to young water entrepreneurs.
9. From CENAGRAP - **Segundo Guailas** coordinates and supports a public-community alliance created with the aim of promoting participation and service in the management of clean water and sanitation, in rural areas in Ecuador.
10. From the Inter-American Development Bank - **Marcello Basani** is a Water and Sanitation Specialist where he leads the initiatives on innovation and transparency. Before joining the IDB, he worked as field officer for the National Research Centre of Italy, the World Bank and the International Food and Policy Research Institute.

We look forward to receiving your questions and thoughts on this important Declaration. Civil society members or government interested in learning more about the Declaration can contact Carole Excell at cexcell@wri.org.



Water and Open Government: A Step-by-step City Guide

To provide practical recommendations on how to best use the OGP platform and values, as well as to initiate the co-creation process for improving water and sanitation services at the local level, the Community of Practice is developing a Step-by-Step guide for urban entities. It particularly targets, both local and national, OGP Government Points of Contacts (POC) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in the urban water sector. The guide will enable the national and local POCs to strengthen the Open Government reforms in the urban water and sanitation sector, enhance action

planning at a local level, and further accelerate local-national strategies integration. It will also provide useful insights for CSOs working in the urban water sector to be able to meaningfully contribute towards developing Water and Sanitation commitments for cities.

The Step-by-Step guide is in the finalization process and will be published in early 2021. For more information, please contact Pilar Avello at pilar.avello@siwi.org



Photo Credit , Guillermo Gutierrez WIN Photo Competition 2020

Support to Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan Area (STMA), Ghana¹

As part of the helpdesk support activities, SIWI, one of the members of the CoP, is providing technical advice to STMA in the achievement of OGP local action plan; the goal is to improve sanitation services and hygiene for schools in the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan Area of Ghana. This work aims to support the identification and prioritization of problems, plus the finding of the right technical and adaptive solutions.

Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan Area is one of the government implementing agencies who was awarded a grant from the OGP Multi-Donor Trust Fund's (MDTF) to support the implementation of OGP commitments. The objective of these awards is to support activities that help to bridge and address implementation gaps of potentially impactful commitments in OGP action plans.

For more information about the OGP MDTF grants for implementation, please see [here](#).

¹ <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/sekondi-takoradi-ghana/>
<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/stories/faces-of-open-government-isaac-aidoo/>



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GENDER

Webinar: Water and sanitation through a gender lens – Lessons from the open government

Globally, [as research shows](#), gender plays a role in the grossly disproportionate burden in the work of securing water for their communities and families. “Every day, across the world, women and girls spend around 200 million hours collecting water,” said Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director of the Water Integrity Network. Yet they remain dramatically underrepresented in water resource management at all levels. This leaves them vulnerable to and dependent on men for their water and sanitation needs – despite distinct menstrual, pregnancy, and childrearing needs – and effectively deepens their economic marginalization. Combined with corruption and integrity failures that shrink public revenues for the sector, the welfare of poor women and children in particular is further undermined. This was the introduction to a two-part webinar (24 June 2020), focusing these issues and on how the OGP can strengthen action through the addition of a gender lens to commitments in WASH. The event also outlined OGP’s current initiative around gender, breaking the roles, and share the building blocks for a gendered OGP commitment. Speakers included:

- Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network (WIN)
- Allison Merchant, Senior Gender Advisor, Open Government Partnership (OGP)
- Kanika Thakar, Gender Focal Point, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
- Carla Flores, Cartocritica, Mexico
- Tamar Hayrikyan, Técnicas Rudas, Mexico

You can watch the recording of the webinar on YouTube [here](#). The presentation materials are available [here](#) and a comprehensive summary blog on the webinar is available [here](#).



Other useful Links:

- [World Water Assessment Programme Gender and Water Toolkit](#)
- [Actions for a More Inclusive OGP](#)
- [Gender budgeting \(general\)](#)
- [Gender budgeting \(IWRM\)](#)
- [Costing gender equality](#)



NEWS FROM THE OGP WATER AND SANITATION WORLD

OGP Local

OGP Local recently welcomed 56 new local jurisdictions composed of 64 local governments and civil society organizations from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Eastern Partnership and the Americas. This expansion, the largest in OGP history, comes at a critical moment as provinces, cities and local communities are at the forefront of efforts to respond to COVID-19. Through OGP Local, reformers within and outside of government work to better serve their

citizens – from ensuring safe drinking water to supporting schools – through promoting the open government values of transparency, accountability, responsiveness and inclusion through concrete reforms.

Learn more about OGP Local and find a full list of members here. Keep an eye out on OGP channels for more updates soon.



BLOGS AND OTHER RESOURCES

Técnicas Rudas: Gender Indicators in the Creation and Implementation of Open Government Commitments

In partnership with land rights organizations, Técnicas Rudas is involved in research efforts to develop gender indicators in Peru and Colombia for OGP commitments. By experimentally applying this gender lens to natural resource commitments, they inform advocacy strategies for transparent, participatory and inclusive natural resource governance. They work with local and global organizations strongly advocating the inclusion of gender indicators that

can be embedded into Mexico's fourth OGP action plan. Read more about the research here.

Please read our latest blog from Tamar Hayrikyan, Managing Partner at Técnicas Rudas, where she shares interesting and relevant findings from applied research on gender indicators for open natural resource governance and lessons for the water sector.

Feminist Open Government Research

The [Feminist Open Government Initiative](#), supported by Results for Development (R4D), OGP and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), is an ambitious attempt to broaden the base of open government support by investing in cutting-edge research from partners in the Global South and building a coalition to rally reform champions behind a gender-centric approach to open government. Explore the latest round of Feminist Open Government research conducted by Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC), CARE International, Equal Measures 2030, Técnicas Rudas and Oxfam.

Brazil's 4th Open Government Action Plan

In April 2020, the #WaterOpenGov Community of Practice spoke with [Marcus Fuckner](#), Coordinator of Planning Area Situation and Information Management at [Brazil's National Water Agency \(ANA\)](#), on the open government commitments for water included in Brazil's 4th Open Government Action Plan. In the previous newsletter we published the [Spanish version](#) of an edited conversation transcript. Its English translation is now available [here](#).

Learn more about Water and Sanitation in OGP [here](#).



Photo Credit: G.M.B.Akash, WIN Photo Competition 2011

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