



CELEBRATING THE OPEN GOVERNMENT WEEK **(#OpenGovWeek) IN GHANA**

Theme: Building Governments, Institutions and Societies that are Transparent, Accountable, Participatory, and Inclusive.

Introduction

Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an initiative that provides an international platform for international domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens, and in achievement of the long-term benefits that come with improving the relationship between citizens and their government. The global partnership brings together government reformers and civil society leaders to create action plans that make governments more inclusive, responsive, and accountable.

Open Government, therefore, enhances trust building and a more citizen-centered democracy through participatory budgeting, social audits, citizen assemblies and other deliberative democracy efforts. This has become more critical due to the existence of COVID-19 pandemic which has enabled some governments to spend excessively without proper oversight from both citizens and government institutions.

Background of OGP in Ghana

Ghana joined OGP in 2011 and has since implemented 3 action plans with the third action plan ending in 2019. The third action plan focused greatly on initiatives that aimed to address corruption, through disclosure of information in different sectors, enacting new legislation and promoting citizen feedback at the local level.¹ A national Steering Committee of 20 members, with representation from civil society and government institutions, was formed to lead the co-creation process of the National Action Plan.

The Ghana OGP Design Report underscores the need for Ghana to provide feedback on how the government incorporates civil society organizations (CSOs) inputs into the action plan, in addition to information about the process, meeting minutes and implementation evidence needs to be available on a public platform –a website or online repository- to foster citizen engagement and transparency. Preventing government corruption in areas including the extractives sector and during government contracting were top of the agenda to open up the government of Ghana.

¹ Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Ghana Design Report 2017–2019

Despite the successes that Ghana has chalked in its implementation of OGP commitments, there requires more effort to implement more ambitious OGP plans that will enhance participation in and understanding of OGP plans. OGP in its Design Report – IRM recommends that the OGP Secretariat in Ghana needs to strengthen its efforts to promote the open government agenda as a cross-cutting initiative that can contribute to address challenges in different public policy sectors that have a direct impact on citizen’s lives.

As a step towards achieving this objective, Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) with support from the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) seeks to implement activities during the celebration of the Open Gov Week in Ghana to enhance public knowledge of Open Government and discuss the need for Ghana to initiate processes towards implementing a national Action Plan to promote transparency and accountability in governance.

Objective

The over all objective of this project is to enhance the public’s understanding of Open Government and their role within the co-creation and implementation process.

The specific objectives of the project include:

1. Enhance adoption of an action plan towards the implementation of the 4th national OGP Action Plan by December 2021.
2. Create awareness among Members of Parliament, media and the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on Open Government.

Expected Outcomes

1. Adopted action plan that will help develop a national Action Plan for Ghana by December 2021.
2. Improved understanding of among Members of Parliament, media and MDAs on Open Government.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 17 MAY | 11am-1pm

Media Launch of #OpenGovWeek celebration. The event will be a convening of journalists and representatives from the national OGP Steering Committee, parliamentary monitoring organization and the Public Service Commission who will make statement’s each on the state of Open Government in Ghana.

Speakers: Mrs. Linda Kwafo (Co-Chair, OGP National Steering Committee)

Topic: *The role of media in achieving the OGP commitments in Ghana*

Speaker: Representative from the Public Service Commission (proposal from GII)

Topic: *Overview of OGP in Ghana and the way forward.*

THURSDAY, 20 MAY | 2pm – 4:30pm

The event will take presentations from representatives from parliament (OGP Champions and the Open Parliament Task Team), National Steering Committee on OGP, parliamentary monitoring organizations (PMOs), and the Co-Chair of OGP Global Steering Committee. Each representative will make presentation on specific topics in connection with Open Parliament commitments. There will be a panel discussion after presentations to propose ways of enhancing implementation of a 4th Action Plan for Ghana.

SOCIAL MEDIA | Monday – Friday

An intensive social media campaign on open government to be rolled out to create awareness of the public and media of the role they can play in ensuring effective implementation of open government principles (commitment). Infographics to be designed and published online to enhance engagement on open parliament matters.