

OGP CIVIL SOCIETY KNOWLEDGE SHARING: WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT ON NAPs

CSO ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION ON OGP IN GHANA

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FOCUS OF PRESENTATION

- **CSO OGP EXPERIENCE**
 - **CHALLENGES OF CSO COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT (WITH OTHER CSOs AND WITH GOVERNMENT)**
 - **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING CSO COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT ON OGP**
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CSO OGP EXPERIENCE


- **The concept of OGP is still at its infancy: CSOs are still discovering the impact that OGP can make in governance processes. Ghana has just implemented the first action plan and the lessons learned are still being discussed.**
- **CSOs have not fully engaged the OGP process: Activities relating to OGP is centered around CSOs on the steering committee. These CSOs have not done much to promote the concept of OGP .**

CHALLENGES OF COLLABORATING WITH OTHER CSOs

- 1. Low level of awareness and understanding of what OGP entails: Beyond CSOs on the steering committee, most CSOs do not know about OGP , have not seen the action plan & do not understand the OGP commitments & why they need to be involved in the advocacy.**
 - 2. Lack of active, organized and coordinated civil society approach: This has a huge impact on the commitments that are proposed on the action plan.**
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CHALLENGES CONTINUED


3. The complex nature of OGP commitments: Most of the commitments on the Action plan has to do with the passage of laws, the use of modern technology, budget transparency etc. and most CSOs particularly at the District level lack the capacity and the resources to engage in these areas especially when funding is project based. Often times it is difficult to communicate the commitments in a language that CSOs can understand.




CHALLENGES CONTINUED

- 4. Absence of a CSO OGP Strategy: There's currently no strategy for ensuring the implementation of commitments on the action plan. OGP engagements and discussions have so far been limited to a narrow group of CSOs 'the usual suspects'**
- 5. Inactive participation of CSOs on the SC: Some CSOs dropped out from the Steering Committee and only six remained active. A few of them attend meetings**

CHALLENGES OF ENGAGING WITH GOVERNMENT

- 6. Low level of awareness among government officials about OGP. Even those who are aware are not doing enough to champion the course.**
 - 7. The PSRS (OGP Secretariat) lacks the capacity to monitor the implementation of commitments. It lacks the funds, the human and technical resources and this generally affects the effectiveness of OGP in Ghana.**
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CHALLENGES CONTINUED

- 8. Lack of coordination among various Government Agencies/Institutions: This slows down engagement processes and also affects the participation of most MDAs in OGP meetings.**
 - 9. Bureaucratic Bottlenecks:**
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CHALLENGES CONTINUED

10. Lack of political will: Another challenge with CSO engagement with government on OGP is the lack of political will with respect to OGP unlike in other countries where government has taken practical steps to demonstrate commitment to the process

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Take advantage of existing resources/ capacity: CSOs on the OGP steering committee could select specific commitments on the action plan based on their area of expertise and engage government directly to ensure that specific milestones are achieved.**

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

- 2. CSOs should consider mainstreaming OGP into their existing activities or programmes.**
 - 3. Create CSO monitoring groups to monitor action plan commitments. This is particularly useful for CSOs that work as a coalition or network.**
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RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

- 4. Develop an OGP media strategy: A media strategy will help in promoting public awareness as well as keeping government on its toes.**
- 5. Broaden the scope of CSO engagement to include other civil society actors such as the trades union, religions/ professional bodies and associations. The private sector should also be involved in the discussion around OGP.**

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Funding: Government should consider making OGP a priority in the national budget . Depending solely on donor funds for OGP is an indication of the level of commitment and ownership of the process.



THANK YOU

