



**WORLD WIDE WEB
FOUNDATION**

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Strengthening the evidence-base for open government in developing countries

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Final Technical Report

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Executive Summary

The following report outlines a set of activities related to the grant “*Strengthening the evidence-base for open government in developing countries*”.

The main objective of the project has been to improve the quality and ambition of open data commitments, providing knowledge and tools that support developing countries to advance their open government reforms.

The project was designed to carry out a number of activities to meet the above objective by working through four main workstreams of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Open Data Working Group (ODWG). The workstreams included: **Principles; Measurement; Standards; and Capacity Building**. Along with the above, an open call for proposals was designed to support those work-streams and resulted in specific and actionable research and related documentation.

Specific activities included:

Core Open Data Working Group Activities

The Web Foundation, as co-chairs in close collaboration with our counterpart, Treasury Board Services of the the Government of Canada, designed the shape of the group for increased participation, inclusiveness and impact. The co-chairs reported to the OGP regularly on progress, and represented the group in public and private fora.

The project also allowed for the creation of a funding initiative to support an open Call for Proposals¹ in October 2014.

Principles

The International Open Data Charter principles were established through the OGP ODWG. One of the main activities was to develop a more robust and consistent Open Data Charter for OGP member nations to potentially use as a foundation for achieving stronger, and more measurable Open Data commitments in national action plans. This work included:

¹ <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/od4d-call-proposals-sep-2014>

- Development of the OGP Open Data Charter principles (based on the main text of the G8 Open Data Charter);
- A global and inclusive consultation process related to the Charter principles;
- A final set of Charter principles that was launched in September 2015;
- Establishment of Charter sector packages and working groups to assist with the implementation of the charter principles; and
- Providing ongoing support to the interim Open Data Charter secretariat including efforts leading towards its ongoing sustainability.

Measurement

Specific work was carried out to support ongoing efforts to strengthen the measurement tools for the OGP and the Open Data Charter. This work included:

- Drafting a common assessment framework for assessing open data;
- A draft operational plan to consolidate coexisting Open Data for Development (OD4D) open data indexes;
- A final framework for measurement and accountability of the Charter; and
- Alignment of the Open Data Barometer with the Open Data Charter Principles.

Standards

A complete inventory of open data standards by type (e.g. metadata standards, standards for number and type of datasets published, interoperability standards, etc.) using, among other methods, case studies of data standards in ODWG member countries, to develop a global view and to identify gaps and overlaps. In addition, an Open Data Charter Principle specifically relating to Data Standards was established.

Capacity Building

Actions within this work-stream included peer reviews and coaching of OGP member nations Open Data action plan commitments as requested by nations, particularly for Cohorts 2 and 4. Specific efforts included providing feedback on National Action Plans, technical assistance on data portals, and participation in OGP regional events.

In addition, a significant and ongoing effort has been made to support the OD4D International Open Data Conference (IODC). These events have been instrumental in bringing the entire Open Data community together to build capacities and learning to improve open data initiatives and establish a shared roadmap of actions.

The research problem

The overall objective of the Project was to enhance accountability, efficiency, and economic opportunities in developing countries through improving open government data initiatives. The specific objective of the Project was as follows: to strengthen the ability of the Open Data Working Group of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) to support joint learning between governments and civil society to implement and enhance open data initiatives in developing countries.

Progress towards milestones

The following outlines progress on activities carried out during the course of the project.

Core Working Group Activities

The Web Foundation is the group co-chair representing civil society. Its main goal was to make heard the voice of civil society, especially, of those from the developing world. The Web Foundation conducted its activities with a clear focus on strengthening the participatory and inclusive process that drove the group's activities.

As co-chairs and, in close collaboration with our counterpart, Treasury Board Services of the the Government of Canada, we designed the shape of the group for increased participation, inclusiveness and impact. As such, we established a Steering Committee (SC) where both governments and civil society were equally represented and where there was regional representation. We also developed clear terms of reference² for it.

As a co-chair, the Web Foundation efforts included: reporting to the OGP regularly on progress; representing the group in public and private fora; keeping the SC and the whole group updated; convening SC and ODWG meetings (online and face-to-face); maintaining the SC and WG memberships; maintaining the public working group website³; coordinating the work streams work; and co-leading actual work stream activities. The Web Foundation also worked closely with the OGP Support Unit.

The project allowed the creation of a new funding initiative entitled “Open Data for Development (OD4D) Fund”. Under this new initiative, the ODWG was initially provided \$100,000 in funding to support a number of short-term, intensive research projects exploring the technical and practical implications of open data.

² OGP ODWG Terms of Reference -

<https://drive.google.com/a/webfoundation.org/file/d/0BxxUHhraTIHhNmhiRTZySFVVOFU/view>

³ OGP OD WG Webspace - <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/groups/opendata>

An open Call for Proposals⁴ was released in October 2014. Proposals had to make a case for how the research would serve to deepen or inform work outlined in the 2014-2015 OGP Open Data Work Plan.

Work Stream Activities

Principles

The main activity was to develop a more robust and consistent Open Data Charter for OGP member nations to potentially use as a foundation for achieving stronger, and more measurable Open Data commitments in national action plans.

The Charter is designed to act as the basis for more ambitious open data commitments and enable more aggressive planning for OGP member nations. It is following the model of the G8 Open Data Charter, making amendments where necessary to clarify principles or to ensure that they are applicable and relevant across all OGP nations.

Specific work carried out by the Web Foundation in coordination with other 'Lead Stewards' of the charter process during the grant period included:

- Development of the OGP Open Data Charter principles (based on the main text of the G8 Open Data Charter). This included agreeing on the principles and reviewing comments during the public consultation period;
- Establishing a global and inclusive consultation process related to the Charter principles;
- Development of a website, initially created and hosted by the Web Foundation, and later transferred to third party developer;
- Sub-contracting a coordinator and assistant to coordinate the 'Lead Stewards' working group and establish a path forward during the initial consultation period;
- Agreeing on a final set of Charter principles that was launched in September 2015;
- Establishment of sector packages and working groups to assist with the implementation of the charter principles. Specifically the Web Foundation assisted initially with all working groups including the technical and implementation working groups, and later focused much effort on the measurement and accountability working group; and
- Providing ongoing support to the interim Open Data Charter secretariat including efforts leading towards its ongoing sustainability.

Measurement

Common Assessment Framework

⁴ <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/od4d-call-proposals-sep-2014>

The Web Foundation, in collaboration with The Govlab at NYU, convened a workshop on common assessment methods for assessing open data⁵ in May 2014 in NYC. As a result of such workshop a draft Common Assessment Framework (CAF)⁶ was released.

These were the preliminary steps towards the establishment of the reference accountability framework of the Charter.

A framework for measurement and accountability of the Charter

As part of our efforts to strengthen the Open Data Barometer as the reference tool for the full assessment of the Open Data Charter progress, the Web Foundation lead the measurement and accountability working group⁷ of the Charter.

As part of its work in the group the Web Foundation has already prepared a concept note⁸ describing the measurement framework to be established by the Charter in order to track progress of open data efforts held by current and new potential adopters, and a comparative analysis⁹ of current measurement initiatives. That measurement framework was also proposed as the basis of the eligibility criteria¹⁰ for governments seeking to adopt the Charter. These were the preliminary steps towards the establishment of the reference accountability framework of the Charter.

The Web Foundation developed a workplan for the working group in consultation with working group members. The expected outcomes from the current WG action plan include:

- Adapting the full framework to the subnational level in collaboration with the Charter sub-national Working Group to ensure that all the complete methodology could also be applicable for the assessments of subnational governments; and
- Exploration of a new collaborative governance mechanism for the framework through continuous inputs from the WG, as well as specific consultations to the Lead Stewards.

A draft operational plan to consolidate coexisting OD4D open data indexes

The Web Foundation Open Data Barometer (ODB) team has, and continues to explore synergies with the Open Knowledge (OK) Open Data Index¹¹, with the intention of maximizing

⁵ <http://webfoundation.org/2014/06/towards-common-methods-for-assessing-open-data/>

⁶ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DLQrC-UnvK_3-aVGMB0AS1zqNHbZ6NxUcAfqY8ksETc/edit

⁷ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TLr_CVcJ8Btj38Vs_hD9HXQB5QsJrehkEa83W9xKO-c/edit

⁸ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xvHdyzDRjhZzGt-JVBHTbj9FHBAgy4FmWLdHkHSu3NA/edit>

⁹ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WNdqolz0W9UoRk-k6ToGLh-rJurEpdzjFizkE73cmEw/edit>

¹⁰ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zsj7cEaw7YYdVMgIlzDnOjkcIX0cHMjyN3par-l8yKE/edit>

¹¹ <http://index.okfn.org/>

alignment between both products and the possibility of reusing the Index results for the Barometer's implementation component in the future.

More specifically, the Web Foundation has and continues to work with OK in collaboration with a community of experts and regional partners, the Open Data Charter Monitoring and Evaluation working group, and other stakeholders towards further alignment, drawing on the strengths of the Global Open Data Index and the Open Data Barometer, and building on the Charter Accountability Framework. These alignment efforts include:

- Finalising dataset definitions and categories;
- Developing a commonly agreed weighting;
- Creating a shared timeline for production and publication;
- Sharing results with each other before the release date;
- Collaborating to give both products the best communications outcomes; and
- Developing a minimal set of countries (or jurisdictions) in scope of the research.

As part of these efforts the Web Foundation prepared a complete workplan¹² to address the overlap between the ODB and the Index in order to guide the preparation and coordination efforts necessary to address the current methodological differences. The aforementioned workplan includes also a comparative analysis¹³ of scopes, datasets and checklists.

The Web Foundation Barometer team has also been providing extensive feedback and guidance on the new Global Open Data Index methodology update¹⁴ that tries to adapt the Index so it will be more in line with the Open Data Charter principles and the Open Data Barometer methodology.

Alignment of the Barometer with the Open Data Charter Principles

As part of our strategic plan to grow the Barometer into a global policy making, advocacy and accountability tool, the top priority was to complete the adaptation of the Barometer methodology to the International Open Data Charter principles.

The third edition of the Barometer was based on the last draft of the Charter that was available by that time, which didn't include some important bits such as the feedback from the open consultation process. Alignment with the final version of the International Open Data Charter principles¹⁵ has now been completed in the last Research Handbook update¹⁶ that will be used for the 4th edition of the Barometer. Furthermore, the methodology has also been extended to

¹² <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eZOO2OJZFkrkYJt1kc3KrbxfGUBScXaMP9doNt3hPy8/edit>

¹³ https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SNkyRJegWrqi7Z83UyzvF36NaHJLgTQG2C_gEbNle9M/edit#gid=1350212251

¹⁴ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lbLjBgT194GAD3XIuIYRBbvZ4H4Y4Zg77EdSgj-0Cho/edit>

¹⁵ <http://opendatacharter.net/principles/>

¹⁶ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NJ-ARByd5S5-6dtY-ceeDb_U5W4Rxc2mLJEgwzS3AcY/edit

introduce preliminary assessment of the Anti-Corruption Sector Package¹⁷ promoted by the Charter (which is still in early draft status).

For the forthcoming 4th edition of the Open Data Barometer the core methodology and research method is expected to replicate the same used in previous versions, given that it is already mature and has also proved to be strong and leading to high-quality results. Nevertheless, the methodology continues to be enhanced and extended.

Standards

The focus of this stream was to promote openness and interoperability through establishing recommended standards for open data, along with guidance on implementation and promotion, promote use of baseline requirements which could be incorporated into IRM reporting on open data commitments, and to promote open data best practices that are recommended for implementation by OGP member countries, including, for example, provision of APIs and other interoperability services, and publication of open information explaining how data is produced and used by governments.

As a first step towards achieving its objective, the Web Foundation played a strong role to support within the small grant fund to support research on an inventory of open data standards by type to develop a global view and to identify gaps and overlaps.

The stream leads were also in active discussion with the joined-up data alliance to ensure those efforts were complimentary.

The Web Foundation also played a strong role in the development of a key charter principle relating to open data standards as well as providing some guidance to the implementation working group to design a platform to help governments understand how to implement such standards.

Capacity Building

Coaching of OGP member nations Open Data action plan commitments

This stream was intended to conduct directed peer review and coaching of OGP member nations Open Data action plan commitments as requested by nations, particularly for Cohorts 2 and 4, and to work with other groups and initiatives to build an inventory of Open data resources (including policies, practices and learning activities) and identify gaps. As such efforts included the following:

¹⁷ <http://opendatacharter.net/developing-the-anti-corruption-sector-package/>

2014

- Feedback on National Action Plans: Provided support to countries (Costa Rica, Ireland, New Zealand, Peru, Romania, Sierra Leone, Canada, Croatia);
- Technical assistance: Phone calls with Georgia and Sierra Leone on open data portals;
- OGP ODWG panel at 2014 OGP North America Regional Summit (San Jose, Costa Rica);

2015

- Feedback on National Action Plans: Provided to Liberia and Philippines
- Technical assistance: France (survey);
- Research published included the final research deliverables from the OD4D; Research Fund, which can be found on the OD WG website (Resources page¹⁸);
- OD Standards Inventory (also available via our Resources page);

2016

- New shape of the group, see 2015-16 work plan¹⁹;
- Feedback on National Action Plans: Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Canada, others in Eastern Europe;
- OGP Regional meetings: Africa, LatAm, Asia, also Carlos in Eastern Europe;

The group engaged in discussions with all the points of contact of those countries and the OGP SU to publish those recommendations²⁰ openly and, after some negotiations, they are now available.

¹⁸ <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/resources-2>

¹⁹ <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/workplan-2015-2016>

²⁰ https://drive.google.com/a/webfoundation.org/folderview?id=0B2AhruCHugJiR0YxczZnSVNkb2s&usp=drive_web

Coordination of, and support to the International Open Data Conference (IODC) 2015/16

A significant and ongoing effort has been made to support the OD4D International Open Data Conference (IODC). These events have been instrumental in bringing the entire Open Data community together to build capacities and learning to improve open data initiatives and establish a shared roadmap of actions. The Web Foundation has played a strong role in the organization of the IODC events in 2015 as well as the upcoming events in 2016.

Coordination

In 2015 the Web foundation assisted in the overall coordination of the event. Activities included:

- Organizing programme committee meetings;
- Organizing operational group meetings;
- Development of the programme;
- Development of the proposal process and review;
- Assisting with sponsorship;
- Coordination during the event;
- Creating and managing the IODC 2015 website and related social media tools including:
 - Hootsuite - twitter posting;
 - Mailchimp - mailing lists;
 - Google Groups - email collaboration;
 - Google Email accounts;
 - Mention.net - social media monitoring;
- Organizing the pre-events, including but not limited to:
 - Open Standards Data Day;
 - The Unconference and social event;
 - Open Data Research Symposium;
 - Open Data Leaders Summit;
 - OGP OD WG;
 - Charter Meeting;
 - IATI Meeting;

In 2016, the Web Foundation continued to play a strong role in the organization of the IODC 2016. Specifically the Web Foundation played a role in the organization and design of the overall programme as well as helping to organize the following workshops in collaboration with IDRC:

- Open Standards Data Day;
- The Unconference;
- Follow the Money Workshop;

- Open Data Research Symposium;
- Open Data Leaders Summit;
- OGP OD WG Meeting;
- International Open Data Charter General Steward / WGS / Lead Stewards Meeting;
- Data to Life. Life to Data. (Photo Exhibition);

The Web Foundation continued to maintain the International Open Data Conference (IODC) website in 2016, much of the social media and technical infrastructure including: the document archive, and social media monitoring tools.

Supporting IODC communications efforts through the Web Foundation communications

The Web Foundation supported efforts to promote the IODC 2015 and 2016 events. This included the creation of blog posts, using social media including Twitter, Facebook, etc. to promote the event during this period to take advantage of the Web Foundation's large Twitter and blog following.

Providing daily operational support for IODC 2016

The Web Foundation provided ongoing advice to the operational committee and Spanish hosts. This included sharing knowledge of success and challenges from previous years, assisting in helping them understand the overall technical and operational structures, and specific advice on contacts, content, and planning.

In addition, the Web Foundation played an important role in the design of the programme during the pre-conference planning meeting in Madrid as well as participation in programme meetings.

Ensuring the broader vision of the roadmap is carried forward leading up to and during IODC 2016 by working closely with the Spanish government, IDRC, and related communication teams.

The Web Foundation supported the communication promotion of a series of blog posts leading up to the IODC as well as providing strategic input through the operational and programme committees to ensure the roadmap was coherent with other global activities such as the International Open Data Charter.

Synthesis of research results and development outcomes

The OGP ODWG received over 80 applications, representing a total funding ask of close to \$1 million. Applications were screened to ensure that they met the criteria expressed in the Call for Proposals. Those proposals that met the criteria were then reviewed in detail and circulated to the working group's Steering

Committee. The Steering Committee met at the OGP Regional Meeting for the Americas in San Jose, Costa Rica (November 17-19) where it decided on the successful proposals for this round of grants, namely:

- **Open North Inc. (Canada): "Recommended standards and best practices for open data"** - This project supports the work of the Standards stream of the OGP Open Data Working Group, in particular its deliverable to produce a document outlining baseline standards and best practices for open data.
- **Mitrovic Development & Research Institute (South Africa): "Building open data capacity through e-skills acquisition"** - The study explored the required e-skills needed for both the provision and usage of OGD in the context of developing countries.
- **Step Up Consulting (The Philippines): "Enhancing citizen engagement with open government data"** - The research project dealt with the primary research question - How can engagement of civil society organizations with open government data be instigated or enhanced?
- **Mark Frank (United Kingdom): "User centred methods for measuring the value of open data"** - Research methods for developing metrics that are grounded in user's operational needs in specific contexts
- **Sunlight Foundation (United States): "The social impact of open data in the global south"** - The research sought to provide evidence on how open data helps to increase transparency and accountability; to identify new efficiencies within governments; to evaluate and improve local service quality; and to increase public participation.

Another major deliverable that can be partly attributed to this project is the **International Open Data Charter Principles**²¹, incubated as part of the working group as previously mentioned and which led to an initiative whose overarching goal is to foster greater coherence and collaboration for the increased adoption and implementation of shared open data principles, standards and good practices across sectors around the world. The Charter has been adopted and endorsed by more than 50 governments and organizations.

Finally, this project, is one of several projects funded by IDRC that has supported the development but, most notably, the launch and outreach of the **3rd Edition of the Open Data Barometer**²² as part of the body of work led by the Web Foundation on measuring open data impact.

Methodology

The activities in this project were developed in the following interdependent components:

Component 1 – Consolidating the OGP Open Data Working group

²¹ <http://opendatacharter.net/principles/>

²² <http://opendatabarometer.org>

OGP Working Groups seek to contribute to peer exchange and learning across the Partnership. The WGs were designed to be a vehicle to dig deeper into OGP related issues and field test approaches on how to address those issues from beginning to end. With IDRC support, the WG created an Open Data for Development (OD4D) Fund to catalyse strategic actions inside the WG annual work plan.

Component 2 – Improving learning inside the OGP process

This component had the following objectives:

- To generate and systematize the data from action plans, self-reports and independent reporting mechanisms and generate independent meta-analysis on open government commitments and progress made in delivering on these promises.
- To systematize the good practices at the national level for the development, implementation and monitoring of Open Government Plans.

Project outputs

| Deliverable | Status |
|---|---|
| Principles | |
| Conduct international consultations with OGP members and non-OGP countries to support the revision and eventual adaptation of the International Open Data Charter | Completed – International Open Data Charter Principles are now available at OpenDataCharter.net |
| Undertake significant Charter consultation and discussion event as part of the 3 rd International Open Data Conference | Completed – Charter Principles were consulted during the IO DC 2015 and online through June and July 2015 |
| Launch the International Open Data Charter and announce adoption by a number of OGP governments and other organizations | Completed – International Open Data Charter Principles are now available at OpenDataCharter.net . The Charter has been adopted by 17 governments to date. |
| Develop a technical support document to support the adoption and implementation of the Charter among OGP nations. | In progress – Charter Resource Centre will be an online, searchable catalogue of documents and information to support implementation. It will be launched no later than October 2016. |
| Develop and publish OGP Open Data Toolkit - a living document outlining tools, policies, legal frameworks, organizations, and institutions that | The OD WG is supporting the development of the Charter Resource Centre, which will act as a tool kit to support implementation of Charter Principles. These tools will be available and useful to OGP |

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| support countries in the implementation of open data commitments | members, regardless of whether they adopt the Charter |
| Measurement | |
| Complete document review of current and planned research activities related to the measurement of the impact of open data | Completed. As part of the first version of the Common Assessment Framework, the preparation of the measurement work-stream of the International Open Data Conference and roadmap, and the Open Data Barometer, a complete mapping of existing global work on measuring open data is available. The mapping exercise includes descriptions, methods, coverages and scopes (according to the CAF classification). Continuous review and update, keeping track of the state of the art for the topic is also expected in the future. |
| Desk research and consultation with subject matter experts to develop common criteria, metrics, and methodologies to measure open data practices, policies and impact. | Completed. We are in continuous contact and conversations with the main organizations working on open data measurement and others groups that are interested in measurement but don't have the practical expertise as well as increasing our direct interactions with governments through new self-assessment processes ²³ . Closer collaborations are expected during 2016 to exchange experiences and share efforts on evolution, adoption and promotion of common methods, especially in the context of the Charter principles and in the context of the new Measurement and Accountability WG ²⁴ . |
| Consult with WG members on the development of materials outlining good practices and measurable benefits of Open Data | Analysis on good practices has been performed with a special focus on OD global policies ²⁵ . |
| Publish materials on measurement of Open Data policies | Completed. As part of its co-lead role and commitment, the WF have been improving and strengthening its general methodology for the measurement of open data ²⁶ with an special focus on assessing OD policies in general and the principles of the Charter in particular. During the last updates the policies component has been extended and strength and it is expected to serve as the basis for a more general measurement and accountability framework for open data policies and practices as |

²³

<https://drive.google.com/a/webfoundation.org/folderview?id=0BwIOB9Zf2WCdfm5hcFBOU09Pa0h5UGs5NXhuN3FoSnh0Y2lHTlhGams4MVZ6M0s3NUJ6eTg&usp=sharing#>

²⁴ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TLr_CVcJ8Btj38Vs_hd9HXQB5QsJrehkEa83W9xKO-c/edit

²⁵ <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-IPDTvf7JaysZeLDcHpvx1HlrZgowSKWg9VGRGWdOhw/edit#gid=110590463>

²⁶ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t3MuJ4IctIbVY4a7U52MxgLA6toDdaULdtY4PjwL81E/edit>

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| | well as for subnational experiences. Such methodology remains public and open, being increasingly adopted and adapted for different use cases at regional, national and subnational levels. |
| Leverage published materials to encourage the implementation Open Data initiatives across OGP member countries and other countries. | As part of this exploration work and as a practical example, the forthcoming edition of the ODB (to be released soon) will be publishing its result incorporating a new visual data explorer framework with the objective of facilitating further analysis and stimulate further adoption and implementation. |
| Look for technical and partnership opportunities, as well as international Open Government / Open Data events, to raise awareness of good practices Open Data policy making that optimize impact, and to encourage the implementation of Open Data initiatives in OGP member countries adopting such practices. | Completed. Advances on open data measurement has been presented and feedback and inputs gathered at key events in the global Open Data agenda, such as the International Open Data Conference ²⁷ and the OGP global summit ²⁸ , organising and participating directly in up to 4 different workshops and sessions with a focus on OD measurement and accountability. Nevertheless, more engagement, dissemination and awareness actions are expected to continue during 2016 with a particular focus on extending those to the regional level as well. |
| Standards | |
| Complete inventory of open data standards by type (e.g. metadata standards, standards for number and type of datasets published, interoperability standards, etc.) using, among other methods, case studies of data standards in WG member countries, to develop a global view and to identify gaps and overlaps | Completed – Standards inventory posted to OD WG website ²⁹ |
| Identify recommended standards for open data, drawing on interoperability requirements and best practices identified in WG member countries | Completed – Recommended standards and best practices document available ³⁰ , and will be incorporated into OD WG website and potentially into Charter Resource Centre |
| Consult with WG members on identified baseline standards and best practices for open data | Completed as part of IODC 2015 (May 2015, Ottawa). |
| Publish an OGP document outlining baseline standard and recommended best practices for | Not completed |

²⁷ <http://opendatacon.org/>

²⁸ <https://en.ogpsummit.org/osem/conference/ogp-summit>

²⁹ <http://public.opennorth.ca.s3.amazonaws.com/reports/ODWG-Standards-1st-deliverable-Gaps-and-opportunities-for-standardization.pdf>

³⁰ <http://public.opennorth.ca.s3.amazonaws.com/reports/ODWG-Standards-2nd-deliverable-Recommended-standards-and-best-practices.pdf>

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| open data, along with guidance for adoption and implementation | |
| Capacity Building | |
| Provide on-demand consultation to support development of national action plan open data commitments, through direct requests and through OGP regional meetings | Completed – 2 Action Plans reviewed in 2015 |
| Reach out to countries that already underwent on-demand reviews of national action plan open data commitments and ask for their feedback regarding the usefulness of comments | Completed – Countries contacted and feedback received and discussed with Capacity Building co-leads |
| Reach out to countries in all cohorts, with particular focus on cohort 4 countries, to offer OD WG review of open data commitments | Completed – Email sent to all countries developing Action Plans to inform them of the process for Action Plan review |
| Develop a questionnaire to identify challenges and existing capacities regarding open data implementation among OD WG member countries | Not completed |
| Work with organizations and initiatives (e.g. Partnership on Open Data and Open Data in Developing Countries initiative, Partnership on Open Data) to build an inventory of Open data resources (including policies, practices and learning activities) that will then be posted on the OD WG website | In progress – Resources will continue to be identified and incorporated into the Charter Resource Centre |
| Work with organizations (including ILDA) to develop projects that build open data capacity in specific subject areas (e.g. health, cities) | In progress – Collaboration with external organizations will continue with a view to providing open data resources for OGP member countries and organizations |
| Share tools and best practices to support implementation of open data, including webinars; open data implementation guide; and open data dashboard | In progress – Resources will continue to be identified and incorporated into the Charter Resource Centre |
| Leverage OGP Support Unit peer learning opportunities, to provide education and training opportunities to government representatives working on the implementation of open data initiatives. Learning opportunity events may include ConDatos preparatory meeting (Chile - march); International Open Data Conference (Canada - May); ConDatos (Chile - September); | Completed – OGP OD WG Steering Committee members provided support for open data events and workshops at IODC 2015 (Ottawa, May 2015); ConDatos (Chile, September 2015); OGP Summit (Mexico, October 2015). |

Problems and challenges

Commitments of SC members and slow progress

When the WG launched a call for expressions of interest to the whole group for Steering Committee members, the chairs received several responses. For some regions, the chairs had to take a hard decision about the person to appoint.

Activities involving the SC and meetings were conducted regularly but there were several members who often didn't attend and some who have never attended.

The chairs thought that a group as big as this would need a core group (the SC) who would be the main ones moving things forward.

The chairs eventually amended the terms of reference, introducing the concept of "good standing" members so there was more dynamism in the group and disengaged members were replaced by new members who could allocate more time to the WG's tasks.

Additional Unexpected Work: the Open Data Charter Partnership?

As mentioned above, the way the work streams were designed put the Principles workstream as an overarching one, its main deliverable being the International Open Data Charter. The Charter attracted increasing interest, even beyond the OGP itself and it led to a new partnership linked to the OGP. A significant amount of work has been put towards building consensus around the Charter. The face-to-face in Washington DC in February 2015 included non-OGP ODWG members. The Chairs and their teams with the help of some of the SC members and some of the most interested stakeholders in seeing the Charter succeeding (including multilaterals such as the World Bank and donors such as Omidyar Network) have worked together towards shaping the future of the Charter in scenarios including such as outside the boundaries of the OGP, drafting potential governance models, discussing a potential critical path to success, etc.

This showed the WG cares about advancing open data not only within the OGP but globally, but meant and is meaning additional work.

Quality of OD4D Fund Deliverables and Round 2 Plans

Selecting the proposals to award during this phase was difficult given the number we received and the quality of several of them versus the limited funding resources. Although there was SC agreement on awarding the ones that were finally selected, both chairs have discussed several

times to what extent the research commissioned during Phase 1 would be useful for the group to achieve its goals.

We feel that we could have gotten more targeted research projects. This may have been a question of starting with an open call in the first place.

As a result there was not a second open call but instead targeted efforts especially relating to the International Open Data Charter which required additional time and resources.

Overall assessment and recommendations

The project originally designed to support the OGP ODWG mainly, but benefited from a flexible work-plan. There is no doubt this project with the support of IDRC and OD4D incubated and fostered the creation of the International Open Data Charter as one example of a workstream efforts growing bigger in scope than originally anticipated.

The following is an overall set of recommendations as a result of implementing this project:

- Project flexibility. The project benefited from a flexible approach that allowed emerging initiatives to be supported and incubated such as the International Open Data Charter as well as the International Open Data Conference;
- The project has benefited from momentum generally around face-to-face meetings but has then faced the issue of availability of time of the people involved (e.g. Steering Committee members) to advance its agenda more effectively and sustainably;
- It seems efforts are increased when the participants are more focused; to this extent, we recommend the WG and future efforts in this area to focus on less components and get clarity about the roadmap for those as soon as possible in the process. For example, the research outputs from the Fund could have been increasingly important if commissioned later in the process when focus of the group work was even clearer;
- Moreover, strong working groups always require strong leadership on all aspects to be able to advance and deliver high quality outputs. We recommend trying to anticipate all the possible future needs in terms of key work streams and activities in order to provide enough support and the necessary resources that guarantee proper leadership and coordination for each of them. This way one could avoid to end up with different unproductive streams or activities that undermine the general group resources and performance.

- We have concerns and had heard similar concerns from other OGP WG co-chairs about sustainability of the WG's work. For example, now that this grant is over, the Web Foundation has low to no resources to support its work as co-chairs and will very likely have to reduce its role as such. We recommend IDRC to engage in a sustainability discussion with the OGP Support Unit;
- Finally, we want to commend IDRC for its support to global initiatives that can benefit not only the Global South but also a particular community/movement to advance its agenda and we look forward to see sustained support in this regard on the way forward as part of its strategic agenda.