



- A number of initiatives implemented by countries put at risk the sustainable operation of services, especially regarding their financial sustainability, given that their collection of tariffs is reduced by 40 to 70%. Therefore, technical and financial support measures for service providers will be needed, particularly if the period of confinement is prolonged. Some utilities are putting their own measures in place to protect workers and secure continuity of services. However, small service providers and those operating in the informal sector are unable to invest in their own protective measures.
- The extent and speed of response vary from country to country. Rural areas and small towns have generally received less attention.
- Vulnerable groups living in informality, migrant workers, and internally displaced people are harder to reach through the standard social protection means. If not addressed, this will exacerbate existing inequalities during and after the crisis.
- The focus of response has been on immediate and short-term initiatives. For assuring sustainability in the long term, it is vital to start developing an overarching strategy and measures for implementing sustainable WASH services, even during the post emergency and recovery phase.

A closer follow-up of measures and initiatives of countries will be undertaken by SIWI in the coming months, together with an update of the mapping. More info or queries: [virginia.mariezcurrana@siwi.org](mailto:virginia.mariezcurrana@siwi.org)



Source: Mahbubur Rahman, Second place, WIN photo competition 2020,

## Putting integrity and accountability at the heart of government response to COVID-19, especially in the water sector

It is all too easy, in a time of crisis, for the elements of good governance to fall by the wayside, or indeed, for the crisis to be used by those with particular vested interests to force through changes, not necessarily for the long-term good of the people.

This then raises the question as to what can be done to ensure sustainable delivery of water supply and sanitation to the most vulnerable in both rural and urban areas, based on the four pillars of transparency, accountability, participation and anti-corruption.

In this blog, WIN and partners are proposing four first steps:

1. Developing responses with affected communities
2. Maintaining transparency standards in emergency public procurement
3. Establishing a national oversight task force to monitor how money is spent
4. Taking measures against emergence of new water cartels in emergency water supply

You can read the blog [here](#)

## Covid-19 blogs and other resources

OGP recently launched the Open Response + Open Recovery, a campaign to promote accountability, transparency, and inclusivity in our collective response to COVID-19. Through this campaign, OGP will collect and curate the many resources of the open government community, share stories and advocate for open government principles as we move through response to recovery. Explore the resources from the campaign here and join the conversation with #OpenResponse #OpenRecovery.

[Combating the Coronavirus Without Clean Water](#): Frequent hand washing is supposed to help prevent the spread of

COVID-19. However, what should governments do when water scarcity impacts their communities?

[Five human rights principles that put people center stage in water, sanitation and hygiene responses to COVID-19](#)

Empowering and increasing the dignity of marginalized and vulnerable people will help us emerge from the COVID-19 crisis with healthier societies and revitalized opportunities for development and peace. Louisa Gosling, Naomi Carrard, Hannah Neumeyer and Virginia Roaf outline how applying the principles of human rights can save lives now and in the future:

## Strengthening the national information system of water resources through Brazil's Open Government agenda

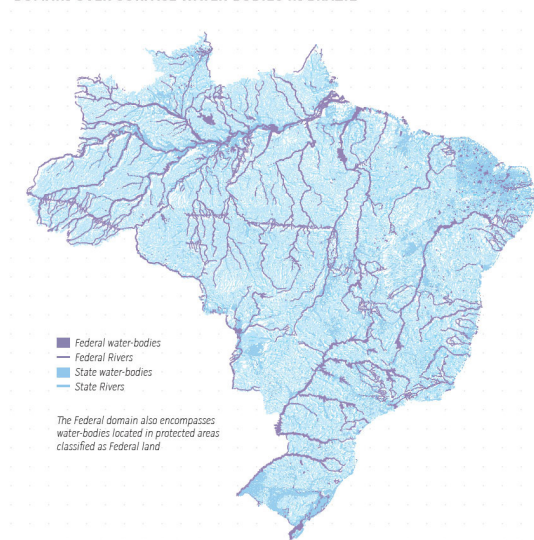
Brazil's 4th OGP national action plan includes a commitment to strengthen the information systems of the country's water resources and to reinforce co-creation in the water sector.

To gain insight on this process, the Community of Practice spoke with Marcus Fuckner, Coordinator of Information Management within the Planning Unit at the National Water Agency (ANA). Mr Fuckner shared how the 10th commitment in Brazil's national action plan has been an opportunity to improve and increase awareness of water resources, including through feedback from stakeholders.

To enable a critical external evaluation of the system, the process involved training workshops, online consultations, and the participation of civil society and local basin committees as key OGP 10th commitment's milestones. The result was the implementation of actions in order to meet stakeholders' demands and address the weaknesses identified in the portal.

The implementation of the 10th commitment, which contains a set of eight compliance milestones, began on August 2018 and is due in July 2020. You can read more about it here ([ES](#)).

DOMAIN OVER SURFACE WATER-BODIES IN BRAZIL



Source: Brazilian Water Resources Report 2017. Brasília: ANA, 2018. Available at [http://www.snirh.gov.br/portal/snirh/centrais-de-conteudos/conjuntura-dos-recursos-hidricos/conj2017\\_rel\\_ingles.pdf](http://www.snirh.gov.br/portal/snirh/centrais-de-conteudos/conjuntura-dos-recursos-hidricos/conj2017_rel_ingles.pdf)

## OGP Water Commitments 2020: Untapping the full potential of water service delivery – through the integrity and anti-corruption lens

The latest [OGP Water Fact Sheet](#) shows a snapshot of global progress and member-level examples of water reform across the Partnership, including 2019-2021 OGP action plans. Learn more about Water in OGP [here](#).

Poor governance and systemic corruption hinder progress on realizing the human rights to water and sanitation and achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which seeks to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Still, not enough resources are put forward to effectively address these concerns. There is significant untapped potential for improving water service delivery through open government approaches. Suhttps://www.opengovpartnership.org/policy-area/water-sanitation/ch approaches, focused on transparency, accountability, and participation, are key to address many of the root causes of water issues, including corruption and poor quality assurance, as well as lack of prioritization, inequity, and disregard for sustainability.

Despite the importance of the water sector, and the life-changing potential of improved service delivery, water is the least popular area for public service delivery commitments in OGP. However, in part due to the complexity of the sector, this also highlights a lack of awareness among water sector stakeholders of OGP possibilities and open government opportunities. So far, 37 OGP members have made 65 water commitments. At least 12 of these have had significant impact and opened government. More work needs to be done to encourage members to achieve better water and sanitation governance and spearhead corruption-eradication efforts within the sector.

These are the most important areas for action:

**Transparency:** OGP members can ensure that the public has access to information on ambient and point-of-service water quality, as well as information on the responsible parties for decision-making, or, in some cases, pollution or overuse.

**Accountability and Participation:** OGP members can often ensure long-term quality by deepening channels for citizen input and innovation, as well as ensuring that officials respond to public inquiry. This includes ensuring women's voices are heard and represented in decision-making, as they are disproportionately affected by water policy.

**Equity and Sustainability:** OGP members can use water commitments to make clean water collection safer and more equitable, leaving no one behind.

These measures will contribute to reducing corruption, a process that can be reinforced with targeted anti-corruption measures, including the establishment of entities, structures, processes or systems that contribute to government oversight. These can include – but are not limited to – protection of whistle-blowers, forming of special anti-corruption parliamentary commissions, and improving capacity development and training of officials in corruption mitigation.



## Connecting transparency and integrity actions from national water agencies with the Open Government Partnership (OGP): Experiences from Latin America



Participants at the workshop in Brasilia, Feb 10-11 2020

Though the number of initiatives on water and sanitation remains a limited percentage of total OGP nation action plan commitments, hope can be found in their steadily increasing number in recent years. In addition, there are clear signs that the sector has promoted measures and practices of transparency, integrity, participation and accountability through other channels.

This progress within the water sector became evident from presentations made during the Water and Open Government Community of Practice (CoP) workshop on “*Strengthening Integrity in the Water and Sanitation Sector through the Open Government Partnership*” in Brasilia on February 10-11, 2020. Jointly organized by Brazil’s Federal Comptroller General Office (CGU as per its acronym in Portuguese) and its National Water Agency (ANA), the event brought together participants from national water institutions, from countries that have adopted OGP water commitments, or are in the process of formulating new action plans in 2020. This included, along with the OGP points of contact from each respective country, the following national agencies:

**Brazil:** National Water Agency (ANA)

**Colombia:** Regulatory Commission of Potable Water and Basic Sanitation - CRA & Superintendence of Home Public Services -SSPD

**Honduras:** Water and Sanitation Regulatory Agency - ERSAPS

**Paraguay:** Direction of Potable Water and Sanitation - DAPSAN/MOPC & Regulatory Entity of Sanitary Services - ERSSAN and

**Peru:** Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation - MVCS & National Superintendence of Sanitation Services - SUNASS.

In several of these countries, national public institutions are now required to adopt plans at the sectoral level and what we will refer to as **sectoral transparency and integrity plans or sectoral plans**.

In accordance with CGU Resolution 1098 in **Brazil**, ANA adopted its [integrity plan in 2018](#). This project encompasses the implementation of the legal framework on access to information and proactive transparency, management of conflict of interest and nepotism, channels for handling complaints, and an internal control system and compliance with audit recommendations.

In **Peru**, based on the guidelines issued by the High Level Anti-Corruption Commission, the MVCS adopted its [Sectoral Anti-corruption Plan \(2017-2019\)](#) which incorporated open government related actions, and is currently under evaluation. Coordinated by the MVCS' Integrity and Anti-Corruption Office, this plan is in step with the broader efforts of the national government, especially with its national anti-corruption policy, and the national anti-corruption plan. The plan included an assessment of and measures to enhance citizen participation, the updating of the code of ethics, and the strengthening of channels available to submit complaints.

In **Colombia**, the CRA and the SSPD adopt their respective anti-corruption and citizen service plans before the end of January of each year, in accordance with Law 1474 from 2011. This plan must be previously submitted for public consultation.

In **Paraguay**, the National Anti-Corruption Secretariat (SENAC) requires various public institutions – including DAPSAN and ERSSAN – to adopt annual transparency and accountability plans in February of each year. The plans must address six components: access to information and transparency; accountability; public integrity and ethics; corruption risk management; public participation; and handling of denounces.

In addition, although without sector-specific plans adopted, other agencies in the water sector have promoted practices related to open government pillars. For instance, SUNASS in **Peru** has conducted public hearings for raising awareness of proposals for modifying services fees, promoted regulatory benchmarking, as well as corporate governance for water companies. With respect to the latter, SUNASS' corporate governance framework includes measurements of impact within seven dimensions, including transparency, ethics and conflict of interest.

In **Honduras**, with support from the Consortium for Water Integrity<sup>1</sup> and the IADB's Water and Sanitation Department, as well as the Institutional Capacity of the State Department, ERSAPS promoted the toolbox for integrity management in water companies and water user associations through an integrity-based change process in regards to their business model in order to improve their performance.

To further strengthen and support the plans to strengthen transparency and integrity in the water institutions in their respective countries, a few issues should be considered moving forward building upon the process of the OGP and commitments laid out through National Action Plans.

**First**, in line with the values of OGP, *sectoral transparency and integrity plans* (like the ones mentioned above) must include public consultation and/or co-creation with civil organizations through a multi-stakeholder forum. To the greatest extent possible, citizens must also be engaged in its implementation and monitoring.

**Second**, sector transparency and integrity assessments must be conducted in order to clearly identify and define the key problems or challenges, as well as the best possible actions to address them.

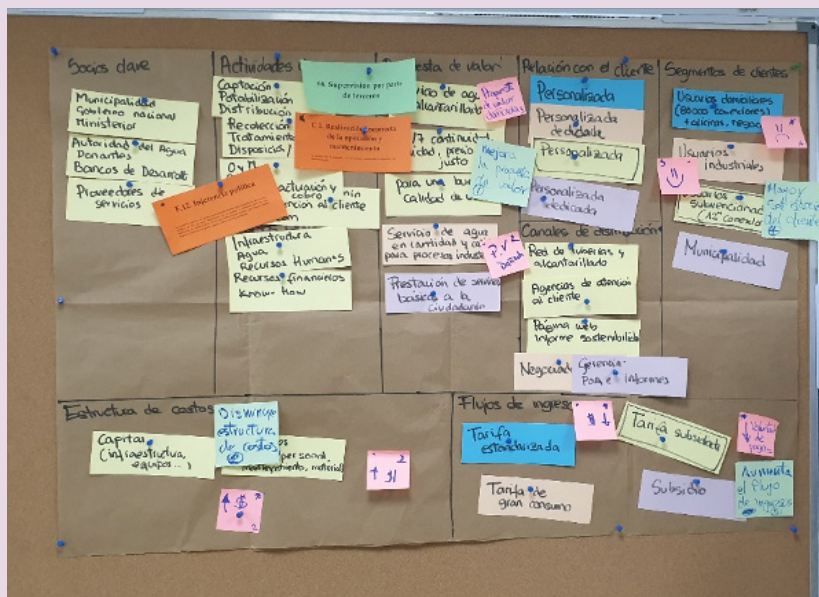
**Third**, public dissemination of the plans as well as of the progress and evaluation reports is essential.

**Fourth**, results-oriented indicators must be adopted to measure the impact generated by actions implemented.

**Fifth**, more ambitious and innovative actions and commitments should be sought based on an open government approach.

Finally, in light of the reduced number of OGP water commitments as well as the limited outreach of OGP Point of Contacts to sector stakeholders, there is another key consideration: *how could the OGP community engage more actively WASH sector agencies and leverage these sector plans in the future?*

We do believe that *sectoral transparency and integrity plans* can be strategic entry points for involving water agencies and informing future water commitments in OGP action plans. Given that financial resources are a main challenge in implementing OGP commitments, future water commitments can build upon the specific resources allocated for the implementation of these sectoral plans. To ensure long-term sustainability, OGP commitments must leverage these sectoral plans for advancing SDG-related commitments in a more strategic manner so they get integrated into existing public administration processes.



<sup>1</sup> Consortium for Water Integrity consists of cewas (<https://cewas.org/>), SIWI (<https://www.siwi.org/>) and WIN (<https://www.waterintegritynetwork.net/>)

# How can open government action plans be used to accelerate reforms that help the country meet their national clean water priorities?

## First Webinar on “Water and Open Government: The Cases of Armenia and Ghana”

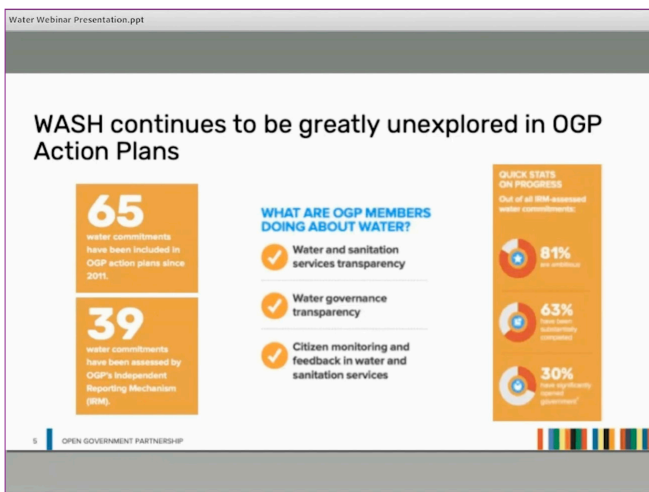
The first webinar organized by the Community of Practice was held last April in collaboration with the OGP Support Unit, in which approximately 50 participants attended from all over the world. The webinar kicked off with presentations from Adna Karamehic-Oates, Program Officer from Thematic Priorities at the OGP SU, and Pilar Avello, Programme Manager from SIWI. They provided a global outlook on

the different existing water commitments within the OGP National Action Plans and the activities of the Community of Practice for the next months.

The webinar highlighted key lessons and challenges based on existing water commitments implemented to date. Mr. Edgar Pirumyan, Head of the Water Resources Management Agency (Armenia) presented key lessons from the creation of the State Water Cadastre, a unified information system for water resources (more information about the commitment here). Mr. Isaac Aidoo, OGP Point of Contact in Sekondi Takoradi (Ghana), informed the crowd on the Commitment to improve sanitation services in Sekondi Takoradi through a new model of collaboration between the local government and the landlords to increase the coverage of household toilets (more information about the commitment here).

With support from the OGP Multi-Donor Trust Fund supported by the World Bank, the Community of Practice on Water and Open Government will be organizing a series of webinars that aim to bring together the open government and water communities. The goal of these events is to encourage peer learning and knowledge sharing on critical open government issues among civil society, government practitioners, and others that can help us improving water and sanitation service delivery.

You can watch the recording of the webinar on Youtube [here](#). The presentation materials are available [here](#).



## The Open Government and Water Declaration

The Open Government and Water Declaration is being created to provide a simple and concise framework for advocacy, strategic thinking, and action on open government commitments; all essential elements in achieving WASH services for the most vulnerable. Focusing on transparency, participation, social equity, inclusion and accountability, the Declaration will support countries in defining a floor and ceiling on Open Government Partnership commitments that will assist them in achieving their Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) on water and sanitation by 2030. More information on the declaration is available here: English ([EN](#)), Spanish ([ES](#)) and Portuguese ([PT](#)).



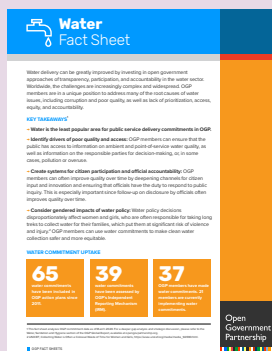
The public survey is reaching out to Open Government and Water communities to contribute to the creation of the Open Government and Water Declaration. The surveys are available in English ([EN](#)), Spanish ([ES](#)) and Portuguese ([PT](#)).

They will be open for comment globally until the end of July – we encourage you to share it widely.

The next stage of the development of the Declaration will be the creation of an advisory group to draft the Declaration according to international best practices and the comments received. We are reaching out to a wide range of academics, activists, community and indigenous representatives, as well as Government representatives committed to water and open government to join. Please let us know of any interest to be part of this drafting group.

We encourage active participation now in setting a framework for new reforms and demands to ensure we can achieve water and sanitation for all in a transparent and accountable way in the next 10 years through the work of the OGP

# NEWS from the OGP Water and Sanitation World



## Water Fact Sheet 2020

The latest [OGP Water Fact Sheet](#) shows a snapshot of global progress and member-level examples of water reform across the Partnership, including 2019-2021 OGP action plans. Learn more about Water in OGP [here](#).

## OGP Local

From ensuring safe water to supporting schools, local governments provide key services that impact people's daily lives. After the success of a pilot local program, OGP is excited to share a new phase for [OGP Local](#). In the new strategy, OGP Local will make membership requirements more flexible, accelerate national-local integration, and develop a collaborative hub for peer learning.

Learn more about the next phase of OGP Local in this blog written by the new Deputy Director of OGP Local, Rudi Borrmann [here](#).

## OGP Local Water & Sanitation Commitments

### [La Libertad, Peru: Participatory Management of Safe Water \(2017\)](#)

The provision of water and sanitation in the Peruvian region of La Libertad presents many problems. Municipal public water supply companies often have budget deficits, few qualified personnel, or lack the technical or financial capabilities to guarantee minimum standards in the delivery of water and sanitation. To ensure a sustainable and clean water supply, the government has committed to building an information system that allows citizens to report the status and location of water and sanitation systems.

### [Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana: Public Services – Sanitation \(2017, 2018\)](#)

In Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana, an inclusive outreach and co-creation process resulted in an action plan that represented people's concerns and tackled pressing problems faced by the community. For example, calls for better sanitation have led to pressure on landlords to provide toilets in all properties, improving overall health.

Explore more OGP Water & Sanitation commitments [here](#).

## Stay Tuned for the Next Webinar in June

Coming up on 24 June, the next CoP webinar will focus on issues around women, gender and WASH and how the OGP can strengthen action through gendered water commitments. It will outline the OGP's current initiative around gender, *Breaking the Roles*, and share the building blocks for a gendered OGP commitment. On-the-ground experts will highlight water security issues, and how they affect women and children (sexortion) in the age of climate change, epidemics and pandemics. Participants will have the opportunity to brainstorm gendered water commitments based on their country's water priorities and identify how they can deepen the connection to the co-creation process of the action plans.

Sign up to the Community of Practice for Open Governance newsletter and keep up to date with our vital work [here](#)