



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR BANGLADESH

Deadline to submit proposals: January 6, 2014

The **Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA)** supports civil society and governments to work together to solve critical governance challenges in developing countries. To achieve this objective, the GPSA provides strategic and sustained support to CSOs' social accountability initiatives aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability. It builds on the World Bank's direct and ongoing engagement with public sector actors, as well as a network of Global Partner organizations, to create an enabling environment in which *citizen feedback is used to solve fundamental problems in service delivery and to strengthen the performance public institutions*. Through a country-tailored approach, GPSA-supported activities are implemented in sectors where the World Bank has a strong involvement and can help governments respond to citizen feedback.

The GPSA works to "close the loop" by supporting citizens to have a more articulated voice, helping governments to listen, and assisting government agencies act upon the feedback they receive.

The GPSA is pleased to announce its 2nd Global Call for Proposals. In Bangladesh, the GPSA seeks proposals for Social Accountability initiatives and programs from Civil Society Organizations **to address both of the following:**

- ⇒ Increase transparency and accountability of the open budgeting process (in particular the use of block grants at the local level) by strengthening capacities of citizens in the char Unions of north-western Bangladesh (namely, the districts of Kurgram, Gaibandha, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Bogra, and Sarajbanj) to access local budget data and to engage constructively in budget planning and implementation at the Union Parishad level within the framework of the Right to Information Act 2009, the open budgeting provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 and the Union Parishad Operational Manual of August 2012;
- ⇒ Monitor and report on the open budgeting process at the Union Parishad level in the targeted char areas, in particular in terms of consistency of public expenditure planning and implementation with provisions in the Union Parishad Operational Manual, though the use of various Social Accountability tools, including those involving Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The information emerging from GPSA supported activities will be used by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives to ensure transparent and responsible public finance management system at the local level.

Following the GPSA's approach, it is expected that the information produced will also be used by other public sector institutions beyond the Executive, including Supreme Audit Institutions, legislative bodies, independent regulatory agencies, and other oversight bodies.

In order to be considered, proposals must demonstrate clearly that:

1. The project will push the boundaries from pilots to large-scale interventions that may be replicated country-wide;
2. The proposed intervention complements ongoing initiatives, in particular activities supported in the framework of the Second Local Government Support Program (LGSP II) and other ongoing interventions in the local governance domain focusing on similar objectives. It should identify the value added of GPSA support and avoid duplication;
3. It proposes wide-range partnerships with other CSOs that would enable the proposal to achieve a large scale and leverage existing experience; and

4. The project will generate information that is needed to complement existing processes already supported by relevant public institutions.

GPSA supports proposals that:

- Have an estimated duration of 3 to 5 years, in order to enable sustained and strategic funding for Social Accountability;
- Propose a detailed budget for total grant amounts in the indicative funding range between US\$500,000 and US\$1,000,000. Funding requests below this range will be considered. The requested funds must correlate with the proposal's duration.

Eligible CSOs: Legal entities that fall outside the public or for profit sector, such as non-government organizations, not-for-profit media organizations, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional organizations, labor unions, workers' organizations, associations of elected local representatives, foundations and policy development and research institutes.

Applicant CSO must provide proof of legal status in one of GPSA's eligible ("opted-in") countries.

Please review the GPSA Application Guidelines for details about how to apply for a grant, eligibility requirements, selection criteria and selection process.

If you are interested in applying please visit www.worldbank.org/gpsa to read the GPSA Application Guidelines and to access the application forms.

For information on the Orientation Session organized by the World Bank offices in Bangladesh please contact:

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**Orientation Session:
November 23, 10.00-12.00
World Bank Country Office**