



# Newsletter

## NEWS

### USAID & GPSA Continue Strengthening Accountability, Transparency in Latin America



The [United States Agency for International Development](http://www.usaid.gov) (USAID) announced this month that they will commit an additional \$6.5 million to the GPSA, bringing USAID's total contribution to \$8.6 million. This move signals the strengthening of this partnership and USAID's continued support for the social accountability agenda. "Social Accountability reduces poverty and promotes human rights. USAID proudly supports the World Bank and the GPSA," Dr. [David Yang](#), Deputy Assistant Administrator in USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, expressed on Twitter.

In 2015, USAID contributed US\$2.1m to the GPSA for activities in the Dominican Republic aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Dominican government and civil society to improve service delivery in basic education, justice and citizen security. The new contribution will create more activities in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, focusing on issues of fiscal transparency and accountability in Honduras and in Mexico. "Joining forces with USAID is an important step in scaling new heights in these countries. There is a demand for good governance across the region, and the envisioned projects will improve the accountability and responsiveness of governments," said [Arturo Herrera](#), Practice Manager for the Latin America Region at the World Bank.

*Photo: World Bank Senior Director Debbie Wetzel and USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator David Yang meet at the World Bank headquarters on Sept. 29.*

### A Conversation with Prof. Jonathan Fox on Doing Accountability Differently

The idea of doing development differently has recently gained traction in the aid sector as a whole. However, are we being strategic enough? *Jonathan Fox, Professor, School of International Service, American University*, is asking this very question in a new [U4 Issue paper](#) while looking in particular at how civil society accountability initiatives need to take into account power structures at multiple levels to produce lasting institutional change. As the GPSA is currently in the process of formulating its longer-term Strategy 2020, we met with Prof. Fox to hear his views about the implications he thinks the ongoing debate, and the conclusions from his recent paper, may have for the GPSA. [Read the Interview>>>](#)



### Secure Water, Empowered Citizens: What Can Social Accountability Achieve

From August 27 to September 2, the GPSA participated in [World Water Week 2016](#), which was hosted in Stockholm, Sweden. The objective of this engagement was to raise the visibility of the GPSA's work in the water sector and to connect with relevant stakeholders, with a particular focus on forging new collaboration and partnership arrangements. [Read More>>>](#)

## Learning at the Local Level

GPSA values knowledge & learning, including its dissemination, even at the local level. On September 1, GPSA's Seema Thomas joined a Discovery Civics Course at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) near the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC. [Read More>>>](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings Flagship Event | The Governance Gap: Why Does Half the World Distrust Government and What Can We do About It?** October 6, 2016 | As part of the World Bank's high profile Annual Meetings, the Global Governance Practice (GGP) will be hosting a panel discussion which will examine the challenges of government distrust and hold a discussion of practical solutions to bridge the governance trust gap. Share your thoughts and questions on social media using #goodgov. Watch live: <http://live.worldbank.org/the-governance-gap>

**Book Launch: Governance and Service Delivery: Practical Applications of Social Accountability across Sectors** | October 27, 2016 | This book, edited by Anna Wetterberg, Derick W. Brinkerhoff, and Jana C. Hertz, examines six recent projects that pursued several different paths to engaging citizens, public officials, and service providers on issues related to accountability and sectoral services. Case studies include both sectorally-focused projects in health and education, and projects that targeted governance enhancement. [Learn More>>>](#)

## PAST EVENTS

**Improving Accountability of Municipal Governments: Innovations and experiences from the Demand for Accountable Local Governance and Service Delivery in Ghana** | September 29, 2016 | The presenters talked about Ghana's local government structure, responsibilities and fiscal capacity, as well as the tools and approaches of the Demand for Accountable Local Governance and Service Delivery work in Ghana. [Learn more and watch the recording>>>](#)

**Social Accountability in the WASH Sector – Collaboration and Momentum from the World Water Week in Stockholm** | Webinar | September 14, 2016 | At the SIWI World Water Week in Stockholm, a number of organizations came together in a session to share experiences on social accountability. This webinar provided a taster of the key issues discussed during that session and will offer an opportunity for other organizations to share and feed in ideas and advice. [Learn more and watch the recording>>>](#)

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