



**GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SOCIAL  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

# Newsletter

## Dominican Republic Joins Forces with GPSA on Accountability for Ending Poverty



The Dominican Republic has become the first country from the global South to join the group of donors financing the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA). Joining other donors such as the World Bank, Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations and Aga Khan Foundation USA, the move reflects the government's strong commitment to social accountability mechanisms and governance reforms as a means to end poverty. The Government of the Dominican Republic has made significant strides in embedding principles of social accountability into service delivery and demonstrating the results that can flow from active partnerships with civil society. It was also the first country to opt in to the

GPSA. [Read more >>](#)

## Launching of GPSA Global Leadership Award for Social Accountability

Do you know someone who has made an extraordinary contribution to advance the field of Social Accountability? The GPSA seeks nominations for its Global Award for Leadership in Social Accountability. This Award is a recognition that will be granted to leaders - individuals in government, civil society organizations or the private sector - for their outstanding contributions in the field of Social Accountability as a means to eradicate poverty and foster shared prosperity. Nominations are eligible for candidates from countries that have opted-in to the GPSA by March 8, 2015, the closing date for nominations. GPSA Global Partners and from World Bank Staff are invited to nominate candidates. [Read more >>](#)



## OSF and GPSA announce new projects

The GPSA and the Open Society Foundations (OSF) announce two new projects in Ghana and Tunisia that will help to improve the effectiveness of public health investments, and improve local government budgeting and planning systems in each of these countries respectively. The [Center for Democracy and Development](#) (CDD) in Ghana will receive \$898,050 in support for its project titled '*Building transparency, participation and feedback around local government budgeting and planning systems*'. In Tunisia, [Article 19](#) will be supported by a \$200,000 grant for its project '*Using Right to Information to improve rural women's access to quality health services*'. [Read more >>](#)



## Powerful Partnerships for Governance

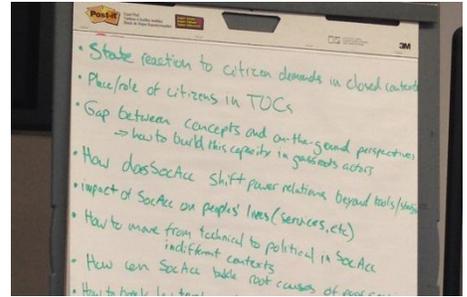
The World Bank Group published an article highlighting the power of partnerships at work in the GPSA's approach. Featuring the experiences of the Consumer Union Association of Tajikistan in enhancing consumer's trust in the local water provider in Muminabad province, it underlines how 'closing the loop' on citizen feedback by supporting governments' response is key to achieving results in social accountability. [Read the story: English | Español | Français | العربية | Русский](#)



## What we learned in recent events

### Social Accountability Research Workshop Summary

The GPSA together with Making All Voices Count (MAVC) and Transparency and Accountability Initiative (TA/I) held a day-long Social Accountability Research Workshop in Washington, DC on January 23, 2015. The workshop convened social accountability academics and researchers from around the world on their current and upcoming research themes and initiatives, aiming to further the discussion on strategic social accountability by exploring key propositions and themes for future research, and especially to begin the process of defining future collaborative research agenda. Everyone proved inspired by how far the discussion on social accountability has come in recent years, and agreed that further research must ensure that social accountability approach is well integrated within countries' accountability systems. [Read more >>](#)



## GPSA Grantees

### Malawi | Workshop with civil society and district officials builds shared sense of ownership in education project

CARE Malawi together with project partner CSEC organized a start-up workshop in October 2014 to create a common understanding of the project activities and spell out the roles that each stakeholder will play in the project. The workshop was attended by district officials from 5 districts: Dedza, Kasungu, Balaka, Mzuzu City and Mwanza, including Directors of Planning and District Education Managers. Participants, especially from the government side, agreed that the two project objectives are indeed important in the education in Malawi as they aim to address some of the main challenges that government has been facing in the sector. The workshop helped to create a favorable environment for kick-starting the project and set the pace for implementation of activities in the districts. [Read more >>](#)



### Moldova | Ministry of Education mandates open budget hearings and education report cards in all Moldovan schools based on Expert-Grup pilot

Expert-Grup's efforts in piloting and advocating for the inclusion of Stakeholder Report Cards and Public Hearings processes in Moldovan schools have just paid off. On February 20, 2015 the Minister of Education approved Moldova's new national regulation on School Administration Boards, which mandates that all schools must organize annual open budget hearings, informed by stakeholder report cards. In 2014 Expert-Grup introduced Stakeholder Report Cards and Public Hearings processes to 20 pilot schools as part of its GPSA project, giving voice and leverage to all stakeholders to improve education services going forward. Expert-Grup will work with 80 more schools in this manner over the next four years. Its new "[Scoala Mea](#)" online platform also launched, providing key information on operation, budgets and performance of schools to students, parents, teachers and community. [Read more >>](#)



## New GPSA Global Partners

 <p><b>AMAN - Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (Transparency Palestine)</b></p>	 <p><b>Global Good Fund</b></p>	 <p><b>Publish What You Pay</b></p>	 <p><b>Transparencia Mexicana</b></p>
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[View the updated list >>](#)

## Events

**How can citizens collaborate and engage with accountability institutions to improve government performance and access to fundamental rights?** | Webinar with Enrique Peruzzotti (Torcuato Di Tella University, CONICET) | This webinar analyzes why, how and under which conditions accountability institutions can engage and work with citizens. The webinar will also showcase many practical experiences of collaboration among these institutions and citizens in different countries and contexts. | March 10, 2015. [Read more and participate](#)

**Making Accountability Processes work: Engagement between Civil Society and State Accountability Institutions** | Expert Forum with Carolina Cornejo (Civil Association for Equality and Justice (ACIJ)), U4 and WB PPBA program | this E-forum will address key questions: How can accountability institutions and civil society work together to promote good governance? What are the entry points for such engagement? What are the main challenges for this collaboration, and how can these be overcome? How can we assess the impact of these collaborative initiatives? | March 11 to April 3, 2015. [Read more and participate](#)

### Past Events

Did you miss a GPSA Brown Bag Lunch? Webinar? See video recordings of past events:

**Is the government listening to you? Challenges in ensuring governmental response to feedback in the education sector** | Expert Forum with Luis Esquivel (GPSA) and Christina Wright | Online discussion exploring one of the key challenges that GPSA grantees could face: lack of government response upon sharing citizen feedback with education authorities. E-Forum participants can share how they see this challenge and suggest alternatives to overcome it. | February 16 to March 1, 2015. [Read more and participate](#)

**Citizens, Governance, and Outcomes in India: Lessons and Frontier Issues from the Field** | Brown Bag Lunch with Simon O'Meally (World Bank, Governance) who presented emerging findings from a selective and rapid synthesis of key approaches to citizen engagement, accountability and governance reform in India. | February 10, 2015. [Read more and watch a recording >>](#)

**Learning from Results: Adapting Social Accountability projects to Contexts and Multiple Strategies** | Webinar with Bill Walker (World Vision), Joseph Wales (ODI) and Gaia Gozzo (CARE UK), sharing findings of recent research highlighting the relative success of social accountability interventions using multi-pronged strategies, as well as lessons learned from a research project on the use of community scorecards. | January 22, 2015. | [Read more and watch a recording >>](#)

## Jobs

**GPSA Is Recruiting** | The program is recruiting for consultancy positions, based at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC: a Knowledge and Learning Consultant, a Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant and a Communications Consultant. Deadline for applications is March 4, 2015 | [Read more >>](#)

**World Vision Seeks Technical Director, Local Advocacy** | World Vision is seeking to recruit a Technical Director to

lead technical development of Local Advocacy work as a central part of WV's work. | Deadline to apply: March 9, 2015  
| [Read more and apply >>](#)

## Resources

**Consultation meeting for new DFID 'Empowerment and Accountability' Research Programme** | This will be an informal discussion on the new E&A research programme that DfID intends to put out to tender in Spring 2015, and provide an outline of the procurement process. The Programme will provide up to £6.5 million over 5 years to generate new evidence to understand the impact and effectiveness of social and political action. Results will directly inform DFID and other international and national actors to invest in, develop or improve policies and programmes to effectively strengthen empowerment and accountability (E&A) in at least 4 DFID priority countries. | March 4, 2015 in London | Registration required by Thursday February 26 - contact [John Murray](#). [Read more about the programme >>](#)

**The Social Accountability Atlas: Civil Society-led improvements to key services** | The Social Accountability Atlas, developed by Results for Development (R4D), is a new online platform aimed at improving development outcomes by driving an increase in the quality and effectiveness of civil-society led social accountability (SAC) work. The platform features a growing collection of profiles on past and ongoing SAC efforts, providing a concise set of standardized and searchable information, and a quick snapshot of who is doing what, and where. | [Visit http://saatlas.org](#)

**Free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Citizen Engagement starting March 15, 2015** | Is citizen engagement a game changer for development? The World Bank, in partnership with London School of Economics, Overseas Development Institute, Participedia and Civicus, explores this question in a free 4-week course on Citizen Engagement, hosted by Coursera. Taught by a global faculty of experts and practitioners, the course provides a holistic overview of citizen engagement through interactive videos, resources, and activities. Spread the word and join the conversation:  
[bit.ly/citizensengage](http://bit.ly/citizensengage) #citizensengage



**A question of gravity – how do we get social accountability off the ground?** | Blog by Joseph Wales (ODI) casts light on how to build national impact from social accountability programmes that often operate at the very local level. Documented impacts beyond the immediate community or district in which the score card process operates are rare, and understanding how to extend this influence is key given that many problems experienced at the local level are affected by the decisions of higher levels of government. | [Read the blog >>](#)

**Challenges in the Education Sector among Global Partnership for Social Accountability Grantees** | Blog by Luis Esquivel (GPSA) reflects on the importance of supporting and improving education and also highlights potential challenges that Global Partnership for Social Accountability grantees have identified as they start implementing their projects on education. | [Read the blog >>](#)

## Coming Soon!

**A Collective Action Approach against Corruption: the Case of the Dominican Republic** | GPSA Working Paper 3 by Daniel Kaufmann, Andrea Gallina and Roby Senderowitsch documents the IPAC (Iniciativa Participativa Anti-Corrupcion – the Participatory Initiative Against Corruption), a multi-stakeholder participatory effort. Coming March 2015 | See <http://GPSAknowledge.org>

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