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NEWS

Brazil, Cameroon and Comoros Opt-In To the GPSA



On April 7, 2015, the Government of Brazil formally confirmed its decision to opt-in to the GPSA. Brazil is a leading exemplar of social accountability and civil society participation in the region, and is the first of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries to opt-in.

This follows the recent decision to opt-in on April 6, 2015, by the Government of Cameroon. And on March 19, 2015, the Government of the Union of the Comoros also formally presented to the World Bank a letter of consent to participate in the program.

Now that the Governments of Brazil, Cameroon and Comoros have given consent, the civil society organizations of these countries have become eligible to participate in future Calls for Proposals of the GPSA. [Read more >>](#)

Ford Foundation Renews Its Financial Support for GPSA



FORDFOUNDATION

The Ford Foundation has announced a new contribution of US\$1 million for the GPSA. The Ford Foundation has been a close partner of the program since the beginning. It is aligned with Ford's work on social change, democratic values, poverty and justice, international cooperation, and human achievement worldwide. In 2012, the Ford Foundation was the first donor to commit an investment of \$3 million to the GPSA Trust Fund. To date, the funds have been used towards the GPSA's grants portfolio, as well as towards the knowledge and capacity building components of the GPSA. [Read more here >>](#)

GPSA's Knowledge Platform Passes 1,000 Members

GPSA's Knowledge Platform has just surpassed its 1,000 member mark to currently host 1,069 members from all sectors in 88 different countries. The Knowledge Platform is the main tool for supporting the learning, networking and knowledge exchange of the GPSA's grantees and of other CSOs working on social accountability. [Learn more here>>](#)

Social Accountability Media Initiative (SAMI) Workshop Held in Nairobi

In partnership with the Graduate School of Media and Communications at the Aga Khan University in Nairobi, the GPSA recently launched the SAMI project to help raise the effectiveness of information and advocacy activities by civil society organizations and other stakeholders that promote good governance and social accountability. On April 2, 2015, representatives from the Africa Freedom of Information Centre [Uganda], CARE Malawi, Concern Universal [Mozambique], Malawi Economic Justice Network, and SEND-Ghana gathered for a workshop to strengthen their media and advocacy skills. A 2nd workshop for other GPSA grantees is being held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. [Read more>>](#)



GPSA Grantees

Paraguay | Launch of Ñañoimoirũ Social Accountability Project on Tekoporá Cash Transfer Program

On March 18, 2015, over 150 people from government, the private sector, and civil society attended the official launch of the Ñañoimoirũ Social Accountability Project on the Tekoporá Cash Transfer Program at World Bank offices in Asuncion, Paraguay. The launch was held together with the presentation of the new Country Partnership Strategy, highlighting the importance of the project to the World Bank's support for the government's efforts to reinforce social protection in Paraguay. The Ñañoimoirũ project will be implemented by the Centre for Information and Resources for Development (Fundación Comunitaria Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo, CIRD) in partnership with the Ministry of Social Action and other civil society partners. The project receives technical and financial support from the World Bank through the GPSA.



Moldova | GPSA Partner Produces Video Showcasing Project's Success



In partnership with Expert-Grup and the Ministry of Education of Moldova, the GPSA is supporting efforts to monitor education services in Moldovan schools by facilitating the engagement of students and parents with school authorities to address budget allocation of primary, secondary, general and upper secondary schools. The Expert-Grup recently launched a new [“Scoala Mea” online platform](#) for the project during an event at the World Bank office in Chisinau, and produced a video [“Implicarea începe aici”](#) (involvement starts here) showcasing the project's success. [Read more here>>](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Research Workshop, “The Quest for Citizen-led Accountability – looking into the state”

Thursday, April 30, 2015 | As a follow-up to a [social accountability research workshop](#) earlier this year, the GPSA, Making All Voices Count (MAVC) and the Transparency and Accountability Initiative (T/AI) will be co-hosting an all-day workshop, “The Quest for Citizen-led Accountability – looking into the state,” at the University of Sussex in Brighton, UK. This workshop will bring together academics, researchers and practitioners to better understand when and if citizen-initiated accountability efforts contribute to greater responsiveness and accountability. [Read More](#) and [Register here>>](#)

GPSA Global Partners 2015 Forum



On May 12 and 13, 2015, the GPSA Partners Forum will bring together civil society organizations, academia, businesses and governments from all around the globe to provide a space to reflect on social accountability theory and practice, and define together the future social accountability agenda. The Forum will also honor the winners of the first GPSA Award for Leadership in Social Accountability in a ceremony to be held on May 12. [Learn More >>](#)

Improving Social Well-Being through New Participatory Approaches

BBL with Dr. Brian Wampler and Dr. Michael Touchton (Boise State University), presenting their recent research about systematic connections between participatory budgeting and improvements in health care performance over time and across space. May 20, 2015. [Details to follow shortly here>>](#)

PAST EVENTS

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

GPSA Webinar, “ICTs and Their Potential For Engaging Citizens in Social Accountability Projects”

Presented by Fundar in dialogue with SIMLab, this GPSA Webinar explored how and under which conditions technological platforms, mobile technologies and low cost ICTs can become tools for engaging citizens and demanding greater accountability from the government. The webinar showcased various practical experiences from regions such as Africa or Latin America. [Read more here>>](#)



GPSA Panel Discussion, “Towards a Citizen-Centric Approach to Governance: the Role of Social Accountability”

This panel discussion focused on the impact of strategic social accountability approaches aimed at reducing poverty and enhancing shared prosperity. It discussed key issues and opportunities around supporting pro-accountability coalitions between state and civil society, and the importance of building bridges to connect active, engaged citizens with governments who listen to and work with citizens. [Read more and watch a video recording here>>](#)

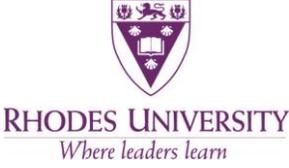
GPSA Working Paper 3 Launched at Brown Bag Lunch

On March 16, 2015, the authors of the GPSA's Working Paper No 3, 'A Collective Action Approach against Corruption: the Case of The Dominican Republic' presented their outcomes of the paper over a light lunch. They discussed the Participatory Anticorruption Initiative (IPAC in Spanish), their views on its achievements and shortcomings, follow-up recommendations, and broader implications for initiatives in other settings. [Read more here >>](#)



GPSA GLOBAL PARTNERS

Over the last month, GPSA has established new partnerships with organizations from civil society, the donor community, the private sector and academia to collaborate on knowledge-exchange, research, and technical assistance, etc. Some of our newest partners include the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, which seeks to solve national, regional and global policy issues through cooperation and participation worldwide, and Making All Voices Count (MAVC), which seeks to enable citizen engagement and open, responsive government across Africa and Asia. The Global Partners group now includes close to 250 organizations. [View the complete list of partners here >>](#)

 <p>Citizen Engagement for Social Service Delivery</p>	 <p>Community Action Network</p>	 <p>Equity for Children</p>
 <p>Lautman Fund</p>	 <p>Lebanese Transparency Association</p>	 <p>Making All Voices Count</p>
 <p>National Democratic Institute</p>	 <p>Netafim</p>	 <p>Open Contracting Partnership</p>
 <p>Or Yarok</p>	 <p>Reboot</p>	 <p>Rhodes University</p>



State Accountability and Voice Initiative



ThinkWell Global



Trinity College



Zimbabwe Civil liberties and Drug Network



Carnegie Endowment for International Peace



Nigeria Network of NGOs



Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem Society



Reproductive Health Uganda



CDD Ghana

RESOURCES

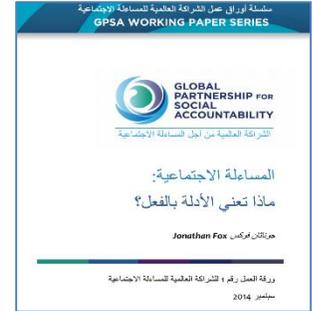
What Do Civic Apps Need to Strengthen Their Ecosystem and Promote Social Change? | Blog by Marcio Vasconcelos Pinto (Avina Foundation) explores the field of technologies for social change and how these apps can help to promote true transformation in societies. [Read more >>](#)

GPSA Working Paper 1 Published in Academic Journal

A shorter version of this [working paper](#), ‘Social Accountability: Why Does the Evidence Really Say?’ by Prof. Jonathan Fox (American University) was published in the August 2015 volume of *World Development*. *World Development* is a multi-disciplinary academic journal of development studies. [Read more here>>](#)

GPSA Working Paper 1 Available Online in Arabic

This [working paper](#), ‘Social Accountability: What Does the Evidence Really Say?’ by Prof. Jonathan Fox (American University) explores the distinction between tactical and strategic approaches to the promotion of citizen voice to contribute to improved public sector performance. It is now available in Arabic online, and will also be available in Spanish and French by the upcoming [GPSA Partners Forum](#). [Read in Arabic here>>](#)



Side By Side With People: Korea's Experience on Participatory Auditing



[This paper](#) on the experience of the Korea Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) is the first in a new series of learning notes developed by the program on Public Participation in the Budget and Audit Process (PPBA). It addresses key issues associated with the Supreme Audit Institution's (SAI) engagement with citizens based on the BAI's varied cooperation experiences with citizens.

[Read more here>>](#)

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