



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT POWER PLAN

A Checklist on Youth Engagement within the
Open Government Partnership



These checklist questions and recommendations were developed by young people for governments in order to share practical guidance on how to meaningfully engage youth in Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP) processes, implementation, and evaluation.

INCLUSION *Youth have the power and knowledge to ensure NAPs have a positive impact in communities, but they are often ignored and overlooked.*

1. Do you define “youth” in your NAP?
2. Are young people, specifically marginalized and underrepresented youth, included in your OGP multi-stakeholder forums and NAP consultation processes?
3. Do young people, specifically marginalized and underrepresented youth, understand the importance of accountable, responsive, and inclusive governance and know about opportunities to participate in NAP processes?

ACCOUNTABILITY *Youth are already leading monitoring & accountability of policies & programs in their communities & with national governments. They can apply these skills to ensure NAPs positively impact young people & communities.*

4. Do you monitor and evaluate your NAP's impact on young people, especially marginalized and underrepresented youth?

SUSTAINABILITY *Youth participation is not a box to be ticked. To ensure ongoing and meaningful engagement of young people, governments must implement support structures and resources for youth voices to be heard and have impact.*

5. Does your national OGP Steering Committee include permanent youth representative(s) to ensure long-term and meaningful youth engagement?
6. Does your NAP include any commitment(s) that target youth?
7. Have you allocated funding, resources, and capacity to support youth engagement throughout OGP and NAP development and implementation processes?

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Do you have ideas for strengthening meaningful youth engagement in NAPs?

Would you like support to implement any of these ideas for engaging youth in open governance processes?

Do you have any questions or comments?

Get in touch at: ogpyouthcollective@gmail.com

RECOMMENDATIONS

INCLUSION

- 1.1 Define “youth” in your NAP in a manner that accurately reflects communities and socio-cultural contexts.
- 2.1 Map local and national youth-led organizations and networks to identify representative youth participants.
- 2.2 Develop targeted communication and outreach materials that are accessible to young people by avoiding jargon and acronyms, including clear definitions and references, utilizing social media channels, and translating information into local languages and dialects.
- 2.3 Use online platforms, digital tools, and in person meetings to engage young people remotely in consultations and utilize these platforms and tools to share targeted communication and information on NAP processes.
- 2.4 Launch an open call - online and through youth-led organizations and networks - for youth proposals on NAP commitments.
- 2.5 Establish an OGP Youth Advisory Council or a youth outreach position within the national OGP office that has a specific remit to ensure the meaningful and active participation of young people.
- 3.1 Design and develop information and resources to support peer-to-peer learning in communities.
- 3.2 Organize community-led meetings with local leaders and youth-led organizations and networks to share information on OGP and discuss the principles of open governance as well as practical steps for participating in NAP processes.
- 3.3 Develop specific roadmaps for implementation in collaboration with youth-led organizations and networks that identify and specify how young people can support the achievement of different NAP commitments.
- 3.4 With youth-led organizations and networks, identify how young people contribute to open governance through their programs and how you can support their efforts to contribute to NAP commitments.
- 3.5 Allocate funding and resources for youth to design, lead, and coordinate projects that will support the achievement of commitments at local levels.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- 4.1 Establish youth-specific indicators to monitor impact of NAP commitments.
- 4.2 Partner with youth-led organizations and networks to assess the impact of the implementation of NAP commitments through online surveys and in person consultations; then, analyze the data, capture important lessons learned, and co-create strategies for addressing challenges with young people.
- 4.3 Publish an OGP State of Youth Impact report - or include a dedicated chapter in formal NAP evaluations - on the outcomes and impacts of specific commitments in regard to youth.
- 4.4 Publish data collected to evaluate the impact of NAPs on youth in an open source format that is shared with the young people and communities consulted with - as well as broader networks - in language that is accessible to youth.

SUSTAINABILITY

- 5.1 Partner with youth organizations to identify trusted and representative member(s) for the Steering Committee.
- 5.2 Collaborate with youth-led organizations and networks to develop a terms of reference to set the mandate and remit for youth representatives to strengthen and mainstream youth engagement across NAP processes.
- 6.1 Do not silo youth into one commitment; the issues young people face are cross cutting and diverse, but a specific commitment that recognizes the critical role of young people in the design, implementation, and follow up of NAPs is a first step for ensuring meaningful participation. The OGP Secretariat can share examples and recommendations for meaningful commitments.
- 7.1 Budget for meaningful and ongoing youth engagement from the beginning of the planning stages, including for youth workshops, online consultations, development of communication materials, etc.
- 7.2 Partner with local and national civil society organizations and networks to utilize existing knowledge and available resources that can support meaningful youth engagement in open governance.