



**GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP FOR
SOCIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY**

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Fourth Global Call for Proposals:

**Innovative and transformative use of social accountability to
solve critical governance and development challenges**

April 17th - May 15th, 2019

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A. 4th. Call for Proposals: Participating Countries

The GPSA is pleased to announce its Fourth Call for Proposals. The call for proposals is open to civil society organizations (CSOs) and CSO networks based in the following eligible (“opted-in”) countries:

**GPSA Fourth Global Call for Proposals:
Participating Countries**

- Benin
- Brazil
- The Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & Grenadines)
- Madagascar
- Moldova
- Ukraine

We appreciate your organization’s interest in submitting a proposal to the GPSA. We suggest that you read through this entire document BEFORE beginning your proposal. These guidelines are also available in the GPSA’s website: www.thegpsa.org

All applications, without exceptions, must be submitted by email to gpsa@worldbank.org

The deadline for submitting grant applications is Friday, May 15th, 2019 (23:59 GMT)

B. GPSA Objectives and Scope

On June 12, 2012 the World Bank’s Board of Directors approved the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA). The mission of the GPSA is to expand opportunities for civil society and governments to work together to solve governance and development challenges and fight poverty. Since its creation in 2012, the GPSA has awarded 41 grants in 32 countries (out of 52 “opted-in” countries as of April 2019) through three global calls for proposals (CfPs) and one country CFP.

To achieve its mission, the GPSA provides strategic and sustained support to CSOs’ collaborative 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 on 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 of public institutions. The GPSA works to “close the loop” by supporting citizens to have a more articulated voice, helping governments to listen, and assisting government agencies to act upon the feedback they receive.* Ultimately, this helps the countries to improve development results and to reach the goals of ending extreme poverty and fostering shared prosperity.

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. A central feature of GPSA-supported initiatives draws from its Board Paper’s call “to create more space for constructive engagement between CSOs and governments to enhance development effectiveness.” Building on GPSA-supported grant projects’ experience, this idea evolved overtime and is currently embodied in the term “collaborative social accountability” (see section D for additional guidance.)

The GPSA is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of CSO, government and donor agency representatives. The Partnership’s scope encompasses two main areas:

Grants for Social Accountability	<p>The GPSA awards grants to CSOs and networks of CSOs working in countries that have “opted-in” to the Program. Grants are intended to provide strategic and sustained support to CSOs with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helping to solve concrete governance and development problems by engaging governments and citizens in problem-solving through collaborative social accountability. These processes activate existing participatory mechanisms or introduce new ones, emphasizing the link between citizen feedback and government response. Challenges related to poverty reduction and the needs of poor and vulnerable groups are prioritized. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthening civil society’s capacities for collaborative social accountability by investing in CSOs’ institutional strengthening and through mentoring of small, nascent CSOs by well-established CSOs with a track record on social accountability.
Knowledge Platform	<p>Offers a global space for facilitating the advancement of knowledge and learning on social accountability by (1) leveraging the K&L generated through the GPSA-supported grants, and (2) deepening and expanding networks of social accountability practitioners from CSOs, governments and donor agencies to foster constructive engagement for solving governance and development challenges.</p>

C. CSOs Eligibility Requirements

1. For the purposes of the GPSA, CSOs include 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.
2. Eligible CSOs must comply with the following requirements:
 - (i) Have legal status in the GPSA’s eligible (“opted-in”) countries included in the Fourth Call for Proposals. The applicant CSO is required to provide a copy of its legal status, including type of CSO and year of establishment. A copy of legal status of the partner CSO(s) that are included in an on-granting scheme must also be provided, if applicable (see para 4).
 - (ii) Use the CSO’s annual audited financial statements corresponding to such organization only (and not to any other partners or affiliates) as the basis for preparing the Proposal Budget.
 - (iii) Have a bank account in the country where the CSO has legal status, and be authorized to receive grant funding directly from the World Bank, should the proposal be selected.
 - (iv) Be able to have a representative from the CSO sign a grant agreement with the World Bank, should the proposal be selected.
 - (v) Proven track record: main applicant must provide evidence of its experience (at least 3-5 years) in the area of the call for proposals, and a vision matching the goals of the GPSA. To this end, applicant must provide (a) references about previous or ongoing projects related to the field of transparency, accountability and civic engagement, and (b) names of three persons that can provide references about the CSO’s performance. In the case of mentoring proposals, Mentor Organizations must comply with these requirements.
 - (vi) Regional CSOs/networks are eligible for GPSA funding provided that they have an affiliate organization acting as lead applicant, with legal status in at least one of the opted-in countries included in the proposal (see (i))

If selected, eligible CSOs must comply with World Bank fiduciary reporting and procurement guidelines in the use of grant funds, as well as the Bank's environmental and social policies under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)

3. Partnership arrangements:

Grant applications may be submitted by only one applicant CSO (main applicant). The GPSA encourages applicant CSOs to partner with other CSOs. While only the main applicant CSO can be the recipient of GPSA grant funding (and thus fiduciary responsible for such funds), it can transfer a portion of grant funds to partner CSOs as explained below. Proposals may put forth two types of partnerships:

- (i) ***Mentoring partnerships:*** target the needs of nascent CSOs and CSOs with little or no experience on collaborative social accountability, by working through CSOs (which must be legal entities in the country where the project will be implemented) to on-grant and mentor the former through clear agreements that spell out the contributions and roles of both. In these cases, applicants will have to link the Mentee CSO(s)' institutional strengthening and capacity-building needs to the implementation of social accountability activities (thus enabling Mentee CSOs to "learn-by-doing"). Eligible Mentor CSOs will be well-established organizations –capable of fulfilling fiduciary requirements-, with demonstrable experience on SAcc, as well as with the capacity to provide technical assistance on institutional development to mentored organizations. Mentee CSOs must be legal entities in the country participating in the GPSA call for proposals. Mentoring proposals must (1) be submitted by Mentor Organization; (2) include the names of Mentee CSO(s) if they have already been identified, or indicate that Mentee CSO(s) will be selected at the start of project implementation (e.g. through a competitive call for proposals at the country level or through another selection process), and (3) clearly explain the objectives of the mentoring arrangements, including on-granting
- (ii) ***Implementing Partners:*** the main applicant may identify partner CSO(s) that complement its expertise, outreach capacity and influence, and will have clearly described roles and responsibilities for the delivery of any part of the project's activities. In this case, the main applicant must (1) include the names of Partner CSO(s) in the grant application, (2) clearly explain the objectives of the partnership arrangement, including if the implementing partner will receive any portion of the grant's funds, for which an "Implementation Agreement" or a contract for services will have to be signed between the main applicant and the partner, depending on the scope of responsibilities and activities. If no portion of grant funds is expected to be transferred to the implementing partner, the main applicant must explain how the partner will fund those project activities that fall under its responsibility. While partner CSO(s) are not required to have legal status in a GPSA "opted-in" country, the GPSA encourages that they come from the country where the project will be implemented or from other developing countries and regions, whenever possible.

4. CSOs whose proposals result pre-selected will undergo a due diligence assessment for compliance with a set of categories, namely:

- **Legal status:** the recipient needs to be a legal entity registered in a GPSA "opted-in" country and provide proof of such legal status;
- **Representation:** key criteria are community ties, accountability to members or beneficiaries, diversity and gender sensitivity;
- **Governance:** sound internal management policies and practices, comprising organizational dimensions, such as clear management roles and responsibilities, clear methods of planning and organizing activities, human capital, financial and technical resources, and partnerships;
- **Transparency:** including disclosure of sources of funding, financial accountability and governance transparency;
- **Fiduciary capacity:** ability to meet applicable World Bank policies for grants;
- **Institutional capacity:** appropriate scale of operations, facilities, and equipment;
- **Competence:** proposed executing team possesses relevant skills and experience across all areas for which activities have been proposed;
- **Proven track record:** concrete evidence of its experience (at least 3-5 years) in the area of the call for proposals, and a vision matching the goals of the GPSA.

5. The GPSA will not support:

- Entities or groups with partisan associations;
- Grant applications which include activities which, because of the high inherent risk of political interference, are likely to raise issues related to the World Bank's Articles of Agreement. These activities include political governance, for instance, support of efforts to help organize political parties, or to the organization, running and monitoring of elections; and
- Grant applications which include sectarian and religious proselytizing activities.

D. Selection Criteria

The Fourth Call for Proposals is geared to the Grants for Social Accountability window. Please note that proposals for the Knowledge Platform are not covered in this call.

Proposals are assessed based on the technical criteria listed in the table below.

Relevance and clarity of project objectives:	
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focus on specific governance and development challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposal makes a realistic and well-justified case for using social accountability to contribute to solving concrete governance or development challenges through a collaborative effort between the applicant CSO and its partners, and public sector institutions that hold the decision-making power to solve the problem ➤ The approach to achieving the project’s objectives does not assume that citizen participation and social accountability mechanisms will solve the problem or achieve governance and development impacts by themselves; rather, the approach is based on an analysis of collaborative social accountability’s need and value add within a broader, dynamic political economy context with multiple stakeholders and interests involved.
Convincing analysis of public sector institutions and engagement strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provides a brief and clear analysis of past and ongoing public sector reforms in the sector or theme relevant to the proposal. ➤ Lays out an engagement strategy by considering the following three key aspects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Which public sector institutions can solve the problem and what are they already doing to solve it?</i> 2) <i>Why would these institutions and actors be interested in working collaboratively with CSOs and how would this engagement look like in practice?</i> 3) <i>What type of response mechanisms are proposed to be used by public sector institutions and how will the feedback link to such mechanisms?</i>
Adequacy of collaborative social accountability approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Puts forth a collaborative framework for engaging public sector institutions and citizens (including organized civil society groups) in problem-solving and monitoring government responsiveness through social accountability processes based on: (a) Information-sharing; (b) credible commitments to cooperate, and (c) joint actions. ➤ The approach is multi-faceted and consists of a dynamic process (not as a “tool” or data collection effort) that considers the following key aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Civic spaces that will be created or strengthened whereby people and communities can engage periodically and iteratively (not one-off) in meaningful deliberation and active participation, with special attention given to poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups. ○ Concrete mechanisms -linked to public service delivery and institutional channels- for systematizing citizen feedback that can help public sector institutions and service providers in better identifying bottlenecks and activating response mechanisms. The process goes beyond mobilization and information generation and includes coordinating actions to follow-up on the responses at various government levels. ○ Investing in continuous, learning-by-doing capacity development (rather than as disconnected training activities) and considering capacity needs of both civil society and public sector actors. ➤ Considers and clearly justifies the following dimensions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Lessons learned: why the proposed approach will work better than past or existing initiatives -or add value to an existing initiative- to promote citizens’ active participation through social accountability</i> 2) <i>Sustainability and scalability: the design considers clear sustainability and scaling-up pathways (through both state-led and civil society-led actions and mechanisms)</i> 3) <i>Distinct roles of stakeholders: anticipates how the roles of public sector institutions, CSOs and citizen groups are expected to shift or evolve overtime, particularly as the process becomes sustainable or is scaled up</i>
Effective collective action through partnerships and coalition-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Acknowledges the need to engage different stakeholders within and outside government to address the stated challenges. It includes formal or informal partnership arrangements with a clear allocation of functions according to each actor’s expertise, outreach capacities and influence. ➤ Puts forth a reasonable and fair scheme to share grant funds with partner CSOs, according to implementation roles and responsibilities.
Project team capacity to execute the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposed project team covers the projects’ needs in terms of skills and expertise, and time dedication required to execute the project. ➤ The project team reflects how well the applicant has internalized the proposal and really owns it as exemplified by the number and roles of staff from the organization included in the team. External support through consultant positions is geared to building in-house sustainable capacities. ➤ If the proposal includes institutional strengthening activities, their need is duly justified and geared towards investing in strategic areas that will help the CSO to strengthen its long-term sustainability.
Appropriate Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clarity and reasonableness of the proposal’s budget as reflected in (i) the balance between the proposal’s duration and the requested budget, (ii) a realistic allocation of budget resources amongst the applicant CSO and any partner CSOs with clear and specific roles, including less-experienced CSOs that are included as “Mentee CSOs”

Proposals must also be consistent with the following criteria related to the proposal’s structuring:

- In response to the need for more predictable funding that can sustain CSOs’ efforts over longer periods of time grants should be proposed for periods between 3 to 5 years.
- Grant amounts will range from US\$400,000 to US\$500,000. Requests for funding below this range may also be considered.

- ☑ Requested GPSA funding broken down by year must be equal to or below the organization's annual budget average of the last 3 years. The rationale of this funding cap is to encourage CSOs to broaden their funding base and to avoid situations where GPSA funding becomes the organization's main source of funding. For example:
 - ✓ An organization with an average budget of \$100,000 may request up to \$100,000 per year or 50% of the projected average annual budget for the proposal's duration, adding to \$200,000 for the organization's total projected annual budget [= average total funding from other sources + GPSA funding] .
 - ✓ An organization with an annual budget average of \$150,000 may request up to \$150,000 per year or 50% of the annual budget average, adding to \$300,000 for the organization's total projected annual budget.
- ☑ Partnership arrangements are clearly reflected in the Proposal's Budget.
- ☑ Proposal's structure includes a Knowledge and Learning Component, *whereby applicants develop a plan that links strategies for project-specific, organizational and peer learning to processes for adjusting and adapting project strategies and implementation based on iterative learning. The K&L plan should also reflect on how the proposed interventions will generate learning about the pathways for advancing transparency, accountability and civic engagement through collaborative social accountability in a given sector and country.*

E. Selection Process

The GPSA Secretariat coordinates the grant applications' review process, which consists of the following steps:

1. Eligibility check. Applications received are checked for compliance with the following basic eligibility requirements, namely:
 - (a) Alignment of proposal's objective with the country priority areas defined in the country call for proposals,
 - (b) Main applicant CSO has legal status in the country (included in the 4th Call list of countries) where the proposal will be implemented (see also CSOs Eligibility Requirements); and
 - (c) Main applicant CSO has provided verifiable information of its experience on collaborative social accountability in the past 3-5 years, and has provided 3 references that can attest to the organization's institutional record and implementation capacity.
2. Technical quality review. Applications are reviewed by a Roster of Experts (RoE) to assess their technical quality following the selection criteria specified in the previous section. The RoE list (including qualifications and expertise areas) will be published by the Secretariat in the GPSA website. The role of the experts is to provide advice on the technical quality and soundness of proposals; for this, individual reviewers will use an evaluation matrix, including a standardized point scale, which will assist the Secretariat in ranking the proposals and to inform the final selection of proposals to be recommended before the GPSA Steering Committee.
3. Steering Committee pre-selection. The Steering Committee considers the list of proposals recommended by the Secretariat, and approves them. The GPSA Secretariat publishes the list of pre-selected proposals online.
4. Commenting and due diligence. Pre-selected proposals are sent to the governments of participating countries for a 10-day comments period, after which they are published online for a 5-day period for public comments. In parallel, proposals undergo a full due diligence assessment (further explained in Section D, paragraph 5).
5. Project package. The GPSA Secretariat considers any comments received, including the results of the due diligence assessments, and addresses these with potential grantees. The Secretariat prepares a "project package" for each approved grant proposal following internal World Bank project processing requirements.
6. Signing of Grant Agreements. World Bank Country Directors and grant winners sign Legal Grant Agreements.
7. Publication of grant winners. The GPSA Secretariat posts list of grants' winners along with approved proposals in the GPSA website

F. Activities ineligible for GPSA funding

- ✓ Scholarships and fellowships
- ✓ Infrastructure projects, such as water or sewage systems
- ✓ Construction or rehabilitation of facilities, such as roads or sanitation facilities
- ✓ Direct service delivery, such as education and health
- ✓ Meeting basic needs, such as provision of shelter, water or foods
- ✓ Medical equipment
- ✓ Partisan or sectarian political activities or elections
- ✓ Religious proselytism or other activities
- ✓ Activities related to neighborhood security patrol and/or arming local communities
- ✓ Purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources
- ✓ Activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples, or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project.

G. How to Apply

1. **Applications are submitted through the GPSA website: www.thegpsa.org**
 - ✓ Please visit the GPSA website and click on the [link to the 4th Call for Proposals](#).
 - ✓ Review your country's priority theme(s) included in the country call for proposals.

- ✓ Download the Word Application Form template.
 - ✓ Fill out the Application Form and submit it to the GPSA by email to gpsa@worldbank.org
2. **Please note: all grant applications, without exception, must be submitted in English.** The GPSA will not consider applications written in other languages.
 3. **If you have any questions about the grant application process,** you may contact the GPSA's Help Desk at gpsa@worldbank.org. Questions received and responses provided (FAQs) will be posted on the GPSA website [\[link here\]](#)