



## Global Partners Forum

### The GPSA at Ten: How Can Social Accountability Rise to Today's Challenges?

June 8-9, 2022

On June 8-9, 2022, the Global Partnership for Social Accountability ([GPSA](#)) will host its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Partners Forum. Each year, the Forum brings together GPSA grant and knowledge partners, civil society, researchers, foundations, governments, and development institutions engaged in social accountability practice, to share knowledge and learn together, explore opportunities and emerging frontiers, and build the social accountability field.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Forum takes place at a time of compounding crises around the globe. If the Arab Spring influenced the creation of the GPSA 10 years ago, emergent global challenges: the COVID 19 pandemic, climate change, fragility, conflict and violence - and ensuing economic shocks and food insecurity - raise important questions about the role and evidence for the effectiveness of social accountability approaches. Putting the spotlight on the relevance of social accountability to today's challenges, the Forum will reflect on lessons learned from civil society-led collaborative social accountability, a model informed by GPSA grant partners experiences, which has been a catalyst for knowledge driven by Global South civil society.

The model builds synergy with public sector systems and World Bank portfolios, towards mainstreaming and scaling. The GPSA has programmed over US\$50 million (and over \$6 million in parallel funding), providing social accountability grants in 34 countries, across key sectors such as health, education, governance, social protection, water, agriculture, public finance, and open contracting. Grants have also supported social accountability for COVID 19 emergency and recovery, climate change, anti-corruption, and gender-based violence. Of the GPSA's 51 grants, 27 were in IDA countries and four in FCV designated countries, aligning with ongoing public-sector reforms.

In creating the GPSA the World Bank affirmed its recognition of the role of civil society organizations and social accountability in making government policies and public services more accountable and effective. It is therefore significant that, in the GPSA's 10th year, an independent evaluation of the Program is being commissioned. Among other goals the evaluation will inform options for its next iteration.

The Forum has 3 objectives, to: (i) facilitate knowledge sharing and learning about how collaborative social accountability has improved development outcomes; (ii) enhance knowledge and understanding of the relevance of collaborative social accountability to emerging global challenges, and (iii) inspire GPSA partners, World Bank staff and other Forum participants to engage more effective collaborative social accountability practice. Over the two days Forum sessions will, among other themes, reflect on social accountability practice in key development frontiers such as climate change and the COVID 19 pandemic, discuss lessons from collaborative social accountability practice, and explore how social accountability approaches can achieve scale.