

Supporting open governance

Open governance creates the conditions for effective collaboration between governments and citizens in a process that enhances legitimacy and accountability of public decision making. It is dependent on access to public information, the capacity of citizens to understand and use publicly accessible information and to participate in constructive dialogue, and the responsiveness of government to participatory engagement.

Open governance encourages governments to be more deliberate about the decisions they make and provides citizens and stakeholders (such as civil society and the private sector) the opportunity to hold their leaders accountable. It can improve the efficiency of government institutions, reduce fraud and waste of public finances, strengthen the management of natural resources and ensure better service delivery.

WBI's approach

WBI promotes open governance by providing innovative initiatives, technology, and capacities for governments and multiple stakeholders (for example civil society organizations, the private sector, and media) to jointly engage in solving difficult governance challenges (such as transparency of budgets, public procurement, and governance of extractive industries).

Supporting Open Budgets: One of the most influential government functions is to establish and execute budgets. Budgets reflect the priorities of government and are



key components of economic growth. WBI is working with a number of countries to build the capacity of multiple stakeholders to better understand and engage on budget processes and to promote more open budgets. Work in this area includes designing an e-Learning course that will enable participants from government, civil society, and the media to become proficient with understanding public financial management; and promoting an online tool called *BOOST* that eases visualization of budget data and utilizes a mapping component to help analyze national budget expenditure data in a quicker and more meaningful fashion.

Innovation in Public Procurement: Procurement is one of the primary mechanisms of budget execution. Many countries rely on procurement systems that lack transparency mechanisms and do not use business models

that facilitate timely and efficient decision making. WBI promotes a process for strengthening public procurement that draws on innovative practices and inclusive reform implementation. Examples include delivering a learning series on implementation of e-Procurement, facilitating multi-stakeholder workshops to develop procurement reform strategies, drawing on practitioner experience to facilitate South-South learning, and developing knowledge products to better understand the context within which successful reforms can be implemented and sustained.

Contract Monitoring: The awarding and implementation of contracts and concessions to extract natural resources is critical to development. Poor choices about how contracts and concessions are awarded and implemented, and how resources and revenues are spent, often result in poor development outcomes. There is growing recognition that monitoring of contract award and implementation processes can provide an effective oversight function in controlling fraud, waste, and abuse. WBI brings together partners from all sectors of society to share information and build coalitions to work together in monitoring contracts and concessions and making their implementation transparent. These coalitions are actively engaged in the monitoring of extractive industry contracts that are essential to ensure that the exploitation of natural resources benefits all citizens. These monitoring coalitions are also getting involved in a variety of sectors such as health (procurement of pharmaceuticals), educa-

tion, construction, and the power sector. WBI is currently supporting this type of work in nine countries in East and West Africa, and through its engagement with Affiliated Networks for Social Accountability (ANSA)-East Asia Pacific and ANSA-South Asia, it is also supporting contract monitoring networks in these regions.

Opening Aid: WBI is engaged in opening aid by mapping World Bank Group and other development institutions' projects around the world. Mapping for Results was launched in October 2010 by the World Bank Institute and AidData to geo-reference and visualize the geographic location of Bank-financed projects and international aid programs including at the sub-national level. It uses Mapping for Results, an online tool that overlays maps with poverty and MDG data such as infant mortality rates, with the geographic location of donor-funded projects. It has identified more than 2,500 World Bank projects and has geo-coded more than 20,000 locations spanning 140 countries.

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WBI is a global facilitator of capacity development for poverty reduction. We connect practitioners, networks and institutions and help them to find their own solutions to address development challenges. With a focus on the 'how' of reform, we link knowledge from around the world and scale up innovations. We work with and through global, regional and country-based institutions and practitioner networks and help them develop customized programs that respond to specific needs. WBI connects globally and delivers locally.

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