**Second Meeting of the Steering Committee**

**of the**

**Global Partnership for Social Accountability**

Washington D.C., May 8 and 9, 2013

**MINUTES**

On May 8 and 9, 2013, the Second Meeting of the GPSA Steering Committee (SC) took place at World Bank headquarters in Washington DC. Participants included members of the GPSA Steering Committee, Mr. Sanjay Pradhan (Vice President of World Bank Institute and Chair of the Steering Committee); Ms. Randi Ryterman (Director, WBI and Alternate Chair of the Steering Committee) Mr. Jeff Thindwa (Manager, WBI and Acting Chair of the Steering Committee on May 9); Mr. Akwasi Aidoo (TrustAfrica) and Ms. Lindsay Coates (InterAction) as Civil Society Members; Mr. Martin Abregu (Ford Foundation), Ms. Annabel Gerry (Department for International Development, United Kingdom) and Mr. Elmo Rissanen (Embassy of Finland) as Donor Members; and Ms. Magdalena Lizardo (Government of Dominican Republic), and Mr. Randson Mwadiwa (Government of Malawi) as Government Members. One of the Steering Committee members from Government, Mr. Abu Alam Shahid Khan (Government of Bangladesh) was unable to attend and was given the opportunity to submit written comments. Mr. Jonas Rolett (Open Society Foundations) participated as an observer among the Donor Members.

Also present were GPSA Secretariat staff members, including Mr. Roby Senderowitsch (GPSA Program Manager, WBI); Ms. Maria Poli (WBI), Ms. Seema Thomas (WBI), Mr. Marcos Mendiburu (WBI), Mr. Miguel Ceara Asuad (WBI), Ms. Marielle Wessin (WBI) and Ms. Emilie Fokkelman (WBI). In addition, Ms. Helene Grandvoinnet (SDV) participated as an observer.

During this second meeting, members of the Committee recognized the good work led by the GPSA Secretariat since December and congratulated the team for the progress made. The discussion focused on the following five topics: (a) the Pre-Selection of the Proposals to be funded by the GPSA responding to the first CfP; (b) Broader Strategic Issues emerging from the discussion; (c) Resource Mobilization; (d) the GPSA Knowledge Component; and (e) the Second Call for Proposals. The full recommended proposals as well as their summaries were shared with Steering Committee ahead of the meeting.

**A. Pre-Selection of Proposals**

After a general presentation made by the GPSA Secretariat to update Steering Committee members on the progress made with implementation of the GPSA to date – including a detailed description of the selection process applied to the 216 received proposals – the Steering Committee discussed the proposals recommended by the Secretariat in light of their contribution to the strategic goal and objectives of the GPSA. The Committee analyzed 15 proposals thoroughly and ended up selecting 13 proposals to be implemented in 11 countries for a total of $9.6M. The following list presents the preselected proposals. A summary of the comments made on each proposal are listed in Annex 1.

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| **Country** | | **Title** (Abridged) | **Organization** | **Amount** |
| 1 | Bangladesh | Social Engagement for Budgetary Accountability (SEBA) | Manusher Jonno Foundation | $ 848,968 |
| 2 | DR | Encouraging changes in the culture of citizen participation and government management | Fundacion Intermon Oxfam | $ 727,984 |
| 3 | Malawi | Strengthening Social Accountability in the Education | CARE Malawi | $ 950,000 |
| 4 | The Philippines | Guarding the integrity of the Conditional Cash Transfer Program | Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government | $ 800,000 |
| 5 | Indonesia | Citizen Voice and Action for Government Accountability and Improved Services | Yayasan Wahana Visi Indonesia (World Vision Indonesia) | $ 950,000 |
| 6 | Mozambique | Social Accountability Knowledge, Skills, Action and Networking | Concern Universal Mozambique | $ 700,000 |
| 7 | Bangladesh | Journey for Advancement in Transparency, Representation and Accountability (JATRA) | CARE Bangladesh | $ 644,138 |
| 8 | Tunisia | Marsad.tn: The Observatory of Tunisian National Constituent Assembly | Al Bawsala | $ 600,000 |
| 9 | Kyrgyz Republic | Voice of Village Health Committees and Social Accountability of Local Self-Government Bodies | Development Policy Institute | $ 598,833 |
| 10 | Honduras | Building Transparency and Social Accountability to enhance democratic governance | FOPRIDEH | $ 519,960 |
| 11 | Tajikistan | Improving social accountability in the water sector | Oxfam Tajikistan | $ 850,000 |
| 12 | Moldova | Empowered citizens enhancing accountability of reform and quality in education | EXPERT GRUP | $ 696,955 |
| 13 | Malawi | Malawi Social Accountability Strengthening Project | Malawi Economic Justice Network | $ 705,000 |
| **Total** | | | | **$9,591,837** |

The Steering Committee considered three potential scenarios of funding for the first round of GPSA grants: low ($6.5 million), medium ($9 million) and high ($11.3 million). Based on the discussion of the proposals and recommended funding amounts, the Steering Committee decided to commit a total amount of $ 9.6 million for the first set of grants.

As reflected in the Operations Manual approved during the First Meeting of the Steering Committee and in light with the GPSA Board Paper, the pre-selected proposals are subject to the final clearance by the World Bank Country Directors in each country, after a period of government and public comments as well as a full due diligence assessment has been completed.

It was also agreed that the Secretariat will make the remaining 156 eligible proposals available to Steering Committee members, including for the Open Society Foundations to consider which proposals it will select for parallel funding.

Finally, the Steering Committee requested the GPSA Secretariat to engage in a series of conversations with the pre-selected grantees so they can take into consideration the comments made by the Roster of Experts and the Steering Committee into the final version of their proposals.

**B. Broader Strategic Issues**

During the discussion of individual proposals, Steering Committee members identified a number of strategic issues that required further analysis. Specifically, the Committee agreed on the following points:

* Allow for more time during the process. While the Committee agreed with the need to have a speedy implementation of the GPSA, especially during its first year of operation, it also acknowledge the need to provide enough time to each step in the process – including the definition of the country-tailored call for proposals, the call for proposals, and the reviewing process. It was agreed that the next round will take this point into consideration. Related to this point, in order to increase transparency in how themes/priority areas are selected in individual countries, it was suggested to publish the outcome of the in-country consultations for the definition of the CfP.
* Ensure a diversified portfolio of grants, in terms of countries, sectors, types of organizations (national and local affiliates of international CSOs), and social accountability tools. GPSA should maintain its emphasis on working with credible partners while promoting an engagement with CSOs beyond some of the already well-funded organizations. It was also suggested to provide more clarity on how the “on-granting” mechanism should work, ensuring that mentoring organizations implement these grants with transparency and risk mitigation actions as needed.
* Conduct a capacity needs assessment on the organizations that presented proposals that were not selected for the first round, which in turn can provide useful inputs for the design of knowledge and capacity building activities.
* Bring more country-specific information and knowledge to the meetings of the Steering Committee to provide information on how specific proposals fit in the broader needs and plans conducted in each country.
* Keep the Results Framework (including the GPSA theory of change) dynamic, as reflected in the First Meeting of the Steering Committee. Mrs. Lindsay Coates and Mr. Jonas Rolett volunteered to review the existing documents and provide suggestions. In addition, the upcoming grantees workshop may provide the opportunity to focus on the M&E framework of individual activities and align them with the broader theory of change behind GPSA.
* Explore the possibility that information emerging from concrete social accountability mechanisms financed by the GPSA feed national data systems.
* Continue strengthening the focus on “collaborative governance” by ensuring that GPSA-funded activities contribute to address strategic governance issues in a collaborative approach with public institutions – while keeping independence from Governments.
* Ensure that adequate support exists during the implementation phase of the selected proposals, including south-south learning and that disbursements are scheduled based on carefully crafted milestones.
* Continue promoting the focus on marginalized and vulnerable groups, including the necessary focus on gender issues.
* Finally, the Committee requested the GPSA Secretariat to come back with concrete recommendations on how to increase the reach to ensure that a higher number of national CSOs produce good-quality proposals.

**C. Resource Mobilization**

Steering Committee members agreed with the need to mobilize additional funding for the GPSA and requested the Secretariat to produce a Resource Mobilization Plan. Individual members suggested a number of activities to be reflected in this plan, including:

* Exploring additional resources within the World Bank;
* With the help of Committee members, engaging with bilateral donors to discuss concrete funding possibilities;
* Exploring the possibility that organizations that engage with the GPSA through “parallel funding” will also contribute to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF); and
* Engaging with private sector organizations to explore contributions to the MDTF.

It was noted that resource mobilization activities should communicate the clear value added of the GPSA and convene a number of activities to provide visibility to the Program, with a special emphasis on showcasing the newly selected grants. Mr. Akwasi Aidoo volunteered to support and provide strategic guidance to the Secretariat for the definition of the Resource Mobilization Plan.

**D. Knowledge Component**

After a presentation by the GPSA Secretariat on the current status of the Knowledge Component of the GPSA, the Steering Committee agreed on the following points:

* A Knowledge Platform will be developed and launched by Fall 2013, and will focus on providing support through practitioner materials and a space for networking. Steering Committee members recommended that the Platform will be easy to understand and user-friendly. The Secretariat ensured that the Platform will connect existing locus of information and become a tool for practitioners on the ground. For this, the GPSA Secretariat has launched a specific call for proposals during the month of May, among a number of Southern CSOs. Once the initial process is completed, the Secretariat will send the pre-selected proposal to the Steering Committee for approval.
* The GPSA Knowledge Component will also work with external evaluators to explore the possibility of turning selected GPSA projects into research projects. Partners in this effort include Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, and Stanford universities.
* Aware of the need to ensure adequate capacity building and institutional support to GPSA Grantees during the implementation phase of their proposals, the Committee agreed with the idea of putting resources aside for these purposes. An initial allocation of $250K took place in the form of a BETF and additional knowledge grants to CSOs may be available for this purpose.
* The Committee welcomed the idea of exploring the possibility of establishing strategic partnerships with academic institutions for setting up a degree in International Development and Social Accountability, in which students can do internships at GPSA grantee organizations. Initial discussions have taken place already with World Learning.
* Finally, members of the Committee agreed with the idea of delivering a GPSA Grantee implementation workshop to be organized in June 2013, to focus on implementation aspects of their proposals, including financial management and procurement capacity, monitoring and evaluation, and strategic communications, among other areas.

**E. Second Call for Proposals**

After a brief presentation by the Secretariat of the steps involved in issuing a Call for Proposals, as well as lessons learned from the first Call, the Steering Committee agreed on the following points regarding the Second Call for Proposals:

* The second CfP will be issued in the Fall of 2013, and allow for a longer period for CSOs to submit their proposals.
* The specific focus of the country-tailored calls that participated in the first round should be kept flexible. It was emphasized the need to work on critical governance areas on which there is room for constructive engagement, enough capacity in CSOs to engage and where the Bank has a comparative advantage given its current engagement with Government counterparts. It was also suggested to encourage CSOs to present clear partnerships in their proposals.
* In order to help CSOs during the application process, it was agreed to produce a “sample proposal” to be posted on line.
* Members of the Committee agreed on establishing a guiding principle to include good quality proposals in countries in which no previous grants were made.
* The Steering Committee agreed to hold its next meeting after the closing of the second Call for Proposals. In this meeting it will consider the next set of proposals for funding.

When closing the meeting the GPSA Steering Committee Chair thanked the participation of individual memebers for their participaiton and contributions.