

Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) Design Report: Tbilisi, Georgia 2018-2020

Mariam Sikharulidze
Independent Researcher

Open
Government
Partnership



Open Governance Partnership - OGP

- Voluntary international initiative, aiming to commit its members to empower citizens, promote transparency, fight corruption, and introduce e-tools for enhanced democracies.
- Established in 2011, 8 founding members, currently 79 member states.
- A Unique Partnership Model - CSO/Government joint activities.
- Georgia member since 2011.
- Local OGP Programs started in 2016 with 15 participants, including Tbilisi.

Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING MECHANISM TO HOLD OGP GOVERNMENTS TO ACCOUNT AND LEARN, AND TRACK OGP PROGRESS

- Accountability Mechanism.
- Is formulation, implementation and monitoring of action plan collaborative and open?
- Are action plans relevant, accountable and verifiable?
- Are more ambitious actions getting done?



OGP in Tbilisi: brief timeline

- Tbilisi – a pioneer to join OGP through the Subnational Government Pilot Program in 2016.
- Implemented its First Action Plan in 2017 (limited completion).
- It was a one year, pilot Action Plan.
- Launch of the second Action Plan 2018-2020 (currently being implemented).



How was Tbilisi Action Plan developed?

- + **Tbilisi OGP Multi-stakeholder Forum:**
 - Permanent coordination mechanism for OGP.
 - Jointly managed by CSOs and the government.
 - CSO representative elected to co-chair the forum.
- + **Participation and engagement throughout action plan development**
 - 6 Multi-stakeholder forum meetings.
 - 12 public consultations with 300 citizens in Tbilisi.
 - 3 unfinished commitments carried forward from the first Action Plan.
 - 2 new initiatives proposed by the CSOs during the forum meetings.
 - Collaborative Action Plan development process.



Gaps in the Action Plan development process

- Need for higher level political engagement in the multi-stakeholder forum work.
- Low general awareness on OGP and relevant activities.
- Lack of public awareness on how their comments were incorporated in the Action Plan.



OGP in Tbilisi: Action Plan 1 and Action Plan 2

- Key policy areas remain the same.
- 5 commitments in each action plan.
- 3 commitments carried forward from action plan 1.
- “Your Idea for the City Mayor” – major result of the AP 1.
 - 8604 citizen proposals submitted since 2018.



1. Mobile app - SMART MAP



An Interactive map will provide information on:

- Construction projects
- Green cover - tree cutting, planting and related projects
- Infrastructural projects

The mobile app incorporates

- Fix Tbilisi – a tool to submit appeals
- Tbilisi Forum – to discuss issues among citizens



2. Participatory Budgeting Portal

Electronic portal will allow:

- Citizens to rate thematic budget areas.
- Identify citizens budget priorities and voting characteristics.
- To support evidence-based budgeting.



3. Web portal for increased access to the City Hall services

1. Multiple services and information from different City Hall departments in a single location.

2. Users will be able to register online through a personal account and modify and select services based on their interests.



3. Portal will allow users to submit feedback for the City Hall to improve its services.

4. The City Hall will summarize and publish analysis of citizens' feedback.



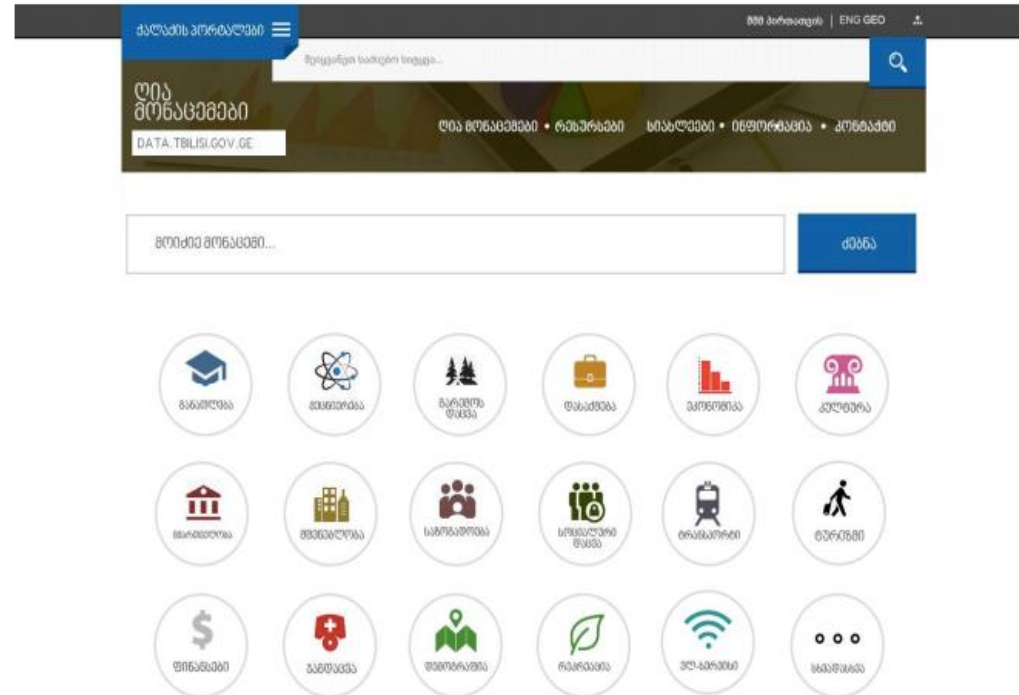
4. Strategy to Improve Transparent Governance

- The initiative was proposed and implemented by CSOs
- Aims to define transparent governance standards
- Entails development of an action plan and monitoring framework



5. Open Data Portal and User-Friendly City Hall Web Site

- Proposed and implemented by a CSO.
- Update the City Hall Web Site.
- Introduce new version of Public Information Page.
- Create Open Data Page to publish government-held information.



IRM Recommendations

- Publicity events and distribution of promotional materials.
- Detailed management system and clearly defined OGP roles at the City Hall.
- Increase transparency and public engagement in decision-making processes, especially in important infrastructural projects.



IRM Recommendations

- High-level political engagement in the OGP processes.
- Invite other Civil Society Organizations not currently involved in the OGP processes to become members of the Multi-stakeholder forum.
- Effective communication with Public and CSOs on feedback and comments provided by them.
- Use OGP as an opportunity to showcase important initiatives at the City Hall.



Looking Ahead: Tbilisi Implementation Report 2018-2020

Implementation of Action Plan 2018-2020 will end in August 2020.

Key points for assessment:

- + Completion status of the Action Plan;
- + Empowered citizens and allowed them increased access to public information;
- + Enhanced Civic Participation and Public Accountability;
- + New technology and supported innovation for Transparency and Accountability;
- + Did it Open Government?

Preliminary start date of the assessment: August 2020.



Thank You for Your Attention!

