

Application

Participant: Guatemala Team

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS:

As you consider which initiative to put forward for the Open Government Awards, please consider the following questions:

(1) Does the initiative seek to improve a public policy or service?
 Yes No

(2) If yes, does the initiative seek to improve the ability of citizens to provide feedback and/or to make decisions in the design or implementation of a policy or service? For examples of initiatives, see: <http://www.opengovguide.com/topics/citizen-engagement>
 Yes No

If you have answered "Yes" to BOTH of these questions, please proceed with your application.

A. THE TEAM

The following information is required to capture a basic understanding of those responsible for your initiative and any partnerships that have helped you to meet your goals.

INITIATIVE NAME (required)

Provide the name of the initiative that your team is submitting for consideration by the judges of the 2014 Open Government Awards (under the inaugural theme, Citizen Engagement). If the initiative is operating under one or more alternate name(s), provide the name that is most commonly recognized.

De Cerca con el Pueblo

THE NOMINATION (required)

Begin by describing how this initiative was selected. For example, mention any nomination or consultation process held with civil society partners or others when selecting the initiative. Please offer your explanation of this process in 200 words or less.

It is an initiative designed by a discussion with representatives of civil society which exposed the need for a direct and interactive communication with government authorities, the motion was presented to the City Council and city decided to create and promote an initiative that meets all requirements employing the municipality, participating employees, the attention of public services and the rulers.

Promoting a direct and immediate development of solutions and compromises that benefit the municipality of Teculután.

GOVERNMENT POINT OF CONTACT (required)

Provide the name and title of a single point of contact for the purposes of communicating with your team. The person should be the most senior individual responsible for overseeing the application submission. Provide the phone number(s), email address(es), and physical address of your designated point of contact. You may provide alternate contact information, if it is a direct means for reaching the designated point of contact.

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CIVIL SOCIETY POINT OF CONTACT (strongly recommended)

We strongly encourage applicants to submit a joint application from a government agency and a civil society partner. If submitting a joint application, please provide the name and title of a single point of contact at the partner organization. If not, please be sure to focus on the "validation of claims" in Section B (see pg. A-3).

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OTHER PARTNERSHIPS (optional)

If you are partnering with one or more other government agencies, private sector entities, media, or other organizations, please list each partner. In 250 words or less, provide a brief narrative of the partnership, including the roles that each partner assumes in the initiative.

In our country there is the DEVELOPMENT BOARD ACT, it establishes the formation of COCODES (Community Development Council) in each of the existing communities, that are responsible for managing and coordinating the development in their community, it also provides COMUDE, which is the entity which is formed by all COCODES municipalities represented by their shared Mayor, the City is represented by the Mayor who leads the COMUDE (Municipal Development Council), having this coordination based on law, is given the need to use it to coordinate the initiative CLOSELY WITH THE PEOPLE, which aims to have a two-way communication from authorities to people and people to the authorities, to enforce the legal rights of neighbors, strengthening democracy peoples through accountability and work commitment by ensuring transparency in the management and active participation of citizens helping to enhance the trust between neighbors and authorities.

B. THE INITIATIVE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is prepared to celebrate a range of successful applicants to the Open Government Awards. This year's theme is "citizen engagement." To qualify for recognition, we need to understand the various elements of success for your initiative and its sustainability over time.

PROBLEM DEFINITION (required)

In 200 words or less, please identify the specific problem your initiative intended to solve. Why was this problem important to solve at a particular time and for the particular context in which you are working?

The communication between people and authorities is essential in any development process, an informed body of people will give the causality of responding in a better manner all initiatives with developing communities, knowing the feelings, ways of thinking, and needs of neighbors is important lines for action by which the authorities should work, which is why the problem identified was the lack communication between neighbors and authorities. "If the ability to listen to others is not stimulated, there is no feedback and the meaning is lost" it is necessary to open a window to effective communication allowing informative strengthening between municipality and residents through an initiative of effective communication as is "close to town" where feedback will generate between municipal government and the general population, particularly with community leaders. Thus development projects will find no lack communication barriers and be more feasible at the time of management and implementation.

TARGET POPULATION (required)

In 100 words or less, please identify the target population who may benefit from this initiative. Highlight your understanding of the needs or demands of the target population that were addressed by your initiative.

According to the last census conducted in 2002 by the National Statistics Institute (INE), the municipality has 17,360 inhabitants.

The initiative was aimed at the entire population of the municipality of Teculután, always in coordination with local authorities who are responsible for the call for their community, achieving a rapprochement of 15 communities. With the participation of local authorities, leaders, neighbors and local government.

The initiative CLOSELY WITH THE PEOPLE contributed to strengthening the principles of transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and citizen participation. Facilitating the process of dialogue between the municipal authorities and citizens, this being direct, clear and interactive.

INITIATIVE DESIGN (required)

In 350 words or less, describe your initiative's goals and objectives. Focus specifically on how the initiative was designed to meet those objectives. For example, identify stage(s) of the policy/service design or implementation when you solicited citizen participation. What kind of participation did you seek from citizens (e.g., feedback, consultation, joint decision-making, monitoring of activities, etc.)? Explain why this particular approach was best suited to achieve the initiative's goals. How did you encourage citizens to participate? Describe any innovations in the design of the initiative.

The initiative resulted in the escort that the IRI (International Republican Institute) has made in recent years in the town of Teculután, which raises the need to implement best practices in doing municipal, within this TRANSPARENCY, COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT, which is why that the initiative is planned CLOSE TO TOWN, with the following activities:

Meeting in each of the communities with the leaders, locals, and neighbors
 Accountability by staff of the municipality, municipal mayor and corporation.
 Exhibition of necessities of the community
 Questions and Answers
 Compromises between municipality and community
 Carrying out of compromises

Objectives:

CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING THE PROCESSING OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND CROSS THE FENCE WITH THE PEOPLE.

APPROACH THE POPULATION TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM THROUGH LOCAL MEETINGS, EXPOSING THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROPOSALS FOR HEARTFELT NEEDS OF NEIGHBORS.

Goals:

Hold 10 meetings with CLOSE TO TOWN throughout the year.
 Update DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, taking into account the needs raised by the neighbors.
 Divulge information generated by the municipal government in an efficient, accurate, unbiased and timely matter.

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES (required)

In 250 words or less, describe the intended outcomes and the actual outcomes that the initiative achieved. Who were the ultimate beneficiaries, and what benefits did they experience? For example, list any concrete improvements in policy, services, behaviors, or power relations between the government and citizens. Try to present your case from the perspective of the various stakeholders involved (e.g., your agency, citizens, Civil Society Organizations, media, et al.). If there are any baseline indicators or standards to measure the outcomes of the initiative, such as the breadth of depth of engagement, please describe them in detail.

Expected results:

Visit all communities in the rural and urban area of Teculután to get information of municipal work and get requests of necessities the residents feel are needed.

Results:

The approach 100% of the visited rural communities and urban area, making the COCODES participate, raising several pressing needs of their community.

During the event various requests to the municipal offices present received: UGAN Environmental Management Unit, Secretariat, Municipal Financial Management Directorate DAFIM, Municipal Office of woman WMO, Municipal Planning Directorate DMP, Office for Social Work, Care for the Elderly, Department of Public Services DSP. Citizens expressed their immediate needs and will receive an accurate answer to their request.

The Mayor and city council practice dialogue with neighbors, fostering a democratic circle of understanding and mutual agreement between major players.

During practices "Close to town" 54 requests were received and some others are on the way to being fulfilled, they will make the commitment to provide continuity for compliance therewith and community development as a whole.

INITIATIVE SUSTAINABILITY (required)

In 200 words or less, please describe any plans for scaling up and/or sustaining the initiative in the future. Base your description of the strategy on information provided in the previous sections, such as how you intend to leverage your current success and increase your reach or capacity. Address any threats or operational challenges to your initiative and describe how you intend to manage those risks on a regular basis.

The initiative was evaluated with the people who also participated, giving results of successes and errors, which were raised again to improve the initiative

Establish the following:

MEETINGS PERIODICALLY EACH YEAR IN THE COMMUNITIES
 PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTABILITY INFORMATION
 EVALUATION OF COMPLETION OF COMPROMISES
 EVALUATION OF SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ASPECTS ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, AND OTHERS

The meetings will be held as a commitment of the parties involved: local authorities and civil society are to have reciprocity of information, presentation and evaluation of the administration and municipal management.

Build a dynamic neighbor care through dialogue, transparency, responsiveness, accountability, accessibility, equity developing effective policies for social advancement.

VALIDATION OF CLAIMS (required)

While it is strongly encouraged that each initiative includes partners, such as Civil Society Organizations, private sector agencies, media entities, etc., it is not a requirement. However, you are required to secure and upload documents from one or more credible nongovernmental actors who can attest to the veracity of any claims made in your application.

You are only allowed to upload one file. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

Letters .pdf

C. THE PITCH

The following information allows each applicant to make their strongest (and final) case for consideration.

BEST CASE (required)

In 250 words or less, please present the most compelling facts for why your initiative should be recognized. This is an opportunity to distinguish your initiative, based on any factors that you have not had the opportunity to describe in the previous sections. What is your best argument for why your initiative has achieved a meaningful outcome? What elements of the initiative make it different and better than others, that have been tried and tested? Be creative and concise.

To communicate is to develop working relationships in an atmosphere of respect and tolerance, to listen, to produce information and communicate assertively. For this it is necessary to implement participatory diagnosis and planning of an event where players involved.

One of the features that should meet all government is accountability, reporting and communication activities; create an interactive and harmonious approach to their citizens that is the key for promoting democracy and overall development.

Citizen participation should outweigh any action of government so effective policies of transparency and good service will occur. Fostering coexistence, circles need exposure, dialogue and consensus to identify common problems, establishing agreements for its solution in a short, medium and long term way, given the challenges and opportunities of the local situation.

VIDEO SUBMISSION (recommended*)

OGP does not offer a venue for applicants to meet our judges during the application process. In order to provide the opportunity for making a personal connection, you are encouraged to upload a short video to complement your application. You may also depict an individual participant in your initiative and describe his or her experience. We do not need to know actual names or personal details. Take this opportunity to tell a story, to connect with our panel of experts, so that they might better understand your attention to specific needs.

Video submissions should follow these guidelines:

Maximum length of 3-4 minutes.
 Please focus on personal presentations; it's not necessary to develop a sophisticated or polished video.

Here are some logistical and technical suggestions:

Video cameras, digital cameras, and phones are easy ways to record a video.
 Laptop and desktop computers can typically record video through Skype or other software.

If possible, set to a low resolution to reduce file size. This will enable an easier video uploading process.
 If you are having difficulty uploading the video file, try logging out of the application and logging back in using another Internet browser.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

Include the following:
 Introduce yourself and your initiative.
 Focus on describing your intended benefits and/or services and how they have been effective.

What is unique about your initiative, partners, or technical approach?
 Hone your content:
 Keep your description and language simple.
 Demonstrate passion through your words and enthusiasm.

*If the burden of developing a video presentation is either prohibitive or might not reflect the best characterization of your initiative, then you are not required to submit one, and the judges are instructed not to discount your application because it may not include a video. We hope that this option offers a new and inventive way in which you can best express the results of your work.