

Open Contracting

A transformational approach
to improve performance in public contracting

Contracting is at the nexus of public investments, revenue generation, budget planning and the delivery of public services – all crucial public financial management areas. It is estimated that governments around the world spend over US \$9.5 trillion every year through public contracts. Every government service or project requires contracts, from the construction and maintenance of roads, schools and hospitals; the generation of electricity; the exploitation of natural resources; to the delivery of textbooks and medicines.



WORLD BANK GROUP
Governance



WHAT IS OPEN CONTRACTING?

Through its work on Open Contracting the World Bank promotes proactive and more effective disclosure and participation in public contracting, at all stages of the contracting process and in all types of contracts, for better service delivery and public investments. It supports stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors for disclosure of accessible and user-friendly contracting information and data, effective monitoring of the award and execution of contracts, and assurance that citizens' contracting concerns are addressed by governments and companies in a meaningful way.

OPEN CONTRACTING HAS THREE MAIN GOALS:

- ▶ to improve the disclosure of contract information and data by providing guidance on the type of data to be published and by proposing application of open and standardized disclosure formats;
- ▶ to create opportunities for stakeholder participation for effective use of information and data in the monitoring and oversight of contract management; and
- ▶ to advance mechanisms for constructive multi-stakeholder engagement around contract performance, driven by non-state actors feedback, and government responsiveness.

HOW DOES THE WORLD BANK PROVIDE SUPPORT?

The World Bank promotes Open Contracting as an approach to improve countries' procurement systems focusing on specific problems that could be addressed by increased transparency and participation. For this purpose the World Bank offers a range of Open Contracting products and services that are flexible and adaptable to different sectors and country contexts, including:

- ▶ In-country scoping activities. The World Bank carries out an Open Contracting Readiness Assessment to identify the challenges and needs for advancing Open Contracting in a particular system or sector (at the national or subnational level), as well as the new policies, regulatory mechanisms and practices that are needed to support it. Based on the Open Contracting Principles and the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS), the scoping will lay the groundwork for collaborative action-planning with country stakeholders. The result is an assessment on how to design an actionable roadmap or work plan describing the specific steps that need to be taken to achieve a single or multiple Open Contracting objectives.



- ▶ Disclosure and use of contracting data. The World Bank provides technical support to build the capacity of multiple actors in both the disclosure and use of contracting data. On one hand, for the government to disclose more and better public contracting information and data, building on existing systems, interfaces and institutional architecture. On the other, to make contracting information accessible and re-usable to the public, which results in private sector actors having better data and being able to compete in the market, and citizens and other non-state actors in using available information effectively for monitoring or advocacy. To do so, the World Bank provides technical assistance for the adoption of open and free data formats using the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) as a guiding framework.
- ▶ Public Private Partnerships. The World Bank has developed a Framework for Disclosure in PPPs to support the governments increase transparency in the different stages of PPP projects. As such, the World Bank provides technical assistance for the implementation of the framework and is, at the same time, developing an extension to the OCDS for PPPs that will facilitate in the future improved disclosure practices using open data formats.
- ▶ Participation and feedback. The World Bank supports the inclusion of non-state actors, particularly civil society, in the oversight of public investments made through contracts. This involves building the capacity of non-state actors (civil society, media, and businesses) to use public contracting data to monitor public contracting processes and provide feedback as a key effort for strengthening governance and performance of procurement in the country. The World Bank provides technical assistance on how to institutionalize these feedback mechanisms to ensure an effective response to demands or recommendations can improve contract performance and outcomes.
- ▶ Connection to related global initiatives. The World Bank works and coordinates with existing global initiatives working on the openness agenda including the Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and those related to budgets (BOOST), the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and other open data initiatives. In addition, the World Bank actively showcases the work on Open Contracting participating in several regional/global exchanges such as the International Open Data Conference (IODC) and the Regional Open Data Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Condatos).



THE OPEN CONTRACTING TEAM

The Open Contracting Team at the Governance Global Practice of the World Bank Group is an experienced team with a unique approach to procurement topics that has co-created, in close partnership with other international initiatives, a global movement advocating for the disclosure of information and citizens' participation in public contracting processes.

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For more information visit
<http://opencontracting>