OPEN GOVERNMENT PROJECT.

YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY FORUM

**Activity Title**: YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY FORUM/ ONLINE PLATFORM  
**Main Objective:**

The main objective of this activity is to promote civic participation of a specific target of population – the youth - to enhance their capacity to promote government transparency and accountability through civic engagement.   
**Main Actors**:

The primary actors are the selected youth organizations, the civil society networks, the government institutions in the state or locality.

**Main Technology**:

The main technology utilized is an online/internet portal through which information is released, awareness is created and the youth mobilized.  
**Geographical Coverage**:

This activity relates to a sub-national coverage and mainly three zones of a state.  
**Main Benefits:**

* It improves knowledge of open government and promotes digital knowledge among the youth
* It promotes the use of information by participating youth organizations for the development of civic awareness and engagement of local communities in monitoring the effectiveness of public investment.
* It teaches innovative and interdisciplinary skills that help the youth to focus on public policies, citizen monitoring and citizen participation in governance.
* It provides an opportunity for the youth to hold an “accountability forum” where they interact with the local communities, political leaders and administrators responsible for implementing public sector projects, asking questions and suggesting solutions.
* It increases the quantity and quality of information provided about project results and strengthens public participation and collaboration.  
  **Main Barriers:**
* Anticipated barriers are on both the side of the divide – capacity of the youth organizations to organize and gather relevant information and publicize same and the willingness of government officials to collaborate and provide adequate information
* Non-functional telecommunication service in some rural areas that may hamper the capacity of the target audience to access the online platform to upload or submit information or records.

**Mitigation of Barriers**

* Increased advocacy and solicitation of support from the OGP Secretariat to ensure continued support and directive to the government employees to collaborate from high level political leadership in the state.

**Critical Success Factor:**

Regular visit to key sites of monitored projects and interview of the key players involved in the projects’ implementation as well as the some of the beneficiaries of the project.

This will galvanize the communities and increase the passion to take ownership and protect the projects.  
**Contextual Factor:**

There is a legacy a legacy of corruption, fraud, waste and abuse in project execution by the government.

There is a high level of distrust by the communities against the government

There is a teeming population of educated youth whose energy and zeal when properly channeled towards participation in open government activities would positively impact on infusing public trust, integrity and accountability in the governance process.