PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPARENCY NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2026

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Participants in a training of the trainers session in Muhanga, Rwanda

Rwanda: Ensuring Infrastructure Projects Respect Citizens' Rights

Even with the right legislation, a growing economy, and little to no corruption, infrastructure projects can do more harm than good if laws aren't enforced and citizens aren't involved. While infrastructure development is a priority in Rwanda, most citizens report having no say in projects that affect them. PTF Europe and Transparency International Rwanda are working with government officials, project developers and communities to encourage collaboration and ensure citizens' issues are addressed. The APESA project is a great example of how PTF works around the world: bringing civil society and government together, helping local organizations build the skills they need to monitor public decision-making, promoting transparent and accountable use of public funds, protecting citizens' rights, and strengthening trust between communities and government. You can read more about the project here and here.

> *I want women and girls to live freely in an open society, not like bonded laborers. They may be poor, but they have every right to a safe and dignified life. My mission is to empower them with legal knowledge for a free and fearless future — not to confine them. --Saraswati Morya, Gram Sakhi*

India: Women Protecting Women

For the past five years, Saraswati Morya has walked door-to-door, organizing meetings and awakening women to their rights in Rajasthan, India. Her tireless work to preserve the safety and dignity of women and girls gained momentum when she became a Gram Sakhi, a Hindi term that means "rural female friend." Saraswati's work was part of a project co-funded by PTF and India Development and Relief Fund (IDRF), Preventing and Reducing Gender-Based Violence in Kishangarh Block, Ajmer District, Rajasthan, India, which worked to improve the effectiveness of the government's GBV initiatives. Because of the work people like Saraswait have done, over 1,500 women and girls have been educated about their legal rights and protections. Saraswati also played a pivotal role in helping 19 women and children secure justice in cases of violence and exploitation through persistent legal support. Read more about Saraswati's inspiring work here.

Saraswati speaks with a group of young women in Rajasthan, India.

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REGIONAL UPDATES CONT.

Sri Lanka Case Study

Civil society involvement can make IFI-supported economic reforms more inclusive and effective, but PTF's new Sri Lanka case study shows that meaningful engagement remains inconsistent. With support from Open Society Foundation, PTF Advisors Nadishani Perera, Gopa Kumar Thampi, and Vinay Bhargava examined six IFI-supported budget financing operations between 2022 and 2026. The study found that while CSOs were consulted, engagement was uneven, with language barriers, technical complexity, and limited follow-up reducing both participation and trust. It recommends that IFIs move beyond one-off consultations by adopting more structured, transparent, and inclusive engagement processes with stronger feedback mechanisms, while encouraging CSOs to strengthen their networks and technical capacity to engage more effectively. [Link to case study]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Anti-corruption Training

In October PTF and the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC) will be hosting an online training program for anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) from across Africa. The topic is Corruption in Procurement: Assessing Risks, Engaging Stakeholders, and Deploying AI and Digital Tools and will take place from October 26-30. Attendees are expected to include 25-35 officers of CAACC and member ACAs. PTF advisors Hady Fink and Aileen Marshall will oversee the training, bringing in other PTF advisors and outside experts to run individual sessions. Previous trainings have resulted in positive feedback about the program's impact on ACAs' perceptions of working with CSOs, and we look forward to building on that momentum in October.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Please welcome our new board members!

David S. Bernstein is a governance and rule of law expert A former Lead Public Sector Specialist at the World Bank, he recently served as an International Commissioner on Ukraine's Selection Commission for the Head of the State Customs Service.

Katherine Marshall has focused on international development, over five decades and continents (including at the World Bank). She leads work on religion and development at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs.

Stephen S. Zimmermann .oversees UNICEF's global assurance team and investigations into fraud, and misconduct. Previously, Mr. Zimmermann served as Senior Adviser to the Governance Global Practice of the World Bank and Director of Operations for the World Bank Integrity Vice Presidency,

We would also like to thank **Casey Kelso, Christiaan Poortman, Pietronella van den Oever** and **Richard Hollowa**y who have come to the end of their second term on the Board. All have contributed extensively to the workings of the Board and PTF. We are grateful for their important inputs over the years.