World Bank’s Governance & Institutions Response papers to COVID19

- Series of policy notes on Governance & Institutions
- Ensuring State Continuity
- Agile Treasury Operations
- Ensuring Integrity in Government’s response
- Role of SAIs in Governments’ response to COVID19
- Domestic revenue mobilization for COVID19
- Consistent narrative across all the papers: Communication beyond the Government is critical

Citizens have a right to influence emergency response

- Governments’ response touches lives and livelihoods of citizens
- Established rule books are often overlooked
- Response of Government affects different segments of society differently – some big winners (e.g., how Govt supports private health providers)
- Risk of elite privilege and inequity due to corrupt practices
- High risk of corruption leading to theft, wastage and misuse of resources and consequent increase in suffering and deaths

Consistent narrative across all the papers: Communication beyond the Government is critical
Demand side Accountability: A key pillar for ensuring trust

- Participatory audit: SAI cooperation with Civil Society Organizations and citizens built on time tested principles of participatory governance
- SAI collaboration with CSOs and citizens during COVID19 could lead to:
  - Improved audit products
  - Better selection of themes for audit
  - Validation of results with perceptions
  - Increase in credibility of SAIs
- SAIs can involve CSOs and citizens at various stages:
  - Audit planning: Citizen audit request, public interest audits, audit advisory board recommendations, online complaints etc
  - Audit Execution: Participation of outside professionals / experts in audit, solicitation of information from citizens
  - Audit reporting: Press briefing and live events
Participatory Audit: New impetus in COVID19, albeit with caution

➢ Global experiences with past participatory audits encouraging (eg: Philippines, Korea, Nepal etc)
➢ Successful practices entail clear definitions regarding the scope of engagement and the teams responsible for implementation.
➢ Mainstreaming participation requires adequate planning through in-detail steps and procedures, including feedback to citizens
➢ Participatory audit carries risks which needs to be addressed:
   ➢ Politically motivated audit requests
   ➢ Conflict of interests faced by auditors
   ➢ Assessment of appropriateness of CSO / citizen participation for individual audit assignment
   ➢ Allegations against SAIs as resorting to sensationalism
   ➢ Participation can be symbolic check box, without purpose
➢ World Bank and other development partners support role of CSOs and citizens in audit
Thank you

➢ World papers on Governance & Institutions Response to COVID19 including ‘Role of SAIs in Governments’ Response to COVID19 can be accessed at:


https://blogs.worldbank.org/governance