



GOVERNANCE
COVID-19
RESPONSE

DONOR PERSPECTIVES ON SAI COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND CITIZENS

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WORLD BANK GROUP
Equitable Growth, Finance & Institutions

June 17, 2020

COVID19: CSOs & Citizens from Governance & Institutions perspective



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 (eg: 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



Soldiers deliver bags of food in an impoverished area of Bogota, Colombia, on Thursday.

'A perfect opportunity for fraudsters'

BY ANTHONY FAJOLA AND ANA VANESSA HERRERO

When officials in his home state began giving food boxes to families hit by Colombia's coronavirus lockdown, lawmaker Ricardo Quintero was struck by the exorbitant prices being paid to the vendors. So he armed himself with pictures of the coffee, pasta and other goods and went down to his local grocery store.

There, he bought the same

Massive government spending fuels concerns over corruption

lombia. The South American country is one of many around the world now seeing a surge in corruption allegations.

"You can always find corruption," Quintero said. "But what hurts the most is that we see it now, at a time like this."

Countries large and small are shelling out trillions of dollars to combat both the coronavirus outbreak and its brutal economic fallout in what analysts are calling the largest financial criminal probes in Co-

products for roughly half the supposedly bulk-rate prices being paid by the government of Cesar state. The comparison shopping prompted one of what is now 14 coronavirus-related criminal probes in Co-

SEE CORRUPTION ON A13

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



Photo credit: Jharkhand State Livelihoods Promotion Society

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://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/governance/brief/governance-institutions-covid-19-response-resources>

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/governance>