



Office of Anticorruption and Integrity

The Integrity Learning Series

Integrity Risks in Vaccine Programs

30 September | 2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. (Manila)



Jonathan Cushing
Head of Global Health
Transparency International

This is not an ADB material. The views expressed in this document are the views of the author/s and/or their organizations and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy and/or completeness of the material's contents, and accepts no responsibility for any direct or indirect consequence of their use or reliance, whether wholly or partially. Please feel free to contact the authors directly should you have queries.



iACT to fight corruption!

ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABILITY IN COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

Transparency International UK

Our expertise tackling corruption in COVID-19

[Transparency International Global Health's](#) goal is to improve global health and healthcare outcomes for the benefit of all people, of all ages. It aims to achieve this by reducing corruption and promoting transparency, integrity and accountability within the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors.

Relevant work includes;

- Monitoring COVID-19 related contracts in five countries
- Monitoring equitable vaccine roll out in three countries
- Conducted Key research pieces including ['For Whose Benefit? Transparency in the Development and Procurement of COVID-19 Vaccines'](#)

Highlighted the impact of corruption on government responses to COVID-19 across

180

Countries

Collected data from public emergency COVID-19 contracts worth

\$36.9

Billion+

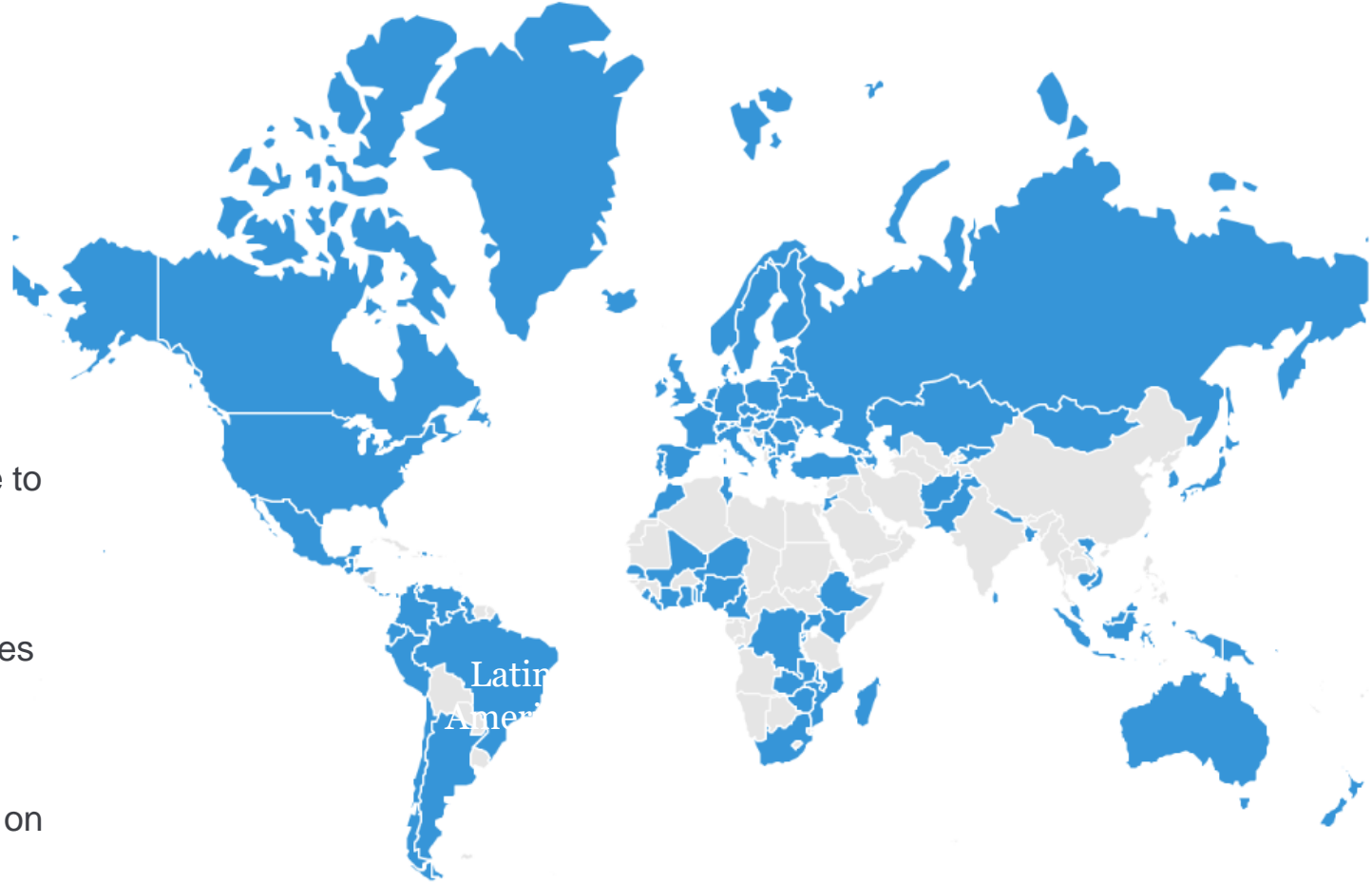
3,000

Procurement processes across 5 countries monitored and analysed to-date

Our Global Reach

Transparency International (TI) is the world's leading non-governmental anticorruption organisation, addressing corruption in its many forms. Together, we bring;

- A global reach of 112 National Chapters spanning all continents
- During 2020 we provided free legal advice in response to the more than 10,000 reports related to COVID-19 corruption in 60+ countries around the world.
- In 2020, 3.1 million people from more than 160 countries visited the Transparency International website
- As a result of our advocacy efforts at the G20, leaders committed to share timely and transparent information on addressing the COVID-19 crisis, while committing resources for anti-corruption authorities to function effectively.



Corruption in COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the lack of transparency and corruption in health systems around the world. COVID-19 is not just a health and economic crisis, but a corruption crisis as well, with countless lives lost due to the insidious effects of corruption undermining a fair and equitable global response.



Taking Action

In partnership with our more than 100 chapters based across the world, Transparency International leverages its global reputation, convening power, and expertise to drive research and advocacy toward tangible action.

Our **approach** for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and taking the learnings to the global scale is based on evidence from our two recent projects spanning eight distinctive countries. We have designed a strategy which is:

- **realistic** in the context of the political environment of the selected additional countries
- **flexible** in being able to adapt to a range of needs and dynamic political circumstances
- **reliable** in terms of sound research and reporting systems
- **innovative** to maximise impact and value for money while operating in the mist of a global pandemic
- **sustainable** as the practices and tools developed will pave the way to strengthen healthcare systems post COVID-19

Our current vaccine work, which is supported by SMFA seeks to ensure the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines at the national level is conducted in an equitable and transparent manner

A vibrant, busy street scene in a developing country, likely in West Africa. The street is filled with a large crowd of people, many of whom are walking. There are several yellow taxis and green buses visible. A man in a blue shirt with 'MICCRO 118' on the back is walking towards the camera. The background shows a bridge and more vehicles, indicating a densely populated urban area.

Component 1: Identifying corruption risks in vaccine delivery and strengthening health systems

- We have conducted **corruption vulnerability assessments** of vaccine supply chains and delivery mechanisms, drawing expertise from our local chapters. In addition, we are leveraging existing relationships with government agencies, supply chain partners, civil society and private sector bodies to identify weaknesses and vulnerabilities in the procurement system.
- By establishing best practices in COVID-19 procurement processes, we will **embed robust monitoring mechanisms** across government agencies that will strengthen the overall healthcare system post COVID-19 pandemic.



Component 2: Prompting transparent and equitable vaccine distribution plans

- In collaboration with CSOs, we are **assessing existing vaccine distribution plans**. This will include distribution plans for all vaccines- regardless of whether they are supplied through COVAX or through other official channel.
- We will assess gaps in distribution plans and **engage with NITAGs** and others responsible for the design and implementation of national distribution frameworks.
- We will work with NITAGs and Ministries of Health to **publish distribution plans**. We will ensure that at risk groups, and those considered vulnerable in hard-to-reach areas are made aware of their entitlements to vaccination.
- To reduce corruption opportunities in the distribution system we will **establish Standard Operating Procedures** (SOPs) containing clear guidelines on corruption and fraud reporting.



Component 3: Vaccine delivery takes place in an equitable manner

- In collaboration with our local chapters and CSOs, we will ensure that corruption prevention and reporting measures are put into operation before the delivery of vaccines. This will include **vaccine distribution tracking systems**.
- Once vaccine distribution commences, CSOs will use **data to track distribution**.
- We will run **public awareness campaigns** to ensure that communities are aware of their rights and where they should receive vaccines.
- We will **introduce corruption reporting mechanisms**, such as corruption hotlines, or SMS toll-free numbers to report cases of suspected corruption. Chapters will collate incidences of corruption and will report these to the relevant authorities and use them to inform the global tracking system.

Component 4: Ensuring transparency and equity in the global response

- We will put the risks of corruption in vaccine distribution in the **global agenda** alongside practical solutions.
- We will establish a **global tracking system** which will enable us to monitor national efforts and build the case for greater inclusion of equity and anti-corruption measures in the COVID-19 response.
- Evidence gathered through the project will be complemented by additional data and evidence produced by TI and academic institutions and will feed into **global monitoring platforms and assessments**, such as those being led by the World Bank, and UNICEF.





For Whose Benefit?

Transparency

in the development
and procurement of COVID-19 vaccines

Clinical Trial and Contract Transparency for COVID-19 Vaccines

Key Recommendations include

- National governments should adopt, fully implement and enforce broadened legislation which requires all clinical trials to be pre-registered, and make summary results public within 12 months of their completion on a trial registry. (page 7)
- Governments and the WHO should provide guidance on public health emergency procurement which contains robust transparency rules, including when and how to publish contracts in a pandemic, in order to guarantee that transparency is not a casualty in future crises. (page 8)
- International NGOs should advocate for transparency and provide resources that assist with obtaining justifications for contractual secrecy by buyers. Where possible, these INGOs should combine efforts to also target regional and international decision-making bodies such as the African Union and COVAX. (page 8)

Many thanks for taking the time to listen to this presentation. If you have any further questions about our work or would like to explore ways to collaborate please contact us at;

jcushing@transparency.org

