



HOW TO BUDGET FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE?

A rapid scan of budgetary mechanisms in highly affected countries

25 March 2020 - The COVID-19 pandemic requires sufficient public funding to ensure a comprehensive response. Reprioritizing public spending toward bolstering the economy and the health system requires timely action from government leaders and a supportive public finance environment. Highly-affected countries have taken various approaches to budgetary allocation, depending on their public financial management (PFM) and regulatory systems. Adjustments are required on the revenue side of budgets (e.g. loans) to account for these new economic and fiscal constraints. Quick decision-making on the expenditure side is also needed. That will be the focus of this blog. Every country must develop specific processes for allocating budget funds to the response. To inform budgetary response in countries where the pandemic may spread in the near future, a summary of observed budgetary practices in some highly-affected countries is provided below, with the aim of informing other countries about responses to three key questions:

- 1) What are the immediate spending actions that can be taken with existing budgets?
- 2) How to secure budget for COVID-19 response through revisions in finance laws?
- 3) What can be done to accelerate budget execution and funds release to the frontlines?

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SHORTAGE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT ENDANGERING HEALTH WORKERS WORLDWIDE

3 March 2020 - WHO calls on industry and governments to increase manufacturing by 40 per cent to meet rising global demand

The World Health Organization has warned that severe and mounting disruption to the global supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) – caused by rising demand, panic buying, hoarding and misuse – is putting lives at risk from the new coronavirus and other infectious diseases.