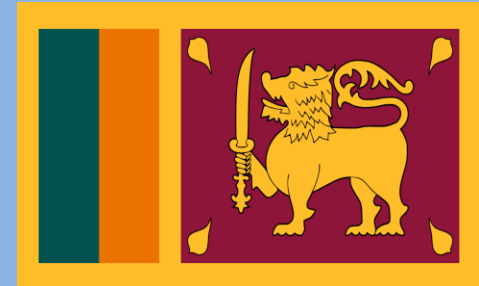
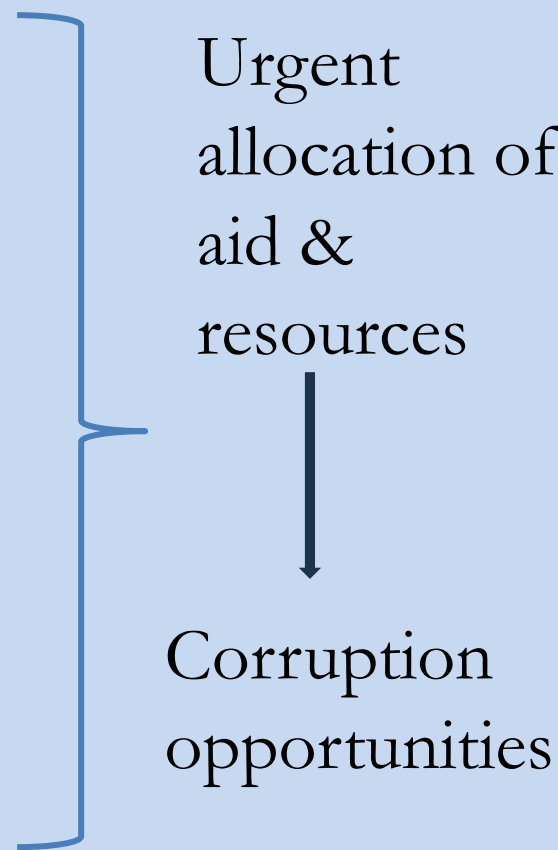


**Strengthening International
Cooperation in Preventing and
Combating Corruption in Times of
Emergency and Crisis Responses and
Recovery - Sri Lanka**



Emergency crisis

- Civil conflict
- Tsunami – 2004
- Flood
- Covid-19 – 2020/2021
- Economic crisis
- Sociopolitical challenges



Urgent
allocation of
aid &
resources

Corruption
opportunities

Corruption

- Distorted economic activities
 - Eroded public trust
 - Placed inequality
- Lack of transparency
 - Weak institutional frameworks
 - Varying level of legal accountability
 - Misallocation of funds
 - Undermined trust in institutions

Organized public outcries calling for immediate anti-corruption measures & need to strengthen international cooperation

Imperative focus on governance reforms aimed at promoting transparency, and enhancing accountability in crisis management

Assistance through International Cooperation

- Financial support packages

(financial aid, resources, and technical assistance) to

- ✓ Stabilize the economy
- ✓ Provide liquidity
- ✓ Initiate structural reforms

Key Measures

1. Restoration of public trust
2. Efficient use of Resources and Enhancing Public Resource Management
3. Restoring the Investor Confidence
4. Promoting economic justice, and equality
5. Facilitating Effective Governance and Accountability
6. Strengthening Institutional Resilience
7. Utilizing Technology for Transparency
8. Engaging Civil Society
9. Facilitating International Support and enhancing aid effectiveness

Key Measures

1. Restoration of public trust

- Public discontent and skepticism towards government institutions
- Effective anti-corruption measures
- Restoring public confidence by demonstrating the government's commitment to transparency, accountability and ethical governance
- The trust vital for social stability and collective action during recovery efforts

Key Measures

2. Efficient use of Resources and Enhancing Public Resource Management

- Covid-19 & economic downturn
- Effective allocation & utilization of public funds
- Rapid response mechanisms to safeguard public health
- Managing available resources
- Maximized impact of fiscal allocation (priority areas-healthcare, education etc.)
- Timely & appropriate allocation and efficient utilization of resources
- Effective anti-corruption strategies to improve management of public funds preventing mismanagement, waste, or diversion of funds meant for recovery

Key Measures

3. Investor Confidence

- Encourage foreign and domestic investment
- Build investor confidence, attract capital inflows
- Economic growth
- Reduced risks of corrupt practices
- Maintaining a transparent and accountable governance structure & favorable business environment
- Demonstrating commitment to anti-corruption, promoting transparency and reducing risks associated with corruption

Key Measures

4. Promoting economic justice, and equality

- Equitable resource distribution
- Ensure vulnerable and marginalized communities receive necessary support
- Reduce corruption to foster social equity
- Government programs become more accessible and effective for those who need them the most
- Strengthened social cohesion and stability
- Programs such as safety nets conditions of direct diversion of aid to actual recipients
- Covid-19 Presidential Task Force established to coordinate responses across health, economic, and social sectors
- Efficient allocation of resources
- Strategic planning to mitigate the impact of the crisis

Key Measures

4. Promoting economic justice, and equality contd...

- Enhanced accountability and public trust in the allocation process
- Transparent procurement methods for essential medicines and equipment
- Competitive bidding to prevent corruption
- Wise spending of funds ensured
- Measures to address fuel shortage
- Rationing system for fuel distribution, prioritizing effective operation of essential services and sectors to ensure public transportation, health services, critical industries
- Centralized system for the distribution of medicines and medical supplies to ensure needy areas receiving adequate support
- Special programs targeting rural and underserved communities to guarantee equity in access to essential health services

Key Measures

5. Facilitating Effective Governance and Accountability

- Absence of effective preventive measures
- Diverting essential resources needed for recovery
- Barrier to sustainable development
- Call from strong anti-corruption framework enhancing governance mechanisms
- Need to foster accountability among public officials and institutions
- Need of more efficient decision-making processes prioritizing the public good, aligning government policies with the citizen's needs during the recovery process

Key Measures

6. Strengthening Institutional Resilience

- 1st and 2nd UNCAC review cycles
- Country reports published
- Institutional and policy reforms pending inline with recommendations
- Complimentary undertakings, eg. APG National Risk Assessment findings in line with FATF recommendations
- Opportunity and instigation to strengthen institutional frameworks and governance measures
- Anti-corruption measures including rule of law, strengthened oversight mechanisms, empowering civil society organizations
- Contribution to build resilient institutions better capable of handling future challenges

Key Measures

6. Strengthening Institutional Resilience

- Collaborations with international organizations
- Technical expertise to address institutional challenges including capacity building of anti-corruption practitioners
- Online trainings during pandemic, subsequent in-person trainings
- Anti-Corruption Act, 2023
- Commission with institutional, operational and financial independence
- Legislative recognition to UNCAC

Key Measures

6. Strengthening Institutional Resilience contd...

- Review cycle recommendations were addressed including criminalization of all offences under the UNCAC, legality to special investigative mechanisms, joint investigations, sharing of information (domestic and international), prevention, whistle blower protection
- Proceeds of Crime Bill drafted in consultation with all stake holders assented by the Cabinet of Ministers
- Detection, investigation, seizure, freezing, confiscation, management and recovery of proceeds and instrumentalities of crime
- The World Bank StAR Initiative's assistance in the early development of the Proceeds of Crime Bill and the Assets Declaration legal provisions of the Anti-Corruption Act

Key Measures

7. Utilizing Technology for Transparency

- Covid-19 and economic downfall
- Use of digital tools and technology
- Implementation of digital platforms for fuel distribution and healthcare management
- Enabled efficient tracking of availability and distribution of essential resources
- Facilitated timely decision making and appropriate resource allocation
- Enhanced accountability, strengthened anti-corruption efforts facilitating monitoring, reporting, and auditing processes
- Custom operations reducing human interface reduced corruption opportunities for corrupt practices, Tax management tools

Key Measures

8. Engaging Civil Society

- Maximize the impact of public funds
- Initiatives to educate the public on responsible consumption of resources in medicine and fuel
- Awareness campaigns emphasizing the importance of adherence to health guidelines and using resources judiciously
- Continues awareness programs of the Anti-Corruption Commission
- Encouraged civic engagement through anti-corruption campaigns

Key Measures

8. Engaging Civil Society

contd...

- Foster greater public participation in governance through advocating for the citizen's rights, promoting transparency, holding government officials accountable, contribute to a more responsive and accountable administration
- Significant role of the Right to Information Act
- Public access to Assets and Liabilities Declarations of high public officials
- Transparency, accountability and integrity of public officials are subject to public scrutiny

Key Measures

9. Facilitating International Support and enhancing aid effectiveness

- Collaborations with international organizations, development lenders (WHO, World Bank, IMF, European Union GSP+ scheme etc.)
- Funds, technical assistance and supplies
- Maximize the efficiency and scope of resources deployed during crisis
- Stipulations concerning governance and anti-corruption
- Ensuring that the foreign assistance is efficiently utilized maximizing the impact of international support
- Need to demonstrate a commitment to anti-corruption including institutional and policy changes
- Anti-Corruption Act, 2023, public access to Assets Declarations, Proceeds of Crime Bill as bench marks conditioned in monetary assistance programs such as IMF bailout package

Conclusion

- Anti-corruption measures are vital in navigating the state's economic crisis
- Fostering transparency, restoring public trust, and ensuring efficient resource management and equal distribution of resources to address immediate economic challenges and lay down the groundwork for sustainable growth and development in the future
- Integrity in governance is the foundation for resilient governance-related moves
- Strengthening of international cooperation yields positive results in preventing and combating corruption during emergencies and crisis response
- Existing frameworks need to be effective and enhanced global collaboration is urgent
- Need to bolster international efforts in addressing corruption, ensuring transparency, and improving governance in crisis situations
- Approach focused on prioritizing essential critical expenditures such as health expenses, ensuring transparency, and fostering equitable resource distribution whilst maximizing the efficacy of public funds
- Establishment of more resilient systems for future emergencies

**Commission to Investigate Allegations of
Bribery or Corruption
Sri Lanka**

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