

CALL FOR PAPERS

IIAS-SEAPP

DOHA CONFERENCE

2023



6-9 February

**on Developmental States and Professionalization
of Public Administration and Public Policy**



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Fighting Corruption During Emergencies

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The United Nations Secretary General (Antonio Guterres) has recently defined corruption as “criminal, immoral and a betrayal of public trust. Even more damaging in time of crisis”.

Countries in the MENA Region, as well as across the world, have been recently experiencing different types of crises and related emergencies. From natural disasters due to climate change to the Covid-19 pandemic, geo-political conflicts, and economic crises.

Emergencies create new “opportunities for corruption to thrive and grow as actions taken to quickly address the needs presented by the crisis may lead to sacrifices in transparency and accountability” (UNODC 2020). The acceleration of decision-making and the heightened uncertainty linked to the emergency lead many public and private institutions to forego the usual precautions and procedures. In addition, the large number of recovery efforts and economic aids injected into these contexts foster additional corruption opportunities. Similarly, the need of military intervention and military spending might also increase corruption risk (Ali and Solarin 2020).

Systemic shocks can also exacerbate preexisting integrity challenges, impact effective governance, and trust in government institutions (OECD, 2021). In these contexts, it is often problematic to develop public measures against corruption that can keep pace with corruption opportunities in times of crisis.

Two main mechanisms affect public sector corruption risks during emergencies:

- An increase in opportunities for extracting rents (e.g., recovery funds, economic aids, etc.)
- A decrease in control mechanisms (e.g., transparency and accountability systems).

Effective anti-corruption efforts during emergencies need to address these two specific mechanisms. They must go “hand-in-hand with economic response and recovery efforts to ensure the appropriate allocation and distribution of funds.” (UNODC, 2020).

The anti-corruption academic community, as well as international organizations, have been actively considering the consequence of natural disasters, the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict

situations, and economic crises in terms of corruption risks (Divjak 2015; Estrada 2020; Gallego et al 2020; OECD 2021; Terziev et al. 2020; United Nations 2021; UNODC 2020; Wernick 2020). However, most of these evaluations are based on past experiences (e.g., management of corruption during Ebola), simulation analyses or qualitative studies, or borrow practical solutions from the management of other problems (e.g., frauds). Practical evaluation of corruption risks based on the most recent emergencies is still underdeveloped, notably in the MENA Region.

This panel aims to address this research problem and welcomes conceptual and empirical papers from different disciplines focusing on the following issues:

- Types of public sector corruption arising during emergencies and most affected sectors;
- Determinants of public sector corruption during emergencies;
- Impact of public sector corruption on crisis response and recovery, but also trust in governmental institutions;
- Anti-corruption policies to counter public sector corruption during emergencies and their effectiveness;
- Public management responses after the emergencies (e.g., corruption investigations, law changes).

Papers can address these issues at both macro/regional and micro/local levels. Paper proposals should be no more than one page long. The research problem and questions should be clearly specified, as well as the methods and data/information used. Case study analyses are also welcomed.

Practicalities

- Submissions should be made in English or Arabic.
- The call-for-papers and panels will remain open until November 30th.
- Notifications of acceptance will be sent by December 15.
- Full papers will be expected by January 8th.

The conference will take place on February 6-9, 2023, in the School of Economics, Administration and Public Policy (SEAPP) of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, in Qatar. The PhD symposium will take place on February 6; all plenary and parallel sessions on the themes, proposals and panels will be scheduled on February 7-9.

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