

INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK  
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PROCUREMENT

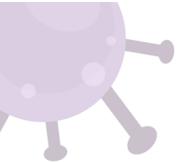


## Mapping of LAC Procurement Agencies capacity in responding to COVID-19

- From 1 to 5, countries in the region have identified an **average level of preparedness of 3.25** to respond to COVID-19.
- Most countries have declared national emergency at time of survey.
- The main Procurement mechanism adopted by the countries is **Direct Contracting** as justified under emergency response measures.
- In regard to **Framework Agreements**, Chile, Ecuador & Honduras have reported use of this mechanism under emergency response. Paraguay and Colombia have identified regulatory constraints which limit their use under emergency response.
- Among **main actions** taken by countries are: i) declaring national emergency ii) issuing guidance notes to Procurement agencies, which include exceptions, flexibilities in regulations, Procurement methods available) iii) communication channels to address queries iv) aggregating demand among Procurement agencies V) use of electronic Procurement systems (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador and Dominican Republic) to ensure continuity of Procurement processes thru electronic means.
- It also indicates that **trainings** -in Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic- are being carried out through webinars, virtual workshops and tutorials in order to provide the knowledge needed about the **main actions** implemented by the procurement agencies. These trainings are addressed to suppliers, public buyers and citizens.
- It is noted that countries such as Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Dominican Republic are developing **Control Social** tools to follow-up the public procurement made during the National Emergency.
- In regard to **challenges and problems**, the countries identified issues involving supply constraints, monitoring of direct contracting transactions, adequate communication between Procurement personnel and government agencies in charge of emergency response.

Detailed information by country:

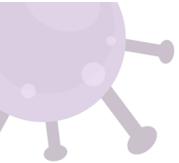
Country	Level of Preparedness (scale 1-5)	Framework Agreements for Medical Goods & Services	Actions and solutions implemented	challenges
Anguilla	2	0	- General measures related to traveling restrictions, schools closing, social distancing. No specific measures related to Procurement.	Most Procurement processes required face to face interaction. Regulations only allow for very few procedures to take place electronically (i.e. Tenders board meeting).
Bahamas	3	0	- Declared state of emergency.	Limited supply of protective equipment and antibacterial gel.



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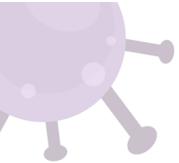
Belize	2	Without Framework Agreements.	<p><b>a. Regulatory Framework:</b> Use of the Limited Tendering Procedure which is being used in case of emergencies and for protection of public health.</p> <p><b>b. Transparency:</b> Creation of a specific activity number in its Chart of Accounts in order to register all expenditures made -current and capital- during the pandemic.</p> <p><b>c. Integrity:</b> Public procurement is being led by the Ministry of Health which ensures that the Covid-19 tests are compatible with laboratory equipment which is located in Belize.</p> <p><b>d. Innovation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procurement of masks produced locally. In Belize, it's required to use a mask in all public spaces and to keep social distance (3 to 6 feet apart).</li> <li>- Design and Execution of a cash subsidy for all those that lost their employment because of the pandemic.</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>e. Approaching the Private Sector &amp; Civil Society:</b> Both the private sector and civil society are working with the Government of Belize to provide an effective response to the pandemic, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cash donations which are comprised in the Chart of Accounts.</li> <li>- Procurement of equipment [ventilators, PPEs] provided by the private sector, following the</li> </ul>	<p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formulation of Framework Agreements. Up to now, the Limited Tendering Procedure is the procurement method being used.</li> <li>- Decreasing of revenues due to the decreasing of activities. This situation has put a strain on government finances which are needed to purchase laboratory equipment and expendable items (tests, syringes, etc.)</li> <li>- Shortage of medical equipment (ventilators). Likewise, payments have to be made by a certain due date or orders are cancelled.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assistance Required:</b> Test kits needed to continue monitoring the situation. These medical materials necessarily must be certified by the Ministry of Health in order to verify its compatibility with the reagents available in Belize.</p>
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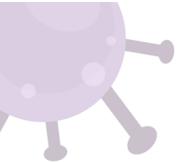
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			<p>guidelines stated by the Ministry of Health, which also recommends Direct Payment to the Supplier. Some Suppliers are even offering facilities to supply goods and services needed and get paid later when foreign exchange earnings increase or stabilize.</p> <p><b>f. Use of Monitoring tools:</b> Keeping on donations, allocation of funds to enable the unexpected purchases, records of what is being purchased and the procurement method being used.</p>	
Bolivia	3	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specific supreme decree authorizes agencies to use Direct Contracting to respond to COVID 19 emergency.</li> </ul>	<p>No dedicated Budget allocated as it is a force majeure event.</p> <p>Limited capacity of suppliers</p>
Chile	4	<p>Yes, to respond to emergencies</p> <p>Flexibility to include new goods to the list</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dedicated phone service line to respond to emergency calls from different Procurement agencies.</li> <li>- Allowing flexibility to Procurement via state of emergency decree.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Guidelines available online.</a></li> <li>- Monitoring and specific alerts to track supply availability/Price increases.</li> <li>- Approved procurement modality to accelerate procurement below 5000 USD (3 quotations).</li> <li>- Virtual trainings about <a href="#">Direct Contracting</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>Coordination among stakeholders in charge of determining emergency response Policy</p> <p>Make Procurement system available to respond to the emergency</p> <p>Provide advice to different Procurement agencies on how to carry out procurement more proactively during emergency</p>



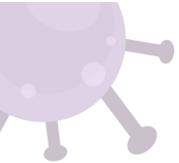
Colombia	3	<p>The existing Framework Agreements are as follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Emergency Demand Aggregation Instrument related to COVID-19</a>.</li> <li>2. Procurement of Special Control Drugs.</li> <li>3. HIV treatment.</li> <li>4. Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease.</li> <li>5. Treatment of Hemophilia.</li> </ol> <p>More information, <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><b>a. Regulatory Framework:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Electronic public hearings.</li> <li>- Prevalence of structured demand aggregation instruments by Colombia Compra Eficiente.</li> <li>- Sanctioning procedures by electronic means.</li> <li>- Elimination of limit in value of additions.</li> <li>- Electronic payment procedure to contractors.</li> <li>- Procurement in international market by private regime for some biomedical equipment, furniture, medicines, medical devices and personal protection equipment.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Transparency:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Guide to Transparency in Procurement during the COVID-19 Pandemic</a>: Includes a clarification of the obligation to publish in the Electronic System for Public Contracting -SECOP- regardless of the applicable regime and the inclusion of the word "COVID-19" to facilitate searches and citizen monitoring.</p> <p><b>c. Integrity:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Guide to Transparency in Procurement during the COVID-19 Pandemic</a>: Includes guidelines to facilitate the monitoring by control bodies and citizens.</p> <p><b>d. Innovation:</b></p> <p>Mini-Science: See information <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>e. Approaching the Private Sector &amp; Civil Society:</b></p> <p>Limited offer of supplies, equipment, drugs and medical devices.</p>	<p><b>Challenges:</b> Limited offer of supplies, equipment, drugs and medical devices.</p> <p><b>Assistance Required:</b> Other countries strategies to face the pandemic from a public procurement view.</p>
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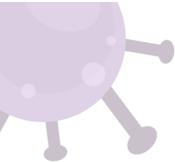
			<p><b>f. Use of Monitoring tools:</b> <a href="#">COVID-19 Public Control Tool.</a></p>	
Costa Rica	4	Without Framework Agreements.	<p><b>a. Regulatory Framework:</b> Issuance of specific decrees and guidelines aimed at crisis management, under the coordination of the Ministry of Health and the National Emergency Commission.</p> <p><b>b. Transparency:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procurement processes through SICOP.</li> <li>- Direct procurement processes authorized by the control entity or in accordance with the provisions of the legal system. The information of the procurement processes is available for consultation/verification in transactional or registration systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>c. Integrity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The application of the regulatory framework and tool SICOP guarantee integrity of the procurement processes in response to COVID 19.</li> <li>- Automated procurement processes.</li> </ul> <p><b>d. Innovation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commitment to teleworking in the public sector has enabled new skills to be developed for civil servants and has shown that it can be used as an alternative to face-to-face work.</li> <li>- Satisfactory response in terms of country responsiveness to the connectivity.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The persistence of the COVID situation represents a significant challenge with respect to the decline in global economic activity, which impacts the collection of fiscal income and consequently the real capacity of the public sector to finance its expenditures.</li> <li>- In view of the limited revenue situation, the implementation/strengthening of public expenditure containment measures is envisaged. In view of this, the route of external financing emerges as a possibility, even though it compromises in terms of the financial burden and the LND.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assistance Required:</b> Timely access to medicines at reasonable prices.</p>



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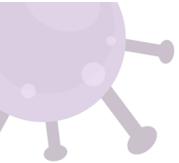
			<p><b>e. Approaching the Private Sector &amp; Civil Society:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation with public and private sectors to ascertain their perception about the COVID-19 impact on public procurement processes and provide them support.</li> <li>- Coordination with electronic Procurement platform service provider RACSA in order to promote the incorporation of pending entities into the SICOP.</li> <li>- Periodic generation of communications for agents related to procurement processes and the general public.</li> </ul> <p><b>f. Use of Monitoring tools:</b> Procurement processes are carried out through the SICOP (Ministry of Finance), transactional platform; the information is replicated in the SIAC (Comptroller General of the Republic) transactional system.</p>	
Ecuador	5	<p>yes, traditional and emergency response</p> <p>Working to introduce flexibility to include new goods to the list and new framework agreements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resolution to issue normative towards emergency and make processes more transparent. Creation of electronic procurement channels for procurement processes continuity.</li> <li>- Best Practices in emergency Procurement <a href="#">Guide</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Publication on Procurement in emergencies and promoting transparency</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Instructioanl video.</a></li> <li>- Developing control social tool: "<a href="#">Tablero de Control de Estado de Calamidad COVID-19</a>".</li> </ul>	<p>Supervise 100% of Procurement processes related to emergency response</p> <p>Adequate communication</p> <p>Capacity to manage business processed via telework.</p>



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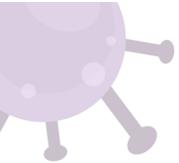
El Salvador	4	No. The current legal framework for public procurement does not include the framework agreement for electronic catalogues in its methods.	<p><b>a. Regulatory Framework:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislative and executive decrees and guidelines by the purchasing regulatory body.</li> <li>- Legislative and Executive Decrees, with which we have managed to regulate measures to address the emergency arising from the pandemic by COVID-19, within these, which are linked to aspects of public procurement we have: Legislative Decree No. 593 dated March 14, 2020 which declared a State of National Emergency, a State of Public Calamity and Natural Disaster throughout the territory of the Republic, within the framework established in the Constitution of the Republic following the COVID-19 pandemic for the purposes of the mechanisms provided for in the Law on Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the Law on Public Administration Procurement and Contracting -LACAP-, cooperation agreements or contracts or applicable loans.</li> </ul> <p>With said declaration of emergency, the form of contracting contemplated in the LACAP is enabled, which is Direct Contracting when a state of emergency, calamity or disaster is in force; the UNAC issued the "General Guidelines for Direct Contracting" for this reason, to use the procedure regulated by law to contract within a state of emergency, in order to point out and establish important aspects to be considered in the operation of the processes so that they are carried out more effectively. The direct contracting in the legislation also contemplates maintaining criteria of competence when it applies, according to the cause that enables it.</p>	<p><b>Challenges:</b> Systems with technologies that need to be updated to new trends, as well as the incorporation of other purchase modalities such as the framework agreement, catalogue purchases that would have feasibly facilitated purchases for the emergency.</p> <p><b>Assistance Required:</b> Transactional systems, other purchase modalities such as the framework agreement, catalogue purchases, modification of current legislation.</p>
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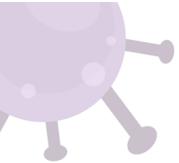
			<p>In addition, given the market conditions and the need for an expeditious process to achieve more immediate acquisitions, Legislative Decree No. 606 of March 23, 2020 authorized the application of an ad hoc and temporary procedure, specifically for acquisitions and contracts directly related to prevention, treatment, containment and care of the pandemic, to be issued by the Ministry of Finance through the UNAC in the "Specific Guidelines for Emergency Procurement" on the basis of technical justification, accountability, maximum publicity, promptness, integrity, equality, as well as other aspects.</p> <p>In the case of procurement, the legal framework establishes that suppliers may not be contracted with if they are disqualified, incapable or prevented from bidding and contracting with the State, that is to say, because they are sanctioned, insolvent, among others, nor with those who have family ties with public officials or employees under the terms of Article 26 of the LACAP.</p> <p><b>b. Transparency:</b> Creation and qualification within the Electronic System of Public Procurement of El Salvador - COMPRASAL- a module and exclusive section called "PURCHASES BY EMERGENCY" for the registration and publication of purchases made for the prevention, treatment, containment and care of the emergency, made based on specific guidelines, in which they must incorporate information regarding the management made, object acquired, the successful bidder and the</p>	
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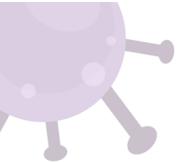
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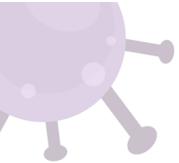
			<p>amount, among others, which is publicly accessible, also can be known from COMPRASAL purchases made under Direct Contracting by state of emergency; In addition, each institution has a transparency portal where it publishes contracts, based on the principle of maximum publicity.</p> <p><b>c. Integrity:</b> Within Legislative Decree No 606 of 23 March 2020, one of the principles for purchases in this emergency was that of "integrity", and in this regard the Specific Guidelines for Emergency Purchases define the roles and responsibilities of the different actors, as well as compliance with the minimum legal aspects required by Salvadorian legislation, as well as the obligation to compile all the proofs of the different actions and actions from the generation of the need to the payment of the same, for the conformation of the purchase file, added to this, all purchasing process is subject to accountability and respect for ethics as a principle of public purchase and all acquisitions are subject to inspection, and this information can be consulted in addition to being available the data of purchases from COMPRASAL.</p> <p><b>d. Innovation:</b> Use of electronic means to carry out stages and actions inherent to the contracting process, such as conducting market surveys through electronic means, web platforms, information banks of other prestigious international or foreign entities, enabling new forms of payment in accordance with world conditions</p>	
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			<p>caused by the pandemic and speeding up the formalization of obligations and procedural times.</p> <p><b>e. Approaching the Private Sector &amp; Civil Society:</b> Public access to the regulations issued, as well as the information recorded by the purchasing entities on the COMPRASAL public procurement website, is available at <a href="http://www.comprasal.gob.sv">www.comprasal.gob.sv</a>. The information includes procurement data, the name of the supplier, the amount awarded, and the date of purchase, among others.</p> <p><b>f. Use of Monitoring tools:</b> Follow-up and monitoring of the contracting processes carried out for the prevention, treatment, containment and care of the Pandemic by COVID-19, through the Electronic Public Procurement System of El Salvador - COMPRASAL- by UNAC through its public procurement observatory, which is part of the best practices in procurement.</p>	
Guyana	3	No, Framework Agreements are not provided for in Guyana's current public procurement legislation.	<p><b>g. Regulatory Framework:</b> The Health Ministry has sought to procure most Covid-19 items (medication, PPE, etc.). via single sourcing which allows the Ministry to procure the items in a faster than usual manner, which is necessary given the pandemic.</p> <p><b>h. Transparency:</b> Procuring entities are required, by law, to submit the details of all contracts awarded for online publication. This is especially important</p>	<p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The receipt of Covid-19 items such as Personal Protective Equipment in a timely fashion will be negatively effected given the surge in demand globally and dependence on external manufacturers</li><li>- Bidders are still required to submit hard copies of their bids, which presents opportunities for infection of staff and suppliers</li></ul>



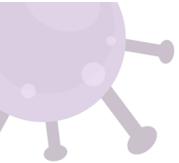
			<p>given that most Covid-19 related procurement are conducted using the Single Source method.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Integrity:</b> Although single sourcing is being primarily used for Covid-19 related procurement, procuring entities have only been engaging economic operators that have a proven track record.</li> <li>j. <b>Innovation:</b> The National Procurement and Tender Administration (NPTA) has implemented a system for the submission of procurement requests to be sent electronically via a designated email since Guyana does not have an electronic government procurement system. This allows staff at the NPTA to have limited contact with procurement officials from other agencies.</li> <li>k. <b>Approaching the Private Sector &amp; Civil Society:</b> Some private-sector organisations and civil society groups have complemented the government's efforts against Covid-19 by distributing cleaning and food supplies to persons experiencing economic hardships.</li> <li>l. <b>Use of Monitoring tools:</b> Public procurement is being monitored utilising existing mechanisms.</li> </ul>	<p>during the tender opening ceremony.</p> <p><b>Assistance Required:</b> Larger bargaining power through the amalgamation of Covid-19 related procurement requests with other member states in the region will perhaps aid in guaranteeing supplies at a better price, given that Guyana's requirements are small relative to other nations.</p>
Guatemala	3	Yes, traditional.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Declare National Emergency so that purchases are made under the state of emergency exception.</li> </ul>	Resources shortage.



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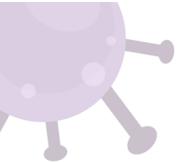
Honduras	3	Yes, Framework Agreement on Medical and Surgical Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Regulatory Framework:</b> Cancellation or suspension of non-emergency purchases and flexibility for emergency-related purchases.</li> <li><b>b. Transparency:</b> Follow-up by means of teleworking to comply with the restrictions within the framework of the emergency, informing the maximum authority of the institutions and the controlling bodies of any non-compliance.</li> <li><b>c. Integrity:</b> Contributing in providing guidelines by having the help desk unit to support the consultations that the institutions have.</li> <li><b>d. Innovation:</b> Monitoring through teleworking, maintaining available computer systems and human resources in support of institutional procurement processes.</li> <li><b>e. Approaching the Private Sector &amp; Civil Society:</b> Specific attention continues to be paid to the issue of biosecurity inputs and emergency-related procurement.</li> <li><b>f. Use of Monitoring tools:</b> Follow-up has been closer with the implementation of official communications via official letter signed by the ONCAE Directorate with a copy to the controlling bodies.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Challenges:</b> The availability of comparative prices and the government's recognition of ONCAE and the current regulations as a leader in the area of procurement.</p> <p><b>Assistance Required:</b> Strengthen technological tools, support in terms of international prices of inputs and achieve recognition of the ONCAE and current regulations as a leader.</p>
Cayman Islands	3	Yes, traditional, disaster and emergency response	- Purchase of personal protective equipment from local suppliers.	



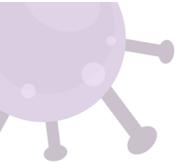
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		Flexibility to incorporate new suppliers, create new agreements and incorporate other countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with Crown Agents to procure more supplies from Germany.</li> </ul>	
<b>Montserrat</b>	2	Traditional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- South-South cooperation with OECS in the procurement of medical supplies and engagement of medical personnel from Cuba.</li> <li>- Working with Crown Agents for the procurement of medical supplies from global supply chain.</li> <li>- Working with disaster management agencies/ NGOs who have ventilators and personal protective equipment in hand to be distributed among medical personnel.</li> <li>- Working with UK network of support and supply.</li> </ul>	Access to supply and availability  Logistics to speed up delivery to island  Not enough personnel in Procurement department to respond to crisis proactively  ICU equipment and ventilators provided thru disaster management agencies will take time to arrive  Challenges with mobilization and preparation against time.
<b>Paraguay</b>	4	0  They are not using FA for lack of flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Centralized information in procurement portal.</u></a></li> <li>- Contractual addendums in other modalities affected by the emergency.</li> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Quick Public procurement guide to address the emergency.</u></a></li> <li>- Guides to reduce the number of people present during bid submission and delivery.</li> <li>- In the process of designing a platform for the private sector to offer goods and services</li> </ul>	Limited Trained personnel to design Framework Agreements on useful products and services in response to the pandemic.



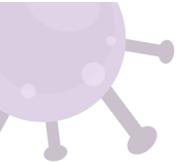
			<p>available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Non-perishable food delivery services.</li><li>- Developing social control tool: "<a href="#">Guía rápida de control ciudadano de las compras públicas</a>".</li></ul>	
Peru	3	There are no specific framework agreements for health topics.	<p>a. <b>Regulatory Framework:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Rules issued by the Executive Branch</li><li>- Supreme Decree No. 044-2020-PCM, specified by DS 045-2020-PCM and 046-2020-PCM, which declares a state of national emergency and other extensions</li><li>- Emergency Decree 028-2020, Extraordinary economic and financial measures for the purchase of diagnostic tests for the prevention and control of COVID-19</li><li>- Emergency Decree No. 029-2020, Supplementary measures for financing micro and small enterprises and other measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the Peruvian economy.</li><li>- Emergency Decree No. 031-2020, Emergency Decree that dictates complementary measures to strengthen the prevention, control, surveillance and health response systems for the attention of the emergency produced by the COVID-19. (hotline, among others)</li><li>- Emergency Decree 032-2020, Emergency Decree that dictates extraordinary measures to guarantee the health response for the care of the emergency produced by the COVID-19 (the Executive Unit "Hospital Emergencia Ate Vitarte" is created for the care of the COVID 19, among other provisions)</li></ul>	<p><b>Challenges:</b> Lack of integrity of some public procurement actors who take advantage of the emergency situation to commit acts of corruption. The higher overheads, direct costs and other economic effects generated by the paralysis of the execution of contracts, due to the implementation of health measures to face and control the emergency.</p> <p><b>Assistance Required:</b> Exchange of information from other countries on how governing bodies are leading the emergency, from the field of public procurement.</p>



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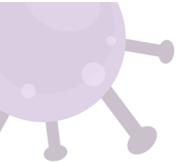
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Emergency Decree 033-2020, Emergency Decree that establishes measures to reduce the impact on the Peruvian economy of the prevention provisions established in the declaration of a state of national emergency in view of the risks of propagation of COVID - 19. (basic family baskets).</li><li>- Emergency Decree No. 043-2020, Emergency Decree that dictates extraordinary measures with the purpose of acquiring goods and services necessary for the quarantine accommodation and feeding of people who must move within the country as a result of the declaration of the State of National Emergency by the COVID-19</li><li>- Emergency Decree No. 050-2020, Emergency Decree that dictates extraordinary measures in economic and financial matters for the acquisition of personal protection equipment - PPE to strengthen the health response to the emergency produced by the COVID-19</li></ul> <p><b>b. Transparency:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Resolution of the Comptroller's Office No. 102-2020-CG, provides for the mandatory use of the "Platform for Transparency in Public Management in Health Emergencies COVID-19", by Local Governments</li><li>- Law No. 31016, Law establishing measures for the deployment of simultaneous control during a health emergency by COVID-19</li><li>- Supreme Decree No. 063-2020, Supreme Decree amending Article 4 of Supreme Decree No. 044-2020-PCM, for the National Control System (Staff of the Comptroller General's Office and the Institutional Control Bodies are</li></ul>	
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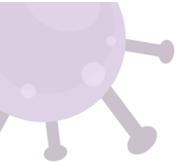
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- exempted from the limitation on the exercise of the right to freedom of transit).</li><li>- Resolution of the Comptroller's Office No. 106-2020-CG, the Voluntary Participation of Citizen Control Monitors in the Reconstruction with Changes is extended to the contracting of goods and services, since it previously referred to the execution of public works.</li><li>- Comptroller's Office Resolution No. 128-2020-CG, Approves the Modified National Control Plan 2020</li></ul> <p>The use of a virtual platform is established to make transparent the contracting carried out by the Public Entities within the framework of the State of Emergency.</p> <p><b>c. Integrity:</b> Measures are adopted to strengthen the functions of the General Comptroller of the Republic in the framework of the hiring carried out by the Public Entities in the framework of the State of Emergency, such as: Electronic application for basket hiring, concurrent control actions in emergency hiring, among others.</p> <p><b>d. Innovation:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The use of the virtual platform is promoted in order to follow up on the hiring carried out by the Public Entities.</li><li>- It is authorized that the Single Registry of Contributors (RUC) may be requested virtually, which allows many small and micro entrepreneurs to obtain the RUC and thus register in the National Registry of Suppliers.</li></ul></p>	
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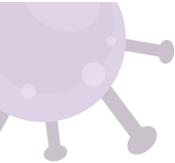
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- It is indicated that in the framework of the State of Emergency, the regularization of the RNP can be dispensed with, since the haste in contracting requires that the necessary goods be contracted to deal with the situation.</li><li>- The use of social networks is being used to promote and provide training, which has been very well received at the national level.</li></ul> <p><b>e. Approaching the Private Sector &amp; Civil Society:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Regulations have been issued to reactive the economy, with special emphasis on boosting MSEs.</li><li>- Proposals are being worked on to boost the participation of MSEs in public procurement.</li><li>- Virtual training on public procurement is being provided, sponsored and developed by OSCE staff.</li></ul> <p><b>f. Use of Monitoring tools:</b></p> <p>The OSCE has implemented an online tool that promotes effective control of public expenditure during the national emergency against COVID-19. This tool allows citizens to visualize the direct hiring that the entities have carried out, filtering information by region, sector, type of entity, product category and name of the supplier. This tool allows citizens to view the direct contracts that entities have awarded, filtering information by region, sector, type of entity, product category and name of the supplier.</p>	
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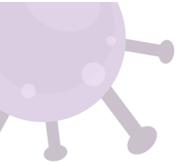
			<p>Likewise, a ranking of entities stands out so that users know which ones have the largest number of processes and the amounts contracted. In this way, the monitoring of contracts by emergency is promoted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	
Dominican Republic	3	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Authorization to the Ministry of Health to make direct purchases for emergencies.</li> <li>- Presentation of offers through electronic procurement transactional portal.</li> <li>- In the process of identifying requirements for health supplies to organize bulk procurement.</li> <li>- Developing control social tool: "<a href="#">Acciones para contribuir a frenar la pandemia COVID-19</a>".</li> <li>- Virtual training about: "<a href="#">Use of the Transactional Portal, e-Offers presentation and e-Reverse Auction Process</a>".</li> </ul>	ND
Saint Lucia	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of uncommitted funds.</li> <li>- Fragmentation of contracts to evade thresholds.</li> </ul>	<p>Lack of specific procedures in response to the Emergency.</p> <p>The Direct Contracting is not efficiently responding to the emergency because it takes days and prices are not available.</p> <p>Excessively long processes for administrative procedures such as</p>



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				<p>redistributions and changes for use of funds).</p> <p>Payment Processes do not change with the Emergency.</p> <p>Increase of prices in accordance with goods shortage.</p> <p>External dependency to keep health specialized equipments.</p> <p>The World Bank Refund Process to response to the Emergency is inaccessible because of the local procedures.</p>
<b>Turks and Caicos</b>	3	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activation of the national emergency response plan.</li> <li>- Additional purchase of personal protective equipment.</li> <li>- Stakeholder engagement meetings.</li> <li>- Technical support from PAHO, CARPHA and Public Health of England.</li> <li>- Contingency funds to support the crisis responses.</li> </ul>	<p>Vulnerability of imports that coming mostly from US.</p> <p>Disruptions to the Supply Chain.</p> <p>Food, water, cleaning and health accessories shortages.</p> <p>Difficulties to obtain quotes and limited response to Suppliers.</p> <p>Restrictions for shipping.</p> <p>Purchases made by panic.</p>
<b>Uruguay</b>	4	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Flexibilities in procurement regulations to deal with emergencies.</u></a></li> </ul>	Coordinating activities to replace face-to-face stages by e-processes.

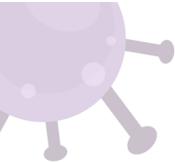


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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Replacement of face-to-face requirements with virtual options at different stages of the procurement process.</li><li>- Flexibilities in the intervention of the supreme audit institution in procurement related to emergency response.</li><li>- Centralized procurement of medical devices.</li><li>- Possible reduction of tariffs on imports of drugs and supplies related to virus treatment.</li><li>- Credit aid to companies affected by the decline in economic activity levels.</li><li>- Extension of the deadlines for payment of public fees.</li><li>- Economic aid to vulnerable sectors and direct delivery of food in their homes to children attending to public schools.</li><li>- Scientific and academic working groups generating inputs for the health system (artificial respirators, test kits, etc.)</li><li>- Specialization at the level of health centers in caring for those affected by the virus (one Hospital only) which allows isolating from other types of patients.</li></ul>	
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**Source:** Survey and remote session with procurement managers from LAC countries conducted through the INGP.

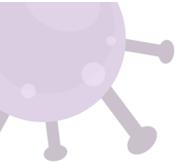


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Additionally, the countries indicated the type of support they require to respond to the emergency:

Country	Support required
Anguila	Assistance or proposed structure to facilitate procurement processes electronically since they do not have access to e-GP Advise on good practices that can be followed in emergency situations like this
Bahamas	Specific health supplies required
Belize	Test kits needed to continue monitoring the situation. These medical materials necessarily must be certified by the Ministry of Health in order to verify its compatibility with the reagents available in Belize.
Bolivia	Access to additional Supplies since the market is at max capacity
Chile	Stock of products needed for the emergency Price control
Colombia	Other countries strategies to face the pandemic from a public procurement view.
Costa Rica	Timely access to medicines at reasonable prices.
Ecuador	Advisory and support on electronic services
El Salvador	Transactional systems, other purchase modalities such as the framework agreement, catalogue purchases, modification of current legislation.
Guatemala	Generating capacities among procurement personnel is one of the deficiencies that stand out in these emergencies
Guyana	Larger bargaining power through the amalgamation of Covid-19 related procurement requests with other member states in the region will perhaps aid in guaranteeing supplies at a better price, given that Guyana's requirements are small relative to other nations.
Honduras	Strengthen technological tools, support in terms of international prices of inputs and achieve recognition of the ONCAE and current regulations as a leader.
Cayman Islands	Incentivize manufacturers to increase the production of supplies required to respond to the Coronavirus emergency to increase supply
Paraguay	Information about products and services (technical specifications and others) that could be uploaded to the virtual store which is part of the framework agreement



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<b>Peru</b>	At this time, the government has already implemented measures and they are under execution
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	ND
<b>Saint Lucia</b>	Information on estimated funding required to confront the threat of COVID-19
<b>Turks and Caicos</b>	Identify offer and suppliers of essential raw materials, and supplies
<b>Uruguay</b>	All the technical cooperation that can be received in these instances it would be of great added value