



Accelerated Peer-support Partnership (PAP-APP)
Partenariat d'Appui Accéléré par des Pairs



AUDIT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA COVID-19 RESPONSE – PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICAL AND FOOD ITEMS

BY THE SAI OF THE GAMBIA

WHY THIS AUDIT ?

The Government of the Gambia spent about USD 16.5 million on the procurement of food and medical items during the covid response especially in the capital Banjul. It was critical for the SAI to provide assurance to the citizens that the response was delivered in line with applicable laws and regulations.

HOW THE AUDIT WAS DONE ?

The audit was conducted following the ISSAI compliance audit methodology. The 1st phase of the audit covered the procurement and distribution of medical and food items in the Banjul area. Audit teams undertook field inspections at various health centres and food distribution points and conducted interviews with key officials from the national disaster management agency.



FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The audit found that inappropriate procurement and contracting processes were used for the procurement of food and medical supplies worth over USD 5 million. Relief items amounting to over USD 1.2 million could not be accounted for since there was no confirmation of delivery to the beneficiaries.

The SAI recommended that the Government should set up a contingency fund to cover such emergency situations and ensure that procurement laws and regulations are followed especially during emergencies. The report findings were presented to Parliament and widely circulated within the media with several calls for action against those involved in the mismanagement of funds.

HOW WAS THE AUDIT SUPPORTED ?

- Technical support throughout the audit process from planning to reporting was provided through a consultant engaged on the ground to provide on the job guidance to the audit teams.
- The audit was supported through the Strategic Development Accelerator Project funded by UK government in particular, supplemented by funds from a pool of donors for the PAP-APP programme.

Report link :

<https://nao.gm/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Covid-Phase-1-Cons-Final-Report.pdf>