



## The role of independent “watchdog” in monitoring external emergency aid to combat the consequences of COVID-19 in Kyrgyzstan

Nazik Imanbekova, Associate Program Officer, IRI

October 27-30, 2020

LiK 2020, Bishkek

1

### Why has the Kyrgyz society started to push for more transparency and accountability in public finance?

- Ineffective public expenditures on healthcare, education and social service that was exposed during COVID-19;
- Numerous high level corruption scandals that uncover misuse of public funds;
- Public Infrastructure Investment (roads, modernization of CHP Bishkek, Hydroelectric Power Plant, and etc.) delivered poor results;
- Substantial growth of external public debt;
- More people are concerned that public spending less address their needs

2

## Democracy Index/ Freedom in the World

- Hybrid Regime
- Fragile democracy
- Democracy Index is volatile, sharply worsened in 2019
- Freedom House – status “partly free”, same trend
- V-Dem, same trend



3

## Open Budget Index (IBP)

| Year | Index score | Ranking | Improvements   | Recommendations  |
|------|-------------|---------|--|--|
| 2008 | 8           | 65/77   |  |  |
| 2010 | 15          | 74/93   |  |  |
| 2012 | 20          | 76/100  |  |  |
| 2015 | 54          | 34/102  | Availability of financial data and reports to public; timely reported; provide detailed information (expenditure by economic and functional classification, data on every taxes) | Improve the comprehensiveness and document content; Publish reports on budget public hearings,   |
| 2017 | 55          | 38/115  | Availability of financial data and reports to public; provides estimates of revenue, expenditure, borrowing, and policies; provide Citizen budget;                               | Provide and regularly update Mid Year Report; Improve the comprehensiveness and document content; Establish formal mechanisms for the public to assist the supreme audit institution in formulating its audit program and to participate in relevant audit investigations; Consider setting up an independent fiscal institution to further strengthen budget oversight. |
| 2019 | 63          | 27/117  | Availability of financial data and reports to public; Increased information provided in the Audit Report;  | Provide and regularly update Mid Year Report; Provide Debt and Macroeconomic information in the End Year report; Improve the comprehensiveness and document content; improve public participation, especially at the approval, implementation and audit levels; publish reports on budget implementation and its findings; audit of state funds by independent body.     |

4

## Corruption Perception Index (TI)

| Year | CPI Index | Ranking |
|------|-----------|---------|
| 2019 | 30/100    | 126/198 |
| 2018 | 29/100    | 132/198 |
| 2017 | 29/100    | 135/198 |
| 2016 | 28/100    | 136/198 |
| 2015 | 28/100    | 123/198 |
| 2014 | 27/100    | 136/198 |
| 2013 | 24/100    | 150/198 |
| 2012 | 24/100    | 154/198 |

5

## Kyrgyzstan's civic independent "watchdog"s

- Professional NGOs and CBOs
- Watchdog journalism
- Individual activists
- Data analysts
- Research Centers
- Public Supervisory Councils
- International Initiatives

6

## Media as a new monitoring actor



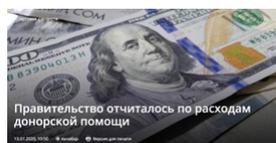
7

### Approaches, techniques, and agendas:

- National budget analysis and monitoring led by NGOs and CSOs; corruption cases and public expenditure led by media and journalists; public participation through public hearings, discussion platforms by activists;
- Advocacy and trainings by NGOs and CSOs, investigation and reportages by media, meetings and demonstrations led by activists;
- State expenditure and revenue initiatives are largely country-based and NGOs and media-led, work on tax, extractives and contracting often has a more international flavor, are largely led by international NGOs or multi-stakeholder partnerships;

8

## COVID -19 Expenditures and Enforced Discourse



Правительство отчиталось по расходам донорской помощи

Кто решил помочь правительству в борьбе с коронавирусом деньгами и делом? (обновляется)

03 апреля 2020 14:29

49128

100



kloop

новости история видео статьи курсы карты услуги о нас

Кыргызстан тратит миллионы долларов на борьбу с коронавирусом, но власти скрывают как расходуются деньги



### На что Кыргызстан потратил деньги МВФ и АБР, рассказала министр финансов КР

02.07.2020

Нет Комментариев

Просмотров: 175

Новости

новости

Радио Азаттык

КЫР

21 октября 2020, Бишкекское время 15:02

июля 10, 2020

Вице-премьер рассказала о реализации проектов по борьбе с COVID-19 на 56 млн долларов

9

## Government that helps to monitor or Government that hides everything?

- <http://zakupki.gov.kg/popp/>
- <https://budget.okmot.kg/ru>
- <http://www.minfin.kg/ru/>
- <http://mineconom.gov.kg/ru>
- <http://www.stat.kg/en/>
- <https://www.nbkr.kg/index.jsp?lang=RUS>
- <https://www.esep.kg/index.php?lang=ru>

10

## Impacts

- To reduce corruption
- To increase effective raising and spending of public funds
- To address constituents' needs and concerns right
- To analyze budget dynamics for future forecasts
- To inform policies
- To manage and coordinate deficit and debt levels
- To monitor effective spending on public investment projects and public services

11

## Summary

- Data disclosing cause greater public discussion and enforced accountability;
- Influence the mobilization, management, and distribution of public resources;
- Different actors – “watchdogs” operate independently from each other, with little coordination among them;
- Lack of detailed data to work and download;
- Expansion of data-based stories and data-driven changes
- Raised importance of social media as a discussion platform and making an influence

12

## Recommendations

- Increasing financial literacy of population
- Increasing learning and training on different financial topics from corruption and revenue monitoring to open data and technology usage to track funding and spending
- Systematic work with an institutional memory
- Collaboration works of media with research institute, research institute with NGOs and CBOs, or media with activists
- Greater work of government agencies on simplification and dissemination of financial data
- Increasing context of reports
- Make possible to download the data for further works and analysis

13

# Thank you!

14