

Sector Budget Transparency and Children

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Open Budgets for Social Sectors: the key to better budgets for children

Benefits of budget transparency in social sectors

- Supports delivery of essential social services - schools, clinics, hospitals, public health, pre-school education
- Reveals which services are prioritized, where there are gaps, and where there are challenges in budget implementation
- Reduces losses, and facilitates increased access to resources – from taxation, from partners, even from the public
- Enables more efficient spending - lower costs, greater equity, improved budget execution

Social Sector Transparency is Critical for COVID-19 response

Short term impact of COVID (e.g. in health, social protection)

- More resources, from multiple sources, disbursed fast
- Lack of preparedness and capacity, rapid reprioritization, rapid approvals
- Increased prices and additional costs
- Fewer controls, relaxed procurement processes

Opportunities

- New technology and platforms, digital innovation and new ways to engage citizens

Medium and longer term

- Need for greater efficiency and value for money for existing and new resources
- Potentially reduced resources and risk to public trust

Actions to support increased sector budget transparency

- Analysis and monitoring of social spending proposals
- Supporting parliamentary committees in scrutiny of budget proposals and accountability
- Supporting civil society and citizen participation, monitoring and feedback
- Working with governments and developing action plans to improve transparency

