Crisis Emergencies, State Responses and 'Windows' of Corruption in Uganda

Project Summary

The project will examine and deepen the understanding of crises/emergencies, and the responses by the state and other stakeholders (such as the non-governmental organizations, private sector) to such crises, can create opportunities for corruption in Uganda. The project aims to analyse corruption experiences and responses during four previous emergencies in Uganda, seeking to understand the forms, patterns and pathways of corruption. The project also seeks to develop strategies for preventing corruption when responding to crises or emergencies to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable sectors and population groups, mainly women, children, people with disabilities and marginalized ethnic communities in future crises.

Policy and Programming Implications

The research will generate evidence on the forms, patterns, and pathways of corruption during emergencies. It will also develop anti-corruption strategies and trial interventions for implementing and monitoring emergency responses. Finally, it will strengthen detection and timely reporting of corruption events to enable upstream actions by law enforcement agencies.

Research Questions

1. What are the forms, practices, and patterns of corruption during emergency crises in Uganda?
2. What is the cost of corruption and how knowledgeable or aware are citizens in this regard?
3. How can citizens be empowered to act against corruption in emergency crisis situations?

Methodology

We will use in-depth Interviews to collect data and engage in dialogue with leaders and emergency responders in government, Civil Society Organizations, lower-level government officials at the emergency points and religious leaders. We shall also use a Focus Group Guide (FGG) designed to elicit information from individual participants regarding their experiences of the four main emergency responses that we compare.

Given that a study of this magnitude cannot be conducted all over Uganda, we will adopt a cluster sampling design to select the districts. Clusters will comprise the 9 sub-regions of Uganda. From the regions, a total of 18 districts will be selected using the sub-regions as clusters. Two researchers will also review criminal case records of completed cases and cases currently before courts of law, as well as administrative data on non-criminal cases of corruption (e.g., data on conflicts of interest, abuse of office, professional misconduct) and whether and what types of disciplinary actions were taken.

Research Team Members

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