



# **CORONAVIRUS OVERSIGHT: U.S. GAO's COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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- Laws require GAO to periodically report on federal response efforts through March 2021
  - Two reports already issued (June 25 and August 31); next report expected September 21
  - About 75 audit engagements underway to support comprehensive reports
- GAO's work covers topics to include medical response as well as aid to business, individuals, local governments and schools and provides such information as:
  - Public health and economic indicators
  - Spending rates for federal programs responding to the crisis
  - Allocation of federal contracts

- At the beginning of the crisis, GAO created a special webpage and has added material to it over time
- Early material reflected GAO's past work on similar topics; webpage currently contains links to almost 200 GAO products:
  - Past relevant work
  - New GAO reports
  - Testimony by GAO executives
  - “Spotlights” explaining the science related to the virus itself, vaccines, and social distancing
  - Blog highlighting specific reports and themes











[www.gao.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.gao.gov/coronavirus/)

- Little to no travel to conduct audits or meet in person (*meetings and travel centrally-approved to assure they are essential and safe*)
- Computer networks, phone and videoconference tools upgraded to facilitate communication
- Some audits were paused but most have continued
- Use of audit standards to assure transparency and appropriate participation from auditees

- Recommendations made and updated in each subsequent report on government response to public health and economic crisis
- Annual Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) for FY20 scheduled for release in mid-November. PAR includes:
  - Financial benefits
  - Other benefits resulting from GAO recommendations
  - Measures of the extent recommendations are implemented
  - Effects on operations or productivity
- As required by law and if necessary, GAO will provide information in November to help with any Congressional and Presidential transition

- Continued programs to assure inclusive and equitable approach to hiring, training and rewarding staff
- Continued events focused on diversity and inclusion
- Programs to support staff due to Covid-19 related challenges (*administrative leave, remote work logistics, counseling services*)
- Frequent communication with staff (*Town Hall meetings, surveys*)

GAO APPROACH		INTOSAI PFAC COVID-19 INITIATIVE	
<p>GAO’s approach to international engagement during the pandemic illustrates our commitment to inclusiveness and support to our international colleagues facing the greatest difficulties.</p>		<p>The U.S. Comptroller General established a short-term, informal COVID-19 Initiative within INTOSAI’s PFAC, which will transition to a longer-term SCEI initiative led by Chairman Kudrin of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation.</p>	
INTOSAI PANDEMIC RESPONSE		INITIATIVE FOCUS	INITIATIVE WEBSITE
<div><p>In April and July, the U.S. Comptroller General held virtual meetings with PFAC members, interested SAs, and INTOSAI regions to help plan &amp; execute INTOSAI’s pandemic response.</p></div>		<div><div><p>Maintaining continuity of operations</p></div><div><p>Sharing practical, technical and audit related information</p></div><div><p>Developing high-level lessons learned document for external stakeholders</p></div></div>	<div><div><p><a href="https://intosaicovid19.org">intosaicovid19.org</a></p></div><div><p>Resources include links to each area of focus</p></div><div><p>Since its launch, 3,500+ visitors accessing more than 13,700 pages</p></div></div>
INTOSAI FUNDING SUPPORT			
<div><div></div><p>PFAC developed a plan to distribute surplus INTOSAI funds to assist SAs with continuity of operations. Program soon to be implemented with IDI and INTOSAI GS support.</p></div>			