

CoST work plan summary- Philippines

Process

Please describe briefly the process to draft your workplan and who was involved from which stakeholder groups.

In a meeting held by the MSG on October 23, 2008, there was a discussion on objectives of pilot phase of CoST initiatives in the Philippines. Afterwards, initial blue print of activities was drafted and circulated to members of the MSG for comments. Revised drafts were then subjected to series of analyses made by representatives of Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office and MSG Coordinator. CoST Philippines Workplan was eventually developed after a series of comments and revisions, and final concurrence of MSG members.

Workplan objective

Record the central objective of your workplan here.

The impact of current transparency initiatives being implemented both by the government and civil society in the Philippines has yet to be fully realized. Therefore, in its pilot phase, CoST Philippines aims to be the catalyst that brings together current transparency initiatives. In so doing, we hope to find the needed direction to curb and minimize corruption in the Philippines.

Activities

Please provide an overview of the activities contained in your workplan and how they support the CoST process.

The CoST MSG proposes to improve and increase the effectiveness of public monitoring by being the link between key transparency initiatives (such as the Procurement Transparency Group and the “Bantay Lansangan”) that are currently monitoring the different stages of public construction projects. This monitoring shall account for the entirety of planning, procurement, and actual implementation of public sector selected construction projects, through critical collaboration with and support for existing transparency groups. Parallel to these activities, efforts shall be made increase access to information of public infrastructure projects. to the MSG will look into the feasibility of strengthening and widening the role of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and similar institutions to host procurement information. Public awareness on these transparency initiatives shall be vital to solicit more support and participation of the general public in this endeavour. It is hoped that a successful template of integrated monitoring shall in turn increase participation of the general public to monitor more projects. In the end, we will look into the possibility of institutionalizing this system of integrated monitoring.

Outputs

Here you should identify what will be the results of the support received. **These should be results that can be clearly recognised and measured**, for example: a training course delivered, report published, or percentage of an administrator’s time.

1. Study on current transparency initiatives
2. Study to ensure independence of CPE/assessors

3. Documentation of meetings/dialogues/training/seminars
4. Copy of agreements and terms of collaboration with government, private and civil society groups (e.g. MOAs/MOUs)
5. Database of information on the entirety of selected projects (e.g. observations, reports, and analysis and assessments of monitoring teams')
6. Training modules to enhance skills of procurement observers and project implementation monitors
7. Training module for an independent and credible contractor performance evaluation (CPE)
8. Pool of independent CPE evaluators/assessors
9. Compliance report on PhilGEPS
10. Current status and development plans of PhilGEPS
11. Feasibility study on extending PhilGEPS' system as central repository of government information and reports of observers, monitors and evaluators of public sector projects that are accessible to the general public
12. Documentation of entire project periods (planning, monitoring, implementation, and CPE evaluation)
13. Electronic database of entire project periods (planning, monitoring, implementation, and CPE evaluation)
14. Template of effective business plan for PhilGEPS
15. Documentation PhilGEPS' business plan implementation
16. Template of effective communications plan on reforms for the construction sector
17. Documentation of implementation of communications plan on reforms for the construction sector
18. Profile of CoST Philippines MSG
19. Full time MSG coordinator
20. Well equipped office of MSG's implementing arm
21. Regular projects reports
22. Copy of annual reports of partner civil society groups
23. Template of integrated and transparent monitoring framework

Outcomes

Describe the wider impact of the support. Consider short term and long term impacts, as well as impacts on different stakeholder groups.

Multi-Sectoral Group (MSG) uses a system or framework that integrates various initiatives of government, private sector and civil society groups to monitor transparency in the whole process of procurement (planning, bidding, and implementation) of any public sector construction projects.

As a short term impact, this MSG template of integrated monitoring shall serve as a tool to ensure transparency in construction projects. Moreover, this tool shall also guide other monitoring methodology for goods and consulting services.

This synergized method of monitoring to ensure transparency may eventually be found in PhilGEPS as the central and institutional body on procurement. This way, the model helps strengthen the government's institutional bodies, the general public is assured of accountable and transparent governance providing quality and cost-effective projects, and the private sector is given an honest, competitive and level playing field for business.

Beneficiaries

List **each** stakeholder organisation that will directly benefit from this funding.

1. General Public
2. Private Sector (doing Business with government)
3. Government
4. Civil society

Challenges and risks

Describe and explain any specific challenges and risks associated with the activities that you propose in your workplan.

1. **Concerned groups (government, private sector, civil society) remain unready to integrate initiatives to promote transparency in public sector construction projects, despite efforts from the MSG**
2. **Implementation of all key projects to be monitored are put on-hold or cancelled late in the pilot phase**
3. **Volunteer observers, monitors and evaluators hesitate to confirm their findings for fear of reprisal or other reasons beyond the control of CoST**
4. **Majority of partner organizations and institutions cannot sustain their own transparency initiatives**
5. **Despite all effort, existing transparency groups show little or superficial interest to collaborate with CoST Philippines MSG**

Meeting the CoST technical criteria

Which of the seven criteria will your work plan support?

1. For public sector construction projects above an agreed threshold, regular disclosure of material project information to a wide audience in a publicly accessible, comprehensive and comprehensible manner.	X
2. Procuring entities are subject to a credible audit process and, as far as practicable, projects are subject to credible, independent financial and technical audits.	X
3. The adequacy of material project disclosures and audits are assessed by an independent, objective and technically competent assurance team, with publication of reports including any causes for concern in the information disclosed.	X
4. The application of this approach is extended to the main procuring entities assigned responsibility for public sector procurement, and related contractors.	X
5. A multi-stakeholder group has oversight of the CoST process.	X
6. Civil society is actively engaged as a participant in the design, monitoring and evaluation of this process and contributes towards public debate.	X
7. A public, financially sustainable work plan for all the above is developed by the host government, including measurable targets, a timetable for implementation, and an assessment of potential capacity constraints.	X

Budget line

Which of the two CoST budget lines are you applying to? Please mark one or both boxes.

<p>Budget line 1: Technical assistance and capacity building (TA)</p> <p>Expertise will be provided in particular areas (e.g. data collection and assurance, facilitation, technical advice) or capacity building (e.g. delivering training, workshops and seminars, drafting operational manuals, speaking at conferences). The costs associated with receiving these services (e.g. hire of a training room) are also covered.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Budget line 2: Financial assistance (FA)</p> <p>Grants are available to contribute towards the MSG and assurance group operation, as well as expenses arising in relation to implementing CoST, such as office running costs, domestic travel, events, website and communication materials, publication, translation.</p>	<p>X</p>