

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

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## REPORTING ON FEDERAL RESPONSE

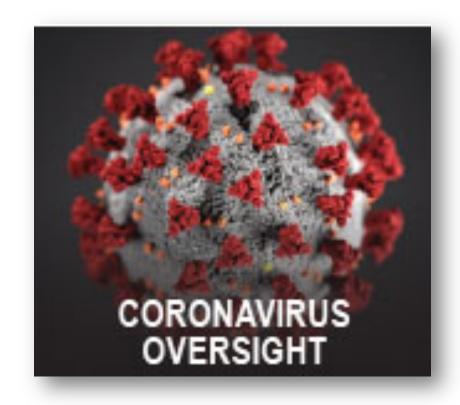


- Laws require GAO to periodically report on federal response efforts through March 2021
  - Two reports already issued (June 25 and August 31); next report expected September 21
  - About 75 audit engagements underway to support comprehensive reports
- GAO's work covers topics to include medical response 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

## **EARLY EFFORTS**



- 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/

## ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES



- 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

## **GAO VALUE AND BENEFITS**



- 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

# **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**



- 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)

## INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT



#### **GAO APPROACH**

GAO's approach to international engagement during the pandemic illustrates our commitment to inclusiveness and support to our international colleagues facing the greatest difficulties.

#### **INTOSAI PFAC COVID-19 INITIATIVE**

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.

#### **INTOSAI PANDEMIC RESPONSE**



In April and July, the U.S. Comptroller General held virtual meetings with PFAC members, interested SAIs, and INTOSAI regions to help plan & execute INTOSAI's pandemic response.

### **INTOSAI FUNDING SUPPORT**



PFAC developed a plan to distribute surplus INTOSAI funds to assist SAIs with continuity of operations. Program soon to be implemented with IDI and INTOSAI GS support.

#### **INITIATIVE FOCUS**



Maintaining continuity of operations



Sharing practical, technical and audit related information



Developing high-level lessons learned document for external stakeholders

#### **INITIATIVE WEBSITE**



intosaicovid 19.org



Resources include links to each area of focus



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