

Helping Countries Build and Implement Effective Anti-Corruption Strategies

Corruption hampers economic growth, burdens the poor disproportionately, and undermines the effectiveness of investment and aid. Anti-corruption strategies need to be an integral part of a development framework designed to help countries eradicate poverty. Good governance programs focus on in-depth analysis of the institutional factors behind corrupt practices and behavior and help countries understanding the short-comings of their policies and institutions and designing their own strategies to improve governance.

A participatory approach to anti-corruption maximizes the power of information emphasizing:

Inclusion and Coalition-Building—participation of civil society, government, parliament, the private sector, and the media, complements top-level political support and commitment to a transparent process.

Empirical Diagnostic Tools—local independent partners conduct surveys of households, businesses, and public officials measuring the prevalence and costs of corruption to shift the focus of the policy debate to institutions rather than individuals and establish reform priorities. Information empowers and energizes public opinion for reform and establishes a baseline to gauge the success of reform. Carefully designed experiential questions measure the economic and social costs of corruption, the quality of public service delivery and the business environment, as well as public sector vulnerabilities. Additional data on cross country institutional indicators, budgetary expenditure flows, and procurement costs of generic products, is gathered and analyzed to perform consistency checks across sources and approaches which enhance the reliability of the diagnosis making it easier to accept the empirical evidence and follow-up actions.

Workshops and Task Forces—during workshops, task forces working in key areas analyze survey results, design a consensual anti-corruption strategy and action plan, assign responsibilities, and develop a timetable for action. Workshops, which are widely publicized and open to the media, include participants from all branches of the state, political parties, civil society, and professional groups.

Strategies and Action Plan—working closely with civil society, government carries on the action plan strengthening its credibility by taking timely action in an open and transparent manner.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity—customized training workshops for journalist, civil service, the judiciary and the legislature, provide the tools and skills for a free media, a supportive environment for the private sector, and an efficient, accountable, and transparent state.

Challenges of Implementation—methodological rigor in the diagnosis is key to safeguard the integrity of the process. The challenge for the political leadership, civil society, and the donor community is to acquire the data, use it to target certain institutions, and then implement credible reforms.

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