

UNDP Support to National Partners in Anti-Corruption

- Providing anti-corruption policy and programme advisory services including support to UNCAC implementation
- Coordinating anti-corruption initiatives at national levels
- Strengthening the watch-dog role of the media and civil society
- Producing knowledge products on anti-corruption
- Supporting nationally-owned anti-corruption diagnostic/measurement tools

UNDP Global Programme on Anti-Corruption

In order to respond to the growing demand from UNDP COs and national counterparts for technical cooperation in anti-corruption, the Democratic Governance Group (DGG) of Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) has developed the UNDP global programme on anti-corruption entitled “Global Thematic Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness (PACDE) 2008-11”, which aims at increasing state/institutional capacity to engage more effectively in reducing corruption to improve governance and sustain development.

1. PACDE focuses on both demand (inclusive participation such as strengthening media and civil society) and supply side of governance (long term systemic changes of public institutions) as well as mainstreaming anti-corruption into UNDP’s existing work, which is a value-added and a main comparative advantage over the anti-corruption work of other bilateral and multi-lateral agencies.
2. PACDE supports the aims and objectives of UNDP Strategic Plan 2008-11, particularly the Key Result Area 2.3 of the Strategic Plan that aims to support national partners to implement democratic governance practices grounded in human rights, gender equality and anti-corruption.
3. PACDE focuses on effective internal and external partnerships.
4. Internally, PACDE will work with UNDP regional Bureaus and Centers, Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships (BRSP) and Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) as well as with DGG’s various service areas such as election, media, e-governance, human rights, justice, local governance, knowledge management, parliamentary strengthening, public administration reforms, and the Oslo Governance Centre (OGC)’s work on governance assessment.

5. Externally, PACDE will build and enhance effective partnerships with various agencies and institutions working in the field of anti-corruption. The MoU between UNDP and UNODC recognizes that UNDP serves as the coordinating arm of the UN and has wider presence at the country level to promote human development, while UNODC has both normative and technical assistance functions in relation to the UNCAC. Given this complementarity, this MoU seeks to enhance consistency, coherence and quality in the delivery of technical cooperation in anti-corruption to Member States, in response to national priorities. The agreement allows cooperation at regional and national levels depending on the priorities of the country/region concerned. This is consistent with “One UN” pilots that encourage joint programming at the country level. In fact, UNDP has been participating in joint scoping missions and joint anti-corruption trainings with UNODC and is a part of OECD/DAC’s pilot projects on harmonization of donor activities including conducting joint assessments of anti-corruption activities at the country level
6. Through PACDE, the anti-corruption service area of the DGG under BDP is currently concentrating on developing internal capacity of UNDP country offices to provide quality anti-corruption technical assistance such as training and provision of knowledge tools to articulate UNDP policy and give guidance on implementing UNDP mandates of fighting corruption in the context of the UN norms and standards as provided in UNCAC.

For more information on UNDP and anti-corruption, please see: Quick Links

UNDP, Democratic Governance, Public Administration Reform and Anti-Corruption (<http://www.undp.org/governance/sl-par.htm>)

UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok, Public Administration Reform and Anti-Corruption in Asia and the Pacific (<http://regionalcentrebangkok.undp.or.th/practices/governance/par-ac/>)

UNDP, Public administration reform and anti-corruption in Europe & CIS (<http://europeandcis.undp.org/governance/parac>)

UNDP, Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR) (<http://www.pogar.org/>)

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The infographic features a central orange oval with the text "UNDP's Work In Anti-Corruption". Surrounding this oval are vertical and horizontal text elements. On the left, the words "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" are written vertically. On the right, "MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS" is written vertically. At the top, "GOVERNANCE" and "INTEGRITY" are written vertically. At the bottom, "ANTI-CORRUPTION" is written horizontally. The UNDP logo is in the top right corner. Other vertical text includes "ACCOUNTABILITY", "POVERTY REDUCTION", "HUMAN RIGHTS", "GENDER", "DEVELOPMENT", "RULE OF LAW", and "HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS".



“Corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law. It leads to violations of human rights. It erodes public trust in government. It can even kill -- for example, when corrupt officials allow medicines to be tampered with, or when they accept bribes that enable terrorist acts to take place.”
 –Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary-General in his statement at the launch of ‘Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative’ on 17 September 2007.

UNDP and Anti-Corruption: Historical Background

UNDP has been a leading provider of technical cooperation in the area of anti-corruption, which is one of the major service areas of the democratic governance practice. For instance, during the 2004-06 period, 51 countries had 113 active anti-corruption programmes related to institutional, legal and policy frameworks established to promote and enhance accountability, transparency, and integrity. UNDP’s country presence in more than 135 countries is backed by a vibrant anti-corruption community of practice and knowledge network that makes global knowledge and best practices readily available at the country level.

UNDP has been an active player in the field of anti-corruption for many years. The first generation of UNDP anti-corruption work focused on the accountability, transparency and integrity (ATI) programmes upon which a number of activities are still building. In 1999, UNDP produced its flagship manual “Fighting Corruption to Improve Governance”, a pioneer product in anti-corruption and development, which remains relevant today.

More importantly, since the 1990s, international norms and standards on anti-corruption have continued to evolve making it necessary for UNDP to refocus its energies and priorities in anti-corruption within its mandate of reducing poverty, realization of MDGs, and promoting sustainable development. Particularly, the advent of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on December 14, 2005 brought new challenges and opportunities for fighting corruption.

UNDP’s Niche and Major Anti-Corruption Activities

As of June 30, 2008, 117 countries had ratified the UNCAC. According to the UNODC self-assessment results, the overwhelming majority of the member states indicated that they would need technical assistance to help them to implement UNCAC. UNCAC has brought its own challenges to UNDP’s work on anti-corruption; in particular, the increase in demand for support due to the popularization of anti-corruption the convention processes brought about and the need to realign UNDP’s work in the context of these new UN norms and standards. Member States have been approaching UNDP Country Offices for technical support to implement UNCAC provisions, making anti-corruption one of the fast growing service areas in democratic governance.

The major strategy of UNDP when engaging in anti-corruption activities is to ensure that fighting corruption furthers UNDP’s mandates of poverty reduction, realization of MDGs and promoting sustainable development. The linkages between corruption and development clearly highlight that **UNDP’s niche in fighting corruption is for development effectiveness**. Thus, UNDP supports national partners by providing anti-corruption policy and programme advisory services; coordinating anti-corruption initiatives at national levels; strengthening the watch-dog role of the media and civil society; producing knowledge products on anti-corruption; and supporting nationally-owned anti-corruption diagnostic/measurement tools.

- UNDP’s major anti-corruption activities are based on principles of development effectiveness namely national ownership (e.g., nationally owned governance assessment tools), capacity development (e.g., training national partners on UNCAC), effective aid management (e.g., collaboration with UNODC and OECD) and South-South cooperation (e.g., anti-corruption community of practice).
- By linking corruption to development, UNDP depoliticizes the anti-corruption agenda and this is reinforced by its political impartiality, dialogue with national partners through national development frameworks and strategies such as PRSPs, CCAs/UNDAFs, and TWGs, which inculcate national ownership of anti-corruption programmes.

UNDP’s niche is fighting corruption for development effectiveness

“Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government’s ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign investment and aid”.
 Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General

- UNDP Regional Centres (RCs) have produced knowledge tools and best practices such as “Institutional Arrangements to Combat Corruption – A Comparative Study” published by the Bangkok Regional Centre in 2005. Another example is the UNDP regional programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR), which is currently implementing a major regional anti-corruption project entitled “Supporting UNCAC Implementation in Arab Countries” as part of its Good Governance for Development in the Arab Countries Initiative (GfD). The Bratislava regional center is supporting the Anti-Corruption Practitioners Network (ACPN), in Eastern European and the CIS countries to share knowledge and best practices in the region. Similarly, the UNDP Sub-Regional Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean (OECS) is establishing the Caribbean Anti-Corruption Peer Support Network.
- Some of the recent examples of UNDP country programmes on anti-corruption include support to mainstreaming anti-corruption in civil service training programmes in Bangladesh, incorporating anti-corruption strategy including zero-tolerance for corruption in the MDG-9 document of Mongolia, developing national anti-corruption strategies in Sierra Leone, supporting governance and anti-corruption assessment in Zambia, and providing technical assistance to institutional and human capacity development of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bhutan.

UNDP’s Work on Anti-Corruption: Some Highlights

- *During the 2004-06 period, 51 countries had 113 active anti-corruption programmes.*
- *The major strategy of UNDP is to ensure that fighting corruption furthers UNDP mandates of poverty reduction, realization of MDGs and promoting sustainable development.*
- *UNDP’s major anti-corruption activities are based on principles of development effectiveness namely national ownership, capacity development, effective aid management and South-South cooperation.*
- *UNDP “Global Thematic Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness (PACDE) 2008-11” aims at increasing state/institutional capacity to engage more effectively in reducing corruption.*