Grounding human rights principles into anti-corruption

The UNDP approach

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Corruption impacts civil, political rights and right to development

- Erodes trust in government
- Diverts major resources that could be invested into development

Each year corruption is estimated to have cost more than 5% of the global GDP (US$2.6 trillion).

- Leads to discriminatory access to public services, including health, education, and welfare

Bribes and theft swell the cost of projects to provide safe drinking water and sanitation around the world by as much as 40%
Corruption impacts civil, political rights and right to development

- Economically and politically disadvantaged groups and persons, as well as women suffer disproportionately.

*76% of women surveyed think corruption has prevented them from accessing public goods and services*

- Corruption in the administration of justice weakens accountability structures responsible for protecting human rights.
Bridging the gap between anti-corruption and human rights activists

Law enforcement experts want to apprehend criminals…

… While human right defenders are sometimes seen as making unsubstantiated allegations.
Is there still a divide between anti-corruption efforts and human rights?

- Human rights movement is older - benefits from the norms developed over the last 60 years

- Corruption used to be largely seen from a criminal and enforcement angle

- How we can move towards a human rights based approach to anti-corruption?

*Putting the international human rights entitlements and claims of the people (the ‘right-holders’) and the corresponding obligations of the State (the ‘duty-bearer’) in the centre of the anti-corruption debate*
UNDP approach: Human rights principles at the centre of anti-corruption and development

• Common principles: transparency, accountability, citizen participation, rule of law, freedom of expression, right to information, equality and non-discrimination

• Transparency and accountability are amongst the human rights principles that are integral to successful anti-corruption efforts
  - e.g. access to information, political party regulations

• Focusing on the human factor: it is the center of human development and human rights protection.

• Anti-corruption is now accepted as an essential ingredient in national and global development agendas
Transparency and Accountability:
UNDP sectoral initiatives

Sectoral projects –
*education, health, water*

Social accountability and engagement with civil society

- Seed money
- Results and Impact
- Up-scaling the projects
- Ensuring sustainability
- Partnerships
Selected examples of sectoral initiatives

- Social accountability and engagement with civil society: Monitoring of water service delivery in the Philippines at the local level

- Complaints mechanisms where by citizens organize themselves and lodge complaints to authorities for service delivery: Costa Rica and Colombia

Some lessons:
- Strengthening T&A at the local level directly impacts on people’s access to services, especially for the poor
- Use of ICTs is powerful to monitor government responsiveness
- Positive impact on trust in government
Together we have high chances to succeed

Thank You!