

MEASURING AND ASSESSING CORRUPTION: UNDP EXPERIENCES

**1st Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on
The Prevention of Corruption, Vienna, 13-15 December 2010**



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Photo by: Adam Rogers/UNCDF

**Anga Timilsina, Coordinator, UNDP Global Programme
on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness**

This quiz provides enough background on the complexity regarding measuring corruption



Quiz

Quiz: Cracking Corruption Myths



Women are less corrupt than men.

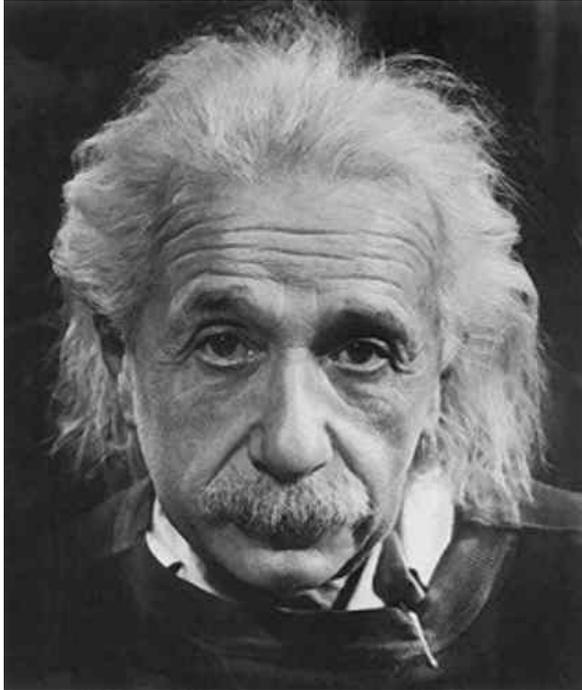
true

false

SUBMIT



Measuring corruption generally difficult ...



*“Not everything that counts can be counted, **and not everything that can be counted counts.**”*

– Albert Einstein

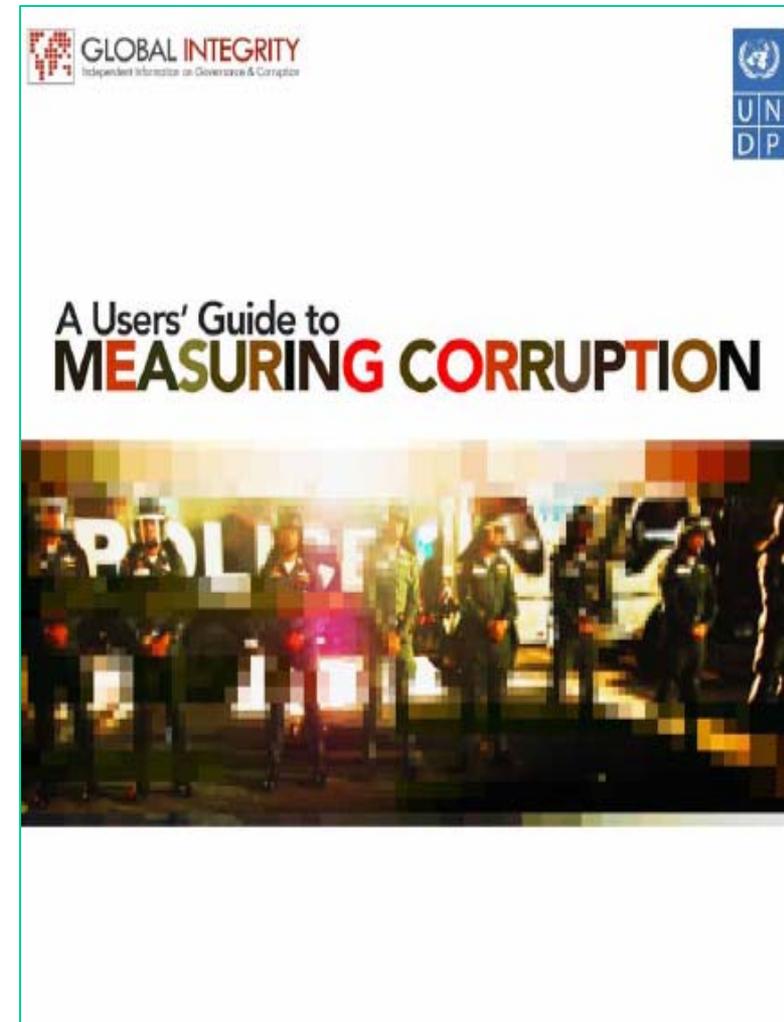
How do you measure something which differ across societies in terms of its impact, definition, perception, scope and manifestations; but needed to be measured for evidence-based policy making?

What We know from UNDP Experiences?



UNDP 's Users' Guide to Measuring Corruption in 2008

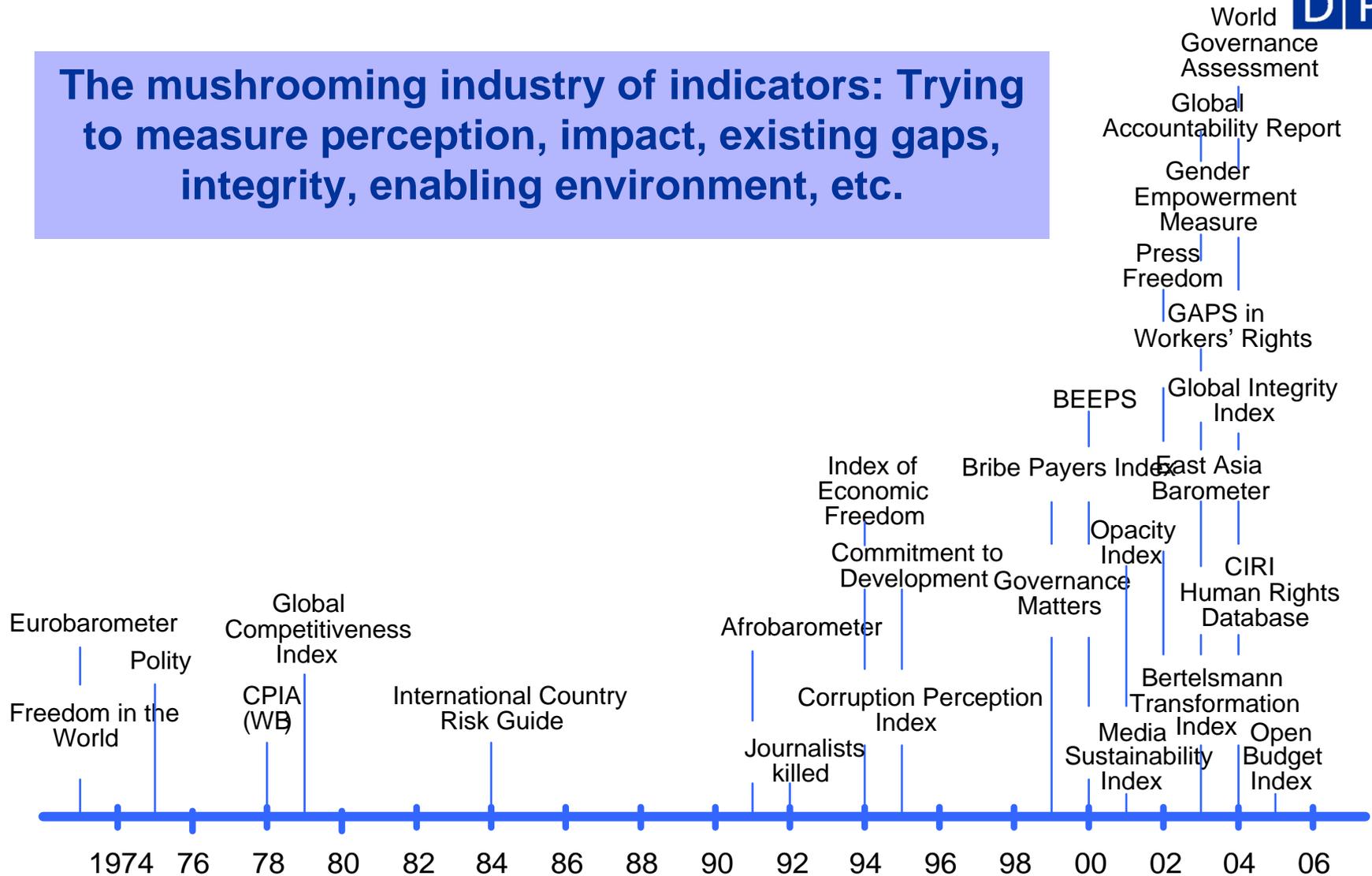
1. Review the existing tools and methodologies for corruption measurement and assessment
2. Provide a practical guidance on the use and misuse of these tools



Are there enough tools and methodologies? Yes!



The mushrooming industry of indicators: Trying to measure perception, impact, existing gaps, integrity, enabling environment, etc.

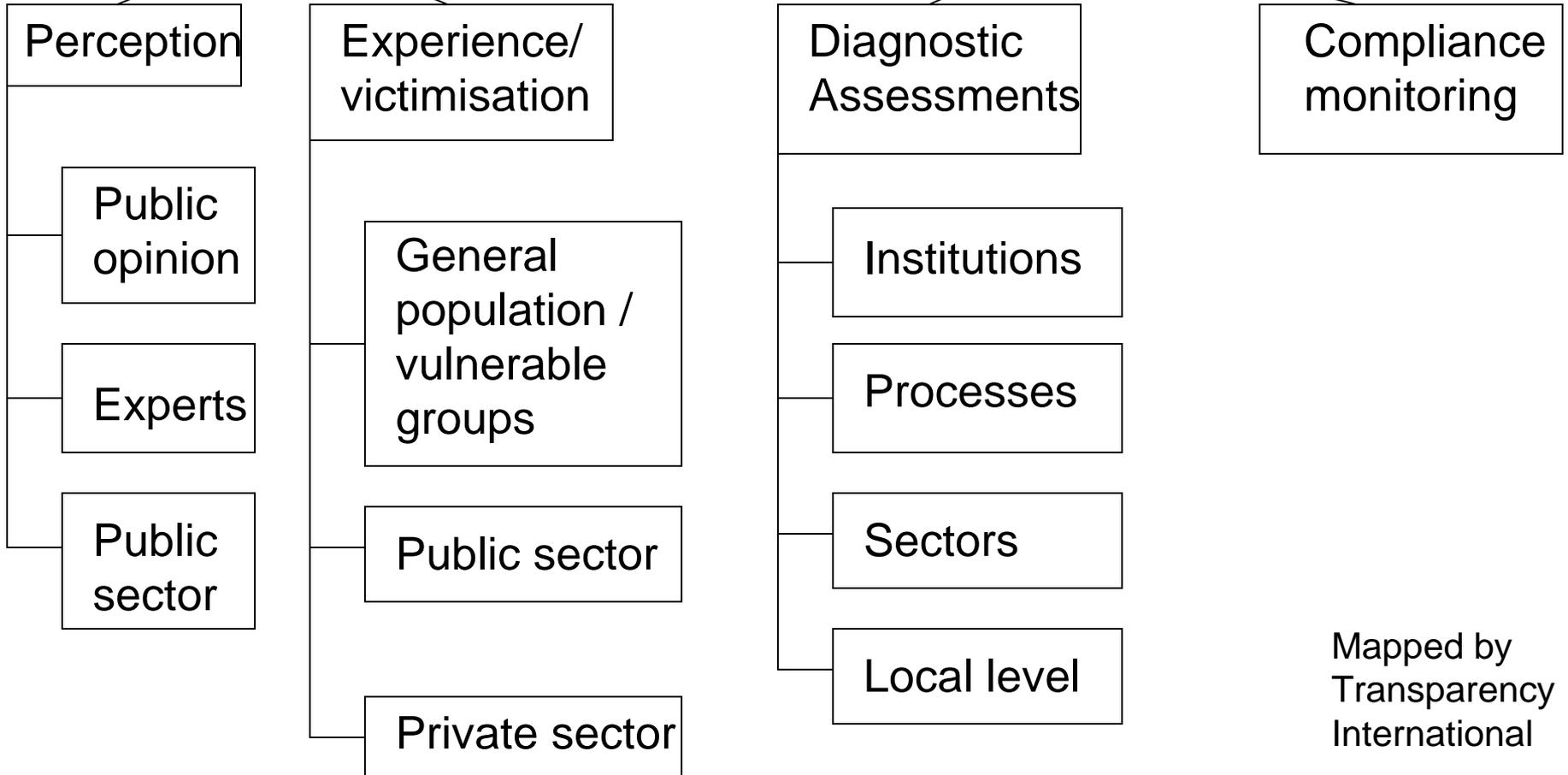




Anti-corruption assessment tools

Corruption

Transparency/Accountability/Integrity



Mapped by
Transparency
International

Enough tools and methodologies, but with major limitations



1. **Comparison problem** : All most all tools/methodologies not suitable for cross-country comparison (see next slide)
2. Practitioners want **actionable** data, and existing global indicators are inadequate
3. **Perception-based data** are too vague to be useful for policy reform (although frequently used as advocacy tools)
4. Different tools seems to be assessing the different concepts (see the next two graphs)
5. Many tools are not **customized to country** specificities and thus are not useful and not seen as more 'credible' by policymakers
6. **Lack of pro-poor, gender sensitive indicators**

You've got
corruption!

But we're
not sure
who's worse!

The Comparison Problem

Virtually all existing governance, anti-corruption, and corruption indicators are not suitable for cross-country comparisons or for tracking changes over time.

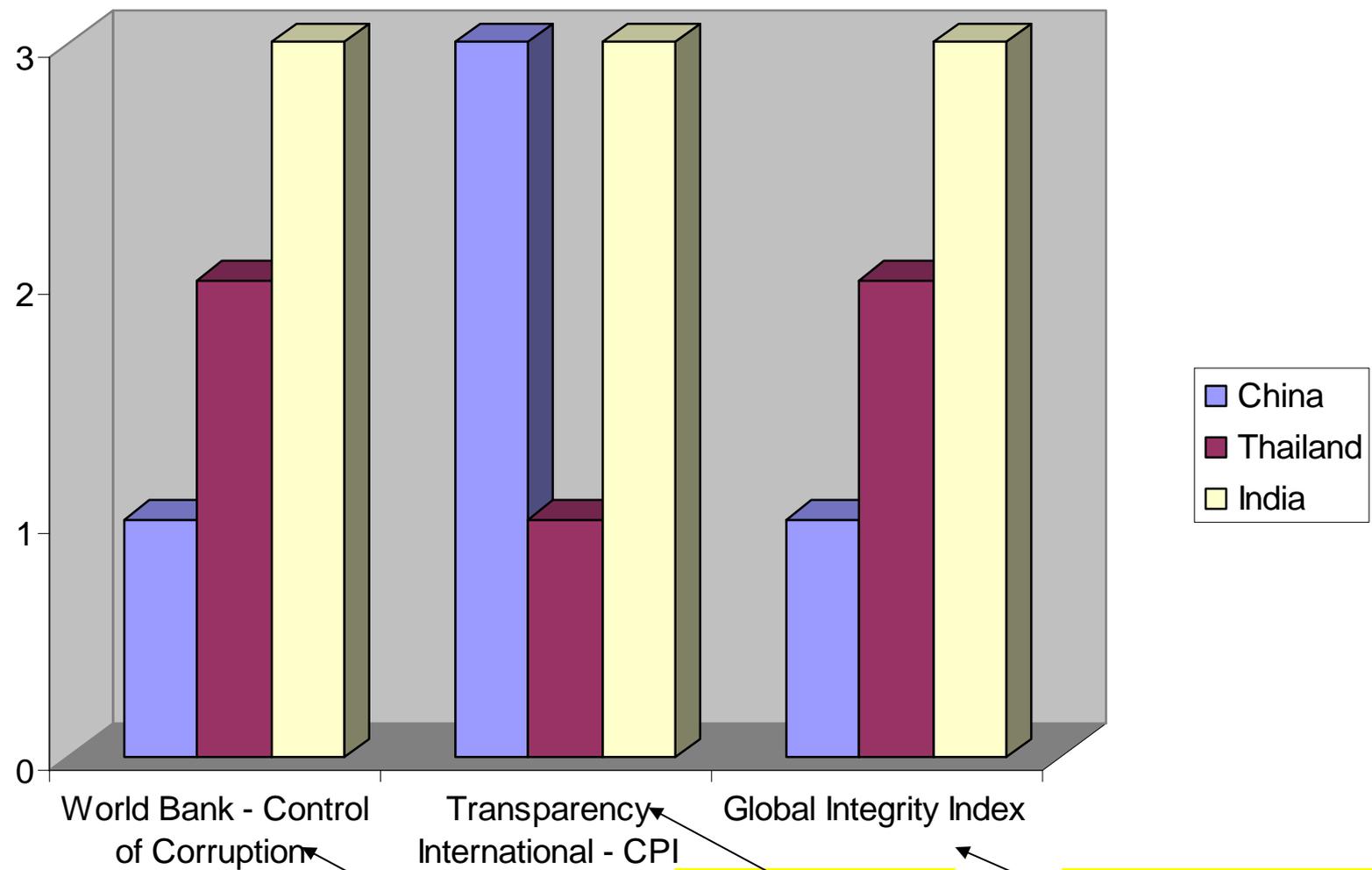
Three sets of challenges:

1. Ambiguities in definition
2. Methodology
3. Perception data

What is each index measuring, and what data sources are used?



Corruption indices for China: Variations in rankings



Corruption in public & private sector (+ some indicators at household level) as perceived by "experts" + opinion polls (incl. NGO experts)

Corruption in public sector as perceived by "experts"

Existence, effectiveness and citizen access to anti-corruption mechanisms, assessed by national experts

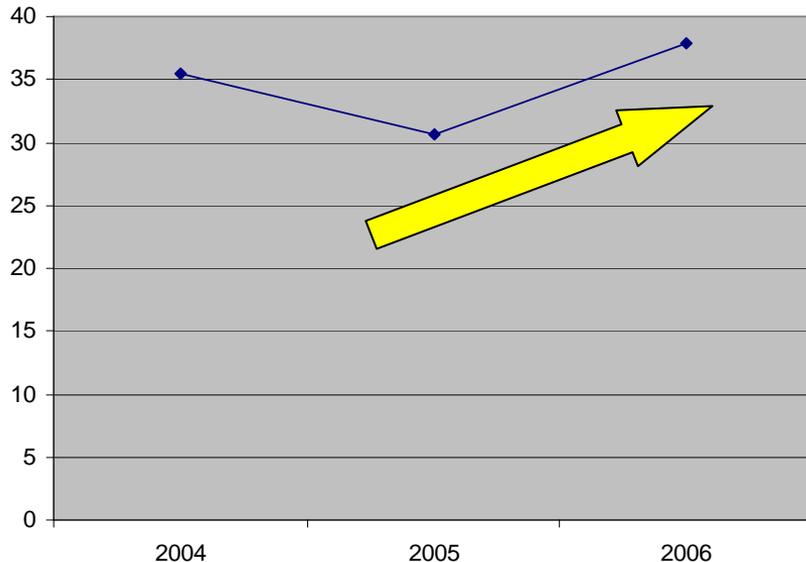
Discrepancies in rankings



Corruption in China *over time* (2004-06): 2 indices, 2 stories

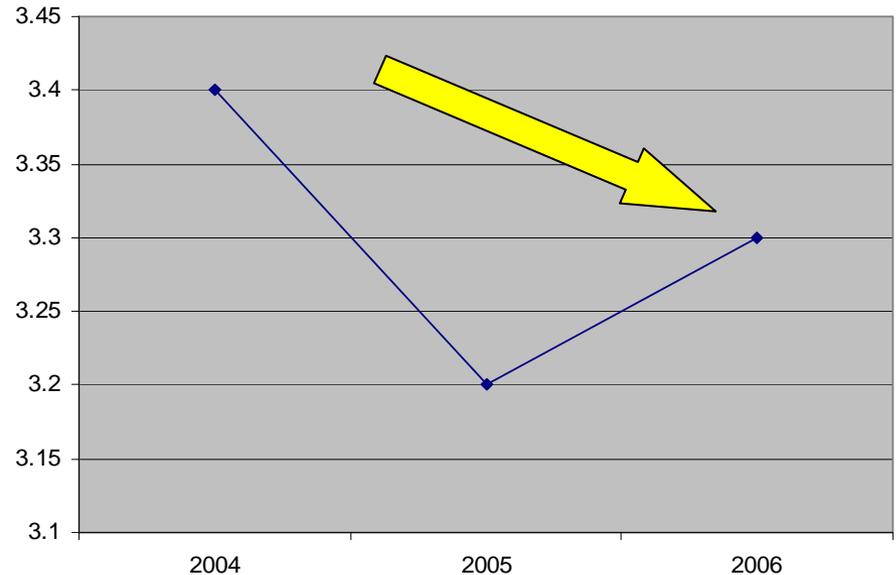
However, different scores does not mean that one index is right and the other is wrong. *Only that the 2 indices are assessing different concepts*

World Bank - Control of Corruption (China) 2004-2006



According to the **World Bank**, China is doing ***better*** in 2006 than it was in 2004

Transparency International - CPI (China) 2004-2006



According to **TI**, China is doing ***worse*** in 2006 than it was in 2004



So, What is UNDP's approach on measuring and assessing corruption?

Guiding Principle 1:

UNDP doesn't prescribe or subscribes any methodologies, but provides guidance on the use and misuse of tools and methodologies because:

- a. No methodology is perfect and thus standard
- b. All have advantages and disadvantages
- c. Depends on the purpose of the measurement



Guiding Principle 2:

For UNDP, measuring corruption is not an end itself, but rather a means to an end (actual reform). What we measure should be helping us in implementing reform at the national level.

- In Francophone Africa, UNDP received request from the World Bank Institute to build on the diagnostics.



Guiding Principle 3:

UNDP's focus is on country-based and nationally owned corruption measurement and assessment:

a. Results from the assessments undertaken by a country on its own initiative could feed into policy-making processes (e.g., reforms)

b. Nationally-owned process help develop national capacity on measurement and assessment

Guiding Principle 4:

The assessment/measurement should engage multi-stakeholders at the country level with:

- a. Active participation of state and non-state actors to identify problems, agree on the concept, methodologies, process, etc.
- b. Focus on collecting gender sensitive and pro-poor data (data disaggregation is important for evidence-based policy making)



Country-Led Assessments Can Help:



- To take stock of formal and informal corruption monitoring processes, and how they relate to the national development plan
- To build broad-based consensus on what research areas (institutions, sectors, processes) to prioritize and what indicators to use
- To institutionalize procedures for collecting, managing and analyzing data
- To identify and address gaps in capacity
- To generate public dialogue on progress in combating corruption

Hence, the need is to focus on the processes that standardizes the assessment/measurement at the country level; not to much on attempts to standardize tools and methodologies at the global level because all tools and methodologies do have advantages and disadvantages.

What kind of support is available from UNDP?

- UNDP Oslo Governance Centre:
Provides support (both advisory and financial) for nationally owned assessments
- UNDP Global Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness:
 - Has reviewed the tools, methodologies and good practices on anti-corruption in sectors
 - Will provide support to AC agencies to conduct “Integrity assessment”.



Projects supported by the Global Programme on Democratic Governance Assessments 2009-2010





Sharing global knowledge and practice on governance assessments



UNDP Publications

Recommending country-led approaches, UNDP publications on governance assessments offer

- guidance to methods, indicators and tools
- key publications, conference and discussions papers
- practical examples of national ownership and policy alignment



Inventory of Country Initiatives

A unique database on country-led governance assessments, the Inventory offers

- information on scope, aims, methods and outcomes of initiatives
- indicators that can strengthen accountability at the country level



GA Library

Filled with publications produced by a wide range of institutions, the Governance Assessment Library hosted in partnership with Eldis offers

- publications accessible online and free of charge
- a range of approaches to governance assessment
- sources that include more than 4000 organisations



Toolbox

Stocked with assessment frameworks and indicators that are ready to be used, the toolbox offers

- easy comparison of existing tools
- descriptions of strengths and weaknesses
- advice on how to adapt tools to country context
- pro-poor and gender sensitive



Areas of Governance

For areas of governance, such as corruption, parliament or justice, these pages offer

- Measurement tools and assessment frameworks
- Publications and knowledge products
- Examples of country initiatives
- Overview of organizations
- Existing global governance indicators

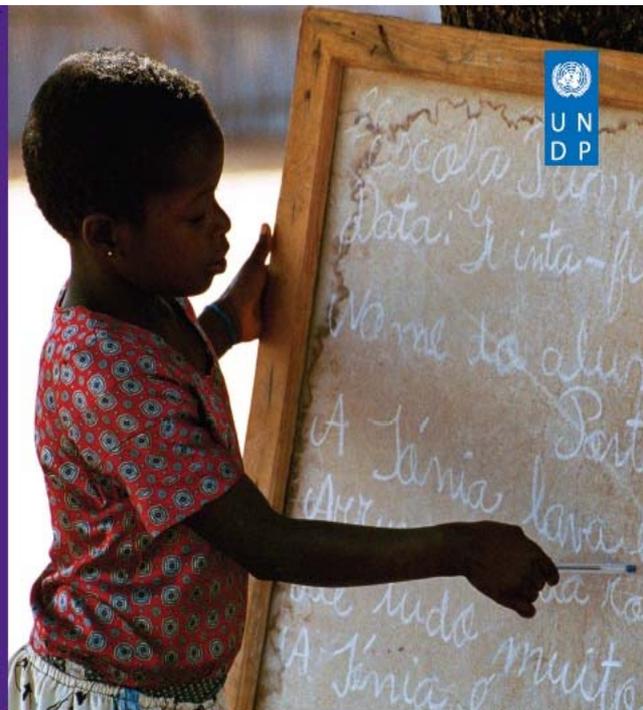


Source Guide to Global Indicators

An overview of indicators that compare and rank countries, the source guide offers information on

- valid and invalid use
- who produces the indicators
- where the funding comes from
- methodological strengths and weaknesses

Anti-Corruption in Sectors: Methods, Tools and Good Practices!



United Nations Development Programme

FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR
METHODS, TOOLS AND GOOD PRACTICES
A UNDP Commissioned Study



United Nations Development Programme

FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTH SECTOR
METHODS, TOOLS AND GOOD PRACTICES
A UNDP Commissioned Study



United Nations Development Programme

FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN THE WATER SECTOR
METHODS, TOOLS AND GOOD PRACTICES
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Thank You!



**For more information:
www.undp.org/governance**