

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Experience of the Anti-Corruption Commission in the area of Prevention

The significance of prevention of corruption, as one of the most important components that must be included in the process of combating corruption and reducing its manifestations, becomes evident in weakening the chances of growth for a favourable environment which enables corruption to spread and expand, as well as in limiting its expensive, financial and administrative costs on the economy and the society.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption includes a chapter devoted specifically to preventive measures with a view to encouraging the States Parties to the Convention to establish and promote effective practices aiming at the prevention of corruption by developing and implementing or maintaining effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability.

The Jordanian Anti-Corruption Commission has been focussed on rendering the functioning of this component successful through a set of policies and tools that will eventually reduce the extent of the environment which enables the spread of corruption. The tools included a variety of dimensions, such as studies and research, aimed at the identification of the manifestations, latent sources and forms of corruption in Jordan, in addition to awareness raising, teaching and education and community participation, with the aim of creating an environment that would consolidate the values of integrity, transparency and accountability and oppose any corruption – tolerant culture.

Through the Anti-Corruption Commission, Jordan has been engaged in the promotion and strengthening of preventive measures aiming at the prevention and combating of corruption more efficiently and more affectively by means of the following:

I. Legislations and actions:

- Certain internal instructions governing the functioning of a number of national institutions have been examined for the purposes of checking and ensuring compliance with the work procedures and conformity with the legislations in force. To that and, committees from within the Commission were formed to undertake field follow-up action, the identification of any violations or abuses and the proposal of mechanisms to redress them in line with the principles of prevention of corruption.
- The Commission prepared a draft law, amending the Anti-Corruption Commission Law, which included reference to several matters concerning the law enforcement powers that are granted to the Commission, as well as certain articles dealing with the issue of encouraging whistle blowers and informants to report cases of corruption and providing the required protection for them as well as material assistance for them and their families.
- Pursuant to a decision by the Prime Minister, the Higher Coordination Committee was established to oversee the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The Higher Committee comprised several ministries, government institutions and civil society associations.

A number of achievements have been made with regard to a set of pivotal objectives:

- ❖ Developing programmes and policies for the prevention of corruption;
- ❖ Developing a special guide on work procedures;
- ❖ Developing a guidebook on various services;
- ❖ Developing clear-cut criteria for appointments and promotion;
- ❖ Activating the adherence to office codes of conduct;
- ❖ Developing mechanisms (boxes) for receiving complaints and grievances from employees and service recipients;
- Activation of the Code of Professional Conduct and Public Service Ethics, which should ensure integrity, transparency, prevention of corruption and adherence to public service and professional ethics;

- Issuing periodic reports to inform the public on the dangers of corruption in national institutions and on the achievements of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

II. Studies and research

- The Commission has been engaged in directing scientific research and studies, supporting research activities in the area of combating and preventing corruption and urging academics to conduct studies and research in this field. In this context, in collaboration with the University of Jordan, a conference was held, entitled “Corruption and its Effects on Economic and Social Development”. It focussed on the identification and description of corruption, in all its forms, and the detection of its sources and situations in order to limit and prevent its spread in the society.

The Conference covered a set of pivotal themes:

- Economic and financial theme;
- Social theme;
- Administrative and institutional theme;
- Legal theme.

III. Awareness and Education:

Raising the citizens’ awareness of the devastating dangers of corruption on the efforts towards economic, social and political development is among the most significant preventive measures in the area of combating corruption.

In this regard, the Commission focussed on cooperation with public institutions and civil society associations in order to create a community environment which rejects corruption and casts out the corrupt, through actions aimed at demonstrating the negative impact of corruption on the economic, social and political development efforts and raising the awareness of citizens of the need to take action to eradicate corruption from the society and drain its sources, while at the same time working to consolidate the values of national integrity and to promote a community culture against corruption, using the various mass media.

In this field, the Commission worked towards the following:

- (1) Enhancing the participation on national institutions and civil society associations in the efforts to combat and prevent corruption, through the signing of several memoranda of understanding with a number of relevant entities.
- (2) A series of meetings with various civil society associations were held, including with the Jordanian Businessmen Society, certain groups of the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies, several editors and columnists of daily newspapers and weekly journals, as well as electronic journals, during which the strategies and tasks of the Commission in the area of combating and preventing corruption were discussed and the role of those institutions in providing support and backing for the Commission to enable it to assume its duties was stressed.
- (3) Educating younger generations to the concepts of integrity, transparency and combating corruption by incorporating these concepts into the curricula of basic and university education. The syllabus of the tenth secondary grade was thus amended to include a school subject on the Anti-Corruption Commission, in which an introduction was provided on the establishment of the Commission, its objectives and areas of work; in addition, a study theme on the definition of corruption and the identification of its destructive impact on social, economic and political development was prepared, which is being currently taught within the context of National Education in the Jordanian University.
- (4) A series of awareness – raising workshops was organized for various groups of principle partners in combating and preventing corruption.
- (5) Organizing, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, a school competition to select a winning article and caricature representation on fighting corruption and national integrity standards for the purpose of promoting the relevant principles and best practices and instilling them in the minds of students.
- (6) Coordinating with the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation and UNDP in the production of 5 radio series on topics concerning the consolidation of the values of public integrity and good ethics within the framework of the programme of the Corporation. Several clerks (Muslims and Christians) were hosted to talk

about the religious opinions with regard to the issue of corruption, its forms and its negative effects on the society, as well as the role of religious men in the promotion of high moral values and standards that reject corruption and corrupt persons. The talks also addressed the role of women in combating corruption and in rearing the younger generations to the high moral values, as well as the significant role of the wife in supporting her husband and in urging him to adhere to the noble values, in order to promote the values of public integrity.
