



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

FIGHTING CORRUPTION TOGETHER

Civil Society
and the Private Sector



FIGHTING CORRUPTION TOGETHER

Guiding civil society to work with the private sector

Corruption represents a challenge that undermines the economic and social fabric of communities and affects ordinary citizens. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), particularly in developing countries, do not always have the capacity or knowledge to address this challenge in their everyday work. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is the only legally binding, universal anti-corruption instrument. It provides an avenue to fight corruption at the international and national levels.

In this context, UNODC, in partnership with the UNCAC Coalition and Transparency International (TI), has been conducting multi-stakeholder workshops on UNCAC and its Review Mechanism. The Civil Society Guide and the Small Grants Scheme have also been developed to help CSOs and SMEs fight corruption together.

What is the Civil Society Guide?

- A booklet providing practical guidance to assist CSOs in engaging with companies to promote the implementation and inclusive monitoring of UNCAC in their local context.
- It includes a summary of UNCAC provisions that apply to companies, explains why they have an interest in implementing the Convention and provides pointers on strategies CSOs can use to work with businesses on promoting UNCAC in their respective countries.
- The guide was used during the multi-stakeholder workshops on UNCAC and its Review Mechanism in a session dedicated to collaboration with the private sector and corporate social responsibility.



SUCCESS STORIES IN AFRICA THROUGH PROVISION OF GRANTS

Small Grants Scheme

What is the Small Grants Scheme?

- An initiative launched by UNODC in 2012 targeting African CSOs.
- A project to foster innovative ways for CSOs to involve the private sector in the fight against corruption.
- So far, 17 small grants have been disbursed through a competitive selection process.

This scheme contributes to raising awareness on UNCAC and encourages the private sector to participate in the review process. It promotes efficient and innovative approaches for CSOs to collaborate with SMEs in the prevention of corruption and promotion of human rights and good governance.

The results achieved so far have been as diverse as developing national anti-corruption networks and involving the private sector in the UNCAC review country visits, forming trade unions to fight against corrupt practices, lobbying for the adoption of new laws, and implementing projects in specific industry sectors and among vulnerable groups.

The following examples showcase just a few of the success stories of our grantees.

Transparency International, Uganda

- Organized a two-day training for 30 SMEs, which developed anti-corruption guidelines and a code of conduct.
- Fifteen institutions were brought on board the committee, including the National Building and Civil Engineering Contractors and the National Chamber of Commerce.
- After completion, the project was sustained through funding from another source and activities included anti-corruption, ethics and integrity trainings throughout the country. 160 private organizations and CSOs have been trained so far.

Observatoire de Lutte contre la Corruption en Afrique Centrale, D.R.C.

- Organized a workshop on UNCAC for motorcycle taxi drivers, traffic police and Government.
- Conducted an awareness-raising campaign at the national level.
- Created a union for the target groups to defend their rights.



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Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: [+43-1] 26060-0, Fax: [+43-1] 26060-5866, www.unodc.org



ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Small Grants Scheme

I WATCH, Tunisia

- Organized a meeting on the “Criminalization of Corruption in the Private Sector” to prepare civil society input to the UNCAC self-assessment.
- Conducted ethics training in business schools to raise awareness among future entrepreneurs on the importance of ethics for sustainable and lucrative business.
- Organized one-to-one meetings and focused group meetings with international corporations (Siemens, Orange, Microsoft), local enterprises, as well as employers’ associations to bring private sector input into the review process.
- Worked with the government team to identify bribery in the private sector as one of the gaps in local legislation.
- Triggered media interest in the UNCAC review process.
- Formed a civil society team that assisted the Government in completing the UNCAC self-assessment checklist.

LET US FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION TOGETHER

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