

PROACTIVE - Programme on Assessing Corruption Through Evidence-based methods

Building capacity to conduct surveys and studies to identify vulnerabilities to corruption and use information for better anti-corruption policies

Project Brief

The **overall objective** of the project is to strengthen countries' capacity to conduct studies and surveys on patterns and trends of corruption. Such studies will improve understanding of vulnerabilities to corruption and produce information for policy development and implementation.

The **specific objectives** of the programme are:

- ✓ to support countries in conducting studies on corruption as experienced by the population, businesses, civil servants, etc.
- ✓ to increase countries capacity to use statistical data to understand corruption modalities, develop and monitor anti-corruption policies
- ✓ to create sustainable and participated national mechanisms to produce such assessments on a regular basis

The **results** of the project will be

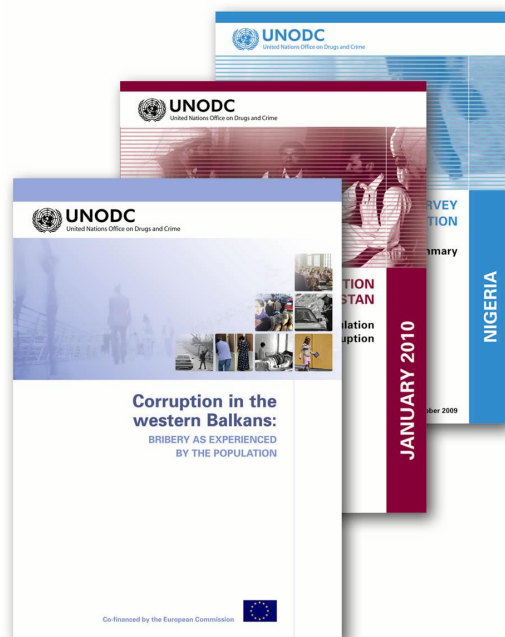
- ✓ Evidence-based assessment reports of the nature and patterns of corruption in participating countries
- ✓ Increased knowledge to develop, implement and monitor policies to prevent and fight corruption
- ✓ Strengthened capacity of countries to produce/use data on corruption

Project duration: 36 months
Project costs: USD 2,000,000

While progress has been made in increasing awareness of corruption, as well as in developing effective policymaking for dealing with it, further efforts are needed to fight corruption. And, in marked contrast to measures taken in many other policy areas, corruption is often addressed without systemic knowledge of its patterns and modalities..

Perception-based indicators often represent the only 'quantitative' source on corruption but they can provide only limited information on the nature and patterns of corruption. Thus, there is increasing support for approaches that focus on understanding the actual experience of corruption, its forms and the areas of vulnerabilities.

Differently from opinion-based methods, evidence-based approaches collect and analyse data on the experience of corruption to provide more solid and actionable information. Such approaches do not aim at scoring or ranking countries but rather to produce information for analysis, policy-development and monitor progress of anti-corruption strategies. Different typologies of studies exist and each of them target different groups: population, business sector, civil servants.



Background and Justification

The importance of producing analyses and develop methods to study corruption is high in the anti-corruption agenda both at national and international level. This is clearly recalled in article 61 of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which invites State Parties to ‘(..) analysing, in consultation with experts, trends in corruption as well as the circumstances in which corruption offences are committed’. The 2009 Conference of State Parties to UNCAC further requested UNODC to collect and disseminate information on methodologies, including evidence-based approaches for assessing areas of special vulnerability to corruption.

Over the last few years UNODC has supported a number of countries in the conduct of surveys and studies on corruption and integrity (for example in Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, western Balkans, Cape Verde), thus producing data and analyses to be used for policy development and implementation. Thanks to such experiences, UNODC has developed a strong methodological expertise in conducting corruption-related surveys and analyses.

In such assessments, data are collected on the experience of selected forms of corruption (e.g. bribery) and related topics, such as corruption-prone sectors, vulnerable groups and reporting to police.

Given the sensitivities around the topic of corruption, a broad range of national stakeholders need to be involved in the development, implementation and use of such surveys. The participation of national anti-corruption bodies and government statistical authorities is key to ensure national buy-in of the research and, at the same time, make sure that the study is conducted according to the strictest methodological standards.

Methodology

The programme is implemented by UNODC Headquarters, with operational support from UNODC regional and country offices. Substantive supervision from headquarters ensures overall quality of activities and outputs of the project. It also allows for overall consistency with UNODC programmes and activities in supporting countries in their fight against corruption and crime.

The programme provide various services to countries willing to undertake such evidence-based-assessments of corruption:

- Training of officials and agencies on the production and use of corruption-related data and indicators
- Support to national anti-corruption authorities to establish sustainable mechanisms for the assessment of corruption and monitoring of anti-corruption policies
- Support and supervision for the conduct of surveys and studies on corruption through the provision of financial support and technical expertise (8-10 countries)
- Dissemination of a wide repository of methodological documentation on the assessment of corruption to facilitate the access to a wide range of users

Results from evidence-based assessments can assist countries that are party to the UNCAC in the conduct of the Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) The information supplied by studies and surveys on corruption can provide valuable information to signatory countries when preparing for the self-assessment and peer-review processes of the IRM.

Where possible and relevant a regional approach is followed in order to address common concerns and issues, facilitate the creation of networks of anti-corruption practitioners and increase the impact of the programme.

This programme will also draw on long-standing collaboration with other international agencies active in this field (such as UNDP, the World Bank, the European Commission, etc.) in order to strengthen respective activities and avoid any possible overlapping.

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