The Helpdesk is a knowledge base that offers the TI network and selected stakeholders on-demand research on corruption within a guaranteed timeframe. Answers typically consist of a four to eight page brief synthesising the state of knowledge on a particular topic. The Helpdesk is a key component of TI’s Anti-Corruption Solutions and Knowledge Programme (ASK).

All answers listed below can be accessed on request at: tihelpdesk@transparency.org.

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UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

The Linkages between Corruption and Violation of Competition Laws
Question submitted by EU, January 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/the_linkages_between_corruption_and_violations_of_competition_laws

Although distinct, there is a broad consensus and empirical evidence that competition and anti-corruption are closely intertwined, with corruption inversely related to levels of competition. Anti-competitive business practices frequently occur in tandem with corruption; this is particularly evident in the field of public procurement. The literature recommends a coordinated enforcement approach to corruption and competition laws, implying increased cooperation between anti-corruption and competition authorities.

Similar to anti-corruption, enforcement tools at the disposal of competition agencies include a mixture of carrots and sticks, such as dissuasive civil and criminal sanctions, leniency programmes for early defectors, effective monitoring, complaints mechanisms and whistleblowing protection. Naming and shaming approaches, including ethical blacklisting of companies violating competition and anti-corruption laws, is also being considered in some countries.

Literature review: corruption and migrations
Question submitted by U4, January 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/literature_review_corruption_and_migrations

Corruption has recently been identified as a major driver of migration, acting on the aspiration of people to migrate to other countries and areas. Indeed, increased corruption correlates directly with an increase in the levels of migration from a country. In particular, it plays a major role in driving highly-educated people away. A lack of economic opportunities and insecurity have been identified as major drivers of migration, and corruption is an underlying factor, retarding economic growth and fuelling conflict.

A growing body of literature focuses primarily on corruption as a facilitator of migration routes and human trafficking, for instance in the form of bribery at border control points.
Gender and Corruption Topic Guide
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/topic_guide_on_gender_and_corruption

This topic guide provides an overview of the linkages between gender and corruption, and a compilation of the most up to date and relevant studies and resources on the topic. In particular, it considers women's perceptions, attitudes and behaviours towards corruption, women's participation in public life and politics, the gendered impact of corruption and a gendered approach to anti-corruption.

Human rights and corruption: a compilation of resources
Available on request. tihelpdesk@transparency.org

There is a broad consensus in the literature that the fight against corruption and for the protection of human rights are closely intertwined and can mutually benefit from each other. This Helpdesk answer provides a compilation of paper and resources on the linkages between the anti-corruption and human rights agendas.

The impact of corruption on youth
Question submitted by TI Slovenia, June 2016
Available on request. tihelpdesk@transparency.org

This Helpdesk answer provides a short overview of the impact of corruption on young people. It considers corruption’s impact in terms of political disenfranchisement, employment and education.

ANTICORRUPTION TOOLS AND APPROACHES

Country experiences with reparations for social damages
Question submitted by TI Colombia, May 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/country_experience_with_reparation_for_social DAMAGES

The concept of “social damage” is an emerging concept in the anti-corruption movement, which seeks to identify, quantify, and repair the impact and consequences of corruption on ordinary citizens. Mechanisms which may be employed to seek reparations for social damages include: explicit reparation mechanisms for collective damage; class actions or other public interest litigation mechanisms; civil law mechanisms; criminal procedures; and the use of constitutional and administrative law. At the same time, there are increasing attempts to use recovered assets for repairing social damage from corruption through a number of budgetary channels including enhanced country systems, autonomous funds and management by third parties.

This answer considers the case of Costa Rica, whose government formally presented the legal concept of social damage to the 4th Conference of State Parties (CoSP) to the UNCAC in 2011. The Costa Rican legal framework offers numerous opportunities to pursue social damages for corruption thanks to the constitutional right of citizens to enjoy an environment free of corruption, coupled with the attorney general’s power to launch civil action in cases of damage to collective or diffuse interests and the recognition of organisations as victims in such cases.

Evidence of citizen engagement impact in promoting good governance and anti-corruption efforts
Question submitted by U4, January 2016
Publication forthcoming

Many different forms of citizen engagement and social accountability have been implemented over the years, ranging from institutionalised participatory processes to performing social audits and raising awareness. The evidence available highlights that there are many benefits to increasing good governance and anti-corruption efforts, such as increased citizen participation, more responsive states, and improved identification and sanctioning of corruption. However, the extent of the impact of citizen engagement is influenced by factors such as political will and access to information.

How-to guide for corruption assessment tools (2nd edition)
Question submitted by U4, February 2016

This paper provides an overview of a number of publicly accessible tools to assess a country’s level of corruption or anti-corruption/good governance performance. The tools are based on both qualitative and quantitative country
data, and cover perceptions of corruption, legal and institutional frameworks, and implementation of anti-corruption measures. The tools are classified according to the methods they employ. The paper is an updated version of the 2013 How-to guide for corruption assessment tools.

The UN Convention against Corruption and the role of civil society
Question submitted by U4, February 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/uncac_and_the_role_of_civil_society

Civil society's role in helping to fight corruption has been widely recognised and included in many international anti-corruption conventions. In the UNCAC, Articles, 5, 13 and 63 (4) (c) explicitly acknowledge a role for civil society in fighting corruption. However, in practice, civil society has not enjoyed as much access to UNCAC processes as it might have liked. While civil society organisations (CSOs) participate in some UNCAC meetings on the margins of the Implementation Review Group, and are generally consulted at the country level, CSOs are excluded from the meetings of the Implementation Review Group and the working groups of the Conference of States Parties. Competition for resources, a perceived lack of expertise, a lack of public knowledge and interest in the UNCAC, as well as poor time management on the part of some states has hindered the ability of civil society to be fully involved in the UNCAC.

This is an update of a previous Helpdesk answer from 2008.

Asset Declarations in the Judiciary
Question submitted by Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina, March 2016
Available on request

Asset declaration is a tool that has been used to great effect in the judiciary for a number of years to both prevent conflicts of interest and uncover illicit enrichment. By thoroughly verifying asset declarations, it is possible for investigators to uncover potentially incriminating evidence. Despite some concerns that publishing the asset and income declarations of judges might make them vulnerable to political manipulation or threats, there is no evidence to show that this is a frequent occurrence in countries where judges' declarations are freely available to the public. This answer also considers some good practices in relation to judges’ asset declarations, including continuing to submit asset declarations after leaving office, requiring other household members to also submit asset declarations, and making the asset and income declarations freely available to the public.

Whistleblowing mechanisms in municipalities
Question submitted by TI Finland, March 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/whistleblowing_mechanisms_in_municipalities

Municipalities, like all forms of government, have inherent corruption risks. They administer large amounts of public funds, and often exercise sizeable discretionary powers. At the same time, decentralised power structures are often accompanied by weaker and less developed oversight mechanisms able to identify, punish and prevent corruption. Whistleblowing can play an important role in filling this accountability gap, as it allows both the public and lower level public and business employees to report on wrongdoing. International consensus on good practice in relation to whistleblowing includes comprehensive legislation, varied and safe channels of reporting, and making the asset and income declarations freely available to the public.

Asset recovery in Germany
Question submitted by U4, June 2016
Publication forthcoming

Germany plays an important role in supporting developing countries to recover stolen assets hidden by corrupt officials. While estimates about stolen assets stored in German banks are not publicly available, anecdotal evidence suggests that the country has been attractive destination for illicit financial flows due to the secrecy of its financial system. The German government has shown growing commitment to improving its assistance in asset recovery processes and has become a key player in promoting asset recovery cooperation over the past five years, including the co-hosting of the 2015 Arab Forum for Asset Recovery. The ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption in 2014 and adoption of dedicated domestic legislation showed serious commitment on the part of the German government to respond to criticism on the weaknesses of Germany’s anti-corruption framework and in anti-money laundering. Recently, Germany has complied with European and international asset freeze orders against certain...
individuals. However, there is a continued lack of transparency regarding the size of frozen and recovered assets frozen and significant weaknesses in regulating beneficial ownership.

**Corruption mitigation measures in high risk environments**

*Question submitted by the EU, May 2016*

http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/corruption_mitigation_measures_in_high_risk_environments

There is particularly high risk of bilateral aid being lost to corruption in certain environments. Donors are therefore concerned about identifying and mitigating corruption risks at the country, sector and project levels. This includes putting in place effective mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability and integrity of their operations and staff. In addition to creating internal integrity management systems and ensuring that staff and operations adhere to the highest integrity standards, donors have also integrated safeguarding measures in all aspects of country assistance to protect projects and loans and ensure that aid is used for its intended purpose.

**SECTOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

**Corruption risks and mitigation measures in land administration**

*Question submitted by U4, February 2016*

http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/corruption_risks_and_mitigation_measures_in_land_administration

Corruption in land administration has significant societal costs, and can have a major effect on the livelihoods of people worldwide. Corruption in this sector can reduce peoples’ access to land, and harm the livelihoods of small-scale producers, agricultural labourers, indigenous communities and landless rural and urban poor. Women, young people and ethnic minorities suffer most by having their access to land hindered by corruption.

According to the literature, increased transparency, the inclusion of local communities in decision-making processes and strong legislation can all help to tackle corruption in land administration. International donors can provide support for national government-led initiatives, back the legal recognition of ownership and user rights, offer technical assistance and establish conflict resolution mechanisms.

**Corruption and commodity trading**

*Question submitted by U4, April 2016*

http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/corruption_and_commodity_trading

Commodity trading is a sector of significant strategic importance that is exposed to major corruption risks which are not always sufficiently acknowledged. Generating high financial flows, trading companies often operate in high-risk countries with weak governance, institutions, rule of law and limited state accountability. The sector is also notoriously opaque and poorly regulated, with low levels of transparency and accountability.

Against such a backdrop, corruption is widespread, with practices ranging from bribery, money and commodity laundering, and various forms of favouritism. A number of measures could potentially mitigate corruption risks in commodity trading, including transparency of commodity sales, open and transparent tenders, transparency of payments, specific due diligence processes covering both the production conditions and trading partners, the establishment of supervisory authorities as well as transparency of beneficial ownership.

**Supply chain corruption, customs transparency and consumer protection**

*Question submitted by TI-Finland, May 2016*

Publication forthcoming

Supply chains are susceptible to many different forms of corrupt practices and illicit behaviour, all of which inflict costs and harm to the wider society. Different strategies exist to address these risks, such as legislation, enhancing management procedures and pursuing due diligence.

Customs is a possible link in the supply chains where transparency can be increased. This brief discusses the connections between customs transparency, corruption in supply chains and consumer protection before identifying best practices to increase the transparency of products passing through customs and ways in which consumers can access more information. The final section focuses on next steps that the governments, businesses and civil society can make to increase the transparency of products passing through customs.

**Good practices to ensure transparency and integrity in media companies**
Question submitted by TI Spain, May 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/good_practices_to Ensure_transparency_and_integrity_of_media_companies

Funding shortages, growing undue political and private influence, and the oppression of journalists worldwide pose enormous challenges to the media, potentially undermining its capacity to carry out its core democratic functions in a transparent and credible way. The most pressing issues risking pluralism and integrity are the lack of media ownership transparency, opaque financing structures, and the substantial increase in non-transparent use of both state and private advertising.

Promising developments include advocacy to promote efficient adoption and implementation of media transparency ownership rules, and the creation of databases of media ownership structures. International journalist networks and civil society have put significant effort into raising awareness of corruption risks among journalists and media outlets and have campaigned against paid-for journalism, non-transparent advertising and bribery in the sector.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Paraguay: Overview of Corruption and Anti-corruption
Question submitted by TI-S, February 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/paraguay_overview_of_corruption_and_anti_corruption

Paraguay is an important case study of a state seeking to recover from decades of an authoritarian state that institutionalised corruption. From the end of Alfredo Stroessner's regime in 1989, Paraguay has struggled to fight systemic corruption in all sectors of the government. Perception surveys and local surveys document the bleak reality of widespread graft. Progress in the fight against corruption has been slow as political instability and a strong business sector have resisted reform efforts. The last five years have seen the rise of laws and institutions aimed at fighting corruption. These initiatives have been praised internationally.

Corruption and governance indicators in selected Asian countries
Question submitted by U4, February 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/corruption_trends_in_selected_asian_countries

This answer provides an overview of governance and corruption-related indicators in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Tajikistan. It covers the Corruption Perceptions Index, the Global Corruption Barometer, Enterprise Surveys, Worldwide Governance Indicators, the Anti-Money Laundering Index, Financial Action Task Force data, Freedom in the World report, Global Right to Information Rating, Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index, Open Budget Index, Open Government Index, Rule of Law Index, and World Press Freedom Index.

Côte d'Ivoire: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption
Question submitted by the EU, March 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/cote_divoire_overview_of_corruption_and_anti_corruption
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/corruption_et_lutte_contre_la_corruption_en_cote_divoire (French language version)

Côte d'Ivoire is recovering from more than a decade of ethnic and political turmoil that plunged the country into civil war and post-electoral violence in 2010 and undermined the rule of law and effectiveness of governance institutions. Against this backdrop, corruption remains endemic, systemic, permeating all levels of society. Corruption in the judiciary, police and security forces is an area of particular concern, fuelling a climate of impunity for corruption. President Ouattara has placed anti-corruption on his political agenda in recent years and taken a number of steps to address the country’s major governance challenges. In particular, a presidential anti-corruption decree was passed in 2013, and new anti-corruption bodies were established to fight corruption. While it is too early to assess the effectiveness of these measures to address corruption, most governance indicators point to progress made in recent years to control corruption.

Cameroon: overview of corruption and anti-corruption
Question submitted by the EU, April 2016
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/cameroun_tour_dhorizon_de_la corruption_et_de_la_lutte_contre_la_corruption (English language version)
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/cameroun_tour_dhorizon_de_la corruption_et_de_la_lutte_contre_la_corruption (French language version)
A strong executive branch, lack of judicial capacity, and widespread poverty are some of the factors that have made corruption, in the form of bribery, extortion, tax evasion and electoral manipulation, so rampant in Cameroon. In terms of public financial management, Cameroon shows little progress in modernising its fiscal and tributary system or making it transparent. Recent internationally financed efforts to combat corruption in the country have been launched with mixed results and extensive critiques from national and international actors. Transparency and the participation of civil society and media actors in policy formulation are still weak.

**Uruguay: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption**

Question submitted by TI, April 2016


Uruguay is referred to as the cleanest country in Latin America. Control of corruption has been explained by Uruguay’s democratic, political and economic development, which practically abolished clientelistic practices in politics and in the management of state resources. The country should now ensure that remaining vulnerabilities, such as state-owned enterprises, have strong transparency and accountability mechanisms in place. Measures to strengthen institutions tasked to fight corruption are also important to keep corruption in check. Uruguay is an important financial centre for other countries in the region and its light financial regulations and rules on banking secrecy and anonymity are vulnerable to corrupt individuals and criminals seeking for a place to launder their assets. Rules to prevent money laundering need to be properly implemented and enforced.

**Conflict of interest in Latin America: a compilation of resources**

Available on request. tihelpdesk@transparency.org

This answer provides an overview of selected literature on good practice in managing conflicts of interest in general and specific resources on Latin America.