



Ecuador SinCero Programme

Corruption prevention, transparency and citizen engagement

Strengthening corruption prevention and contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 of the 2030 Agenda.

Corruption is a complex, multi-causal, multi-actor and often structural phenomenon, which undermines the foundations of democracy, good governance and citizen’s trust in their institutions.

In contributes to the persistence of inequality and poverty and systematically affecting the population’s welfare .

Like other countries in the region, Ecuador has been seeking for ways to strengthen corruption prevention, promote integrity, open government, transparency and citizen participation. This poses a challenge for the capacity building and coordination among various public and private actors.

In this context the Ecuador SinCero Programme with the scope of the German Development Cooperation, implemented by GIZ, is a technical cooperation towards creating the enabling conditions to prevent corruption in accordance with international standards and initiatives in Ecuador.

This cooperation program is working with actors of the public and private sectors, civil society organizations as well as universities. Although the Programme functions at a national level, the improvements also affect counterparts at the local level. This will be achieved through the implementation of pilot projects and strategic alliances with multiplier entities, which will strengthen sustainability and broaden the scope of the technical advice.

Strengthening the corruption prevention through four fields of action

1. Integrity in the public, private and civil society sectors

In order to strengthen the institutional capacities of state and non-state actors in matters of integrity and transparency to prevent corruption, the Programme takes into account the recommendations of international organizations and initiatives such as: the OECD, UNODC, OGP, Open Contracting Partnership, CoST Open Contracting, OLACEFS (Latin American and Caribbean

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On behalf of	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Programme Scope	National, with implementation of local pilot projects
Implementing Agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.
Duration	January 2020 to June 2023
German Contribution	6 million euros
Political Counterpart	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility .
Sustainable Development Goals (among others)	<div> <div>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div> <div>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</div> </div>

Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions), INTOSAI, among others.

In these areas, different tools associated with public integrity and compliance will be developed, considering innovative or approaches and digitalization.

An important aspect will be the strengthening of multi-stakeholders networks promoting integrity for example, in the private sector through joint collaboration with the GIZ Global Alliance for Integrity Programme.



2. Open government, transparency and citizen participation

Strengthening the capacities of state and non-state actors the development of an effective approach towards open government, transparency mechanisms, possibilities for citizen participation and accountability systems at national and local levels through the creation of public mechanisms for access to public information and therefore contributing to transparency, social control of state structures and, consequently corruption prevention.

The implementation of various commitments of the National Open Government Plan, and instruments for the promotion of citizen participation and accountability.

3. Data generation and knowledge management

The generation of information, data generation and management constitute a key element for identification of risks and challenges that must be faced to prevent corruption as an integral part of public policies, based on the recommendations, knowledge and experiences of international organizations.

It will be of utmost important to generate research studies that shed light on the specific effects of corruption on vulnerable populations. Therefore, issues such as corruption and gender, corruption and human rights, among others, will be addressed. Likewise, it will be possible to develop innovative approaches and digital solutions that contribute to making administrative action more transparent and less fraudulent.

4. Strengthening of individual capacities

Developing strategic competencies of state and non-state actors for the prevention of corruption with an emphasis on integrity and transparency. For this purpose, exchange formats and training offers will be developed the other fields of the programme. This will enable key actors to apply and demand honest behavior and transparent administrative management in their respective areas.

Towards a System of Public Integrity in an Open State

Ecuador has expressed its intention to fight corruption by being a signatory of the main international conventions such as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, (UNCAC), also subjecting itself to its evaluation mechanisms. Likewise, the Ecuadorian Constitution defines as a primary duty of the State to assure their inhabitants a life in a democratic society free of corruption (Art. 3, Number 8).

However, the strategy to face corruption requires actions that go beyond regulatory recognition and a punitive approaches or sanctions within a state. For this purpose, it is important to address and modify institutional structures that facilitate the existence of corrupt or fraudulent behavior.

In line with the guidelines and good practices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the promotion of Public Integrity, understood as the consistent alignment of compliance with shared values, principles and ethical standards, prioritizing the public interest over private interests in order to generate trust in the population is key. Thus, Public integrity goes beyond the mere absence of crime or strict compliance with the rules. In effect it implies that those in charge of managing public affairs, in addition to complying with the minimum required by law, must above all act in accordance with values and clearly defined standards of conduct for management. Therefore, public integrity systems cover a wide range of topics such as:

- A coherent and comprehensive integrity system with political will at the highest level to develop legal and institutional frameworks with high standards of decorum, internalized within the organization clearly defined responsibilities, a strategy with objectives and indicators based on integrity risks, as well as effective norms and values.
- A culture of Public Integrity based on upright leadership, meritocracy, and duly trained public servants who are free to report suspicions concerning breaches of integrity.
- Effective accountability based on risk management, investigation and punishment of nontransparent behavior, as well as effective external supervision.

Finally, from another perspective, a public integrity system is a key element in forging an open state that establishes new relationships between State and society, empowering the latter for participation, social control and accountability over all the functions of the State and the decentralized autonomous governments, enhancing citizen trust and thus favoring democracy.

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