

# No place for corruption: The Sector Programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity

## Corruption sabotages equal opportunities for all

Democracy, education, health, digitalisation, gender equality, peace, security and social protection – all these basic elements of a society based on justice are greatly affected by the consequences of corruption, the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.

As a serious obstacle on the path to a sustainable future, the impacts of corruption undermine fundamental democratic principles such as the rule of law, the separation of powers and the effective working of public administration. They rob marginalised population groups in particular of access to basic public services such as health and education and are thus directly connected to human rights violations. Financial resources illegally obtained through corruption play a role in financing and escalating violent conflicts, and important budget funds that could be used to overcome social injustices are instead embezzled.

In its Corruption Perceptions Index 2024, Transparency International (TI) rates 48 of 65 partner countries of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as highly corrupt. Corruption poses an obstacle to sustainable development in all sectors and hence to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda. BMZ has therefore defined anti-corruption and integrity as one of six quality criteria for all development cooperation (DC) measures (along with human rights, gender equality and disability inclusion; poverty reduction and inequality reduction; environmental and climate impact assessment; digital technology; and conflict sensitivity).

### GIZ Sector Programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity

Commissioned by	BMZ
Term	June 2022 to May 2025
Volume of funding	€ 8,000,000

### The quality criteria strategy on 'Anti-corruption and integrity' ...

is the strategy that BMZ has adopted to implement this quality criterion in all DC measures. The strategy is mandatory for the official implementing organisations: KfW, Germany's national metrology institute PTB, the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. It also serves as a guide for non-governmental actors in the DC sector.

## For transparency and integrity in development cooperation

The Sector Programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity supports BMZ in consolidating anti-corruption and integrity in German DC in close cooperation with governmental and non-governmental actors and the private sector. To achieve this goal, the programme pursues a holistic approach that integrates measures to fight corruption and promote integrity into all areas of German DC:



### ACWalk:

We use monitoring systems, partner structures, events and activities to support BMZ in implementing the quality criteria strategy on 'Anti-corruption and integrity'. In addition, we analyse sector-specific opportunities and risks and provide anti-corruption and integrity training to stakeholders in German DC.



### ACPolitics:

We advise BMZ on adopting progressive positions on development policy and on setting innovative agendas in national, European and international processes. We are guided by gender equality, human rights and basic democratic principles. We focus on digitalisation, infrastructure, climate and health, while also keeping sight of the 'do no harm' principle, to identify and address the link with anti-corruption in each case.



### ACLab:

We support the efforts of stakeholders to introduce effective anti-corruption and integrity approaches in all areas of German DC. We provide specialist expertise and develop knowledge competencies and strategies on sector-specific topics such as feminist development policy, risk management and corruption prevention in fragile contexts. Approaches and instruments are developed, tested and validated in line with the needs of the particular target group and sector. Effective anti-corruption measures require the use of digital technologies and protection for civil society activists, journalists and whistleblowers. The Anti-Corruption WORKS advisory tool is used to provide projects with context-specific training on corruption risks and to help them design anti-corruption measures.



### ACNet:

We act as the secretariat for the [Alliance for Integrity](#). This global multi-stakeholder partnership promotes transparency and integrity in the economy through cooperation between all relevant actors from the private and public sectors and civil society (collective action). Moreover, it offers practical solutions to enhance the compliance capacity of businesses and promotes dialogue between the public and private sectors.



### We increase awareness

Using measures implemented by the Sector Programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity, BMZ supports the work of national and international civil society organisations to refine specific anti-corruption approaches so that they can be used by the German DC sector as a whole.

#### A partnership ...

with the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), a Nigerian non-governmental organisation accredited as the local TI chapter, helped increase awareness of gender-based corruption in the country through a project that addressed sexualised corruption in universities. In cooperation with CISLAC and the Timby initiative, an app was developed for reporting cases of sexualised corruption.

#### Investigative journalism ...

is crucial to expose corruption and ensure compliance with accountability obligations if government bodies do not work effectively. One example of this is a global collective of more than 80 journalists called Journalists for Transparency (J4T), which is coordinated by TI and works on transparency and corruption issues. J4T receives support from BMZ through the Sector Programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity and aims to equip young journalists with the investigative skills they need to expose the impacts of corruption. Several important articles addressing topics such as wildlife trafficking, migration and human rights violations, and explaining how these activities are aided by corruption and abuse of power, have now been published in respected media.



### Expertise in national and international forums

Corruption cannot be eliminated by any country or organisation acting alone. Supported by the Sector Programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity, BMZ plays an active role in national and international forums and maintains strong partnerships, e.g. with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). At global level, BMZ cooperates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the OECD Anti-Corruption Task Team. It works with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to highlight the close links between human rights violations and corruption. Collaborating with the multilateral OECD and the UN offices enables BMZ to share best practices and make use of international resources in the fight against corruption.

We also draw on the important partnerships funded by BMZ with established organisations such as the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre and the Basel Institute on Governance. Together, we develop innovative solutions and promote the sharing of expertise, for example on the links between social norms and (anti-)corruption. The Sector Programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity supports BMZ's strategic partnership with Transparency International, thereby strengthening the crucial contribution that civil society makes in the fight against corruption.



Published by  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices:  
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Sector Programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36 | 53113 Bonn | Germany

E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de) | [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

As at: March 2025

Contact  
Viola Boelscher | Commission Manager  
[anticorruptionprogramme@giz.de](mailto:anticorruptionprogramme@giz.de)

Design and Layout  
Barbara Reuter | Oberursel | Germany

On behalf of the  
German Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Division G12 – Governance

On behalf of



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development