

How is the anti-corruption global programme being operationalized?

The global programme is developed in line with UNDP Strategic Plan "Accelerating Global Progress on Human Development" (2008-2011), to upscale its governance interventions at global, regional and country levels. The global programme is premised on the operating principles of the Strategic Plan, namely national ownership, capacity development, effective aid management and South-South cooperation.

The global programme works closely with both internal partners, such as UNDP regional Bureaux and Centres, and practices such as Poverty Reduction and MDGs, Conflict Prevention and Recovery and Energy and Environment, and external partners, such as UNODC, UNIFEM, ECA, World Bank, U4 and Transparency International.

Key Knowledge Products

Anti-Corruption Practice Note, 2008

A Primer on Corruption and Development, 2008

Anti-Corruption Guidance Note, 2008

A User's Guide to Measuring Corruption, 2008

*Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives,
Asia-Pacific Human Development Report 2008*



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UNDP Global Thematic Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness (PACDE)

2008–2011





The African Union 2002 report estimates that about US\$148 billion is plundered from Africa every year because of corruption. Thus, the resources lost to corruption could have made a difference to many countries' efforts to promote development if ploughed back into the economy.

Fighting Corruption for Human Development and the Achievement of the MDGs

While corruption is found in rich and poor, developing and developed countries alike, albeit in different forms and magnitude, evidence confirms that corruption hurts the poor disproportionately and hinders efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and human development by reducing access to services and diverting resources away from investments in infrastructure, institutions and social services.

Moreover, success in meeting the MDGs will largely depend on the 'quality' of governance and the level of effectiveness, efficiency and equity in resource generation, allocation and management. It is on this basis that UNDP views corruption as a governance deficit, a result of malfunctioning state institutions and democratic governance as the process of creating and sustaining an environment for inclusive and responsive political processes that efficiently and effectively deliver social services to the intended target groups.

The increasing demand for anti-corruption support

The advent of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on 14 December 2005 brought with it new challenges and opportunities for fighting corruption. As a result, UNDP experienced a significant increase in requests for technical assistance and advisory services. This led UNDP to refocus its anti-corruption priorities using UNCAC as a governance and development framework within UNDP's mandate of poverty reduction, realization of the MDGs and promotion of sustainable development.

UNDP's response to the increasing demand

In order to respond to the growing demand for technical assistance in anti-corruption, the Democratic Governance Group (DGG) developed the UNDP global programme on anti-corruption entitled "Global Thematic Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness (PACDE) 2008–2011". The main objective of the Programme is to increase state/institutional capacity to engage more effectively in reducing corruption to improve governance and sustain development.

What does the anti-corruption global programme offer?

PACDE aims to strengthen national, regional and local level capacities, systems, and institutions to improve governance by implementing anti-corruption initiatives.

Specifically, PACDE aims to provide technical assistance to country offices and programming countries in five areas: (1) Increasing state/institutional capacity through capacity development assistance and advisory support; (2) Increasing utilization of governance/anti-corruption assessment tools to inform policies at national levels; (3) Strengthening the oversight role of media and civil society; (4) Improving harmonization and coordination of anti-corruption initiatives; and (5) Improving awareness and knowledge on anti-corruption.



An apple symbolizes life and prosperity. The rotten and fresh halves of the cover's apple capture the spoiling aspect of corruption and the rejuvenating side of reducing it. The mirror image shows how sectors at the core of the problem can also be part of the solution. The fresh apple at the top conveys the idea that it is possible for clean institutions to stand above corruption. Doing so can yield fruits such as healthy, educated, freer people (Asia-Pacific Human Development Report 2008).