UNDP activities
for anti corruption in sectors

Francesco Checchi,
Anti-Corruption Programme Coordinator
UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre

Why tackle corruption in sectors?

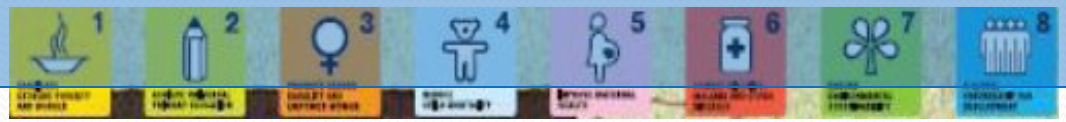
Traditional UNDP anti corruption approach: addressing the roots of corruption (lack of good governance)

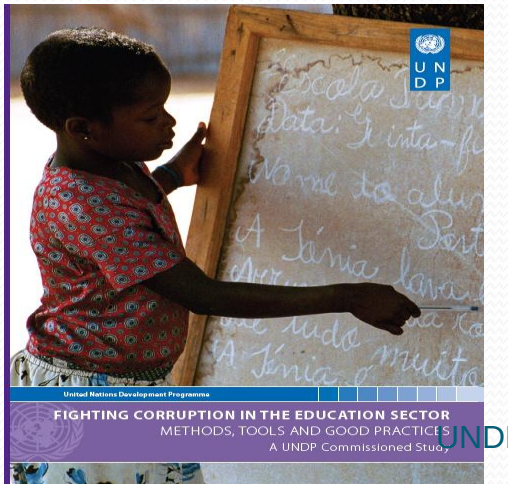
Why to engage in more specific anti corruption in sectors?

- Anti corruption relevant for achieving the MDGs (as expressed by the 2010 UN General Assembly Summit on the MDGs' progress status)
- Complexity of the issues and the complexity of the response to be implemented
- sector budgets/investment funds or aid funds tend to be significant –and there are significant leakages
- Corruption severely impact service delivery outcomes> form of corruption that is most felt in ordinary people's lives and particularly affects the poor
- currently, sector programming does not sufficiently address corruption challenges
- it may be easier to introduce good governance/ anti-corruption measures when mainstreamed into sectors

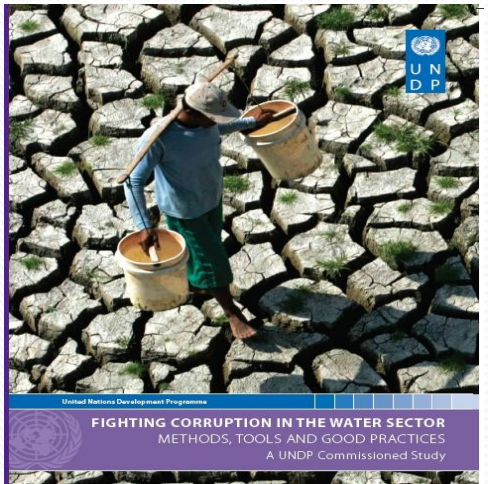
UNDP PACDE (Global Level) promoting the activities of anti corruption in sectors

- Addressing corruption vulnerabilities in specific sectors helps improve service delivery (removing corruption bottlenecks)
- Depoliticization of problem; contextualized use of tools provides concrete evidence on gaps for policy makers
- Next steps: regional level gathering of best practices and lessons learned - country level interventions









Eastern Europe and the CIS

Bratislava Regional Centre

- Corruption in Sectors (Education – Health – Social Services - Water) one of the service lines of the regional project 2011 -2013 > support to COs for the implementation of activities.
- Collection of case studies in the area of anti-corruption
- 2011: focus on corruption in the education sector: Methodology > first pilot of assessment of corruption in education (Serbia) with OECD
- Event for promoting UNDP CO's activities for AC in education

ACINET (Arab region) - ACIAC

Consolidate information on tackling corruption in sectors, lessons from sectoral interventions, explore ideas and entry points for programming in this area

Activities:

Development of a paper that:

- Provides a working definition of corruption and an overview of corruption phenomena, particularly as they are manifested in the sectors under consideration;
- It introduces key elements of anti corruption reform approaches, starting with sectoral diagnostics;
- discusses remedies that have been shown as effective in tackling particular forms of corruption in sectors, and lessons on how to apply them;
- Provides a summary of lessons learned, an overview of the recommended reform process.

Following collection of case studies

UNDP Asia Pacific

- Bangkok regional centre developing case studies in the Philippines, Vietnam and Nepal on how anti-corruption measures can benefit the health, education and water sectors.

- Compiling a regional report (to be finalized by September 2011).

Good practices from the Eastern European and the CIS region

1) Tackling Informal Payments in the Health Sector

Informal payments: one of the most disruptive forms of corruption in developing countries, how to address the issue?

Albania: state health care providers formalized fees and strengthened detection and punishment.

Armenia, Ministry of Health introduced a voucher program (the Obstetric Care State Certificate Program) to redress the imbalance between available funding and guaranteed services

Achievements: improved patient information of their rights and benefits; more effective oversight; informal payments were reduced, salary increased, investments in infrastructures.

Problems: there does not seem to be increased access to the services of the disadvantaged groups; increased official payment for the service.

2)Monitoring the integrity of the Romanian Higher Education System

- implemented by a coalition of NGOs in Romania (Coalition for Clean Universities);
- (1) development of methodology and standards (score for each answer);
- (2) data collection and assessment; (independent groups conducting the assessments)
- (3) advocacy

Achievements: identification of the risks for corruption at various levels; motivation for the universities to do better through a national rankings;

3) Integrity Assessment of the Health Care System in Montenegro

- Implemented by the UNDP, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the national Ministry of Health;
- A well organized plan:
- 1. Preparatory phase: (stakeholders consultation and engagement)
- 2. Methodological development (assessment of different parameters and group discussion)
- 3. Survey administration and analysis
- 4. Dissemination of results (advocacy)

- Achievements: providing, the first time, reliable, quantitative information on patients' experience of health services (actionable for policy development)

- Presenting evidence on the extent and dynamics of the practice of unofficial payments, (moving beyond perceptions and speculations, so that appropriate reform measures can be effectively planned).

4) Water Integrity Assessment in Tajikistan

UNDP Tajikistan.

- Assessment focuses on the identification and mitigation of specific vulnerabilities or opportunities for corruption.

- participatory approach: stakeholder engagement (workshop)

- Methodology: detailed identification of risk areas in the various components of the water service > (e.g. type of corruption experience by rural farmers in getting access to water services for irrigation) > collecting evidence on how water consumers and water providers experience corruption

- Participatory assessment: focus group discussions and surveys of various water stakeholders representing government institutions, civil society, and media.

- A plan for follow up activities identifying the institutions that should act in relation to recommendation (agreed at the beginning)

Good practices
for assessments of corruption in sectors

- **Clearly articulated and reachable aim/objective**, developed jointly with partners and an action plan for reaching the results.
- **Identification and engagement of the relevant stakeholders** at the national and international level, and securing the partner's commitment to the initiative; as well as the Ability of the partner to actively participate in the project (initial consultation is necessary).
- **Hiring credible and competent contractors** to implement the technical aspects of the methodology;
- **Accuracy of the project outputs**, particularly in anti-corruption efforts, is essential. The work must stand up to scientific scrutiny: even minor careless mistakes can fundamentally discredit otherwise useful efforts;
- **Analysis** must be rich with recommendations that are concrete, grounded in reality, and feasible within the existing context;
- **Advocacy:** results should be presented and communicated through different means to different target audiences

Thank you!

website:

http://europeandcis.undp.org/anticorruption

Francesco Checchi, Project Coordinator
UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre
Francesco.checchi@undp.org