

With 2.1 billion people without access to safe drinking water at home, 4.5 billion still lack safely managed sanitation and almost 1000 children dying daily due to water and sanitation related diseases, we cannot afford vital resources to be misused, lost or squandered by corruption. Corruption represents a major obstacle to sustainable development, not least in the water and sanitation sector. In order to contribute to the fight against corruption, Sida supports interventions that strengthen transparency, accountability, participation, and sustainable institutions in the water and sanitation sector.

WHAT IS SIDA'S POSITION ON CORRUPTION?

Corruption constitutes a concrete obstacle to reducing poverty, oppression, and inequality. Sida considers all types of corruption to be a central barrier to sustainable development and works on four levels to counter it, namely by:

- 1) contributing to international anti-corruption efforts;
- 2) supporting anti-corruption measures in our partner countries;
- 3) countering corruption in contributions;
- 4) promoting a high ethical level and strong integrity among Sida staff.

In the water and sanitation sector, Sida actively supports interventions that promote effective anti-corruption measures in the field, e.g. enhanced diagnostic- and analytical work, to identify and reduce the risk of corruption, increased transparency, accountability, participation, as well as institutional capacity and governance efforts.

SIDA'S APPROACH TO CORRUPTION AND OTHER IRREGULARITIES IS TO:

- ALWAYS PREVENT
- NEVER ACCEPT
- ALWAYS INFORM
- ALWAYS ACT



THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR

The impact of corruption on the water sector is detrimental for human health and well-being, it violates human rights and the effectiveness of allocation of resources, and the environment. Although there are no reliable estimates of the financial impact of corruption, the cost is believed to be substantial.

“Every 10 per cent of investments that is lost to corruption implies annual losses to the sector in excess of US\$ 75 billion; some guesstimates put potential losses many times higher”

(Water Integrity Network, 2016:26, Water Integrity Global Outlook report)

The poor are often dependent on informal water suppliers and are often forced to pay significantly more for water than more privileged groups. According to Transparency International (TI), at individual household levels, corruption is estimated to increase the price of attaining a water connection by as much as 30 per cent.

Furthermore, by affecting the access to safe water, proper sanitation and food security, corruption indirectly have health consequences such as the spreading of diseases, stunting, cognitive disabilities and hundreds of thousands of deaths annually. Women and girls are additionally at risk of sextortion, wherein sexual services are demanded in exchange for other services. They are also often excluded from water sector decision-making processes and have their interests ignored, as corruption thrives in closed groups where vested interests or hidden agendas are less likely to be questioned. Moreover, corruption also has a disastrous impact on the environment, pervading all aspects of water management, impairing irrigation, letting water pollution go unchecked, and enabling unsustainable usage of limited water resources.

By extension, corruption is also a barrier to the safety and well-being of people and complicates efforts to mitigate, adapt to, and counter climate change. Taken together, it is clear that corruption in the water and sanitation sector must be highlighted and addressed.



Photo: Sudipto Das, *The River with White Scars*, / WIN photo competition winner 2016/2017. Women performing their morning ritual in the deeply polluted Yamuna river. Corruption and malpractice have proven detrimental to the water and wastewater management in the area.

EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE CORRUPTION IN THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR

Effectively countering the often complex and widespread corruption requires an array of different tools and approaches, which can be grounded in transparency, accountability and participation (the TAP approach). Interventions should include stakeholders to help change prevailing norms that may condone or even expect breaches of integrity. More context-specific research and analytical evaluations are needed to better understand the scope and nature of corruption in the water and sanitation sector, utilising tools such as corruption impact assessments, risk-mapping, accountability mapping, and public expenditure tracking. For transparency to be promoted, documentation on plans, budgets and procurements should be publicly available, and the media encouraged to report on water issues. Integrity pacts between stakeholders, contract monitoring and strict financial and procurement rules are also essential tools to ensuring fair and transparent procurement processes.

Accountability measures need to be put in place to hold decision-makers and implementers to account. This includes the strengthening of monitoring and oversight mechanisms, improving human resource management practices, building stakeholder coalitions against corruption, expanding whistle-blowing protection and complaint management systems. These complaint systems can encompass citizen report cards, hotlines, and various other feedback mechanisms to monitor the quality of water services provided by public and private utilities. It is also necessary to install and enforce anti-corruption regulation with adequate and dissuasive sanctions as deterrence to uphold effective implementation of regulations.

Equitable and open means of participation should be provided to local communities and civil society through all the stages of the programme process, with means to conduct due diligence, audits, monitoring, report misgivings and provide feedback. Accountable and inclusive governance structures that include multiple stakeholders such as the poor and civil society organisations as well as public officials are therefore key in this regard.

SWEDEN'S ENGAGEMENT

Anti-corruption is a priority to the Swedish government and Sida as a whole. In the water and sanitation sector corruption is a complex phenomenon involving many different actors, strong interests, and nefarious opportunities for personal gain, but to the detriment of society. Corruption is enabled by different power structures and norms and takes place in a multitude of different sectors. To address this challenge, Sida supports a range of different organisations, partnerships, and projects that either specifically target corruption in the sector or that promote anti-corruption elements such as improved governance, monitoring, transparency and accountability mechanisms. Below are a few examples of interventions that Sida supports:

The Water Integrity Network (WIN) supports and connects an open network of partner individuals, organizations, and governments promoting water integrity to reduce corruption and improve water sector performance worldwide.

WIN researches the impact of corruption and poor integrity in the water sector and advocates for integrity as a crucial requirement to achieve the global development agenda. WIN develops and promotes integrity tools, publishes case studies and shares good practices with a focus on capacity development and risk prevention. The global review "Water Integrity Global Outlook 2016" published by WIN demonstrates the need to prioritize how integrity and good governance have become at international and national level priorities and outlines tools and techniques that make improvements achievable. It provides examples of innovative programs and projects that challenge the status quo and makes recommendations for action by governments, sector actors, the private sector and civil society bodies.

Cap-Net UNDP and the **UNDP Water Governance Facility** (hosted by **SIWI**, the Stockholm International Water Institute), in partnership with WIN and the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI) organize training courses to help water professionals enhance integrity and reduce corruption. Support material and manuals on water integrity and subjects relevant to improving water governance are available from www.cap-net.org.

The **UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility** also provides **UNICEF** globally and **UNDP** country and regional offices with accountability tools and guidance, assisting in the shaping of programmes for increased accountability and sustainability of water and sanitation services provision.

The Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET) is a national network association aimed to increase participation, knowledge and engagement in civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Kenyan water sector. In addition, KEWASNET promotes the direct involvement of citizens in demanding effective, equitable and accountable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) service delivery and resource management.