

# ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

## KNOWLEDGE FOR TRANSPARENCY - LINKING ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

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### ACRN: MOBILISING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE AGAINST CORRUPTION

Welcome to the third issue of Anti-Corruption Research News. Here you will find recent insights and activities in anti-corruption research, synthesised for scholars, policy-makers and anti-corruption practitioners. This newsletter is part of the Anti-Corruption Research Network (ACRN), a new initiative by Transparency International to build a knowledge community and information service for anti-corruption research. The ACRN online platform is expected to be launched as soon as possible in 2010.

#### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Membership in the ACRN network is free and open to the entire anti-corruption research community. For more information please write to Farzana Nawaz at: [fnawaz@transparency.org](mailto:fnawaz@transparency.org).

### SPOTLIGHT: TACKLING CORRUPTION IN HUMANITARIAN AID

BY PAUL HARVEY\*, HUMANITARIAN OUTCOMES

The catastrophic earthquake that hit Haiti in January 2010 and left more than 200,000 people dead reminded us once more that humanitarian aid is one of the most important planks of global solidarity and development. With more than US\$ 4.2 billion pledged for a severely devastated country<sup>1</sup> the scale and complexity of this humanitarian operation also brought into sharp relief the management and governance challenges that accompany such interventions.

Corruption is one of these challenges.<sup>2</sup> The last two years have seen corruption allegations in humanitarian aid hit the news headlines and bring more public attention to these problems. In Somalia, for example, a UN monitoring group report made assertions about corrupt diversion of food aid.

In Liberia, World Vision uncovered substantial corruption in their food aid operations, and a recent BBC report which highlighted allegations of corruption in aid operations in Ethiopia in the 1980s received widespread attention. The news visibility of these events stand in stark contrast to what was until very recently a lack of focused research and analysis on these issues. When the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Transparency International and others first began research on corruption and humanitarian aid in 2006, it was an oddly neglected issue.

Almost universally humanitarian aid practitioners acknowledged that combating corruption in hugely challenging and often high-corruption-risk environments was an important part of their job, but there was a nearly

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### SPOTLIGHT: TACKLING CORRUPTION IN HUMANITARIAN AID



complete lack of shared analysis, learning or tools to improve anti-corruption work both in the academic, as well as in the policy literature.

Much has changed since then. ODI, TI and the Feinstein International Center engaged in a process of research and engagement with operational agencies which produced a substantive research report identifying the corruption challenges facing humanitarian action and exploring existing anti-corruption efforts. Merely bringing the issue of corruption into open discussion was rather groundbreaking and welcomed by practitioners who deal with corruption challenges on a daily basis but lacked any opportunity for discussing good and bad practice and for learning from others.

Corruption has emerged as an issue in a growing literature focussed on gathering the views of beneficiaries on disaster relief and improving downwards accountability to disaster-affected populations on the part of aid agencies.<sup>3</sup> Simultaneously, international humanitarian actors have placed growing attention on increasing their accountability to disaster affected populations through greater investment in areas such as feedback mechanisms.<sup>4</sup> Successive reports by the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) highlight that there is still a long way to go in ensuring that recipients of humanitarian aid are able to understand their entitlements, to lodge complaints when aid is abused, and to see those complaints effectively acted upon.<sup>5</sup>

Still, progress is being made. A recent HAP report on the state of the humanitarian system found a degree of optimism that attention to accountability has begun to result in real operational changes in how aid agencies do business.<sup>6</sup>

These assessments are sidelined by field-based research in Afghanistan<sup>7</sup>, Liberia<sup>8</sup>, Sri Lanka<sup>9</sup> and Uganda<sup>10</sup> that also comprised in-depth interviews and focus groups with disaster-affected populations on their experiences of corruption. The policy implications and recommendations to aid agencies that were derived from this evidence base include:

- A need to reduce the “taboo” in discussing corruption in humanitarian assistance and promote greater transparency in reporting corrupt abuse of aid;
- A need to strengthen awareness that corruption extends beyond fraudulent financial practices to “nonfinancial corruption” such as nepotism/cronyism, sexual exploitation and abuse, coercion and intimidation of humanitarian staff or aid recipients for personal, social or political gain, manipulation of assessments, targeting and registration to favour particular groups, and diversion of assistance to non-target groups;
- More overall transparency of operations and entitlements and allocate more resources to program monitoring, especially field monitoring;

*“Aid agencies need to work to reduce or remove the ‘taboo’ in discussing corruption in humanitarian assistance.”*

## SPOTLIGHT: TACKLING CORRUPTION IN HUMANITARIAN AID

- More inter-agency coordination at national and international levels for information sharing and for joint action on corruption emanating from the external environment.

These findings fed into the recent publication of the *TI Handbook of Good Practices in Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Operations*.<sup>11</sup> Other work directly addressing corruption in humanitarian assistance is limited to two papers by the U4 anti-corruption research centre focused on procurement<sup>12</sup> and the role of the media.<sup>13</sup>

The research conducted so far, however, has only scratched the surface and has identified considerable remaining knowledge gaps around the types and extent of corruption in different contexts and the successes and failures of attempts by humanitarian actors to minimise corruption risks. The scale of the losses through corruption is one such area for future investigation. Past research found significant contradictions between perceptions by humanitarian aid agency staff and those by external analysts. Agency staff members at all levels appear

to perceive losses from corruption to be rather small, even though most admit that no concrete numbers are available.<sup>14</sup> External evaluators, by contrast, sometimes assert “serious levels of corruption”, both in the agencies’ “own national staff and in dealings with others” when analyzing humanitarian aid projects.<sup>15</sup> The shortcomings in estimating scales are further substantiated by the observation that beneficiaries often have very little information to determine if and where corruption occurs.<sup>16</sup> This is in line with findings on the communication channels in regions hit by humanitarian crisis, where victims complain about the inaccessibility of information of how aid programmes work.<sup>17</sup>

In sum, much progress has recently been made in researching corruption in humanitarian aid. Practitioners wanting guidance on how to better deal with the corruption challenges they face on a daily basis now have somewhere to turn and are likely to receive greater support from within their organisations. However, considerable knowledge gaps remain and provide interesting and timely avenues for further investigation.

“The last two years have seen corruption allegations in humanitarian aid hit the headlines in ways that have also focussed minds on the issue of corruption.”

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## ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

## HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

## MEASURING CORRUPTION

**The Global Integrity Report 2009**

Global Integrity released the latest round of its comprehensive assessment of national-level anti-corruption mechanisms in 35 countries based on reports by in-country teams on more than 300 transparency and accountability indicators. The 2009 Report covers developed countries such as the United States and South Korea as well as dozens of the world's emerging markets and developing nations, including China, Lebanon and Vietnam. Among the key findings of the study, the report indicates that despite the change of administration in the United States, significant progress has not yet been achieved in closing accountability gaps at the national level.

<http://commons.globalintegrity.org/>

**Afrobarometer Round 4**

The data of the fourth round of the Afrobarometer, released in 2009 is underpinning a growing number of analyses. This comprehensive survey samples the opinions of between 1,200 and 2,400 people per country in 19 African nations on a variety of issues, including questions on the perceived corruption involvement of different types of government officials. The results indicate mixed progress on key markets for accountability and democracy.

<http://www.afrobarometer.org/>

**Corruption in Afghanistan: bribery as reported by victims, 2010**

Based on interviews with 7,600 people in 12 provincial capitals and more than 1,600 villages around Afghanistan, this UNODC survey records the experiences of corruption of Afghan citizens both in urban and rural areas. Findings challenge common assumptions about the country: While poverty, violence and insecurity are usually portrayed as the biggest challenges confronting Afghanistan, an overwhelming majority of Afghan people (59%) perceive corruption as their biggest concern, ahead of insecurity and unemployment.

<http://www.unodc.org/>

## UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

**Perceptions of Corruption in Sweden**

Monika Bauhr, Naghmeh Nasiritousi, Henrik Oscarsson, Anna Persson, 2010  
 Sweden is consistently ranked by global indices as one of the least corrupt countries in the world. However, there is little research on perceptions of corruption in low risk countries and this paper seeks to close this gap and explores perceptions of corruption in Sweden. While the results on public sector bribery and moral tolerance of corruption are in line with the low levels of corruption reported by indices, interesting outliers are detected: businesspeople, for example, are viewed with particular suspicion with more than a quarter of respondents believing that many or all of them engage in corrupt practices.

<http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/>

**Revolving Door Lobbyists**

Jordi Blanes, Vidaly Draca, Christian Fons-Rosen, 2010

How can we measure the lobbying power and potential for undue influence that comes with revolving door practices, when former public officials take up lobbying positions for the private sector? This paper provides fascinating evidence by gauging how the market value of lobbyists changes when their former superiors and now key contacts in the public sector leave office. and thus their connections lobbyists former. The evidence is stunning and provides reason for concern. The revenue generated by lobbyists reacts swiftly and very significantly, exit of a key contact leads to drop of as much as 20 per cent in the US Senate system.

<http://personal.lse.ac.uk/blanesiv/revolving.pdf>

**Managing the Crisis: A comparative analysis of economic governance in 14 countries**

Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2010

Does corruption affect the ability of countries to react to the financial crisis? Using data from the Bertelsmann Transformation Index for transition countries and the Sustainable Governance Indicators for OECD countries, the paper analyses the countries' capacities to respond to the economic crisis 2007-2009. For transition countries, a lack of these capacities is found to be strongly correlated to widespread corruption.

<http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de>



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*“A new UNODC survey reveals that an overwhelming 59 per cent of Afghans view public dishonesty as a bigger concern than insecurity (54 per cent) and unemployment (52 per cent).”*

UNODC (2010)  
 Corruption in Afghanistan: bribery as reported by victims

## HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

*“This essay introduces the term ‘quiet corruption’ (...). These behaviours include both potentially observable deviations, such as absenteeism, but also hard to observe deviations from expected conduct, such as a lower level of effort than expected or the deliberate bending of rules for personal advantage.”*

IBRD/ World Bank (2010)  
 Silent and Lethal: How Quiet Corruption Undermines Africa’s Development Efforts

*“We must understand corruption’s costs, so that we do not simply sweep it under the rug in the name of reacting quickly and strongly to urgent human needs. We must understand corruption as a phenomenon of systems, rather than (just) of immoral individuals. And we must appreciate that systemic improvements have been made, even in very difficult settings.”*

Robert Klitgaard (2010)  
 Addressing Corruption in Haiti

### **Silent and Lethal: How Quiet Corruption Undermines Africa’s Development Efforts**

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2010  
 This essay draws on this year’s Africa Development Indicators and sheds light on the direct and indirect impact of “quiet” forms of corruption on development outcomes. “Quiet” corruption is broadly defined as various types of malpractice of providers that do not involve monetary exchanges and result in a failure to deliver public services of adequate quality that have been paid for by the government. In spite of their devastating impact on development, it is argued that such forms of corruption are not adequately captured by global measurement tools and largely escape public attention.  
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/>

### **Player and Referee: Conflicting Interests and the 2010 FIFA World Cup**

Institute for Security Studies, 2010  
 Mega events, like the FIFA 2010 World Cup are catalysts for competition – not only among football stars, but also among the many contenders in the private and public sectors who seek to benefit from multiple state tenders that flow from these highly financed events. Outcomes are vulnerable to manipulation through the use of influence, political pressure, bribes, fraud and extortion. This publication presents readers with six detailed case studies that explore the dynamics that gives rise to conflicts of interest. It provides policy makers an opportunity to reassess the integrity of mega event governance and reflect on weaknesses in a country’s anti-corruption framework.  
<http://www.iss.co.za/pgcontent.php?UID=29940>

## **FIGHTING CORRUPTION**

### **Addressing Corruption in Haiti**

Robert Klitgaard, 2010  
 In the wake of the 12 January earthquake, the Haitian President Rene Preval announced a new beginning to clean government and rid the country of corruption. In tandem with the vast aid pledges towards the reconstruction effort Haiti needs to ensure that funds are used effectively. Klitgaard provides a roadmap towards this goal with recommendations

towards building a strategy for reconstruction.  
<http://www.cgu.edu/>

### **Anti-corruption in the Health Sector: Strategies for Transparency and Accountability**

Taryn Vian, William D. Savedoff, Harald Mathisen, 2010  
*Anticorruption in the Health Sector* presents the experience of practitioners in tailoring anticorruption approaches specifically to the health sector. The contributors address the devastating impact of different forms of corruption on global health and governance and propose practical solutions to more effectively address these challenges at all levels of service delivery. This concise, user-friendly field guide includes compelling case studies with best practices examples from Africa, Central Europe and South America.  
<http://www.kpbooks.com/books/>

### **Curbing Corruption through Social Welfare Program? The effects of Mexico’s conditional cash transfer program on good government**

Marcia Grimes and Lena Wängnerud, 2009  
 This study looks for the first time at the overall effect of conditional cash transfer (CCT) programmes on corruption and the quality of governance. Striking evidence from Mexico suggests that CCT programs reduce opportunities for corruption in social welfare in the short run. However, these programmes seem to offer only limited opportunities or incentives for active involvement for beneficiaries in public life at community level, which may undermine a society’s capacities for social accountability in the long run.  
<http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/>

### **Overcoming Cultures of Compliance to Reduce Corruption and Achieve Ethics in Government**

James M. Lager, 2009  
 Despite heavy regulation and anti-corruption laws in the US incidents of corruption are still rife with numerous examples of public sector corruption in the recent past. This paper explores the role of compliance measures as a way of reducing corruption and argues that building a culture of ethics within government bodies would provide greater incentives for anti-corruption strategies.  
[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1492978](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1492978)

## ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

### CURRICULUM OF THE MONTH

#### **CORRUPTION, CONFLICT AND PEACE BUILDING** Tufts University, The Fletcher School

This course is a module of Tufts University Graduate Program. Developed by Cheyanne Scharbatke-Church of the Human Security Institute at the Fletcher School, it looks at the nexus between conflict, corruption and peace as a central issue in post-conflict state building. The course provides a comprehensive grounding in the basics of the corruption literature, reviews current approaches to anti-corruption measures at the policy and practice level, provides insights into how corruption and anti-corruption concepts can be applied to conflict environments.

#### **TEXTBOOKS AND COURSE READER**

- A. Heidenhimer and M. Johnston, eds., *Political corruption: concepts and contexts*, 2007

Some sample topics and examples of recommended readings include:

#### **Corruption in conflict, peacebuilding and human rights**

- C. Scharbatke-Church and K.

Reiling, *Pilfering the peace: the nexus between corruption and peacebuilding*, 2009

#### **Illicit power structures, embedded networks & transnational crime**

- L. Holmes, ed., *Terrorism, organized crime and corruption: networks and linkages*, 2007

#### **Corruption, reconstruction and emergency**

- K. Lattu, *To complain or not to complain: still the question*, 2008

#### **Anti-corruption measures in post-conflict scenarios: sensitivity and consequences**

- W. Reno, *Anti-corruption efforts in Liberia: are they aimed at the right targets?* 2008

#### **Illustrative Example: Corruption, Conflict and the Extractive Industry**

- J. Andvig, *Corruption and armed conflicts: some stirring around in the governance soup*, 2007

For more details on the course syllabus, please see:

<http://fletcher.tufts.edu/academic/course-descriptions.shtml>



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### MEET OUR CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

A group of 12 Contributing Editors, young scholars working on corruption research from a wide range of disciplines, are developing literature reviews of the latest and best in academic corruption research for the ACRN web platform. This section of the newsletter introduces our contributing editors to the ACRN community.

#### **YUJIN JEONG**

Yujin is Assistant Professor of International Business at HEC Montréal. Her working paper with Robert Weiner entitled, *Who Bribes? Evidence from the United Nation's Oil for Food Program* examines determinants of private-sector corruption in international trade, using the United Nation's (UN) Oil-for-Food Program (OFFP) as a natural laboratory. Under the OFFP, the Iraqi regime requested illicit surcharges from companies exporting oil, and companies helped Iraq circumvent UN sanctions through bribe payment. Using the detailed bribe data uncovered and published through an independent investigation, the study examines how firms react to bribe requests from a host country government (Iraq) and why some pay bribes, while others do not. A related, policy-focused paper will appear in *The Economics of Anti-Corruption Policy*, edited by Susan Rose-Ackerman and Tina Søreide.



Yujin's research addresses corporate governance, institutions, and the business-government relationship therein from an economics and finance perspective. Yujin has been a reviewer for the *Journal of International*

*Business Studies* and presented papers at various academic conferences in business and economics, including the American Economic Association, Canadian Economics Association, and the Academy of International Business meetings. She received her PhD (2010) and Joint MBA/MA (2005) degrees from The George Washington University and BA degree from Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea.

*The Anti-Corruption Research Network (ACRN) invites submissions from young researchers for its first ever anti-corruption research paper competition. The author of the winning paper will receive a scholarship to participate at the 14th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) to be held in November, 2010. For more information, please email: [fnawaz@transparency.org](mailto:fnawaz@transparency.org)*

## RESEARCH PROJECTS &amp; MARKETPLACE

*To advertise anti-corruption research jobs, events, courses and funding opportunities on ACRN's online platform and newsletter please contact Farzana Nawaz at:*  
[fnawaz@transparency.org](mailto:fnawaz@transparency.org)

***Coming Soon: ACRN's interactive online platform***

*ACRN is built around an interactive online platform which will be launched in the coming weeks.*

*As an interactive tool, it will allow users to pull resources together, showcase research and findings and connect with other experts around the globe. ACRN members will also have privileged access to jobs, events, courses and funding opportunities.*

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Access to Information in Health and Education Service Delivery**

Global Integrity and the World Bank are developing a core set of actionable indicators to explore the correlation between citizens' access to information and their ability to demand better health and education services. This project seeks to unpack the hypothesised impact of access to information on empowerment and participation in public service delivery in lower income countries. Within this framework, Global integrity is looking for potential partner organisations to pilot the indicators in one local government unit. To know more about this project, please contact Norah Mallaney at:  
[info@globalintegrity.org](mailto:info@globalintegrity.org)

**The Lab "Project on Institutional Corruption"**

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics of Harvard University has launched a 5 year research project ("the Lab") to study institutional corruption. The work of the Lab will be both empirical and normative. While both perspectives will be present throughout, the early work will be weighted to gathering data, and the later towards developing practical responses to any systemic problems identified.  
<http://www.ethics.harvard.edu/lab>

**Transparency and Accountability Project (TAP)**

The Brookings Institute has established the TAP project to improve governance in developing countries. The project focuses on three areas – increased capacity of civil society organizations to monitor and analyse public expenditure processes, motivate improvements in public expenditure management, and complement the work of partner organizations to strengthen impact.  
<http://www.brookings.edu/projects/transparency-accountability.aspx>

## RESEARCH MARKET PLACE

## Jobs and Consultancies

- **Overseas Development Institute (ODI)** offers the post of a Research Fellow on Aid and Development Financing in the Poverty and Public Policy Group, based in London, UK.  
<http://www.odi.org.uk/jobs/default.asp>
- **Centre for Development Finance (CDF)** at the Institute for Financial Management and Research is seeking a Program Head to play a leading role in developing and driving CDF's research agenda on infrastructure and governance. The position is based in Chennai, India.  
<http://ifmr-cdf.in/>
- **The Institute for Security Studies (ISS)** seeks a **Deputy Research Director** based at their head office in Pretoria. The successful candidate will lead the development, management and oversight of the institutional ISS research and training policy and formulate dissemination strategies for all ISS research products.  
<http://www.iss.co.za/>
- **Tiri**, an international NGO, is looking for a Programme Director for their Network for Integrity in Reconstruction based in London, UK.  
<http://www.tiri.org/>

## Fellowships

- **Social Research Center (SRC) at the American University of Central Asia** is seeking Visiting Research Fellows to be based at its research center in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.  
<http://src.auca.kg/>

*(Fellowship opportunities continued on next page)*

## ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

### RESEARCH MARKETPLACE

- **Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)** is accepting applications for **Senior Visiting Research Fellows**. Senior academic scholars with extensive research experience are invited to spend six to twelve months at the institution spearheading research in the areas of 'Growth and Poverty', 'Vulnerability and Social Protection', Climate Change, Governance, and Service Provision. <http://www.repoa.or.tz/>

#### Calls for Papers, Projects and Articles

- **The Anti-Corruption Research Network (ACRN)** would like to invite submissions from young researchers for its first ever **anti-corruption research paper competition**. This competition gives young researchers an opportunity to showcase their research work and present innovative approaches for measuring and understanding corruption. The author of the winning paper will receive a scholarship to participate at the 14th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) to be held in November, 2010. For more information, please email [fnawaz@transparency.org](mailto:fnawaz@transparency.org)
- **The African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA)** invites readers to submit contributions on current issues on peacekeeping in Africa for its online bulletin: '**Peacekeeping This Month**'. Successful contributors receive a token honorarium. Contributions must be received before or on the 15th of every month.

#### Internships

- **Global Financial Integrity (GFI)** offers unpaid policy and economic internships for college and graduate school students willing to understand the linkages between illicit capital flight and poverty. Internships are available for fall 2010. <http://www.gfip.org/>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Conferences

- **International Conference on Anti-Corruption, Good Governance, and Human Rights**, Paris, France, 28-30 June 2010  
This conference organised by the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology will bring together academic scientists, industry experts and student scholars around issues of corruption, governance, and human rights. <http://www.waset.org/>

#### Training and Courses

- **Summer School on Organised Crime**, K.U. Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, 28 June – 9 July 2010.  
This course targeting both practitioners and academics focuses on the challenges of organised crime and its control in contemporary Europe. <http://www.law.kuleuven.be/>
- **The Integrity Summer School**, Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary, 5-14 July 2010  
This 6<sup>th</sup> annual course jointly organised by CEU and TIRI offers three parallel courses on "leadership and Management for Integrity", "Pro-Poor Integrity" and "Integrity in Political Society". <http://www.sun.ceu.hu/>
- **The Economics of Corruption**, University of Passau, 9-16 October 2010  
This annual anti-corruption training targets anti-corruption policy makers, practitioners, graduate and post graduate students in the social sciences. A draft programme of the event can be accessed at: <http://www.icgg.org/>



#### RESTORING TRUST: GLOBAL ACTION FOR TRANSPARENCY

*The 14th IACC will take place on 10-13 November 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand.*

*For more information please visit [www.14iacc.org](http://www.14iacc.org)*