



ANTICORRUPTION
for **DEVELOPMENT**

Anticorruption for Development Global Program

Corruption remains one of the most significant barriers to eradicating extreme poverty and securing shared prosperity on a livable planet. It erodes basic human rights and trust in government, undermines the institutional framework needed to create jobs, hurts the social contract, and contributes to fragility, violence, and conflict. Reducing corruption is crucial for sustainable and inclusive development and for financial and natural resources to be used for productive purposes. To help close the financing gap, support for building the capacity of countries to fight corruption needs to be complemented by efforts to address the enablers of illicit financial flows. The World Bank Group is adopting a more integrative approach to tackling corruption to better address its transnational nature while attacking the persistent challenges it presents to development outcomes in health, education, access to economic opportunities, and the welfare of societies.

HOW WE WORK

In July 2024, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors established a new strategy for the institution's approach to combatting corruption. Acknowledging the complex and interconnected nature of corruption, the renewed approach on anticorruption stresses four key themes focused on both deepening the understanding of them – such as beneficial ownership and illicit financial flows - and enhancing ongoing efforts through innovative data, new tools and closer collaboration and partnerships. These four themes form the basis of the work of the Anticorruption for Development (AC4D) Global Program.



**Beneficial ownership
transparency and tackling
illicit financial flows**



**Curbing corruption
in public procurement**



**Leveraging data
and technology**



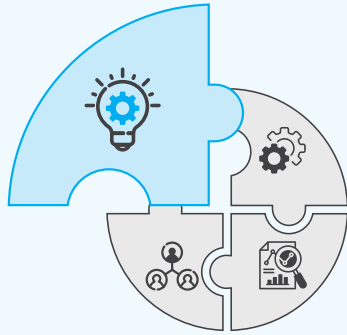
**Strengthening institutions
of accountability**



WORLD BANK GROUP
Institutions

ACTIVITY AREAS

Guided by the four core themes, we undertake various activities ranging from generating new knowledge and tools, to supporting countries in their work to tackle issues related to these matters. The range of activities can be distilled into four key spaces:



Knowledge and Innovation

Beneficial Ownership Transparency: curating evidence on impacts

The AC4D Global Program is working with the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), Open Ownership and other partners to generate insights on the effectiveness and impacts of beneficial ownership reforms (BOT). The team is also developing a beneficial ownership reform implementation toolkit as a guideline for [governments undertaking such efforts](#).

Knowledge on GovTech tools for curbing corruption in service delivery

GovTech tools are [playing an increasing role in reducing risks for corruption](#) in services in health, education, water, social protection, tax, business regulation, and other sectors. Drawing on various case studies, the AC4D Global Program is working on synthesizing the experiences and insights from the implementation of various GovTech tools to raise the visibility of these innovative approaches and support their adoption in countries.

Addressing the risks of corruption in the response to climate change

Corruption risks are present in all areas of climate action: adaptation, mitigation, and the green transition. Large volumes of financing for climate mitigation are at risk due to the low capacity of oversight institutions in countries where climate disasters may be most serious and costly. The AC4D Global Program is working with NGOs, think tanks and other international partners to better [define these risks and generate knowledge and advice to address them](#).



Data and Analytics

Anticorruption Lab

Our Anticorruption Lab is supporting experimentation, learning, and piloting new data, tools, diagnostics, analytics and AI to better identify corruption risks in public resources such as tax revenue, public expenditure and service delivery. We are working with academia and development partners to leverage expertise and scale up results to inform evidence-based policy responses by governments in:

- **The [Procurement Anticorruption and Transparency Platform \(ProACT\)](#).** Procurement data analytics and benchmarking can enable users to monitor and analyze the performance of public procurement systems, assess the transparency of procurement processes, and identify possible integrity risks. This analysis can help strengthen the ability of governments to take preventive actions, improve efficiency, and quantify the costs of corruption in procurement.
- **Advancing the evidence base on grand corruption and illicit financial flows (IFFs).** The AC4D Global Program in collaboration with the UK's FCDO is developing new diagnostic tools and methods to better assess the risks and prevalence of illicit financial flows linked to grand corruption. This will inform better policy proposals to address institutional vulnerabilities and other enablers of illicit financial flows and grand corruption.
- **Developed big data solutions for detecting corruption risks in public resources.** Analyzing large data sets related to tax revenue collection and public expenditures can help governments gain insights into risks for fraud and corruption. The World Bank has developed the [Government Risk Assessment System \(GRAS\)](#), a data-analytics based framework designed to detect fraud, corruption and collusion in procurement contracts. This tool was piloted in Brazil and has also been applied in data-rich settings such as Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, South Africa, and Indonesia.
- **Strengthening institutions of accountability.** The AC4D Global Program engages with civil society to support the development of tools and digital platforms that strengthen the accountability of public sector institutions.



Operational Support

Calibrating and tailoring GRAS to less-developed budget and procurement settings

To date, GRAS has primarily been tested and implemented in advanced digital environments with open data, such as Brazil and Colombia. The team is now working to adapt the tool for use in countries with lower levels of openness and technical advancement. Recognizing the specific challenges faced in such systems, the team aims to leverage GRAS's significant potential to help these countries enhance system efficiency and identify corruption risks. Participating countries, potentially including Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, Rwanda, and Kenya, will receive recommendations, analytical tools, and an outline of the steps towards establishing a red flag system for public expenditure.

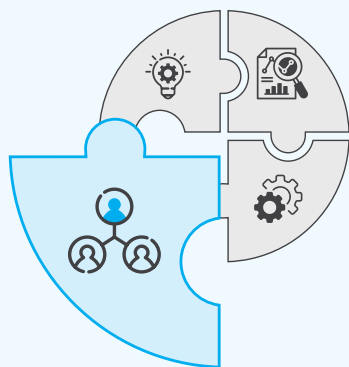
In countries such as Guatemala, North Macedonia, and several African countries (Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda), the team supports efforts to strengthen red flag systems for identifying corruption risks in procurement and tailoring GRAS-developed solutions to each

country's context. The team also provides training and technical assistance to institutions that promote accountability, such as supreme audit institutions, on tools for detecting corruption risks.

Country-specific Technical Support for Beneficial Ownership Transparency reforms

The AC4D Global Program supports the implementation of [beneficial ownership transparency reforms](#) by client governments and provides [guidance on how to deliver these reforms effectively](#). Support to countries includes diagnostics, legal reviews, IT system enhancements, and institutional capacity building with the aim of improving transparency, combating corruption, and aligning with global standards.

- In **Bhutan and Sri Lanka**, efforts focus on strengthening the BOT framework by improving data collection, upgrading IT infrastructure, updating and aligning legal provisions with international standards, and building capacity among key stakeholders.
- In the **Philippines and Guatemala**, the World Bank is assisting with the integration of beneficial ownership disclosure into the procurement system, developing a dedicated procurement BO register, and providing guidance on legal, technical, and capacity-building aspects. In Guatemala, the team is also supporting a critical review of legislation on money laundering and on beneficial ownership transparency.



Partnership and Convening

Join the AC4D Global Partnership! Progress in combatting corruption [benefits from coordination and collaboration across](#) civil society organizations, public sector agencies, academia, the private sector, international development organizations, and bilateral development agencies. For example, tools and digital platforms developed by civil society organizations are increasingly important in supporting government efforts to combat corruption. The AC4D Global Partnership convenes these stakeholders in global fora and working groups to foster such coordination and collaboration.

- **Anticorruption Global Fora.** The AC4D Global Program and the International Corruption Hunters Alliance hosted the [Partnerships for Anticorruption Global Forum](#) on April 8-9, 2025, in Washington, D.C. The event brought together over 400 partners and experts from government, academia, civil society, private sector and international development organizations. Featuring a [keynote address by 2024 Nobel laureate, Daron Acemoglu](#), the Forum emphasized the importance of partnerships in tackling corruption's transnational dimensions. Previously, on June 26-27, 2023, the first [Anticorruption for Development Forum](#) convened over 220 partners and experts united in the fight against corruption.

- **Working Group on Beneficial Ownership Transparency.** Supported by the World Bank and the UK's FCDO, the [BOT Working Group](#) seeks to foster dialogue and innovation and enhance collaboration among international organizations, think tanks, academic institutions, and development partners to advance the beneficial ownership reform agenda. Its primary focus is to discuss and gather evidence on the effectiveness and impacts of BO reforms and registers, leading to improved policy design and dialogue.
- **Working Group on Anticorruption in Procurement.** Supported by the World Bank and co-chaired by the Open Contracting Partnership and the Government Transparency Institute, this [Working Group](#) aims to promote the effective and equitable use of public resources in procurement systems. Its members from government, civil society and international organizations exchange knowledge, support relevant experience, and contribute to global knowledge products to address key risks such as insider influence, bribery, bid-rigging, and other integrity challenges in procurement. [Learn more and join a working group](#)

