

Engaging Civil Society in the Fight against Corruption

14th Commonwealth Regional Conference for Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Africa

Kempinski Gold Coast City Hotel, Accra, Ghana: 6 – 11 May 2024

Dr. Hady Fink
Advisor, PTF Europe
8 May 2024

Key Messages

- 1. CS is a main stakeholder** that can and should play a key role in national AC efforts.
- 2. CS can be a valuable resource** for ACAs – that is often not used (sufficiently).
- 3. PTF can support ACAs** in successfully engaging CS in their work.

- 1. How can Civil Society contribute to national AC efforts?***
- 2. Why should ACAs engage with Civil Society?***
- 3. What support can PTF offer?***

- 1. How can Civil Society contribute to national AC efforts?***
- 2. Why should ACAs engage with Civil Society?*
- 3. What support can PTF offer?*

Civil Society and the Fight against Corruption

- **General Public and Civil Society**

- Victims: most vulnerable are least able to fight it
- Organization: depends on sector, objective, duration, funding, capacity
- Level: local, national, international CSOs
- Objectives: few focus on fighting Corruption directly

- **Civil Society engagement can take many shapes**

- Knowledge: research, policy analysis, etc.
- Outreach: awareness, education, national strategy
- Transparency and Accountability: Third Party Monitoring

Third Party Monitoring: a strong pillar of AC work

- **Concept**

- Idea: independent verification of activities, programs, and results
- Coverage: entire project/budget cycle (procurement, implementation, budget monitoring, assessment of impact on communities/ beneficiaries)
- Added value: efficiency, prevention, risk mitigation, replicability, trust, and accountability

- **Experience (examples)**

- Countries: Bangladesh, Nepal, Moldova, Ukraine, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia
- Sectors: Health, Education, Public Procurement, Environment

Education: Service Delivery



Ghana: Reduction of gender-specific and regional education gaps

- Donor funded, implemented by PTF and local partner (SAVE Ghana)
- Combat teacher absenteeism by monitoring through a mobile app in combination with other non-confrontational activities
- Attendance of teachers significantly improved significantly (by over 10%)..



Health: Service Delivery & Procurement



www.u4.no/publications/civil-society-monitoring-in-the-health-sector



U4 Practice Insight 2022:2

Civil society monitoring in the health sector

The Partnership for Transparency Fund's work to ensure clean procurement and quality service provision

Authors

Hady Fink
Sarah Steingrüber
Vinay Bhargava

Series editors

Monica Kirya
Daniela Cepeda Cuadrado

CMI CHR.
MICHELSEN
INSTITUTE

This publication has been prepared as part of the project "Increasing the integrity in public procurement", implemented by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS "Viitorul", in partnership with the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF).

The newsletter was prepared with the financial assistance of the Transparency Partnership Fund. The content is the sole responsibility of IDIS "Viitorul" and the opinions of individual contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of IDIS "Viitorul" and PTF.



MONITORING MOLDOVA'S PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Newsletter no. 1 (May 2021)

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

THE INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN MONITORING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE



In the Republic of Moldova, public procurement remains an area vulnerable to irregularities, fraud, and corruption. The large amount of money circulating in the public procurement system and the frequent interactions between the public and private sectors make public procurement extremely vulnerable and a priority area of concern for the integrity of public

3 | NEWS

A new digital tool for analyzing open data from the MTender system has been launched

5 | LEGISLATION

IDIS "Viitorul" and AGER: Proposals for the Regulation on certification in the field of public procurement

7 | OPINION

Public Procurement: CSO Monitoring

Moldova: Increasing the Integrity of Public Procurement

- Donor funded, PTF and local partner CSO (IDIS "Viitorul")
- Phased long-term program: 5 years, 4 phases, USD1.7m
- "Eco-system" of CSO Monitoring:
 1. Grants Program
 2. Digital Platform
 3. Coalition of Monitors
 4. National Platform on PP



CS can meaningfully contribute to national AC efforts

- **Local level**

- Capacity: increased competence and willingness to monitor
- Transparency and accountability: case-related findings, better service delivery, value for money in procurement

- **National level**

- Contribution to ACA programs: infrastructure for monitoring, improvements of the system (laws, regulations, data provision, etc.)
- Research and dialogue: to inform policy decisions, draft laws, strategies

- 1. How can Civil Society contribute to national AC efforts?*
- 2. Why should ACAs engage with Civil Society?**
- 3. What can PTF offer to ACAs?*

Opportunities and Challenges for ACAs

- **Strengths and weaknesses**

- Assets: Expertise, experience, network and access to the community
- Risks: own agenda, changes in personnel, focus, affiliation, etc.

- **Engaging with CSOs involves challenges**

- Reliability: uncertainty about continuity of efforts
- Independence: ACA cannot control CSOs
- Agenda: goal of holding gov't accountable is a challenge for both sides

Civil Society can be a valuable resource for ACAs

- **Key part of the success of ACAs**

- Mission and Mandate requires many ACAs to work with the public
- Lack of data to evaluate work of ACAs and importance of perceptions
- Resources and expertise through technical knowledge of CSOs

- **Support for ACA and its work**

- Communication: reach the public (awareness, credibility, perceptions)
- Implementation: projects on the local level
- Support: contribute to ACA projects and reform on the national level, support against enemies

- 1. How can Civil Society contribute to national AC efforts?*
- 2. Why should ACAs engage with Civil Society?*
- 3. What can PTF offer to ACAs?**

Partnership for Transparency

- **International CSO:** HQ in Washington DC; affiliates in Europe (Germany) and Asia (Philippines); special committee for Africa
- **Volunteer-based:** 70+ advisors with highly specialized expertise and experience in the international cooperation context
- **Approach:** cooperate with local CSOs to fight corruption, strengthen transparency, increase accountability
- **Track record:** founded in 2000, collaborated with 160+ local CSOs on more than 285 projects in approximately 55 countries



www.ptfund.org

Our Support for ACAs to Engage Civil Society

- **Role and Added Value**

- Technical Expertise: in the fight against corruption
- Experience: public sector, CSOs, international AC and donor community
- Mediator: neutral partner, no political agenda or financial interest
- Network: trusted local partners and international AC community

- **Potential Support**

- Capacity Building: virtual, in-country engagement depends on funds
- Strategic Advice: concepts for engaging civil society
- Partner: program design, dialogue, potential to jointly apply for funding

Key Messages

- 1. CS is a main stakeholder** that can and should play a key role in national AC efforts.
- 2. CS can be a valuable resource** for ACAs – that is often not used (sufficiently).
- 3. PTF can support ACAs** in successfully engaging CS in their work.



Thank you!

Dr. Hady Fink

Partnership for Transparency Europe

hfink@ptfund.org

www.ptfeurope.org

@PTFund