

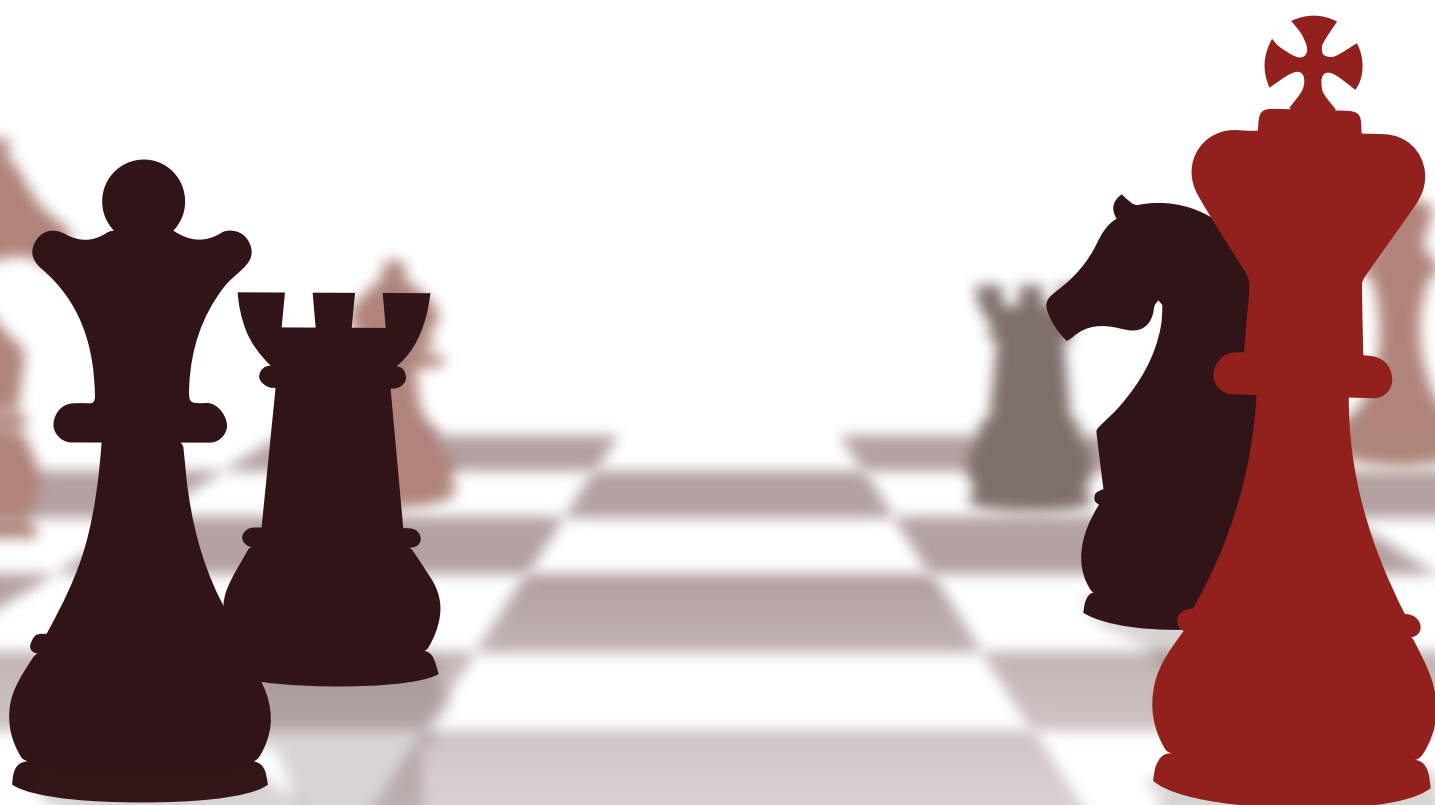


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ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGIES:

UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS, WHAT DOESN'T AND WHY?

Lessons learned from the Asia-Pacific region



United Nations Development Programme

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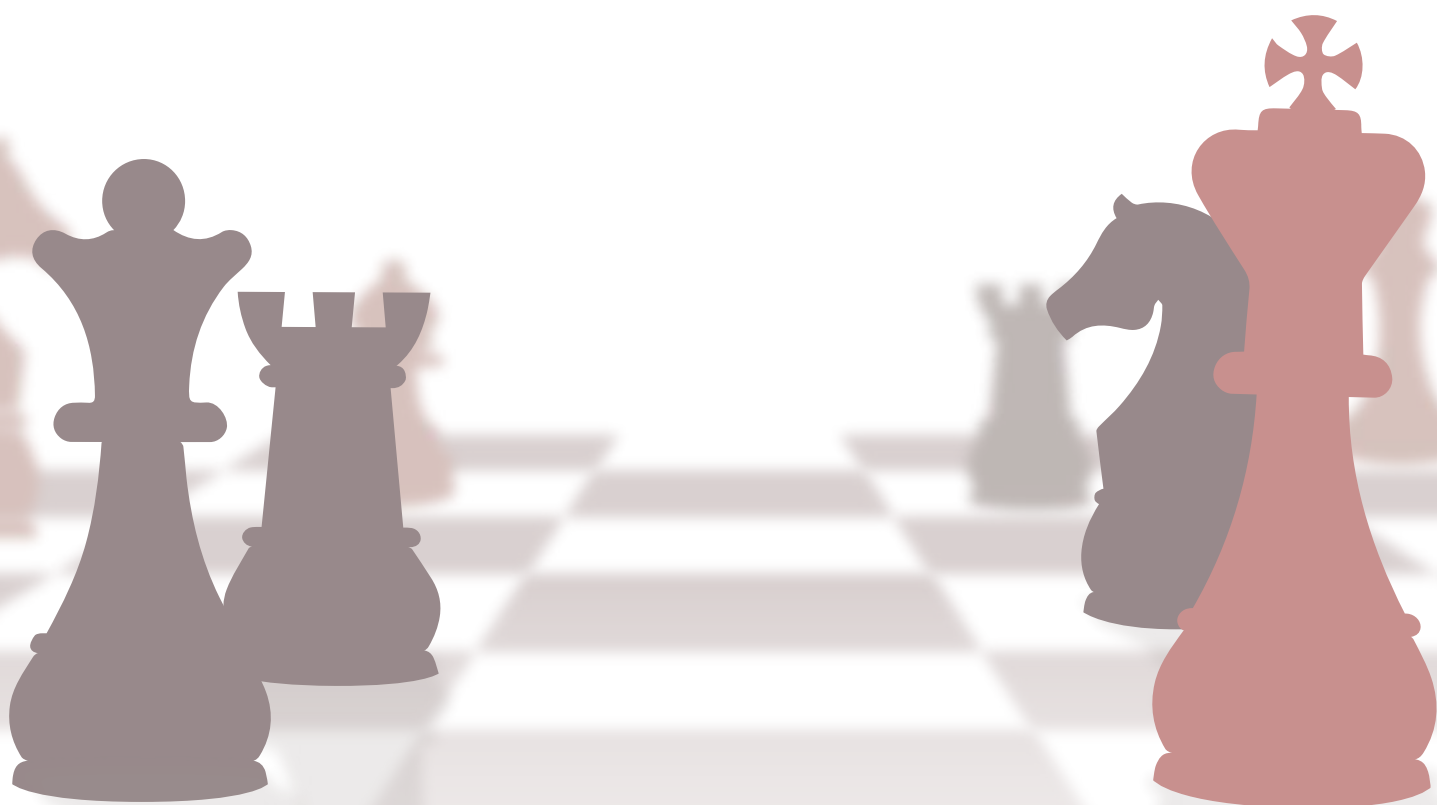


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Foreword

Despite the rapid economic growth in many countries in the Asia-Pacific region, poor governance and corruption remain a major challenge to human development by fuelling inequalities and undermining access to public services. We live in a region where inequalities are rising, where the largest number of people living in extreme poverty reside 743 million, and an almost equal number, or 700 million people live without electricity.

To curb corruption fourteen countries in the Asia-Pacific region have so far drafted an anti-corruption strategy that is a country's comprehensive anti-corruption policy document to coordinate national anti-corruption action. The development of anti-corruption strategies has often been driven by the efforts of States Parties to implement preventive measures under the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The experience with anti-corruption strategies in the region has shown that strategies can be useful to articulate a long-term vision against corruption when developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. At the United Nations Development Programme we emphasise the critical importance of engaging stakeholders beyond government against corruption – including youth, women, civil society as well as local communities – to change attitudes and make a real impact on people's daily lives.

However the lack of implementation and monitoring of anti-corruption strategies has raised questions on their effectiveness in practice. Recognising this caveat the United Nations Development Programme Bangkok Regional Hub (UNDP BRH), with the support of the Global Anti-corruption Initiative, as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have partnered in helping countries in the region in developing and monitoring strategies.

UNDP organised together with UNODC a regional conference hosted by the government of Malaysia with representatives from anti-corruption and national planning authorities in October 2013, which produced the *Kuala Lumpur Statement on Anti-Corruption Strategies*. Initially developed as guidance at the regional level for helping countries develop, implement and monitor strategies, the Kuala Lumpur Statement on Anti-Corruption Strategies has become part of the global normative framework against corruption. It was endorsed by the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption in November 2013 in Panama as part of Resolution 5/4: "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption".

This report reviews the experiences of fourteen countries in the region in designing, implementing, and monitoring anti-corruption strategies as well as the drivers for developing these strategies. It also calls for using evidence-based corruption measurement tools to develop and evaluate anti-corruption strategies effectively. This is essential to avoid that anti-corruption strategies remain mere declaration of intent and ensure that anti-corruption efforts are result-based.

We hope that the report will provide useful guidance for countries in the region in developing, implementing and evaluating anti-corruption strategies. UNDP remains committed to supporting partner governments in the region in this critical area for development.



We have many partners to thank. This report would not have been possible without the investment made by the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub and the Global Anti-corruption Initiative. Special thanks go to the representatives from government and international organisations who actively participate in the discussions at the Regional Meeting on Anti-Corruption Strategies in Kuala Lumpur, organised by UNDP in partnership with the Government of Malaysia and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

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Acronyms Used

ACA	Anti-Corruption Agency
ACRC	Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
BRH	Bangkok Regional Hub
BPI	Bribe Payers' Index
CIAA	Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CPIB	Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau
CVC	Country Vulnerability to Corruption
CoC	Control of Corruption
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GII	Global Integrity Index
GCB	Global Corruption Barometer
HDI	Human Development Index
HOOAC	High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
KPK	Corruption Eradication Commission
MACC	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission
MEC	Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NIS	National Integrity System
NKRA	National Key Result Areas
NPCC	National Program for Countering Corruption
NVC	National Vigilance Council
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAC	Public Affairs Centre

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