Joint Assessment of Interventions re their 'out of fragility 'relevance: Anti-corruption
15 March 2016, **14:00-15:30**

WORKING TEAM 3

Resource Person: Viktor Popovic

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Rapporteur to the plenary: *Designated by working group*

Case example Anti Corruption
Corruption perception in the Western Balkans is (among) the highest in all European countries and trust into public institutions (among) the lowest. In one Western Balkan country with SDC support, in the last four years over 4,000 corruption cases have been reported by citizens through the web-platform www.kallxo.com. 10% of these cases were investigated by an NGO specialised into fighting corruption, 64 cases were forwarded to the judiciary, resulting in 24 disciplinary processes and investigations by the prosecution. These results were made widely public.

Aim of working group

- The team has analysed fragility in the context of the case example;
- The team has developed supportive and "critical" arguments on the relevance of the case example for its contribution to "out of fragility".
- The team reflected on how the "out of fragility" dimension could potentially be further developed.

IMPORTANT: This team work is NOT about judging the quality of the project that inspired the case example, but to enrich SDC's perspective on the link between governance reforms and contributions to "out of fragility".

SETP 1: Short input of 5 minutes by resource person Viktor Popovic

STEP 2: How does the (perceived) wide spread of corruption add to fragility?

Discuss the following questions:

- How do citizens in the Western Balkans perceive corruption? What are three common answers of citizen when asked about corruption?
- What are citizens' strategies to cope with corruption and how does it influence their trust in the state? Does it also influence their trust into other citizens?
- List the three biggest concerns of citizens in West Balkan related to corruption (e.g. perceptions of impartiality of the state, or affordability of services).
- How does pervasive corruption influence the state-society relationship?

STEP 3: What may be the out of fragility relevance of anti-corruption measures?

Please elaborate, taking the relevance requirements and the 'hints' below into account.

Remember: General requirements for 'out of fragility' relevance
(Amended from Peacebuilding and State building Policy of SDC)
(1) *Improves living conditions* and development perspectives of many (in an ideal case all) citizens visibly and short to medium term.
(2) *Reduces causes of conflict* and makes many citizens socially, economically and politically better included short to medium term.
(3) *Increases the state- society capacity to cope with crisis* e.g. if a natural catastrophe hits or an external stress such as an inflow of migrants/refugees suddenly increases.
(4) *Makes processes and institutions more legitimate* in the eyes of many citizens; they believe public matters are done "right" and in the interest of the majority of the people.

Possible arguments for the out of fragility dimension of the 'anti-corruption' case could be:
- State administrations at all levels deliver services that are 'free' and paid through taxes. If public officials focus their spending on activities that likely yield large bribes (i.e. major public works, foreign investment) people will not receive other services that will not produce such yields. This may strongly impede the prospects of better living conditions of citizens in the Western Balkans (relates to (1) above).
- Conflicts often stem from the perception that some groups in a society receive much more than others. This perception of unfairness or injustice strongly hampers trust between different groups within a society. Particularly large scale corruption has often links to organized crime, which also impacts on the security situation in a country. Anti-corruption measures thus may improve trust between different groups of citizens and thus reduce conflict potential, beyond improving trust of citizens in public authorities (related to (2) above). Apart from the potential link to organized crime, corruption discourages private sector investments and may lead to bypassing environmental protection regulations in the pursuit of quick profits. This may undermine the development perspectives for many citizens (relates to (1) above).
- Disaster recovery generates opportunities for profit, both legitimate and illegitimate ones. It is mainly the urgent reconstruction of large infrastructure that presents opportunities for corruption. Anti-corruption programs may therefore help to establish trust during 'normal' time, but – because of this well known risk – need to be in place for if and when crisis happens (relates to (3) above).
- The positive impact on legitimacy of anti-corruption measures seems obvious: service delivery supports the performance legitimacy of the state at all levels. The most important element in terms of legitimate service delivery is 'fairness' thus, equal access to services for all and the principle of impartiality (relates to (4) above).

STEP 4: Prepare **a 7 min input** and list your open questions to the plenary
Based on the discussion above, please visualize on a flip chart:

- What is the team's assumption on how such an anti-corruption project could make a relevant contribution to 'out of fragility'? The team is welcome to visualize the causes and effects leading to a (positive) change in fragility ("theory of change").
- Does the case example already have a good 'out of fragility' relevance? If yes: why? If not: how could the case example be further developed to make a relevant contribution out of fragility? The team is welcome to think hypothetical, including ideas that may be costly, unusual or include risks.
- Please summarize questions for the fragility experts from swisspeace, ISSH or SDC that came up during the discussions.

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