Summary of Main Results of the Survey on Anti-Corruption projects among DDLG Network Members

1. Anti-Corruption Programmes

SDC is supporting specific Anti-Corruption projects in 7 countries of operation (Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Bhutan, Kosovo, Rumania, Tanzania and Ukraine). The main thematic focus lies on the development of national anti-corruption strategies, legal frameworks, advocacy work and the direct support of National Anti-Corruption Agencies; we also work with local governments and institutions of different sectors to introduce mechanisms of social accountability. One other important anti-corruption topic is asset recovery.

1.1 Examples for specific Anti-Corruption Projects

"Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)[1]: Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change"

Intervention Strategy:

The project is a core contribution (together with other donors) to the work of the Bangladesh chapter of Transparency International which is one of the leading watch dog civil society organisations and has acquired longstanding experience in combatting corruption. The national level research and advocacy is prominent in public debates and triggers strong reactions by Government (positive as well as negative). It is currently in its second phase and builds on achievements of phase 1 (TIB "Paribartan"- Driving Change Project"), which resulted in tangible benefits and interesting findings on what works and what not.

The intervention strategy is a **combined approach of evidence based advocacy at local and national levels, strengthening anti-corruption movements and seeking dialogue with public institutions:** it foresees **a)** research-based advocacy work at national level, actively seeking dialogue with key national Integrity institutions (Parliament, Judiciary etc.) and in 5 identified sectors (health, education, local governments, land and climate finance); **b)** to further strengthen civic engagement including awareness raising and capacity development for members of the anti-corruption grassroots movement and allied civil society organisations; and **c)** to consolidate and upscale mechanisms of public oversight/social accountability and dialogue (e.g. score cards, face-the-public-meetings, integrity pacts) in a larger number of local public institutions (e.g. schools, hospitals, local governments). During phase 1, the scale and sustainability of local level changes did not fully meet project expectations and TIB did not manage to transform local results into systemic change within the targeted sectors. Practice changes cannot be secured without institutional safeguards and effective accountability systems. It will therefore be interesting to see whether the envisioned spill over effect of social accountability mechanisms and anchoring in the sectors, in future, will be successful. This will be particularly challenging in the increasingly authoritarian political context in Bangladesh.

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1   Transparency International is another partner of SDC in Bhutan, (see Evaluation results) and SDC Cambodia also foresees a contribution to Transparency International Cambodia strategy 2017 -2020 with focus on collaboration with Private Sector in Cambodia.

"Social and institutional change is not a linear process but rather experiences setbacks and needs continuous strategic adaptation and tailored response to be sustained. In this respect it is very important to have a strong results framework and knowledge management strategy."

Democratic Governance Programme DG+ (2013-2017) in Bhutan

Intervention Strategy:

SDC has for a decade supported a **comprehensive anti-corruption agenda** as part of its assistance to Bhutan's democratic transition. It has tackled corruption head on and from multiple angles: **i)** supporting the development of a strong and independent **Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)** which was created in 2006; **ii)** investing in **public education** – especially in schools – to install a zero tolerance culture; **iii) mainstreaming integrity** into the public service and private sector; and finally **iv)** by **activating civil society** for the anti-corruption cause.

The first phase of support was a high-intensity institutional development project specifically targeting the newly created Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). It succeeded in developing the ACC into a strong and independent institution, capable of conducting the investigation of corruption cases and act as a deterrent while also engaging in public education. The second phase of support since 2013 is emphasizing more strongly the mainstreaming of anti-corruption efforts across public institutions and the private sector while further professionalizing the ACC, fostering public awareness and enhancing civil society engagement (value education in schools, research and communication of corruption cases by supporting Bhutan Transparency International). The instrument for the mainstreaming approach is the Government's National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy (NIACS) 2014-2018, developed by the ACC with technical assistance from Swiss experts. All government agencies have concluded performance agreements with the Prime Minister, against which anti-corruption measures have to be taken and regularly reported (Annual Performance Agreement Monitoring System). Trainings for important related State institutions, such as Judiciary, Police etc., and National Workshops including the Private Sector are other applied instruments for advancing the NIACS. Complementary projects of SDC target the legal sector and local governance.

As SDC is phasing-out from Bhutan, the programme is closing in 2017. However, many lessons can be drawn from the successful engagement and can be found in detail on survey evaluation list. In addition, an Asia Brief dedicated to this programme is being published soon. SDC office highlights "that there are **very competent people in Bhutan** that have now finished their terms with a good and very sound track record in anti-corruption (and are thus beyond any possible reproach). These are **credible and convincing peers**".

Importantly SDC was able to **rely on a pool of Switzerland-based experts** from the Basel Institute of Governance to accompany the programme. "The Swissness of the institute and the globally recognized expertise were strong assets."

Quotes of survey participant:

"Effective anti-corruption interventions should rest on several pillars: 1. Deterrence (investigation and prosecution of high-profile cases); 2. Public Education; 3. Engagement of Civil Society; 4. Mainstreaming into the Public Service (and Private Sector), 5. Legal Frameworks (including UNCAC and national legislation)."

"In order for the champion of change to effectuate systemic change, it must itself first become a credible actor that adopts the highest standards of transparency, accountability and professionalism – this requires commitment from the very top (while civil society plays a role in the longer-term development of a culture of non-tolerance to corruption) and, probably, high investments from the donor."

Support to Anticorruption Efforts in Kosovo (SAEK II)

Intervention Strategy:

In Kosovo corruption is an outstanding problem and perceived as the highest in the Western Balkans. SDC's contribution to SAEK was originally foreseen as a single phase. However, the 2015 SAEK I review clearly recommended a continuation of the program, acknowledging its good results but also pointing at the dimension of the problem: high prevalence, limited political willingness and limited capacities of the anti-corruption institutions.

SAEK aims to reduce administrative corruption in selected targeted public institutions which are considered most prone to corruption, to be further sustained by increased citizen's demand for accountability. **Integrity plans and rewarding** politically willing institutions (50% of municipalities and 30% of central level institutions shall be targeted) focus on prevention to generate urgently needed **"champions"** of anti-corruption, while in parallel the capacities of anti-corruption institutions are built up and the **voice** of **citizens and civil society** further strengthened.

As a result of SAEK I over 4,000 corruption cases have been reported by citizens through the **web-platform** kallxo.com. 10% of these cases were investigated by the kallxo.com team, 64 cases were forwarded to the judiciary, resulting in 24 disciplinary processes and investigations by the prosecution. An affirmed watchdog civil society and outspoken critical media, both supported by SAEK I, play an important role in a sustained public discourse about corruption to increase public pressure and generate political will to effectively fight corruption in the medium term.

Corruption Risk Assessments (CRA) in the Health, Education, Energy and Mining sectors were developed. - Triggered by the Health CRA, the patients 'association (with SAEK support) created **Ombudsperson** for Health in Pristina and Prizren.

Quote of survey participant:

"SAEK is relevant to the development challenges in the field of anti-corruption, targeting both demand and supply sides through transparency initiatives and institutional strengthening".

2. Targeted Anti-Corruption measures within governance and different sector programmes

SDC is supporting targeted Anti-Corruption measures within comprehensive democratisation, decentralisation and local governance or other sector programs in not less than 15 countries of operation (Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Burundi, Cuba, Kosovo, Mali, Mongolia, Niger, Nicaragua, Serbia, and Macedonia, Tanzania). The main target of these projects is to improve the environment for local democracy, increase the level of transparency/accountability of public institutions at local level and support the better interaction between public authorities and civil society organisations; the empowerment and mobilization of the civil society organizations, including the media, plays an important role, too. Concrete approaches of such interventions are e.g.

the strengthening of public finance management at local level, the improvement of public procurement processes, the enhancement of municipality audits, the establishment of discussion platforms, the communication on communal/municipal activities, the production and dissemination of civic education programs, the support of media organizations, etc.

2.1 Examples for such targeted Anti-Corruption measures

Programme Redevabilité (Accountability) in Benin

Intervention strategy:

The project targets to **a)** support civil society organizations to better interact with public authorities: establishment of mechanisms to foster transparency in the management of public affairs at local and national level; **b)** support communal "proximity" radios to be veritable actors of accountability: establishment of discussion platforms on corruption, justice, impunity etc.; production and dissemination of civic education programs; communication on communal/municipal activities etc. **c)** organize open house presentations on the functioning of Beninese institutions; organize campaigns to strengthen national consciousness; finance (through a fund) initiatives in favor of the participation of marginalized groups (youth, women, disabled etc.) in public debates.

Quote of survey participant:

"In Benin, the legislative and institutional framework for the fight against corruption exists. Nevertheless, it appears that in the absence of sanctions (impunity) corruption is growing. Hence, the application of laws and directives poses problems. It is therefore of utmost importance to promote, manifest and implement the existing laws and achievements (not necessarily new laws and rules are needed). Furthermore, it is significant to identify the veritable actors of change within the relevant institutions (judiciary, legislature, ministries, civil society, etc.). Besides, the citizens must be educated in order to have the required reflex to demand their rights but also fulfil their duties."

Institutional support to the Center for Civil Communications (CCC) in Macedonia

Intervention strategy:

The following strategy is applied **a)** continued monitoring of the public spending through ranking the public institutions by their active transparency, **b)** relevant information, data and results from CCC's work and researchers are made understandable and available to citizens through active and intensive involvement in the open data process, **c)** constituents (CSOs, journalists, media and businesses) provided with necessary information, tools and assistance, **d)** generally accepted values of good governance are transferred to the constituents.

Social Accountability Programme (SAP) in Tanzania

Intervention strategy:

Continued support to three leading Tanzanian advocacy organisations in the field of policy advocacy, health and agriculture. Each organisation represents a large network of civil society organisations and plays a key role in enhancing transparency and accountability of public resource management at national and local level, scrutinizing public resource data and empowering citizens and local organizations to engage more effectively in public oversight. Based on the experience of phase 1 they will seek for more strategic partnerships and

alliances with government actors at all levels and enhance synergies with other SDC projects of other domains. "Social accountability initiatives should not only provide support to citizens but also foster the understanding of public officials, while building a relationship of trust between authorities and citizens." Interestingly, the Social Accountability Programme (SAP) is complemented very well by other initiatives such as: the Good Financial Governance Programme (GFG), which foresees the deployment of technical experts to the National Audit Office and Office of Internal Auditor General, and the Media Empowering Programme, which provides mentoring to journalists and supports the development of media houses' business plans.

Quote of survey participant:

"The key sector ministries and other national organs such as the corruption bureau and the national audit office are crucial allies and strategic partners."

3.   No targeted programmes/measures but high importance

SDC in Cambodia, Haiti, Gaza and West Bank **do not to have specific programmes or targeted Anti-Corruption Activities**. However, participants confirmed that corruption is an important issue to be considered, either by possible future anti-corruption initiatives (Cambodia, Haiti), or as an integral element of all their programs, focusing on an environment that will improve transparency and accountability (such as in West Bank and Gaza).

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