

U4 Expert Answer



Anti-corruption programmes for young people in conflict and post-conflict countries

Query

Could you provide us with an overview of successful approaches, activities and best practices from youth organisations and initiatives fighting corruption in conflict and post-conflict environments?

Purpose

The information will be used to help redesign a youth programme in Yemen.

Content

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Summary

The world has the largest number of young people ever, many of whom live in developing countries. Young people can play an important role in anti-corruption programmes through their potential as future leaders and voters, and due to their creativity and innovative approaches.

There are a number of anti-corruption youth projects in conflict, post-conflict and fragile environments. These projects have either been

started by young people themselves, or by organisations wishing to engage with young people. Efforts have been helped by the growing use of Information and communications technology (ICT), social media, and crowd-sourcing platforms which allow for quick, cheap and easy access to a large number of people. This query categorises projects into four groups (i) building young people's capacity, (ii) educating young people, (iii) youth movements and groups and (iv) community monitoring.

The available literature suggests that anti-corruption projects designed in conflict, post-conflict and fragile environments should firstly conduct context and power analysis to inform project design so that it suits the needs of the local community, and to improve project effectiveness.

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U4 is a resource centre for development practitioners who wish to effectively address corruption challenges in their work. Expert Answers are produced by the U4 Helpdesk – operated by Transparency International – as quick responses to operational and policy questions from U4 Partner Agency staff.

1. Background

The world has more young people than ever before with 1.8 billion people aged 10 to 24. The overwhelming majority (89%) of this age group live in the least developed countries and are an important focus of international development efforts and governance programmes (UNFPA 2014).

Why engage youth in anti-corruption?

There is no universally agreed definition of who are the 'youth', and the definition varies between international institutions and between countries. Therefore projects should be designed based on sound analysis of the country context to determine who are the target audience of the initiatives and how they can be best reached. It is also important to consider that young people are not a homogenous group, and their experiences will vary by age, gender, class, education, ethnicity region, or disability/ health status (Social Development Direct 2009, DFID–CSO Youth Working Group 2010). Youth engagement has the potential to play an important role in the reconstruction of post-conflict states, but projects need to be designed on the basis of recent context and power analysis from the locality, and sufficiently tailored to the needs of the local community, in order to be effective and not to put young people mobilised against corruption in harm's way.

Many developing countries have large numbers of young people, and involving them in anti-corruption initiatives gives programmes greater legitimacy. Involving people early in life in political programmes can also increase their likelihood to participate in politics in adulthood. Making them aware of corruption risks at an early age and their adverse effects may prevent them from being socialised into corrupt practices and equip them with the awareness and knowledge to resist corruption later. Also, young people of today will lead tomorrow, so youth outreach is also an effective way to connect with future leaders and help shape their values in some of their most formative years. Young people therefore have a great potential to positively affect future anti-corruption efforts. In addition, young people are more likely to be creative in their approach to problem solving, meaning anti-corruption efforts may be more innovative, forward-thinking, and make better use of modern technology (DFID–CSO Youth Working Group 2010; Sida 2010).

Excluding young people from the political sphere and governance may also further aggravate frustrations about marginalised lives and negative future prospects, dynamics that are expected to be particularly salient in fragile states where trust in and the efficacy of development progress and inclusion is already very low. Literature indicates that in many developing countries young people may become increasingly disillusioned and frustrated by (i) unemployment and underemployment; (ii) lacking skills for the workforce; (iii) exclusion from the decision making process or from poor governance and corruption; (iv) by gender inequalities; and (v) from legacy of past violence in their country (High Level Panel on Fragile States 2014). This may lead to further instability, conflict or violence, and puts them at risk of radicalisation. In conflict or post-conflict environments, this can cause a fragility trap, further undermining governance institutions (Hilker and Fraser 2009; High Level Panel on Fragile States 2014; Social Development Direct 2009).

Specific challenges of engaging youth in anti-corruption in fragile states

In fragile states, anti-corruption programmes (including the ones designed by or aimed at young people) face a number of serious challenges.

Expectations of local populations are not always aligned with those of external actors. This is particularly the case in conflict and post-conflict environments where engagement by donors may be driven by political or geopolitical priorities, or a desire to see the short-term effects of their projects (OECD 2009).

In fragile states, citizens, including young people, might not know their rights. Programming should therefore consider the need to raise basic awareness among the local population through education and training (Oxfam 2013).

Weak, non-existent or changing governance structures are often accompanied by a lack of political will or capacity to address corruption, thereby hampering anti-corruption initiatives. In addition, donor efforts which by-pass local governance structures, may unintentionally undermine the state, government capacity and accountability frameworks (Oxfam 2013; OECD 2008).

In fragile states, ill-designed anti-corruption reforms may be at particular risk of abuse for political gain by competing political factions and may under particularly adverse circumstances contribute to generating further uncertainties in already unstable governance arrangements.

Weak governance contexts can also mean that national civil society organisations (CSOs) may have been weakened, and support should be given in training and capacity building. Linking CSOs to influential private sector, universities, media, and elite actors could help the former become more effective (Oxfam 2012).

Anti-corruption projects that aim to engage a wide range of young people may be challenged by ethnic, tribal or gender differences. These differences may have been exacerbated by recent conflict, and consideration is needed about how to reintegrate young current and former combatants into programmes (High Level Panel on Fragile States 2014).

Finally, anti-corruption work in fragile states that find it difficult to protect basic rights can expose individuals to particularly high risks of revenge and retribution. Such risks are even higher for enthusiastic youngsters with less experience to judge the implications of dangerous activities and less capable to protect against them. Youth-focused anti-corruption programmes therefore bear particular fiduciary responsibilities to fully consider the personal safety of its target audience in such contexts.

2. Types of Youth Programmes

This section identifies examples of programmes, projects and initiatives which have been used to engage young people in anti-corruption and governance issues, in post-conflict countries. As such approaches are relatively new, there is a lack of publically available information on what effect these projects have had on their target audience.

Given the challenges faced by anti-corruption programmes in conflict and post-conflict environments, activities have mainly focused on raising awareness among young people, building capacity and skills, building youth movements and clubs, and community monitoring. Comprehensive context analysis should identify particular needs of the target group to inform project design.

Raise awareness among young people

A number of projects, programmes and initiatives have been designed to raise awareness among young people about corruption and governance issues.

Papua New Guinea, Youth Against Corruption Association (YACA)

The Youth Against Corruption Association's (YACA) goal is to encourage all young people to make a commitment to oppose corruption and dishonesty of all kinds.

Its main aims are to (i) give young people a voice, (ii) to encourage young people to make a personal commitment to not practice corruption themselves, and (iii) to develop the leadership skills among young people. The following activities are organised: youth forums, media smart workshop, sports clinics, leadership trainings, international video conferences, mobilising youth against corruption workshops, radio talkback shows, citizen voice and action workshops and song writing contests.

Transparency International Papua New Guinea supports YACA.

See [here](#) for more information.

Global, Fair Play

Fair Play is a global competition for original songs by young bands (18-35 years) on the theme of anti-corruption. Fair Play is an awareness-raising programme and network building effort to connect socially conscious artists and citizens worldwide, initiated by the JMI Foundation, the World Bank Institute and the Global Youth Anti-Corruption Youth Network.

See [here](#) for more information.

Somalia, Somali Youth Leaders Initiative

Mercy Corps is a global aid organisation working in fragile environments that have experienced natural disaster, economic collapse or conflict. In Somalia, they provide programmes in the areas of emergency response, conflict and governance, environment, and children and youth.

In 2011, Mercy Corps implemented a USAID-funded Somali youth leaders initiative in Somalia. The aim of the initiative is to provide 150,000 young people in Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland with improved access to quality education, skills-training, and civic opportunities for a positive engagement with society. The idea

is that young people engaged in public dialogue and civic actions will be less at risk of radicalisation. Mercy Corps recommends including conflict mediation and conflict management elements into civic activity programmes (Devex 2015). So far, more than 13,000 young people have participated in civic participation activities.

See [here](#) and [here](#) for more details.

Various, Sports for Change

Mercy Corps' Sport for Change programmes are designed to promote health awareness, accelerate psychological recovery after conflict and disaster, improve social cohesion, and teach conflict management and leadership skills. As sport has wide appeal, it has the power to engage young people from different backgrounds and can be used to inform and educate them. While these programmes are not focused on anti-corruption, they have been included here as examples of how to engage and educate young people using sport, with the potential to be replicated for anti-corruption projects.

Mercy Corps has organised 37 sport-related projects in 25 countries, involving more than 50,000 young people. See [here](#) for more information.

In Somalia, Mercy Corps hosted a ten-day youth football tournament. See [here](#) for more details.

In Kenya, they are working with local partners to run a sports-centred peacebuilding programme, involving multi-ethnic teams from both urban and rural areas. The aim is to support peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Also in Kenya, Mercy Corps works with strategic partners like Grassroots Soccer to train local coaches to incorporate an innovative HIV/AIDS prevention curriculum into their teams' activities. See [here](#) for more information.

To build capacity of young people

A number of programmes and projects exist to mentor, train and build the capacity of youth leaders in conflict, post-conflict or fragile environments for anti-corruption and good governance initiatives.

Tunisia, Youth Debate Programme

IWatch, Transparency International's chapter in Tunisia, are leading a youth debate programme. In 2015, debate participants formed into teams to

discuss corruption issues and how to tackle them. Each team presented their arguments to a panel of judges and the winning team was given a small budget to implement an anti-corruption project through the Transparency International group.

The project is also being implemented in Yemen, Palestine, Egypt, and Jordan.

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Cambodia, International Youth Camp on Youth Empowerment for Transparency and Integrity

In 2015, 33 youths from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Vietnam and the Philippines attended the first week-long International Youth Camp on Youth Empowerment for Transparency and Integrity (YETI), held in Cambodia.

The camp provided training on good governance practices, the rule of law, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and freedom of information, among others. The event was a space for knowledge sharing across countries, and the participants were trained in communications, basic research tools and crowd-sourcing tools.

The main impact of the camp was the creation of Youth Movement for Transparency in Asia (YMTA). This will be a platform for elected young people from each country to share ideas and knowledge.

The event is sponsored by Transparency International and is organised by the movement's seven local chapters in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Vietnam and the Philippines.

See [here](#) for more information.

TI Haiti (LFHH)

La Fondation Héritage pour Haïti (LFHH) is Transparency International's chapter in Haiti. They offer training and capacity development for young people in Haiti.

In 2012, training was given to more than 200 young people, and 14 youth anti-corruption committees were established in universities in Port-au-Prince (*Jeunes Haïtiens Contre la Corruption*) and in community-based youth organisations in other regions in the country.

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Liberia, Integrity Clubs

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) is the local Transparency International chapter in Liberia. It was founded in 2004 as an NGO to fight corruption. One of their key goals is to increase citizens' participation in the fight against all forms of corruption through education and awareness building programmes.

In 2008, CENTAL established integrity clubs (iClubs) in universities, schools and communities in Liberia. The purpose of the iClubs is to decentralise CENTAL's work to local communities and to train local individuals to become local advocates for the anti-corruption movement.

See [here](#) for further information.

The West Bank, the Within and Without the State (WWS) programme

Oxfam's WWS programme aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of civil society programmes specifically in fragile and conflict-affected settings. It is a five-year programme enabling Oxfam to pilot various methods of engaging with civil society.

In the West Bank, WWS engaged with five villages by giving training in participatory needs assessment, and supporting them in engaging with the Palestinian authorities on improved service provision. According to Oxfam, the project was particularly successful at mobilising and empowering women and youth in engaging with the political process.

See [here](#) for more details.

Latin America and the Caribbean Region, workshop on social audit for young leaders and entrepreneurs

A social audit is a mechanism to allow citizens to organise, mobilise and monitor government's performance and policy decisions. UNDP's Global Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness (PACDE) supported two regional social audit workshops and five national workshops in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

The purpose of the workshops is to raise awareness of social auditing among young leaders and entrepreneurs, and to develop participants' skills in the areas of management,

leadership and social audits. In total, 200 young leaders from this region received this training, representing over 80 youth organisations. According to PACDE, the social audit workshop had an impact by raising awareness to the role of youth in the Caribbean for preventing corruption through social accountability. Also, after the workshop participants formed the Caribbean Youth Social Auditors (CYSA) network (PACDE 2012)

This initiative received funding from the Transparency and Accountability in Local Governments (TRALOG) regional initiative and UNDP.

See [here](#) for more information.

Hurford Youth Fellowship, the World Youth Movement for Democracy

The World Youth Movement for Democracy (WYMD) is a network that aims to empower future democracy activists. The online platform provides space for young activists to network with each other, to collaborate, gain practical skills, share ideas and values.

The fellowship programme is supported by the Hurford Foundation. Youth fellows, aged from 18 to 30, are hosted at the International Forum for Democratic Studies at National Endowment for Democracy (NED), in Washington, DC. The fellowship is for three months, and the fellows facilitate discussion events, conduct research on youth-related topics, develop online resources, help plan and implement World Youth Movement activities.

See [here](#) for more information.

Building youth movements and groups

A number of youth groups and movements have been organised to engage citizens in anti-corruption and governance issues, many of whom have been making use of online technologies and social media to reach a larger audience.

Pakistan, Youth in Governance programme

TI Pakistan has established a Youth in Governance programme to build a wide coalition of youths to fight corruption. More than 25 Youth in Governance clubs have been established in universities throughout the country, with workshops, seminars, debates, panel discussions, youth meetings, poster and essay competitions taking place within the clubs.

See [here](#) for further information.

Afghanistan, the National Youth Peace Debate

Oxfam's WWS programme aims to improve peacebuilding in Afghanistan and aims to empower marginalised groups, such as women and young people.

The National Youth Peace Debate gathered over 500 young men and women in Kabul. The event provided a platform for young people to directly speak to members of the peace council and Human Rights Commission to hold them accountable. As an outcome of the debates, it was agreed that youth representatives, particularly women, would be involved in the Provincial Peace Councils, and the panel agreed to raise the role of youth with the Afghan president. The event attracted strong media coverage on TV and in the press – important when holding speakers to account.

See [here](#) for further information.

Thailand, the Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network

The Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network began in 2012, and is now a group of more than 3,500 students from over 90 universities across Thailand. They aim to educate and inform young people about the dangers of corruption in Thai society.

Their strategy falls covers the following areas: (i) raise youth awareness about corruption and its negative effects; (ii) form an inter-university student network using social media to encourage participation and engagement in anti-corruption; (iii) train students to use social media as an advocacy tool and in interpersonal skills to share messages with other young people; (iv) establish a national brand, a logo, and key messaging; (v) partner with Thai universities and plan campus-wide/inter-university anti-corruption activities

The direction of the programme was designed entirely by students. The campaign gave them the tools and capacity needed to build their own network.

A key success of the campaign has been a partnership to promote dialogue, build capacity, and develop advocacy campaigns with Thailand's private sector Anti-Corruption Network (a group of Thai business people and more than 30 industry associations). Another key success was the participation of 2,000 university students in

International Anti-Corruption Day, where 2,000 university students came to Bangkok wearing the "Refuse to be Corrupt" t-shirts.

UNDP-sponsored Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network, which also won a best practice award at the World Economic Forum.

See [here](#) for more information.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dosta!

Dosta! (Enough!) is a nonviolent, youth movement to promote government accountability to citizens, and to engage citizens from across religious and ethnic groups in the country. In 2009, it launched a social media webpage and on the ground (phone calls, graffiti, billboards and media) campaign that eventually succeeded in pressurising Prime Minister Brankovic to resign over his alleged low-cost purchase of an apartment.

See [here](#) for more information.

Egypt, Shayfeen.com and Egyptians Against Corruption

Shayfeen.com (we see you) was launched in 2005, and its sister movement, Egyptians Against Corruption was launched in 2006. These are women-led watchdogs and anti-corruption movements. They aim to increase awareness of corruption among the public, and particularly support judicial independence. They encourage citizen participation, monitor the government, use the internet to broadcast election fraud, and support judges who call for investigations of electoral fraud.

See [here](#) for more information.

Italy, Addiopizzo

A youth anti-mafia movement in Palermo, Italy Addiopizzo (goodbye protection money) organised to empower businesses to publicly refuse to pay money to the mafia, educate school children about integrity, and mobilise citizens to resist the mafia through reverse boycott. By 2012, 1,000 businesses joined a network which refuses to pay protection money.

See [here](#) for more information.

Columbia, OCASA

Since 2006, OCASA (truth) uses the internet and social media to educate and mobilise youth to fight corruption. OCASA aims to empower young people so that they can participate more effectively in the political process. They promote

citizen participation through youth organisations with local and national CSOs.

See [here](#) for more information.

Community monitoring projects

A number of youth groups empower citizens to report on incidences of corruption. Recently the growth in the use of technology and social media, has allowed citizens to quickly and easily send reports.

Paraguay, Paragayoite

Reacción Juvenil de Cambio Paraguay was started in 2010. It is a non-partisan youth organisation dedicated to fighting corruption in Paraguay. It aims to support education for youth empowerment and to fight corruption.

In Paraguay, many schools do not have a student government, and there is a lack of knowledge about corruption. The National Fund for Public Investment and Development (which disburses money to schools) allegedly lacks proper oversight and accountability mechanisms. This project builds the capacity of youth in schools with anti-corruption training. Their training focuses on how to create and manage student councils, manage projects and apply ICT. They also offer legal advice, as well as providing an anti-corruption toolkit (developed with the World Bank Institute and the British Council). The purpose is to create a student-led system to monitor the national fund's spending in schools and report any potential irregularities.

See [here](#) for more information.

Sierra Leone, Campaign for Good Governance (CGG)

A 2013 survey by Sierra Leone's Anti-Corruption Commission found that citizens perceive the police to be one of the most corrupt institutions in the country. This campaign engaged young people through the use of new technologies to obtain evidence about police corruption, including a new website to allow citizens to anonymously report bribes involving the police. The site will be administered by the CGG, and the bribery reports will be received by the inspector general of the police. CGG will collaborate with the police to develop solutions. The campaign also used a code-a-thon to analyse data and produce infographics to make data more accessible to citizens.

This campaign was sponsored by the Accountable Governance for Justice (AGJS) programme, which builds the capacity of civil society groups, provides access to access information laws, government data and crowd-sourcing technologies.

See [here](#) for more information.

Kenya, Huduma

Huduma is an initiative of INFONET, the United Nations Millennium Campaign and the African Institute for Health and Development. It aims to improve public service delivery by giving citizens the opportunity to report on the quality of services they received.

The programme allows citizens to use the internet or their mobile phone to comment on the quality of service delivery, to amplify citizens' voices, and channel the comments to the appropriate authorities for action. Citizens can make their comments about public services via SMS, voice or video, and receive a response in real time.

See [here](#) for more information.

Uganda, National Foundation for Democracy and Human Rights in Uganda (NAFODU)

NAFODU is an NGO formed in 2000 by a group of young people. It aims to improve good governance and democracy in Uganda.

The group are involved in election monitoring, advocacy and lobbying, as well as corruption prevention and awareness projects. A radio call-in and SMS programme allowed citizens to report cases of police bribery, and offered integrity training to the police force. It has been reported that there was a change in police behaviour over the course of a year while the radio call-in programme was running.

UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) provided a grant to NAFODU for the community radio station project.

See [here](#) and [here](#) for more details.

Kosovo, www.kallxo.com

In Kosovo one project was launched to prevent corruption in the education sector using social media and SMS to collect reports of alleged corruption. In a period of six months, the online platform received over 500 reports. All cases are verified by CSOs, which were then sent to the respective institution for follow-up. The organisation took responsibility for holding the

institutions accountable and whether appropriate actions were taken.

The project was supported by UNDP.

See [here](#) for more information.

3. Considerations when designing effective youth programmes in conflict/post-conflict environments

The following section outlines recommendations from the literature on designing appropriate and effective programmes in fragile states, and specifically with regard to designing programmes working with young people.

Appropriate context/power analysis, planning and preparation

Undertaking context and power analysis prior to programme design is very important to ensure that the programme is suitable for the local context, and will meet the needs of the communities. Context and power analysis will reveal entry points for governance programmes, and will identify where informal power is held (such as by tribal, traditional or religious leaders). In fragile states, the local situation and power brokers shift regularly, and so the analysis should be regularly repeated (International Alert 2014; Oxfam 2013).

In fragile states, traditional demand-led advocacy (where citizens place specific demands on government) may not work, as government has neither the will nor the resources to deal with such demands. Oxfam favours constructive engagement by CSOs with the government in such situations (Oxfam 2013).

Developing initiatives which are long-term focused/sustainable and based on theory of change

In fragile, or conflict situations, it can take a long time for projects to become effective at delivering overall objectives. Initiatives should take a long-term sustainable approach from the initial piloting phase, to up-scale and capture results for a feedback loop. Projects should also be based on a clear theory of change from the planned objectives for the project (Oxfam 2013; UNDP 2012).

Knowledge and learning information

UNDP notes that there has been very little investment in gathering data on which projects are successful and which are not. Learning and knowledge management for anti-corruption projects, including by those who work with youth, would be useful for informing new project design (UNDP 2012).

Using ICT and social media

Programmes which use ICT and social media have the potential to reach large numbers of young people, easily and at low cost. However, in conflict and post-conflict environments an assessment should initially be made about whether the young people which the programme is trying to engage with have access to ICT equipment or the internet. This analysis should be based on the most up-to-date information as communication infrastructure and ICT equipment may have been damaged during conflict.

Context analysis should identify whether social media or online communications are known to be monitored by the national government, and if so whether young people are putting themselves in danger by engaging with the anti-corruption movement using this method (United States Institute for Peace 2011).

The popularity of specific social media sites will differ depending on the country-context and target audience. Pilot testing of ICT tools and social media sites with the intended audience should also be done to ensure that they communicate the intended message and appropriately in terms of level of skill required.

A gender understanding

Projects should understand that males and females experience corruption differently, and are affected differently by conflict and fragility. Specific strategies should address gender inequality so that they are more effective. Consideration should be given to increasing women's awareness of their rights and entitlements, strengthen their ability to organise, and undertake collective action to address corruption (Oxfam 2013).

Understanding the relationship between youth leaders and young people

It is important to consider how youth leaders represent their larger youth organisations/movements, and the wider

population of young people. Youth leaders, often come from elite backgrounds and may not be representative of all young people. The membership and governance of selected youth groups should be assessed, including their involvement with political networks and political officials. Groups based in capital cities may not adequately reflect the views of young people in rural areas (International Alert 2014).

Understanding legacy of violence experienced by young people

In conflict and post-conflict areas, programmes should consider how to work with young people who have been involved with or affected by violence, for example supporting demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration of young combatants, engaging in rehabilitation and employment (High Level Panel on Fragile States 2014).

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