13th International Anti-Corruption Conference
IACC

Global Transparency:
fighting corruption for a sustainable future.
Athens, Greece | 30 October - 2 November 2008

WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop: **Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Aid**

Date and time of workshop: November 1st, 11-13hrs

Moderator (Name and Institution) : Roslyn Hees, Senior Adviser, TI Secretariat

Rapporteur (Name and Institution): Roxana Prisacaru, Transparency International Secretariat

Panellists (Name, institution, title);

Peter Walker, Director, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University
Ingrid Milne, Associate Director Operations, South East Asia Region, Save the Children
Rezki Wibowo, Deputy Secretary General, TI-Indonesia
Juree Vichit-Vadakan, Secretary-General, TI-Thailand
Marie-Luise Ahlendorf, Programme Coordinator, TI Secretariat

Main Issues Covered

The workshop presented the results of the analysis carried out under the Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Assistance programme, focusing on current perceptions of corruption and its consequences in humanitarian operations among humanitarian provider staff and aid recipients in selected emergency-affected countries, current strategies, best practices and proposed policy improvements to address corruption in humanitarian assistance, and recommendations for future action. Case studies from Indonesia, providing both a provider and civil society viewpoint on how to address corruption in tsunami relief were used to support the main points of the presentation.

Main Outcomes

- Increased awareness of the potential risks of corruption in the humanitarian assistance operations;
- Better understanding of the main tools, instruments and strategies relevant to promoting transparency, integrity and accountability in the delivery of humanitarian aid;
- Better knowledge of the risks of corruption in the humanitarian aid sector.

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Main Outputs

- Overview of the conclusions and recommendations of the analysis carried out under the Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Assistance programme;
- A provider viewpoint (Save the Children) on how to address corruption in tsunami relief;
- A civil society viewpoint (TI Indonesia) on how to address corruption the tsunami relief;
- Presentation of the TI handbook on best practices for combating corruption in humanitarian assistance.

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

- Need to involve and empower local beneficiary communities, to change the power relationships – develop tools for community participation, monitoring and complaints, in order to ensure accountability to beneficiaries
- It is important that international humanitarian aid providers better coordinate among themselves and with the recipient national and local government structures
- There is a danger of the politicization of humanitarian aid --at both the donor level and the local level
- Balance should be sought regarding the tradeoffs between speed and control in humanitarian responses and between the empowerment and control of local partners
- There are different corruption risks in responses to natural disasters and conflict/post-conflict situations, which will require different tools
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Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

- Humanitarian assistance is inherently a political process. This is all about power and the consequent risk of abuse of that power. Humanitarian aid presents and may exacerbate a huge asymmetry of power – among the providers of aid resources, the "gatekeepers" who control access to emergency victims, and aid recipient communities.
- International agencies should understand that behavior that is not *per se* corruption, such as an extravagant expatriate lifestyle, may actually be perceived by local staff or communities as corrupt and thus create an enabling environment for corruption.
- Humanitarian agencies may inadvertently or consciously "outsource" corruption risks to local partners or contractors
- We need to address the ethical dimensions of the humanitarian process: Whose agenda dominates – the donor, the aid agency, or the beneficiaries?

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Signed

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