Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Assistance
Background to the Research
Power
The abuse of Power

The use of Power
The Enlightenment

Superstition

Nepotism

Accepted order

Raw power

Reason

Merit

Discourse

Justice & Law

18th C
The Abuse of Power
The Abuse of Power: A History of Corruption Concerns
Freakonomics: It’s the economy stupid.

![Graph showing the price of goats and millet in Sudanese Dinar from 2003 Oct to 2004 Feb. Goats show a decrease, while millet shows an increase.](image)
Humanitarian Aid

- Save threatened lives
- Impartial
- Reasoned
- Entrusted power
The Research

Research questions

- What are the most significant threats of corruption?
- How do agencies manage the risk of corruption?
- What policies and practices have been developed to manage corruption risk?
- What are the gaps?
Collaborating partners

- Action Aid
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- CARE USA
- Catholic Relief Services
- Lutheran World Federation
- Save the Children USA
- World Vision International
Corruption and Perceptions of its Consequences
Corruption Risk Map

**Assistance Process**

- Initial assessment, decision to respond and programme design
- Fundraising and allocation of funding
- Establishment/Scale-up of offices and operations
- Agreements to work with local organisations
- Procurement and logistics
- Targeting and registration of specific beneficiaries
- Implementation/distribution
- Project monitoring, reporting, evaluation and programme closure

**Corruption Risk Example**

- Elites bribe/influence those conducting the assessment to inflate needs and/or to favour specific groups
- Response selected to enhance personal or organisational reputation rather than based on need
- Double funding: allocating the same overhead expenditure to two or more projects
- Agency staff invent partners or demand kickbacks
- Goods which are sub-standard or do not meet the original specification are accepted and ultimately paid for through kickbacks, bribes, collusion
- Powerful individuals within the community manipulate the beneficiary lists
- Beneficiaries have to bribe agency staff, local elites or authorities to maintain their place in a distribution line or receive goods
- Manipulation of monitoring reports/information to attract further resources
- Reports falsified to hide corruption
- Disposal of assets to favoured people
- Monitoring, reporting or evaluations falsified to hide evidence of corruption that was found.
Corruption Risks: Overview
Corruption Risks: Program Areas and Processes

Corruption Risks: Program Support Areas
Corruption Risks and Means of Addressing Them

Lots of practices
Obstacles to Addressing Corruption
Recommendations

Agencies should increase their efforts:
The Abuse or the Use of Power?