



**14TH INTERNATIONAL  
ANTI-CORRUPTION  
CONFERENCE 2010**

**SHORT WORKSHOP REPORT FORM**

**Number and title of workshop:** WS 1.9 Preventing Corruption in relief, Recovery and Reconstruction Aid

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**Date and time of workshop:** 12 November 2010; 1730-1930

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**Moderator:** Christiaan Poortman, Director of Global Programmes, Transparency International

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**Rapporteur:** Robert Onus, UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre

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**Panellists**

**Roslyn Hees**, co-author, TI Handbook for Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Operations

**Sipho Dube**, Director of Finance risks in World Vision Zambia

**Mr Satya Tripathi**, Former UN Recovery Coordinator for Aceh and Nias

**Mr William Sabandar**, Special Envoy of ASEAN Secretary General for Post-Nargis Recovery in Myanmar

**Main Issues Covered**

**Roslyn Hees** opened the proceedings by presenting the Transparency International handbook for preventing corruption in humanitarian operations. Transparency International developed this report with partners by looking at the distinct risks in different humanitarian situations, mapping those risks and then complementing it with field research. The report is designed to be an operational and practical tool that staff can use in specific situations to gain guidance on what to do to prevent corruption risks.

The field research discovered that the humanitarian agencies have a range of policies in place however these are not systematic or strategic. The understanding of corruption varied across agencies and countries and there was little open discussion about what the 'abuse of power' and 'private gain' actually means in reality. Corruption is often still a taboo topic among humanitarian staff and more open discussion would further enhance efforts to address it.

Sipho Dube presented the experiences of World Vision in Africa in terms of combating corruption in relief efforts. World Vision promotes anti-corruption throughout all of their projects and adheres to global and national accountability principles and policies. They have partnered with TI and other organizations to identify corruption risks affecting humanitarian aid programmes and have also helped develop good practices and tools used to deter, detect and deal with those risks.



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World Vision works in difficult operational environments where there are inherent risks to corruption. They therefore collaborate with donors and other partners to prevent abuse of humanitarian aid. In situations where it is difficult to access services and goods, WVI uses global storage points to provide services and supplies to communities in need at short notice. WVI also ensures that recruitment policies and protocols are not influenced by governments and therefore not affected by nepotism and cronyism.

Satya Trapathi reflected on the experience of the UN in the recovery of Aceh and Nias after the 2004 Tsunami. The damage to Aceh and Nias from the Tsunami was immense, as was the global response, creating difficulties and complexities in managing the recovery process. There were 1200 NGOs, 40 major bilateral agencies, 27 UN Agencies/Funds/Programs, among others. The Indonesian government channelled all of the support efforts and finances through the BRR as an overarching national entity to coordinate this process.

Key to the success of the recovery efforts was the use of a multi layered approach. This included initiatives through the anti-corruption agency, institutional mechanisms, civil society engagement and transparency. The anti-corruption agency opened a regional office in Aceh to help prevent and investigate instances of corruption. At the same time, the Government ensured accountability and transparency through functional integration and the use of modern technologies. TRIAMS, a joint initiative between UN and other international organizations, analysed data on recovery efforts through GPS and satellite technology to ensure they were directed where they were most needed.

Finally William Sabandar discussed his experiences in Aceh and Nias and also in the aftermath of the Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar. Mr Sabandar highlighted the importance of trust and integrity in ensuring the success of the recovery efforts. Monitoring the funding at the donor and the beneficiary level is crucial to ensuring accountability and effective and efficient use of aid.

In Myanmar there was a relative absence of trust when compared to Indonesia due to the political situation and the perceived levels of corruption. Thus the international community, through ASEAN, the United Nations and the Government of Myanmar formed a tripartite group to lead the recovery efforts. The key to building trust through this group was not just at the policy and political level but also with the community. This was supplemented by regular monitoring to ensure the work was done and the benefits reached the people. Each specific project was tracked through the 'protrack' system and also monitored by the community themselves.

### **Recommendations, Follow-up Actions**

There were two groups of recommendations. Those stemming from the TI Handbook and those from the experience of the agencies involved in the recovery efforts

#### **Handbook**

Key recommendations from the report include

- Integrating corruption risk analysis into emergency preparedness.
- Reconsidering corruption as a quality assurance and good management issue more than a financial issue. As such it should be integrated into training programs.
- Intensify on-site monitoring, essential to deterring and detecting corruption, including



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by independent CSOs.

- Provide greater information transparency to beneficiaries, affected country governments and local CSOs.
- Empower recipient communities through beneficiary accountability programmes, which require safe, appropriate complaint mechanisms.
- Break the taboo about corruption risks and share information among donors, affected country governments and aid providers for joint response.

**Experiences**

- Building trust at the international, national and community level is crucial for ensuring that aid operations are effective and benefits reach their intended recipients.
- A multi-layered approach is important to ensure accountability through all functions of the recovery effort. This does not necessarily need to be built through institutions but must cover the key activities involved in the relief and reconstruction.
- There are differences in natural disasters even within nations. The structures, the organisations and the capacities of the communities can vary greatly.
- There is a need for integrity and leadership within and outside of the agencies. Leadership is indeed crucial for ensuring there is no corruption in the recovery efforts.
- The involvement of the community will ensure the sustainability of recovery efforts. However some recovery and relief efforts are inherently unsustainable and only designed for short term assistance.

**Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)**

'For the government to own the process, and lead the governance process, institutions with clear strong leadership and maximum participation of the community is required'

'It is very important to have a government that promotes anti-corruption mechanisms in the community'

'The toleration of corruption by humanitarian actors is not necessarily in the emergency phase; the big problem comes in complex emergencies involving violence and extortion'

'There is a need for integrity and leadership within and outside of the agencies. Leadership is indeed crucial for ensuring there is no corruption in the recovery efforts.'

'The bottom line is that no corruption is acceptable'