

Countering corruption in South Africa

Transparency, Integrity and Accountability Programme (TIP) in South Africa

The challenge: wide-spread corruption and state capture

Corruption exists in South Africa in all spheres of society and has permeated both the private and public sector – nationally, provincially and locally. It undermines democracy and public trust in government. Corruption has a negative impact on state services and thus on community and social development. It also damages economic development and job creation efforts, as well as investor confidence in the country.

Bribery and irregular public procurement are the most frequently reported forms of corruption and those who report and blow the whistle continue to be victimized.

The susceptibility of the public sector to corruption can also be traced back to causes such as conflation of state and party, patronage and collusion with the private sector. South Africa's private sector is well regulated by laws, voluntary standards and industry codes of conduct, but these have not been able to prevent large scale corruption.

Citizens' confidence in the state's ability to fight corruption has eroded over a long period of time. South Africa's youth, which forms a large part of the population, grapple with unemployment and are mostly left out of the anti-corruption discourse.

Our approach: support to the whole-of society movement to prevent corruption

The Transparency, Integrity and Accountability Programme in South Africa (TIP) is a partnership programme agreed to between the governments of Germany and South Africa. It supports state and non-state actors to contribute to the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) by taking a whole-of government and societal approach.



Project name	Transparency, Integrity and Accountability Programme (TIP) in South Africa
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Lead executing agency	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency
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The programme supports state anti-corruption institutions and civil society bodies and promotes integrity management in companies. It promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships between the public sector, private sector and civil society in the collaborative prevention of corruption. It deploys a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to support the implementation of the NACS in three areas:

- The first area promotes the active involvement of citizens, who contribute to the implementation of the NACS through initiatives that encourage transparency, integrity and accountability.
- The second area aims to strengthen institutional resilience so that the relevant state actors are empowered to steer and coordinate the implementation of the NACS in a whole-of-government manner.
- The third area targets multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) between the public sector, private sector and civil society to build up transparency, integrity and accountability. In doing so, special consideration is given to human rights, including gender equality.



L. to r.: The National Anti-Corruption Dialogue; 100 school students in the Johannesburg Junior City Council receive training on how to apply anti-corruption concepts in their schools & communities.

The benefits

In November 2020, the South African Government adopted a National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). Building on the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture (Zondo Commission), key tenets of South Africa's Constitution, anti-corruption legal framework, the National Development Plan and other instruments such as international treaties, the Strategy uses research and stakeholder inputs to outline the actions needed to achieve a society free of corruption. This Strategy was developed through an inclusive, multi-sectoral process. The NACS is based on the key values of integrity, transparency and accountability. In 2022, the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) was appointed to spearhead the implementation of the NACS and set up a National Anti-Corruption Agency (NACA) that would centralize anti-corruption efforts. In Phase 2 of the NACS strategy, this central agency will drive the strategy forward and coordinate all anti-corruption activities in the country to ensure nationwide standards, concerted action and a coherent fight against corruption.

Results

To promote active citizenry, the programme supports advocacy efforts & citizen education, promotion of rights and accountability as well as the development of protection mechanisms for whistleblowers. It supports the development of new methods, tools and training to activate communities through awareness campaigns, social media and the Arts. The issue of gender & corruption has become a key focus area in the promotion of active citizenry. Support to partners is aimed at raising awareness to break the associated 'silence' and stigma, leading to responsive policies, laws and reporting mechanisms. The TIP is now developing a multi-stakeholder community-of-practice on gendered corruption including sextortion, while also mainstreaming gender in all anti-corruption efforts regarding for example open public procurement and whistleblower protection.

Whistleblower protection is a key area for intervention at policy, legal, and system support levels. About 45 civil society representatives received training in dealing with whistleblowers based on the Whistleblowing First Responder Guide, initiated by TIP and co-developed with civil society organizations. This Guide is also used in state institutions.

To strengthen institutional capacities, the programme advises the NACAC on strategic leadership, inter-institutional coordination and mandates, communication and public engagement, and monitoring and evaluation.

In line with this, peer-to-peer learning in the form of learning journeys with other anti-corruption agencies supports the ongoing strategy implementation process.

Highlight:

TIP was a key partner in the conceptualization, planning and execution of the first National Dialogue on Anti-Corruption in November 2023, which convened over 260 representatives from the public sector, civil society, international development cooperation agencies and the private sector to reach consensus on ways to fight corruption. The National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) hosted the Dialogue. President Cyril Ramaphosa and Chief Justice Zondo delivered the keynote addresses. The dialogue emphasized the power of active citizenry and called for a national movement to fight corruption, similar to what South Africa has seen in the past.

Four multi-sectoral learning journeys took place in 2023 and 2024, to Kenya, the Western Cape, Hong Kong and Eastern Europe, focusing on institutional mechanisms, civil society cooperation, public procurement and whistleblowing.

For the NACS implementation, the programme provides capacity development for sector-specific, disaggregated data collection and analysis, including partnerships with academia.

To promote the whole-of-government and societal approach stipulated in the NACS, the programme has established multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs), each with a core group of relevant partners from civil society, government and business. MSPs work on three key areas: whistleblower protection, business integrity, and open public procurement. The MSPs function as platforms to advance the reform agenda as part of collaborative action.

In line with the recommendations of the NACS and the TIP focus on data-driven approaches, the GIZ's TIP is providing technical assistance to the DPME for the development of a web-based central database that will provide on-demand access to information about all anti-corruption related efforts under the NACS across state institutions and state agencies. This database will provide the anchor for coordinating the different institutions that oversee and implement anti-corruption measures and prevent corruption by providing simultaneous access for multiple actors to high quality information. The recent release of the various reports of the Zondo Commission as well as the other recently concluded judicial commissions of enquiry and the President's proclamations to the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) to further investigate high profile cases of corruption proved to be a catalyst for this initiative.

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