



Session Report

Please know you may design the structure of this report to better suit the session. It's important to capture the key outcomes and solutions proposed for the future.

Session Title: Addressing the gender dimensions of corruption in LAC: Evidence and solution proposals

Date & Time: Thursday, 09.12.2022, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm GTM -5

Report prepared by: Manuel Figueroa, Project Policy Specialist, UNDP Peru

Moderated by: Denise Ledgard, UNDP Peru Democratic Governance Officer, UNDP Peru

Panellists:

- Marcela Huaita - Lecturer and lawyer, PUCP
- Ana Linda Solano López - International consultant lawyer, Eurosocal+
- María Jaraquemada - Executive Director, Chile Transparente
- Anga Raj Timilsina - UNDP's Global Programme Advisor on Anti-corruption

Share the thematic focus of the session, its purpose and corruption risks?

The fight against corruption and the gender agenda are two intertwined phenomena that cut across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. On the one hand, the 2030 Agenda seeks to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as a goal, but also as a contribution to economic growth and development worldwide. On the other hand, this agenda considers corruption as a major problem that hinders opportunities and access to goods and services provided by the State.

This workshop highlights that corruption and gender inequality are addressed in isolation. There is no international tool that focuses on the important link between the two, and there is a lack of systematic data collection on the impact of corruption on women.

Which gender is most vulnerable to corruption? Why is it important to make this distinction?

What challenges and opportunities do we have in Latin America and the Caribbean to address this problem? This workshop focus answering these questions with the aim of expanding knowledge about the interrelationship between corruption and gender from a global and regional perspective, including evidence from Latin American and Caribbean, through case studies on different countries. This workshop also contributes to the debate on more effective solutions to face these challenges.

Summary of panellists' contributions & discussion points (please be as detailed as possible)

The conversation began with the question of why it is important to consider the gender dimension in the problem of corruption. In this regard, **Anga Raj Timilsina - UNDP's Global Programme Advisor on Anti-corruption** began his intervention by highlighting that the anti-corruption agenda is a relatively new issue for the United Nations. For example, if we compare it with the issue of human rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948 while the UN Convention against Corruption was only adopted in 2003. Likewise, Timilsina pointed out that since then to date, at a global level we are increasingly aware of the impacts of corruption in our societies and of the damage that it generates to men and women in a different way. However, Timilsina stressed that there is still much work to be done in this regard: the application of the gender approach in several policies and documents at global and national level, the design of effective instruments for measuring corruption with a gender approach, and a better definition of the concept of corruption also considering a gender approach.

On her side, **Ana Solano - International consultant lawyer, Eurosoci+** highlighted the differentiated impacts of corruption on people according to different conditions: socioeconomic level, immigration status, age, gender, etc. In the matter of corruption and gender, she added that there are certain impacts that corruption has that are proportionally greater towards women that can only be identified if we use the gender approach, such as sextortion as a bargaining chip for access to public services. Likewise, Solano pointed out that it is important to address this problem in a systemic manner considering the set of actors, dimensions and forms of corruption.

Marcela Huaita - Lecturer and lawyer, PUCP emphasized the need to understand the relationship between corruption and gender as an affectation of human rights. In this sense, she Huaita pointed out that corruption affects the civil and political rights of women, their sexual and reproductive rights as well as their opportunities for economic, social and cultural development. She highlighted that low-income women and mothers are the most vulnerable, since they are the ones who depend the most on access to public services and social assistance.

María Jaraquemada - Executive Director, Chile Transparente maintained that although there are some measurements on the differentiated impact of corruption between men and women published by the UNDP, TI, the World Bank or the IMF, there is still a shortage of public policies that aim to address this problem. In the case of Chile, this problem is reflected in sectors such as health, education and political participation.

Main outcomes of session (include quotes/highlights and interesting questions from the floor)

The session had the following four outcomes:

1. The countries represented at the session (Chile, Colombia, and Peru) have similar

socioeconomic characteristics that allow for a comparative study of the problem of corruption and gender inequality. This would help to generate new knowledge that, in turn, would allow the development of proposed solutions on a larger scale. In addition, as suggested during the workshop, research could be initiated by sector (education, health, justice, etc.).

2. Latin America and the Caribbean have a comprehensive and progressive legal framework to combat corruption and gender inequality, but it needs to be better aligned with a gender and human rights approach to increase its effectiveness. It was suggested that this work begin with the following regional legal instruments: the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and Inter-American Charter on Human Rights.
3. It is also necessary to introduce the gender approach in the investigation procedures of corruption crimes in LAC countries. For instance, different media cases and reports in Chile, Colombia and Peru have demonstrated the trivialization of the effects of corruption on women by the authorities of the justice administration system (police, prosecutors, and judiciary). Given this, it was recommended to improve the selection and training processes of the authorities of the justice administration system and the review of the reporting system against corruption crimes with a gender perspective.
4. One participant commented on the vulnerability of women to corruption in situations other than sextortion. As an example, she mentioned what happened in Guatemala about the vulnerability faced by honest female judges, prosecutors and lawyers fighting corruption. The treatment through the media and the threats against them and their families are worse than that of their male peers. The participant called on governments to grant special protection to these women.

Key recommendations for the future and concrete follow-up actions

As follow-up actions, it is planned to develop a research and implementation agenda on issues and recommendations on the problem of corruption and gender inequality in Chile, Colombia and Peru. Subsequently, it is expected to be able to identify the strategic actors that best contribute to the realization of this agenda in the three countries.

What can be done to create opportunities for scaling up the solutions discussed in the session? And by whom?

One thing that can be done is to prepare a study and recommendations to incorporate a gender perspective into the inter-American legal framework for the fight against corruption and gender inequality: the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and Inter-American Charter on Human Rights. This initiative could be developed by civil society, led by Transparency International. Technical assistance could also be obtained from UNDP, universities and research centers in the region. Then, all findings and recommendations should be available to OAS for evaluation.

Another thing to be done can be the replicability of one or several studies carried out in a country in the region on the interrelationship of corruption and gender inequality in a given sector (education, health, justice, etc.). This would help to have more evidence in a

comparative way.

Is there a specific call to action to key stakeholders, such as governments, businesses, funders, civil society, young people, journalists or any other stakeholder that should be noted?

Please specify if relevant.

Although the fight against corruption and gender inequality are a global responsibility, this session made a particular call to governments and civil society organizations to act more efficiently against these problems. On the one hand, governments were urged to design and implement more effective policies and tools to prevent and fight corruption, considering the greater vulnerability of women to this phenomenon. On the other hand, civil society was urged to monitor and evaluate the actions of governments in this regard, contribute to research and generation of new evidence, and prepare pertinent recommendations considering the LAC context.

Rapporteur's name and date submitted

Manuel Figueroa, 30.12.2022