The Journey of GI-ACE
FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE:
GLOBAL INTEGRITY ANTI-CORRUPTION EVIDENCE PROGRAMME END REPORT
March 2022
The GI-ACE Research Programme team would like to express our sincerest thanks to our research teams, their host institutions and all their partners. We would also like to express our gratitude to the then-DFID, now-FCDO programme team for all their support over the years, working with us consistently to weather challenges as they arose and to provide flexibility to adapt when needed. Finally, we would like to thank colleagues from civil society, the private sector, governmental and international organizations and media around the world who have contributed their thinking and served as thought partners throughout.

With appreciation, Paul Heywood, Johannes Tonn, Ambika Samarthya-Howard, Veronica Dickson La Rotta and the entire team at Global Integrity

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Despite the efforts of multilateral agencies, civil society organizations and activists to combat corruption, the widespread adoption of international conventions and ever more anti-corruption legislation across the world, not to mention a marked increase in the academic literature focusing on the causes and consequences of corruption, there is disappointingly little evidence of any measurable reduction in global corruption.

Much of the existing research on corruption does not focus on real-world problems, engage sufficiently with the power dynamics and incentives that underpin corrupt activity, or communicate findings in ways that are useful for anti-corruption practitioners. More broadly, too much research is focused on describing or analysing corruption, without testing effective mechanisms to do something about it.

To help address some of the factors that underpin this problem, the Global Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence (GI-ACE) Research Programme commissioned a series of research projects focused on developing anti-corruption interventions that, if applied within context-specific and politically feasible settings, may result in practical reforms and improved policy prescriptions.

GI-ACE worked with 14 teams conducting research on topics such as medical theft, illicit financial flows, money laundering, cross-border trading, urban planning and procurement risks. The programme supports researchers and their projects to translate evidence into actionable insights that can be used to facilitate conversations and engagement with practitioners in order to develop more effective approaches to addressing corruption. Throughout, GI-ACE aims to ensure that all of its research projects are relevant and actionable.

Funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) as part of the overall Anti-Corruption Evidence Programme, which includes two other parallel strands of work, GI-ACE teams conduct research that is problem-driven, rigorous, and designed to inform practitioners’ efforts to craft and implement more effective anti-corruption interventions in their own contexts. The second phase of this £9 million multi-year programme comes to a close in March 2022.

The thread running through all research projects is their mandate to develop practical interventions that take into account systemic factors, such as prevailing power dynamics and key players, in order to focus on politically-feasible responses. In short, the research design process asks: What works? How? And why?

The research questions are problem-led and informed by a historical and political analysis of the region and/or sector. This helps ensure that interventions take into account existing, non-abstract and specific realities, with a focus on an identifiable issue that needs to be addressed. Interventions are developed with the understanding that corruption is often a symptom of more systemic failures present within the setting in question. Additionally, complex political and cultural factors, such as the existence of embedded social norms and informal rules, further complicate reform implementation.

Research projects, therefore, seek to be realistic about the factors that perpetuate corruption, taking into account windows of opportunity to address the issue as well as the research-implementation gap. Interventions are tested both quantitatively and qualitatively within their context and are measured across a diverse slate of methods, incorporating feedback from various sources to support future adaptations to the intervention.

Given the patchy track record of corruption reform efforts, the GI-ACE programme operates as a bridge between research and practice, prompting researchers to seek answers rather than identify more questions. Projects were selected based on their commitment to addressing “real world priorities” and framing anti-corruption in a practical manner. As we end this phase of the programme, we are pleased to present initial findings and to reflect on how cutting-edge research — tied to effective communications, engagement and relationship building — has contributed to supporting the efforts of practitioners to generate anti-corruption impact.
Policy and Practice: GI-ACE’s Impact

GI-ACE has highlighted the importance of supporting world-class researchers in pursuing rigorous research while developing a strong researcher-practitioner relationship, to ensure that evidence informs practitioners’ efforts to address a variety of relevant and salient corruption challenges.

The programme has sought to strengthen collaborative partnerships between researchers and practitioners by increasing their engagement with information and resources, and providing additional spaces to build trust and legitimacy.

“The practitioner partners on the project] are excited about the method and what it could mean for them and how they can really develop it into a tool that they can use. So that is the case with the World Bank, I think. And then we’ve worked with a couple of governments, Jamaican and Ugandan governments, and they see us as bringing something that’s useful for them in work that they need to do anyway.” — Dan Haberly

“The most valuable aspect [of GI-ACE] is having support to do this enormous data analysis based on constructing this global database of financial-secrecy regulation and money laundering that just would not have been possible without staff time to compile this data and then spending months figuring out how to unlock these International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) leaked datasets, the Panama papers, Paradise papers. The data stuff is so complicated it took probably the better part of six months just to figure out how to analyse them. So again, an enormous investment in time that’s not really possible to do without this sort of support.” — Dan Haberly

Both projects and the programme have generated exciting impact over the course of three years working together across themes, sectors and countries, as highlighted here.

1.1 Project Highlights

- The “Red Flags” procurement project, headed by Liz Dávid-Barrett and Mihály Fazekas, has evolved into a number of parallel initiatives and continues to grow with multiple outcomes emerging:
  - In July 2021, the project launched the World Bank Pro-ACE procurement data portal. This prototype development continues with considerable impact. According to the World Bank, the tool “enables the analysis of data related to over 21 million contracts and represents a total estimated 2% of annual world GDP.”
  - In addition, the team continues to work with the International Monetary Fund, having won the IMF’s Anti-Corruption Challenge in 2020.
  - Last but not least, there has been uptake of the country-specific procurement data dashboards, specifically by local CSOs along with government officials in Uganda and Jamaica. This process has been filmed and is being disseminated worldwide to incentivize government and civil society stakeholders to emulate the project.

- Gerhard Anders brought together key policy makers from the U.S., UK, Nigeria and Malawi to discuss findings from GI-ACE research on the effectiveness of law enforcement and anti-corruption frameworks has resulted in his being invited to join an advisory group on the future of Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and information sharing. In addition, Harvey Gerhard’s research on ways to improve global anti-money laundering that just would not have been possible without staff time to compile this data and then spending months figuring out how to unlock these International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) leaked datasets, the Panama papers, Paradise papers. The data stuff is so complicated it took probably the better part of six months just to figure out how to analyse them. So again, an enormous investment in time that’s not really possible to do without this sort of support.” — Dan Haberly

- Jackie Harvey’s research on ways to improve global anti-money laundering has resulted in her being invited to join an advisory group on the future of Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and information sharing. In addition, Harvey made a submission to a Parliamentary consultation on behalf of the Financial Crime Compliance Research Interest Group in June 2021, in which she...
Claudia Baez Camargo's work on social norms and informal governance has generated significant interest among stakeholders. Her work has highlighted the importance of an approach that focuses on networked problem-solving strategies with respect to bribery and favouritism. Baez Camargo presented findings to the British High Commissioner, the EU ambassador and the Swiss embassy in Dar es Salaam, where her insights were well received and are likely to strengthen the continued collaboration between FCDO and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to explore how a networking lens might be incorporated into concrete approaches and projects.

Jan Meyer-Sahling’s research and survey data on civil service integrity has supported the development and passage of new civil service legislation over the course of the project. In Kosovo, the survey directly informed the Working Group for the Law on Public Officials (passed in 2019; enforced in 2020), which introduced new merit recruitment procedures, including centralised examination procedures for public servants. In Chile, the survey also influenced new legislation mandating merit-based recruitment procedures. In Croatia, the survey was used to reform quality management in public administration.

John Heathershaw’s project on financial secrecy reform has informed the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption. The research focuses on the need to move beyond compliance and instead commit to a system of culture, ethics and integrity within businesses. This idea has been used in the WEF workstream on “gatekeepers” (those working in the financial, legal and accounting sectors) and has shaped the agenda for business integrity.

Jacqueline Klopp’s research on how corruption affects small-scale trade has led to higher rates of extortion and harassment for those who remain in the trade. Working with Sauti East Africa (a mobile platform), Klopp’s team conducted an experiment with traders on crowdsourced border-experience reporting (waiting, payments and comfort levels) and found that this is a viable potential new intervention. Through the deployment of large-scale surveys, the team also found that many of the dominant anti-corruption reforms at borders, such as complaint mechanisms and One Stop Border Posts, are both poorly understood and poorly used by their intended audience. This appears in contrast with information desks, which were a useful tool in the context of Corruption. The research focuses on the need to move beyond compliance and instead commit to a system of culture, ethics and integrity within businesses. This idea has been used in the WEF workstream on “gatekeepers” (those working in the financial, legal and accounting sectors) and has shaped the agenda for business integrity.

Cross-Project Collaborations

Research on illicit financial flows (IFFs) has influenced the UK’s International Centre of Excellence (ICE) on Illicit Finance and the UK Treasury’s Economic Crime Committee. Dan Haberly’s blog “Mapping Politically Exposed Persons (PEP)-Linked Shell Companies in the Panama and Paradise Papers” received nearly 700 clicks on the GI-ACE website (upon publishing), and Haberly was invited to provide advisory counsel at the inception of the UK Government’s proposed ICE on Illicit Finance. John Heathershaw’s research on how institutional enablers in the UK allow PEPs to take advantage of legal loopholes to launder money has been submitted to the UK Treasury Committee’s Inquiry on Economic Crime. Research findings have also been shared with journalists of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network and with Redress, a UK charity that leads the global Magnitsky coalition. Both teams have held workshops and engaged with stakeholders, including journalists, UK government representatives, and practitioners at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), IMF, Chatham House, English PEN, the Office of the Independent Adjudicator and Index on Censorship, amongst others.

Their work has been reported on in publications such as Foreign Policy and The Economist. Journalist Tom Burgis from the Financial Times wrote a feature on Britain’s eased regulatory environment facilitating global corruption, with insights derived from a private workshop facilitated by John Heathershaw and his team. A report on “UK’s Kleptocracy Problem,” published with Chatham House in December 2021, generated a major media impact and was widely covered in the press, such as The Guardian. The report has been referenced by UK Parliamentarians, and researcher Jason Sharman provided evidence to the Canadian Cullen Commission on money laundering in British Columbia. The team has developed an animation to effectively convey project findings and policy insights to a wider audience of anti-corruption practitioners and to illustrate the severity and scope of this issue.

GI-ACE researchers John Heathershaw, Liz David-Barrett and Gerhard Anders, as well as Programme Director Paul Heywood, have continued to provide strategic advice through their engagements with JACU and the Economic Crime Survey Steering Group. In doing so, they have provided advice that will help shape UK national anti-corruption strategy and policy priorities with insights derived directly from GI-ACE research. In Nigeria, Anders has engaged with the Head and Deputy Heads of the Department for International Development (DFID) country office and other steering-group representatives over the course of the project.
1.2 Programme Highlights

The GI-ACE programme has sought to make connections between projects by branding project findings and creating spaces to encourage practitioner and academic audiences to engage with and review evidence for more effective anti-corruption programming. Specific highlights include:

- To provide practitioner audiences and researchers with easy access to the canon of anti-corruption literature, GI-ACE has collaborated with the Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network (ICRN) and Harvard Law School academic Matthew Stephenson to develop and launch a digital library of resources on corruption and anti-corruption. The initiative provides searchable information on more than 7,000 academic sources across a range of disciplines, which will serve as an essential tool for both practitioners and researchers in the anti-corruption field.

- GI-ACE has also worked closely with the ICRN to host its annual forum, organizing a roundtable on effective communication between anti-corruption researchers and practitioners, and providing opportunities for capacity-building and networking for the next generation of anti-corruption scholars.

- In December 2021, GI-ACE hosted an event in partnership with the Open Government Partnership and USAID to explore the value and limits of locally led development. This event was hosted in the run-up to the U.S. Summit for Democracy conference, spotlighting the valuable efforts practitioners and activists have undertaken to work within local contexts and constraints. The event recording and post-event reflections can be found on the Global Integrity site. GI-ACE was also a significant presence at USAID’s Anti-Corruption Learning and Evidence Week, held in early 2022. Claudia Baez Camargo and other research team members presented on the challenges of meaningfully measuring corruption and the impacts of programming to counteract corruption.

- As the programme winds down in 2022, GI-ACE hosted a weekly virtual research dissemination series, in which each GI-ACE research team had the opportunity to present its latest findings to an audience of practitioners. These became lively discussions during which academics and practitioners are able to engage with research findings in a candid environment.

- Throughout the programme, GI-ACE has been a part of a number of online engagements, including collaborations with the School of Oriental and African Studies–Anti-Corruption Evidence Programme (SOAS-ACE) in the form of two hour-long KickBack podcasts, which aired in March (Part 1) and April (Part 2) 2021, and two panels organized by Global Integrity for the 2020 International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC). Researchers presented their research and fielded questions from fellow panelists and audience members on integrity and open data.
Programme Logic: GI-ACE’s Approach

To arrive at these impacts, the GI-ACE programme was built on a clear programme logic, spelled out in the “Theory of Change” (Appendix A). Our hypothesis was that problem-led, relevant and rigorous anti-corruption research will make a difference only if it is accompanied by targeted efforts to strengthen the collaborative partnerships between academics and practitioners. We set out to do so by guiding and shepherding communication efforts that help translate research findings into language and recommendations understandable in relevant policy spaces, and by strengthening relationships and communities of practice through trust building.

2.1 Generating World-Class Evidence

GI-ACE selected research partners around the world through a competitive bidding process to generate actionable evidence that policy makers, practitioners and advocates could use to design and implement more effective anti-corruption programmes. Each research team was led by a principal investigator and focused on one or more themes around which the programme is built.

Addressing the International Legal & Financial Architecture Supporting Corruption

The first theme explores the link between high-level corruption and the enabling international architecture that supports illicit financial flows and the role of professional intermediaries such as agents, accountants and lawyers facilitating purchases of property and luxury goods, exploitation of tax regimes, and the use of offshore facilities.

- Dan Haberly (University of Sussex) explored the effects of moves to create greater transparency in offshore secrecy jurisdictions, to understand how they contribute to financial reform efforts.
- Jacqueline Harvey (Northumbria University) focused on how to meet the challenges of developing systems to increase transparency and trace beneficial ownership in Nigeria.
- John Heathershaw (University of Exeter) assessed the effectiveness of the international anti-money-laundering regime, focusing on countering the use of shell companies in jurisdictions in Africa and Asia.
- Liz Dávid-Barrett (University of Sussex) and Mihály Fazekas (Central European University) explored the regulatory framework of donor recipient countries and their interaction with donor regulations, looking to extend their innovative analysis of “red flag” risks revealed by the big data analysis of procurement. In addition, they worked on an impact project that created red flag portals in Uganda and Jamaica.
- Thorsten Chmura (Nottingham Trent University) ran an experimental economics project that looked at the interrelationship between the international anti-corruption legal architecture and local social norms and beliefs.

Promoting Integrity & Systems of Integrity Management

Integrity is more than simply an absence of corruption. There is a need to better understand how integrity can be positively identified and promoted in both the public and the private sectors, so as to build effective models of integrity management — formal frameworks that ensure stakeholders proactively engage in ethical behaviour whilst also complying with legal norms.

- The Cities of Integrity project — led by the late Vanessa Watson (University of Cape Town) — explored the link between urban planning and corruption, focusing on how to support the promotion of professional integrity as an anti-corruption strategy in Zambia and South Africa.
- Jacqueline Klopp (Columbia University) used a mixed-methods approach, including randomized controlled trials, to explore the functioning of Sauti East Africa in assisting traders to address corruption on the Kenya-Uganda border.
- Jan Meyer-Sahling (University of Nottingham) used randomized controlled trials to develop his work on civil service management practices, focusing on ethics training in Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Mark Buntaine (University of California, Santa Barbara) ran field experiments to explore how civic expectations may be realigned to counteract corruption, focusing on western Uganda.
Levels

Studies of corruption and anti-corruption have generally focused on nation-states as their unit of analysis. While this work has been valuable in identifying broad patterns, it can mask variation in corruption at the sub-national level and between different sectors.

- **Amrita Dhillon** (King’s College London) explored different auditing mechanisms as tools to ensure effective public service delivery in Indian states.
- **Claudia Baez Camargo** (Basel Institute on Governance) worked with colleagues to develop an experimental approach to test behavioural interventions in the Tanzanian health sector, looking to harness social networks through “governance clubs.” In addition, she led a project that explored the role of informal networks that sustain and shape the form of corrupt activities in Malawi.
- **Gerhard Anders** (University of Edinburgh) led a comparative study of law enforcement and the prosecution of high-level corruption in Nigeria, Tanzania and Malawi, looking at the effectiveness of particular legal tools.
- **Ryan Jablonski** (London School of Economics) led a team that evaluated different mechanisms, including the use of innovative technology, to reduce drug theft in Malawi.

2.2 Strengthening Collaborative Partnerships

GI-ACE asked projects to engage stakeholders “from nose to tail” of the research process. This took on a different shape for each project, but researchers were encouraged to openly engage partner governments and civil society actors in research design, implementation and uptake wherever possible.

Executed successfully, such partnerships enable practitioners and researchers to engage in a mutually beneficial relationship based on trust. In the case of GI-ACE’s programme, strong reciprocal relationships between researchers and practitioners led to collaboration on anti-corruption projects. This informed and refined the tools and strategies that practitioners can use to address corruption issues as they manifest on the ground.

“It was a marriage of mutual interest.”
— Gilbert Sendugwa, Executive Director for Africa Freedom of Information Centre

**A Case Study:**

**Ethical Border Trading Between Kenya & Uganda**

Jacqueline Klopp’s team explored the impact of COVID-19 on border trading, taking initial stock of the multiple actors with conflicting motivations and degrees of power and influence perpetuating corruption. In order to maximize impact, they chose to work closely with a local social enterprise, Sauti East Africa, an organization with close ties to local female small-scale traders.

Researchers relied on relationships with practitioners and repeatedly engaged them to collaborate on objectives for mutually beneficial researcher-practitioner connections. As Klopp conveyed, “partners are not passive recipients but active participants in generating and shaping research ideas and design. By involving them in this way, they will be far more interested in picking up the research, and the research itself is far more likely to be relevant and speak to actual problems in fighting corruption.”

By establishing secure pathways for communication between the researchers and both the subjects of their analysis and the civic actors who had taken time to “build networks with traders, gain their trust and advocate for them,” the project was more easily able to adaptively and nimbly refine their intervention. An example of this process is the decision made to leverage ubiquitous cell phone use and existing informal networks to collect data on corruption and border experiences from the traders themselves. This analysis revealed the need to look more carefully at “associations, policy networks and the platforms — both informal and formal — by which traders voice concern and confront government officials.”

**SAUTI EAST AFRICA**
“The way the research works now is very much that you [the researcher] want to work on anti-corruption policy, on ethics training or integrity management in government, but the starting point is actually the collaboration with government. What’s the policy problem? What evidence do you need? What kind of interventions can we actually design? How can we evaluate them? The focus of the work is, first of all, the real-world problem and the problem and challenge that the non-academic stakeholder actually faces. And the ambition is to maybe use our methods and our theories in order to inform the design and evaluation of these new policies. And then, only subsequently, we actually go and write a paper. We have reversed the causal chain between impact and research. And I think this is something that I’ve done.”
— Jan Meyer-Sahling

Jan Meyer-Sahling described GI-ACE work as a chain to impact, including policy change. The chain started by listening to practitioners’ concerns and relied on relationships between partners with a deep understanding of real-world challenges and researchers with strong evidence.

Researchers expanded their networks and geographic reach through intentional collaborations with practitioners. This has increased their credibility as researchers and facilitated additional partnerships and projects.

“This work is so important. It attracts the attention of other institutions. It leads to the protection of the prosecutors. I will share from my own experience: There are times when politicians have networks that might want to interfere with the prosecution of setting high-collar crimes. This kind of research, focusing on these cases, works as a check on them. That kind of check protects the prosecutor. The long-term impact is that it adds to the foundation for the prosecution independence.”
— Mary Kachale, former Director of Prosecutions and currently Principal Secretary at the Office of the President and Cabinet, Government of Malawi

“(The GI-ACE project) allowed us to do the research in the first place, but I think it also put us in touch with a lot of potential users. Actually, the head of research at DFID has been a really strong advocate and has put us in touch with various partners along the way. I think the fact that there was a relationship with the funder was important. They got excited about it. It’s difficult to think about what would have happened if we hadn’t had GI-ACE.”
— Liz Dávid-Barrett

“Most researchers come to get data from participants and never come back to share findings. Something that stood out and pleased me was that Jacqueline [Klopp] wanted to come and share the findings. [...] She keeps everyone involved, from the inception of what she’s thinking of, when designing instruments, when writing the paper, and is personally involved at each step. This helped us think critically on our efforts and improved my personal interaction with my clients. [...] She always says, ‘This is our work, our collaboration,’ and doesn’t take sole ownership. I pride myself on being part of this work.”
— Brian Baraza, Senior Lab Officer at the Busara Center for Behavioral Economics

In addition, GI-ACE has facilitated engagement among the community of anti-corruption researchers through an intentional process to increase connections and build relationships that enable the link between research and practice outcomes.

“It’s fantastic that there is a program that specifically funds research on corruption and, in the wider sense, the quality of public sector governance.”
— Jan Meyer-Sahling

Ultimately all partners are interested in effective anti-corruption outcomes. If we don’t try to measure the intended effects, we won’t know what we’ve achieved and what we might want to do different next time in order to create the most effective intervention possible.

However, evaluating impact takes time and requires project activities and their effects to be monitored over a longer time frame, with a focus on sustainability, often extending beyond what most funding periods allow. One important aspect that GI-ACE has focused on is to pay attention to those factors that can be monitored and potentially adapted in real time in order to aim for maximum success during the intervention period — including, for example, the rapidly changing context resulting from COVID-19.

“I really appreciate this sense of building a network of scholars; there are a lot of activist scholars around anti-corruption. I think a lot of times funders will fund individual projects and not try to really encourage the dialogue or the synergies in a systematic way. So I found the network meetings and the conversations with other project researchers to be incredible.”
— Jacqueline Klopp
A Case Study: Improved Learning Culture That Informs Adaptations

One GI-ACE project improved a practitioner organisation’s learning culture, enabling them to incorporate this thinking into future programmatic adaptations. This occurred in the project led by Claudia Baez Camargo, who strengthened an existing relationship with the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB). Sabina Seja, the Director of Corruption Prevention, Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in Tanzania, described how the success of the GI-ACE-funded training inspired PCCB to contract with Baez Camargo to implement a train-the-trainer approach to design an evaluation framework. Specifically, PCCB is continuing to work with Baez Camargo to implement additional participatory training sessions, including one to develop a measurement-and-evaluation framework. Specifically, PCCB is continuing to work with Baez Camargo to implement additional participatory training sessions, including one to develop a measurement-and-evaluation framework. Although we don't have a clear M/L/E framework, we are going to start designing as we go. Focusing on this one piece that was missing. That is what we wanted from the training we had with Dr. Claudia: to help us design it from the beginning.

Sabina Seja, Director of Corruption Prevention, Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in Tanzania

2.3 Increasing Engagement

Ensuring the sustainability of a project is as important as supporting the initial research undertaking. Failing to take into account political realities means a project will have very little chance of ever being implemented. Obstacles may vary: from the termination of supportive funding to geopolitical volatility and flagging political will. Inter-governmental dynamics may lead to top-down resistance to anti-corruption schemes, and donor countries may withdraw financial support or the political pressure needed to push through real reform.

What this meant for the GI-ACE programme was not merely designing ambitious projects based on novel research findings, but also working within windows of opportunity and pitching reforms at “the right level, whether that be international, national or tactical” (Heywood and Pyman, 2021). Gerhard Anders’ team focused on law enforcement in Malawi and Nigeria, identifying the enabling factors for effective law enforcement and examining the various investigative and legal tools available in criminal proceedings, as well as innovative legal strategies such as asset recovery and civil litigation.

As activists, we want to run very fast. We want government agencies to act on our issues. But when we’re not prepared with comparing information, it affects our advocacy; we are not going to be convincing. Now, with this clear information, it helps you to target this specific action that you undertake. [...] This strong research with academic institutions hit a lot of points: Where exactly is the issue and what is the issue? And this is the information that advocates like [Africa Freedom of Information Centre] need to make a compelling and evidential advocacy with government agencies.

— Gilbert Sendugwa, Executive Director for Africa Freedom of Information Centre

learned from this project. We learned a lot from [Jan Meyer-Sahling]. It has informed our thinking about establishing a centre for ethics and integrity in Nepal. Such a centre and collaborations with academics and practitioners and social activities to come together to establish and contribute to promote ethical culture, and by promoting this ethical culture, we can address corruption.

— Shree Krishna Shrestha from the Inland Revenue Department of Nepal

"Working together gives more confidence and impacts knowledge and understanding. [...] We cannot work alone in the fight against corruption.”

— Sabina Seja
2.4 Communicating Evidence Effectively

In addition to building relationships and generating evidence, researchers’ use of accessible communications products and frequent interactions successfully engaged a range of practitioners, which, in turn, led to better results. By communicating evidence more effectively through a variety of activities and formats, researchers raised awareness and enabled practitioners to use evidence, tools and strategies to address corruption. In describing their process, researchers stressed the importance of framing the information based on the audience’s interests, avoiding overly technical explanations and providing concrete recommendations.

“Although a lot of the benefits [of the project findings and tool] are about reducing corruption risks, we are sometimes selling it as improving efficiency instead — and with practitioners you sometimes need to do that, because they don’t necessarily want to hear that they’re corrupt, but they do want to hear that you can help them save money. And that also, I think, has something to do with the framing. I’m absolutely, to the core, a corruption researcher. But I find myself talking a bit more now in terms of providing better public service delivery, more-efficient government, better-quality administration and these kinds of things, because they’re less controversial terms to use with policy makers.” — Liz Dávid-Barrett

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Amrita Dhillon (King’s College, London) published two working papers on the effect of electoral competition on corruption in India: “Electoral Competition, Accountability and Corruption: Theory and Evidence From India” and “Measuring Performance: Ranking State Success Over Two Decades in India.”
- The Cities of Integrity project published a comprehensive dataset with the research methodology and survey results for Zambia and South Africa
- The Cities of Integrity project released its final installment of a three-part video series on fostering integrity among urban planners in South Africa and Zambia.
- Gerhard Anders’ project resulted in the publication of two working papers and accompanying policy briefs on effective law enforcement in Nigeria and Malawi, resources that were disseminated during a private workshop with policymakers.

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GI-ACE supplied researchers with a process and the skills to disseminate findings and communicate evidence effectively with non-academics. Researchers appreciated the support and encouragement GI-ACE gave on writing blogs and creating high-quality communications products.

We focused on disseminating outputs and generating press in the countries where GI-ACE projects were conducting research. For example, as practitioners worked more closely with policy makers in Malawi and Nigeria, there was an increase in the number of website users from those regions. Through concerted social media efforts around research in these countries, and more inclusionary efforts in advertising our events, we believe tracking where people are visiting from is as important as tracking the number of users.

Nigerian and Malawian government officials and law enforcement practitioners.

- **Jackie Harvey** released two working papers on grand corruption in Nigeria: "A Case of Smoke and Mirrors" and "Grand Corruption in Nigeria: What Can Be Learned From a Review of Cases?"

- Results from the **Jan Meyer-Sahling** project included a blog post on the resource curse in African countries, insights that have been translated into a forthcoming academic journal article.

- **John Heathershaw** (Exeter)'s team collaborated with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) to share research findings depicting academia’s increased reliance on donations from the super wealthy, and published a report in collaboration with Chatham House on the role of professional enablers in facilitating transnational corruption.

- **John Heathershaw**'s team wrote a blog on "Global Britain: Enabling Kleptocracy?" after a successful 60-participant research dissemination workshop that featured individuals across civil society, academia and journalism. The project produced an animated video, "The Kleptocracy Problem," which describes the role that institutions play in enabling transnational corruption.

“I've always been a very engaged activist-researcher, but I think they [GI-ACE team members] have been really important in their approach to challenging us to think about our theory of change, making us do a power map, which is not something I've done before for my research. I mean, I've done it in my head somewhat subconsciously, but not really sitting down and looking at who are the most powerful players, who are the most influential, who should I really be targeting and should I have a strategy for how to do that. I think GI-ACE has pushed me in new ways to be more systematic about that process.”
— Jacqueline Klopp

“I think the much more structured, organised approach to communications and dissemination under the Gi programme has been really good. [...] Right from the very beginning, when we had to write one-pagers, regular blogs and that kind of thing about the projects, I think that's really helped to make it much more of a community.”
— Liz Dávid-Barrett

“Thanks for the nice-looking reports! Because of that, I was able to get appointments with some top government people!”
— Amrita Dhillon
Select High-Level Press Engagement & Mentions:

- **Financial Times**: Tom Burgis' article on how Britain's eased regulatory environment facilitates global corruption included insights from a GI-ACE private workshop from the John Heather Shaw team regarding the UK's role in enabling global kleptocracy.

- **The New York Times**: GI-ACE researcher Tom Mayne was quoted as an expert source depicting the failure of English courts to successfully handle corruption cases related to the former Soviet Union, stating "It seems like an abuse of English law courts, because we're basically reinforcing the status quo of the regimes in these kleptocratic countries."

- **Open Democracy**: Aksana Ismailbekova, from Claudia Baez Camargo's Extension project on informal networks, wrote on how the rise of Kyrgyzstan's new nationalist leader shows "traditional" norms and symbols can be effectively revived and deployed for very modern aims.

- **Tribune India**: GI-ACE researcher Amrita Dhillon participated in a conversation with Kaushik Basu, former Chief Economist at the World Bank and Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) during the UPA government in India.

- **The Economist**: GI-ACE researcher Jason Sharman's work was cited as part of a feature on the lack of due diligence conducted by financial institutions that enable global money laundering and IFFs.

- **The Guardian**: A front-page article on the government contracting process for personal protective equipment (PPE) quoted Liz Dávid-Barrett extensively.

- **The Times**: A headlining piece featured a model code of conduct for universities which was drafted by John Heather Shaw and colleagues in the Academic Freedom and Internationalisation Working Group.

- **The Guardian**: A front-page article on the government contracting process for personal protective equipment (PPE) quoted Liz Dávid-Barrett extensively.

- **The Times**: A headlining piece featured a model code of conduct for universities which was drafted by John Heather Shaw and colleagues in the Academic Freedom and Internationalisation Working Group.

- **The Mirage News**: An article described the IMF Pitch Challenge win by the Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement team. The project won $50,000 to pilot their anti-corruption project intervention.

- **The II Med Mediterranean Yearbook**: A piece by Tena Prelec covered the non-transparent practices of Emirati investors that facilitated the activities of money-laundering networks in the Balkans.

- **Relief Web**: A piece by the Claudia Baez Camargo team focused on research evidence that social norms and shared beliefs spur corruption.

- **The Premium Times**: Gerhard Anders' project was quoted in a piece about setbacks in Nigeria's fight against corruption.
In addition to GI-ACE, the overall ACE programme also includes two other components: SOAS-ACE, a research partnership consortium focused on corruption interdependencies and the private sector, with specific reference to Bangladesh, Nigeria and Tanzania, headed by Professor Mushtaq Khan of SOAS University of London (2016–22); and, since 2021, Serious Organised Crime (SOC) ACE, headed by Professor Heather Marquette of the University of Birmingham, a component that explores the links between corruption and serious organised crime.

The ACE components have continued to liaise, collaborate and find synergies between them in order to generate additional awareness of the anti-corruption research challenges tackled and the complementarities between the different strands of work.

Together, SOAS-ACE and GI-ACE designed a panel in March 2021 to discuss the challenges and opportunities researchers have in incorporating gender in research design and to explore why some still shy away from working with “gender” when designing research projects, including critically reflecting on why gender does not play a more pronounced role in the ACE programme. The event, What’s In A Design? Mainstreaming Gender in Anti-Corruption Research, was attended by more than 80 individuals, with GI-ACE researchers Jacqueline Klopp and Claudia Baez Camargo and SOAS-ACE Research Director Pallavi Roy as panelists, and discussion moderated by Sohela Nazneen, from the Institute of Development Studies.

In September 2021, SOAS organised an expert panel, which included Heather Marquette, for the event Making Anti-Corruption Messaging Effective: The Critical Importance of Feasibility and Targeting, at which GI-ACE researcher Claudia Baez Camargo shared insights from her project on social norms and behaviour to reduce corruption. The substance of this event was further developed by the GI-ACE team, in collaboration with the Transparency and Accountability Initiative, in October 2022, brainstorming whether positive examples could help inform how researchers, practitioners and philanthropic funders might work collaboratively to avoid democratic disillusion.

Last but not least, we have convened all programme strands to take part in a number of conferences and fora hosted by the OECD, USAID, Transparency International (TI)-UK, TI-Health, the Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime, the Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network (ICRN) and the Transparency and Accountability Initiative (TAI).

**Appendix A: Theory of Change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES/OUTPUTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Researchers explore thematic and stakeholder ecosystems</td>
<td>Practitioners and researchers engage one another</td>
<td>Practitioners and researchers have a mutually beneficial relationship based on trust and interest to learn from one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Researchers propose project</td>
<td>Researchers produce materials</td>
<td>Practitioners have greater capacity to design and implement effective anti-corruption policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Researchers engage in research</td>
<td>Researchers generate world-class evidence</td>
<td>Practitioners and researchers engage one another</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Researchers communicate evidence effectively</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Practitioners are open to and confident in applying research findings in policy processes</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Practitioners design and implement effective anti-corruption policies</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Practitioners reduce corruption problems</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Global Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence (GI-ACE) Research Programme supports 14 projects around the world, generating actionable evidence that policy makers, practitioners and advocates can use to design and implement more-effective anti-corruption initiatives.

globalintegrity.org/ace

@GlobalIntegrity
Appendix B: GI-ACE Outputs Annex

Policy Briefs

Amrita Dhillon
The Amrita Dhillon team wrote a policy brief for the GI-ACE site, titled "The Case for Accessible Audit Data: Tracking the Effectiveness of Indian Governance Schemes," in March 2021.

Claudia Baez Camargo
"Informal Networks and What They Mean for Anti-Corruption Practice," in February 2022.

Gerhard Anders
Gerhard Anders and Matthew Page published a policy brief on the GI-ACE site, titled "Law Enforcement and High-Level Corruption in Malawi: Learning from Cashgate," in March 2021.

Jackie Harvey
The Jackie Harvey team submitted to the UK Parliament a policy brief on the GI-ACE site, titled "Law Enforcement and High-Level Corruption in Malawi: Learning from Cashgate," in March 2021.

Vanessa Watson

Working Papers

Amrita Dhillon


John Heathershaw

Liz Dávid-Barrett
The Liz Dávid-Barrett and Fazeekas team wrote a brief titled "Frequently Asked Questions" on the Red Flags methodology developed to track public procurement, Data and Methods FAQ, in 2020.

Mark Buntaine
Mark Buntaine team wrote a brief titled "Recogizing Local Leaders As an Anti-Corruption Strategy," in February 2022.

Claudia Baez Camargo
"Informal Networks As Investment in East Africa," published in November 2021.

"Qualitative Action Experiment Workshop Report," produced in partnership with CURP and the University of Zambia, published in March 2021.


"Informal Networks As Investment in East Africa," published in November 2021.

"Informal Networks As Investment in East Africa," published in November 2021.
Published

Gerhard Anders

Jan Meyer-Sahling


Jacqueline Klopp

Revise & Resubmit

Jan Meyer-Sahling

Political and Personal Connections, Bureaucratic Identities and Varieties of Corruption in Government,” with Governance.

“Does Citizen Participation Make Public Servants More Satisfied With Their Jobs? It Depends on Whether They Are Spectators or Participants,” with the International Review of Administrative Sciences.


Liz Davíd-Barrett
“Elections and Corruption: Incentives to Steal or Incentives for Ones That Need to Generate Employment”

Claudia Baez Camargo
“Are Top-Down Audits Complements or Substitutes to Social Audits?”

Amrita Dhillon
“The Case for Accessible Audit Data: Tracking the Effectiveness of Indian Governance Schemes”

The Flipside of Corruption: State Comparisons in India Using Public Service Delivery Measures”

Poorest Districts With Largest Number of Migrants Are Ones That Need to Generate Employment

Bribery Isn’t Only an Exchange of Money — What New Research Tells Us About How Informal Networks Enable Corruption and Vice Versa

Bribery, Gift-Giving & Social Norms: Understanding Corruption in the Tanzania Health Sector

Informal Practices and Informal (Governing) Networks

Harnessing Invisibility for Anti-Corruption Practice, Shifting the Unit of Analysis from Individuals to Networks

Blogs

Amrita Dhillon
The Case for Accessible Audit Data: Tracking the Effectiveness of Indian Governance Schemes

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Liz Davíd-Barrett


Vanessa Watson


Appendix B: GI-ACE Outputs Annex (cont.)


A Clear Mandate to Investigate Nablars

Jacqueline Klopp

Liz David-Barrett
"Building Public Procurement Integrity in Jamaica"

"India’s Federal Procurement Data Infrastructure"

"Anti-Corruption in Aid-Funded Procurement. Whacking the Mole is Not Enough!"

"Where Does Pressure for Public Procurement Transparency Come from? Reflections from Uganda and Tanzania"

Mark Buntaine
"Is Positive Recognition an Incentive to Fight Corruption?"

"Trust, Public Health and Corruption"

"Fighting Corruption by Recognizing Integrity"

Claudia Baez Camargo
"Can the COVID Pandemic Change Citizens’ Willingness to Act Against Corruption?" The Wire

How Has Covid-19 Crisis Affected the Urban Poor?

Findings from a phone survey published in Ideas for India

Jan Meyer-Sahling
"How These Women Are Contributing to a Sustainable Future: Voices from the Field"

"Towards a More Professional and Ethical Civil Service in Bangladesh, Nepal and Tanzania"}

Amrita Dhillon
"Can the COVID Pandemic Change Citizens’ Willingness to Act Against Corruption?" The Wire

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Claudia Baez Camargo

"Social Norms and Poor Services Drive Petty Corruption in East Africa’s Health Sector," Relief Web.


Gerhard Anders

"Does Innovative Enforcement Help or Hurt Anti-Corruption Efforts?" FCPA Blog

"Is Nigeria Turning Around Its Anti-Corruption Enforcement?" FCPA Blog

Jackie Harvey
"Researching the evidence to fight global corruption" Northumbria University

Jacqueline Klopp
"How These Women Are Contributing to a Sustainable Future: Voices from the Field"

"Towards a Better Performing and More Ethical Civil Service If Part of a Smart Anti-Corruption Infrastructure"

"Ethics Codes: How They Can Curb Corruption in Public Service If Part of a Smart Anti-Corruption Infrastructure"

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John Heathershaw
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"From a Surrey Mansion to an Uzbek Prison: Revisiting the Case of Gulnara Karimova"

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"What We Have Learnt From the UK’s Unexplained Wealth Order Legal Cases"

"Paying for a World-Class Affiliation: Reputation Laundering in Universities"

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