

The Global Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence (GI-ACE) research programme is designed to generate actionable evidence that may lead to more effective anti-corruption initiatives. This entails moving away from national-level top-down technical and regulatory approaches towards operationally relevant, problem-driven, rigorous, and actionable research that takes into account specific context and the complexity of corruption.

Over the last four years, GI-ACE has supported a total of 19 research projects. Amongst the themes explored in those projects were anti-money laundering, beneficial ownership, cross-border trading, medical theft, procurement risks, and urban planning. GI-ACE funds research with innovative approaches tied to concrete challenges around our priority areas, promoting collaboration with practitioners who are directly dealing with these challenges (under the framing principles of ACE).

Projects have generated extensive outputs - producing over 85 policy briefs, reports, datasets, and working papers and delivering impact through over 400 engagement events (speeches, panel appearances, participation in workshops, and so forth). The research teams have provided concrete tests of anti-corruption interventions, with insights and findings presented to a range of government representatives and other organisations around the world.

Phase 1 Themes

- Addressing the International Architecture that Supports Corruption: Explores the link between high-level corruption and the enabling international architecture that supports illicit financial flows.
- Promoting Systems of Integrity Management: Explores how integrity can be positively identified and promoted in both the public and private sectors to build effective models of integrity management—formal frameworks that ensure stakeholders proactively engage in ethical behaviour whilst also complying with legal norms.
- Tackling Corruption at Subnational and Sectoral Levels: Explores variations in corruption at the subnational level and between different sectors. These variations are too often masked by the focus on nation-states as the general unit of analysis in studies of corruption and anti-corruption.

Phase 2 Themes

- Corruption Risks in Global Trade and Commerce: Commodity trading affects the well-being of people around the world and carries implications for sectors such as health, technology, and housing. The sector is also notoriously opaque and poorly regulated.
- Global Finance and the Enablers of Corruption: We aim to continue exploring the role played by enablers (such as bankers, lawyers, realtors, auditors and so on) in an expanding ecosystem, especially with regard to illicit financial flows (IFFs), and proposed responses. The continued focus on this theme reflects the growing worldwide momentum to pass new and enhanced anti-money laundering legislation, including on beneficial ownership registers.
- Crisis Responses and Corruption in Vulnerable Sectors: When a crisis hits, emergency powers often allow for conventional scrutiny measures to be circumvented and thus open up potential risks for corruption. More research is needed to identify effective practices to establish preventative anti-corruption measures before a disaster happens, and can strengthen the resilience of vulnerable sectors, such as health and education.

Project Highlights

Anti-Money
Laundering &
Banking / Reputation

Curbing Corruption
in Procurement

Regulating Cross-
Border Trading in
East Africa

Offshore Financial
Secrecy Reform

Social Norms,
Behaviors, and
Health in Tanzania

Integrity & Civil
Servants in Nepal
& Bangladesh

Advancing Integrity
in Uganda

Effective Law
Enforcement in
Nigeria & Malawi

Cities of Integrity
in Zambia and
South Africa