



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC
Anti-
Corruption
Hub for
South-East
Asia

Corruption remains a significant obstacle to development globally and throughout the South-East Asian region. It undermines the rule of law and ability of governments to deliver essential services, distorting markets, discouraging investment, and allowing organized crime and other threats to human security to flourish. Corruption significantly impacts the most vulnerable populations, such as those with low incomes and women, impeding social inclusion, fostering inequality, and inhibiting prosperity.

In response to this challenge, the [United Nations Convention against Corruption](#) (UNCAC) represents a unique tool. As the guardian of UNCAC, UNODC provides a range of assistance to Member States in Southeast Asia to support the implementation of UNCAC from its Regional Anti-Corruption Hub in Bangkok. The Hub's work is guided by a multi-year strategic framework outlined in the [Regional Roadmap \(2024-2027\)](#).

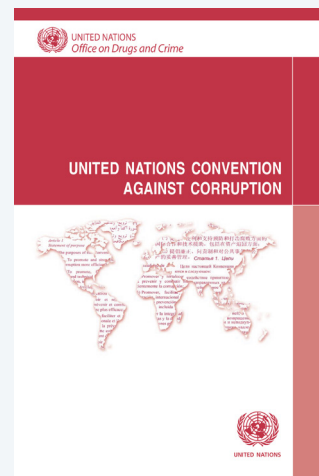
The countries under the Hub include: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.



About the UNCAC

UNCAC is the world's only legally-binding, anti-corruption instrument. The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly in October 2003 and entered into force in December 2005. To date, there are 191 States parties to UNCAC, including all in Southeast Asia, representing a ground-breaking commitment to address corruption.

UNCAC is unique in its holistic approach, adopting prevention (Chapter II) and enforcement measures, including mandatory requirements for criminalizing corrupt behaviors (Chapter III). The Convention also reflects the transnational nature of corruption, providing an international legal basis for enabling international cooperation (Chapter IV) and recovering proceeds of corruption (i.e., stolen assets) (Chapter V). The role of government, the private sector and civil society in fighting corruption is also emphasized. There is importantly the UNCAC peer review mechanism (UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism), which helps States parties assess their national anti-corruption laws, processes and institutions and empowers them to learn from and help each other.



Our approach



Evidence-based: Our work draws on the findings of the UNCAC Implementation and other verified information provided, to ensure that prioritized assistance is driven by the evidence i.e. the facts and data, verified by States parties, to support them with their identified priority areas and technical assistance needs.



Whole-society approach: We collaborate with governments, civil society, media, and the private sector to achieve lasting impacts. By engaging with a diverse set of anti-corruption actors, we ensure a holistic and sustainable approach to tackle corruption.



Mainstreaming human rights and gender considerations: We integrate human rights and gender perspectives throughout our initiatives, ensuring that anti-corruption efforts address the unique challenges faced by marginalized groups, and promote equality and inclusivity.



Leveraging technology and data: We encourage the innovative use of technology and data analytics to enhance transparency, monitor corruption trends, and improve the efficiency of anti-corruption measures.



Engaging youth in the fight against corruption: Recognizing the vital role of young people, we actively involve youth in anti-corruption initiatives, empowering them with the skills, knowledge, and platforms needed to champion transparency and accountability in their communities.

What we do

Knowledge generation and sharing

Our knowledge products aim to provide a solid evidence base for developing national and regional capacities, raising awareness, sharing good practices, and identifying solutions to relevant challenges, while providing valuable insights for policymakers, anti-corruption practitioners, civil society, and the public.

Our latest publications



The Implementation of Non-Conviction-Based Forfeiture in ASEAN, Mongolia and Timor-Leste

[Read](#)



Right to Information in ASEAN Member States, Mongolia and Timor-Leste

[Read](#)



Cash in the Trash: The role of corruption, organized crime and money laundering in waste trafficking

[Read](#)



Bribery in the Conduct of Business, Addressing Corruption in Public Procurement, and Laundering and Recovery of Proceeds of Crime: A Study on the Main Areas for Enhanced Cooperation among IPEF Partners

[Read](#)



Liability of Legal Persons: Implementation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption with a focus on Malaysia

[Read](#)



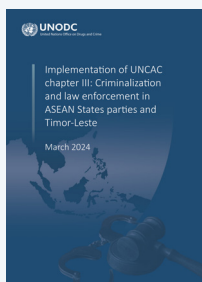
Implementation of Beneficial Ownership Transparency in ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste

[Read](#)



Implementation of UNCAC chapter IV: International cooperation in ASEAN States parties and Timor-Leste

[Read](#)



Implementation of UNCAC chapter III: Criminalization and law enforcement in ASEAN States parties and Timor-Leste

[Read](#)



Whistle-blower Protection in ASEAN Member States

[Read](#)

Factsheets on:

- [UNCAC](#)
- [UNCAC Chapter II - Preventive Measures](#)
- [UNCAC Chapter III - Criminalization and Law Enforcement](#)
- [UNCAC Chapter IV - International Cooperation](#)
- [UNCAC Chapter V - Asset Recovery](#)

[All publications](#)



Policy and legal frameworks

Solid legal and policy frameworks serve as the backbone for effectively preventing and addressing corruption. UNODC provides support ranging from technical assistance to criminalize corruption offenses in line with UNCAC, to setting up institutional frameworks to protect whistle-blowers, witnesses, and victims, and laying out strategic frameworks that guide countries' anti-corruption efforts. We do this in collaboration with relevant anti-corruption, law enforcement, and justice authorities, as well as legislatures.

Examples of UNODC assistance and impact

- Development of National Anti-Corruption Strategies in Viet Nam and Malaysia
- Mutual Legal Assistance Law in Indonesia
- Law on Inspection in Viet Nam (legislated in 2022)
- [New Republic Act of the Philippines on public procurement](#) (legislated in 2024)
- UNCAC review follow-up and implementation workshops in Lao PDR, [Malaysia](#), [Mongolia](#), and the [Philippines](#)



Institutional and operational frameworks

Addressing corruption requires sound institutional set-up and operational frameworks to ensure effective implementation of existing laws and regulations. Our approach involves reviewing current mechanisms and procedures, and providing guidance in consultation with partner institutions. Corruption often intersects with and enables other forms of crime, and we work to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to address these connections through a coordinated response.

Examples of UNODC assistance and impacts

- Fostering inter-agency collaboration to address corruption as an enabler of other forms of crimes, such as [human trafficking](#), [migrant smuggling](#) and waste trafficking
- Beneficial ownership transparency in [Indonesia](#), the [Philippines](#) and [Viet Nam](#)— from setting up company registries, digitalization and automation processes, verification measures and systems, to facilitating inter-agency collaboration and data-sharing
- Corruption reporting and whistle-blower protection mechanisms for government agencies in Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam
- Development of the decree and the circular on the implementation of the [Law on Inspection in Viet Nam](#)
- Corruption risk assessment and support to the implementation of identified mitigation measures in [Cambodia](#), [Indonesia](#), the Philippines, [Thailand](#) and Viet Nam



Capacity-building

UNODC works across countries to build capacities and equip anti-corruption and enforcement authorities, investigators and prosecutors, businesses, and civil society actors with the tools to prevent and fight corruption.

Examples of UNODC trainings

- [Management of confiscated assets](#)
- [Asset recovery](#)
- [Asset declaration and unexplained wealth](#)
- [Investigation and evidence gathering](#)
- [Financial crime investigation](#)
- [Use of beneficial ownership data](#)
- [Ethics and integrity for civil servants](#)
- [Business integrity for private sector entities](#)

International and regional cooperation

Corruption transcends national borders, with crimes such as money-laundering often spanning multiple jurisdictions. Effective anti-corruption efforts rely on strong international cooperation, particularly in areas like asset recovery and mutual legal assistance. UNODC also promotes peer-to-peer learning initiatives to strengthen collaboration among countries.

Examples of UNODC cooperation

- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Pillar IV on anti-corruption and tax transparency
- ASEAN Parties Against Corruption (ASEAN-PAC), including [capacity-building workshops](#)
- Asset Recovery Interagency Network Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP)
- Asia / Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)
- South East Asia Justice Network ([SEA-Just](#))
- Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities ([GloBE network](#))
- Stolen Asset Recovery ([StaR](#)) Initiative
- ADB-OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

Empowering non-State actors

A whole-of-society approach is required to successfully prevent and address corruption. With civil society, media, and the private sector, UNODC facilitates collaboration, enables meaningful dialogues with government entities and policymakers, and provides substantive capacity-building on anti-corruption topics.



Examples of our work

- [South-East Asian Anti-Corruption Network for CSO](#) (SEA-ACN), facilitated by Knowledge Hub for Regional Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Collaboration (KRAC) under Thailand's Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. The Network works to facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons in advocating for reforms and greater transparency and accountability.
- [Journalists Against Corruption \(JAC\) network for South-East Asia](#) was launched in March 2024, and is facilitated by the Philippine Centre for Investigative Journalism. The JAC network serves as a platform for interested journalists to come together, receive substantive training, and collaborate.
- The private sector plays a key role in strengthening integrity and fostering a ethical business environment. While companies have much to lose from corruption, they also have considerable leverage to stop it. Alongside UNODC's assistance to governments and regulatory bodies on anti-corruption, UNODC also provides guidance and [capacity-building opportunities to private sector entities](#).



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