The Impacts of Integrity
Failures and Corruption:
Affordability of Water and
Sanitation Services

**UNECE** Regional Workshop on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation - June 13-14, 2022

Philip Beetlestone Programme Manager Pbeetlestone@win-s.org



Graft probe into Sabah Water Department another S\$10 million in foreign banks

Demandlement d'un réseau de corruption à la Sonede : cinq personnes arrêtées

## WIN: championing integrity in water and sanitation

Only organisation/network focused solely on integrity/anti-corruption in the water and sanitation sector



We advocate political and social action for water and sanitation integrity, raising awareness of the benefits of integrity and training stakeholders to tackle the issue.



We encourage collective action by supporting multi-stakeholder processes, connecting actors, and enabling knowledge sharing among practitioners.



We promote practical evidence-based responses to poor integrity, assessing and researching risks, and developing integrity risk mitigation strategies at different levels.

Water Integrity Network - April 2022

#### Global network for change

#### **Members**

















#### **Partners**



































































#### **Funders**















Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

#### Why is Integrity Important?

**Integrity** is the use of vested powers and resources ethically and honestly for the provision of sustainable and equitable water and sanitation services in the public interest

**Integrity** = **T**ransparency + **A**ccountability + **P**articipation + **A**nti-corruption

Lack of integrity contributes to, amongst other things

- Waste of financial resources (capital and maintenance)
- Poor performance
- Poor resource allocation
- Poor service delivery
- Disenfranchised communities and groups
- Significant social and economic challenges

Water Integrity Network - WIGO2021

#### OECD Principles on Water Governance



Source: OECD (2015), www.oecd.org/governance/oecd-principles-on-water-governance.htm

- Integrity lapses and corrupt practices leads to:
  - Financial outflows undermining affordably
  - Poor decision making
  - Lack of trust

 WIN believes that to realise have effective, efficient water and sanitation governance and service delivery integrity and anti-corruption needs to be systematically addressed in organizations. Water Integrity Network - April 2022

## 3 major areas of corruption and integrity failures



## CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

(high or low level)

Examples: Collusion in procurement, accounting fraud, funds diverted with falsified construction or maintenance work orders, cronies hired in strategic positions, abusive per diem claims.



## CORRUPTION AT INDIVIDUAL /INSTITUTION INTERFACE

(incl. petty corruption)

Examples: Bribe to an official or service provider for a speedier connection or corrected meter reading, bribe to illegally dump waste.



## ISSUES OF INTEGRITY, EQUITY AND DEVELOPMENT

(esp. in marginalised settings like informal settlements)

Examples: Lack of financial provisions for service delivery in informal settlements, lack of accountability measures for residents, and lack of data on needs and service levels in informal settlements.

#### Integrity failures: action and inaction across project lifecycle

Bribes demanded or received for Local power and community politics services Tendering process controlled by cartels Vulnerable communities left behind Arbitrary tariff setting CONSTRUCTION SERVICE DELIVERY **ALLOCATION PROCUREMENT OPERATION** Substandard, cheaper materials used Built structure not according to Funds allocated primarily to villages of specifications or bid Lack of accountability and poor family or friends maintenance of facilities Funds allocated to ghost villages and No control over funds meant for embezzled operations and repairs, money disappears

## Action oriented, collaborative, evidence-based, pro-poor – a few current projects

#### Water Supply and Sanitation

WRM

## Finance, climate, infrastructure

Improved service delivery through integrity management and regulation for integrity

Evidence-based advocacy for integrity in urban water and sanitation

Risk mapping in multi-sector and multi-stakeholder processes Advocacy and network engagement on water integrity and climate finance Development of tools to assess risks related to planning and resource allocation for infrastructure

Multi-stakeholder dialogue, integrity assessments and management processes for utility, regulator, policy-makers Advocacy on Govenment entities to pay their legal obligation for water and sanitation services

Research on prevalence and drivers of sextortion

Water Integrity Risk Index application for cities Engagement and risk mapping on service delivery in informal settlements

Integrity risk mapping on Water-Food-Energy Advocacy and network engagement on climate maladaptation

Research on integrity and sector finance for WIGO 2024

### The cost of corruption and the opportunity for integrity

#### **VULNERABLE SECTOR**

- Water is increasingly scarce
- Water governance is complex, often poorly articulated across dispersed agencies with overlapping or unclear mandates
- Water management is technical
- Water infrastructure involves large flows of money
- Informal providers play a major role in service provision
- Water is essential to access it, the poor, the voiceless, and the marginalized are often in vulnerable positions

#### **MAJOR COSTS**

- Financial cost waste and drain on resources (4-26% losses to corruption)
- Social cost poor water quality, poor service with direct impact on people's health, lives, livelihoods.
- Environmental costs pollution, vulnerability to disaster
- Long-term system failures poor quality, delayed, or missing infrastructure
- Loss of economic productivity
- Lack of trust between water users and government
- Maladaptation to climate change

#### UNDERESTIMATED OPPORTUNITY

Integrity is a lever for change:

- For more effective and equitable use of the resources already available
- For addressing root causes of issues and systemic problems
- For building trust and creditworthiness and attract new financing
- That is mutually reinforcing with efforts to realise human rights to water and sanitation
- That is possible, with practical, incremental integrity management practices and TAPA

# Practically addressing integrity risks at the level of the organisation

- Many risks with direct impact on costs and reputation of individual organisations
- Limited practical guidance on prioritising and dealing with risks systematically





**INTEGRITY** 

# **ANTI-CORRUPTION**

# PLAY BY THE RULES:

Leaving no space for corruption or impunity, with clear, enforced

# **PARTICIPATION**

**HAVE YOUR SAY:** 

# Engaging with people when making decisions that affect them.

# MAKE SURE IT'S DONE:

Clarifying responsibilities and making sure stakeholders uphold their mandate.

ACCOUNTABILITY

# TRANSPARENCY

# BE OPEN:

Ensuring people know their rights, see how decisions are taken, and how money is spent.



## Integrity: an opportunity and lever for change

- Address root causes of failures
- Ensure more effective and equitable use of limited resources
- Build trust, sustainability and creditworthiness, and attract new financing
- More effective than anticorruption alone
- Mutually reinforcing with efforts to realise HRWS

