

IRC experience: transparency and accountability

IRC's activities under the transparency and accountability theme – part of our innovation programme – aim to improve WASH sector integrity through advocacy, action research, dissemination of publications, organization of events, training and advisory services. One of the ultimate aims is to reduce sector corruption which currently severely hampers efforts worldwide to extend and sustain WASH services.

Our approach

The approach that IRC promotes is positive and preventative, focusing on how we can build stronger systems of transparency, accountability and participation in the WASH sector to build integrity and prevent corruption. It is not about investigating specific cases of corruption. We work in partnership with other agencies including Transparency International and its country chapters. IRC is a founder member of the Water Integrity Network (WIN) which was established to promote sector integrity. Many of our activities are linked to WIN and IRC has served on its International Steering Committee. We address issues in both north and south, with corruption issues being a concern at all levels from donors through national and local government to service providers and consumers.

Recent activities

Developing a water anti-corruption strategy in Mozambique: IRC is currently supporting Cowater Consultores Lda. to develop an appropriate anti-corruption strategy and plan with the Direcção Nacional de Águas (DNA) in Mozambique. It focuses on promoting a positive agenda of strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity in the sector. Continuing decentralization to provinces and districts, and on-going sector reform such as the common fund in rural water, are especially relevant. IRC is providing staff with experience in anti-corruption activities in the water sector and process facilitation skills to support a national team of experts undertaking training courses, workshops and surveys, as well as promoting learning from lessons in other sectors in Mozambique and internationally in water sector anti-corruption.

Training courses in preventing corruption: IRC offers a regular training workshop on preventing corruption in the water sector. Forty professionals from twenty different countries have so far completed the course. Further details, including training materials designed to help partners to deliver their own courses, are available on request. We actively support country and other partners in developing and running similar training courses and their own capacity strengthening activities in this area. We also provide tailored training courses that are adapted to specific needs such as a recent training for the Italian NGO ACRA combining face-to-face and distance participation.

Training manual on water integrity: IRC was one of the WIN members which contributed to a new training manual on water integrity published by SIWI, WIN, CapNet and WATERnet. IRC's Alana Potter was contracted to design the learning process and finalise the text. Many of the materials and exercises were tested during IRC's preventing corruption training.

Training with World Bank Institute and Transparency International: IRC was a major contributor to a book, published by the World Bank, which provides a useful guide for diagnosing, analyzing, and preventing corruption in water supply and sanitation. The book was developed with a focus on municipalities and Central America but presents tools and methodologies with generic applicability. IRC supported pilot training courses using the book in Nicaragua and Honduras.

Water Integrity Scanning: Through an advisory contract, IRC has supported the Water Integrity Network to develop its Annotated Water Integrity Scan (AWIS). This tool can be used to quickly assess integrity in the water

sector, and to support structured dialogue, coalition building and action programming. Rather than measuring direct indicators of corruption it looks at the checks and balances that are in place to reduce the risks and opportunities for corruption. The tool has been piloted in several countries.

Transparency and Integrity in Service Delivery in Sub-Saharan Africa (TISDA): One of IRCs associates has supported the conceptual development and implementation of water integrity studies and case studies in Ghana, Kenya and Senegal by Transparency International, adopting the concept of risk maps based on Huperts principal-agent model. An advocacy and improvement phase includes the establishment of water integrity improvement pacts.

Communicating corruption: IRC has helped WIN with their website strategy, setting up a news service and other communication activities. We provide regular news on this topic through our Source news service (www.source.irc.nl). The IRC symposium 2010 *Pumps, pipes and promises: Costs, finances and accountability for sustainable WASH services* included three sessions that brought together 14 papers on different aspects of the theme. IRC assisted Transparencia por Colombia and the pipe manufacturing industries which they support to document and share lessons learned from their initiative to prevent corruption in the pipe business in Colombia. In a typical urban water or wastewater project, pipes account for 40% of all cost.

Further information

Selected IRC and partner publications and related websites:

- Thematic pages on IRCs website can be found at www.irc.nl/transparency
- Training course modules *Strengthening transparency, integrity and accountability: preventing corruption in water and natural resources projects*: www.irc.nl/page/55370
- Water Integrity Network: www.waterintegritynetwork.net
- A series of factsheets prepared by IRC staff for the U4 anti-corruption resource centre: www.u4.no/themes/natural-resources/main.cfm
- IRC made contributions to the 2008 Global Corruption Report that focused on water: http://www.transparency.org/publications/gcr/gcr_2008
- Corruption risks in water licensing: www.watergovernance.org/documents/WGF/Reports/Corruption_Risks_in_Water_Licensing.pdf
- Improving Transparency, Integrity and Accountability in Water Supply and Sanitation: Action Learning Experiences: book available through link at www.irc.nl/page/50527

Our expertise

IRCs team working on this theme includes:

- John Butterworth – active member of the Water Integrity Network, and coordinator of IRC activities on this theme
- Alana Potter – with specific interests in southern Africa and training on this theme
- Cor Dietvorst – information specialist with specific interests in Freedom of Information Laws and the right to water and sanitation
- Kathleen Shordt (Associate) – retired IRC staff member involved in the establishment of the Water Integrity Network, current International Steering Committee member, and active consultant
- Jan Teun Visscher (Associate) - ex-IRC director, and now facilitator of research and change processes and mediator



Several other staff members have relevant experience. Please contact John Butterworth (butterworth@irc.nl) for more information.