



Gender, Inclusion and Corruption
Working Group

Global Civil Society
Coalition for the UNCAC

Measuring the relationship between gender and corruption: closing the data gap



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1. Background



Why does this matter?

This evidence review examines the relationship between gender and corruption data and highlights the urgent need for gender-disaggregated data to inform inclusive anti-corruption strategies.

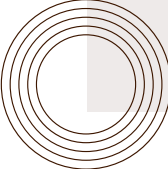
It sets the context and rationale for focusing on the gendered dimensions of corruption and reviews the current publicly available databases and datasets to analyze how women and gender-diverse individuals may be uniquely affected by corruption, including through forms of sexual corruption often rendered invisible in standard measurements.

We reviewed 18 datasets or databases produced since 2000 that focus on the intersection of gender and corruption, or focus on corruption data and have the ability to disaggregate data by sex. This evidence review provides a high level analysis on the nature, scope, and limitations of current databases or datasets, including the reliance on perception-based measures, the absence of standardized methodologies, and the lack of sector-specific and qualitative data.

Building on these findings, the review explores research opportunities that could emerge from stronger linkages between institutional and cultural contexts, sectoral analyses, and survey design.

Two case studies on defence institutions globally and healthcare governance in Vietnam illustrate how gender-sensitive data can reveal patterns otherwise overlooked, and can inform reform efforts.

The evidence review concludes with **a set of seven priority actions:** strengthening gender-disaggregated data collection, improving access to existing datasets, fostering mixed-methods research, investing in sector-specific analysis, and promoting political commitment to gender-responsive anti-corruption strategies.



The gendered dimension of corruption data

Understanding the complex and gendered nature of corruption is essential for building more equitable, transparent, and accountable governance systems. The traditional, gender-blind approaches to anti-corruption policy and data collection have failed to capture the unique experiences and vulnerabilities faced by women and gender-diverse individuals. This has led to blind spots in both measurement and intervention, particularly in relation to non-monetary forms of corruption such as sexual corruption.

As evidence shows, women's increased participation in governance not only challenges power asymmetries but also contributes to improved accountability and reduced corruption.



Without gender-disaggregated corruption data, policymakers cannot design effective, inclusive anti-corruption strategies. A global effort is needed to standardize, expand, and open up datasets to make gendered corruption visible and to be able to address it.

There is a pressing need for more inclusive, gender-disaggregated data and gender-responsive policy frameworks. In response to these challenges, the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC's Gender, Inclusion & Corruption Working Group launched the Gender and Corruption Data Taskforce.

The Taskforce is a collaborative, expert-driven group dedicated to advancing data on the gendered dimensions of corruption. It brings together researchers, practitioners, and civil society actors to identify data gaps, share evidence, and integrate gender perspectives into anti-corruption research, policy, and practice. Its goal is to strengthen global and national advocacy by ensuring that interventions are informed by reliable, gender-sensitive data.

This initiative centralizes and curates datasets on the intersection of gender and corruption and develops a public database to improve access for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. By promoting more rigorous and inclusive data collection, the Taskforce supports gender-sensitive anti-corruption strategies that address structural inequities and advance the participation and rights of women and gender-diverse groups.

The gendered reality of corruption

The consequences of corruption are not gender neutral. The intersection of gender and corruption has emerged as a critical area of inquiry in both academic and policy communities, particularly as global efforts to advance gender equality intensify. Although research on gender and corruption dates back several decades, the topic gained international prominence following studies by Dollar et al. (1999) and Swamy et al. (2001) in the early 2000s, which found a negative correlation between female participation in public life and levels of corruption. These findings catalyzed further research and policy advocacy, prompting institutions, such as the World Bank, to recognize the relevance of gender in anti-corruption strategies. Whilst they are still widely referenced today, these studies are outdated.

Over the past 25 years, scholarship and policy initiatives have evolved to examine how gendered power dynamics shape not only who is affected by corruption but also how individuals experience and respond to it (UNODC & GRACE, 2025; Maslen, 2025). Corruption is not experienced as a neutral or universal phenomenon; it is influenced by structural inequalities, power asymmetries, and social norms. Women, men, and gender-diverse individuals encounter corruption in different ways, shaped by their access to resources, legal protections, and their roles within households and communities (UNODC & GRACE, 2025; Transparency International Spain, 2023). In many contexts, women are more vulnerable to corruption due to their greater reliance on public services such as healthcare, education, and social protection - sectors in which informal payments, bureaucratic networks, and coercive practices are common (Sida, 2015). As a result women are more likely to experience indirect effects of corruption, such as diminished access to public goods, lost economic opportunities, and weakened trust in institutions—consequences that often reinforce existing gender inequalities (UNODC & GRACE, 2025; OECD, 2021).

One particularly harmful and underreported form of corruption that disproportionately affects women is sexual corruption, where sex is demanded as a bribe in place of money (Transparency International, 2020; Transparency International, 2021). This form of corruption is often invisible in standard governance indicators, yet it is pervasive in contexts where institutional oversight is weak, and power asymmetries are pronounced. Recognizing this issue, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted Resolution 10/10, which calls for the prevention and reporting of sexual corruption (UNCAC Resolution 10/10, 2023).

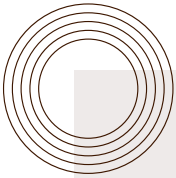
While women are often victims of corrupt practices, they also play a vital role in combating them. Studies show that increased female participation in political and public institutions is associated with stronger accountability mechanisms and lower levels of corruption, particularly in democratic contexts (Boehm, 2015; Maslen, 2025). However, anti-corruption strategies have traditionally been developed through a gender-blind lens, failing to account for how gender norms and institutional exclusion shape corrupt practices and responses to them (Coleman et al., 2025; Merkle, 2018; Transparency International, 2021).



This highlights a critical and persistent gap:

The lack of gender-disaggregated data on corruption. This omission conceals the gendered realities of corruption, limiting the ability of policymakers and practitioners to design inclusive and effective interventions (UNODC & GRACE, 2025; Transparency International Spain, 2023).

Without sex- or gender-disaggregated data, it is difficult to detect or measure how corruption manifests differently for men and women across contexts. For instance, surveys conducted by Afrobarometer and Latinobarómetro occasionally include the gender of respondents but often lack the methodological tools to assess the type of corruption experienced and whether it involved sexual or gender-based coercion (Transparency International, 2021; UNODC & GRACE, 2025). Further, there are very few gender corruption studies that examine cross industry or cross country analyses. As a result, women's experiences remain statistically invisible, and critical dimensions of corruption—particularly those related to informal economies, service delivery, and vulnerability to abuse—go unaddressed in reform efforts (UNODC & GRACE, 2025; Transparency International Spain, 2023).



Our approach

We identified publicly available primary and secondary databases or datasets (including survey data available electronically) that directly measure:

- the intersection of corruption and gender,
- corruption data disaggregated by sex or gender,
- and data that are proxy measures for understanding the relationship between corruption and gender.

We searched online between February to April 2025 including Google, government websites, and non-governmental organization websites (World Bank, UNDP, WHO, Transparency International, U4 Anti-Corruption Resources Center). Some research-based large language model systems were employed in the search for datasets. Individuals and organizations active in this field of work were also solicited to share known databases or datasets on this topic. We searched for datasets available since 2000, from any geographical region.

The data found are intended to be publicly available or available upon request and recurring.

This was not meant to be a scientifically systematic approach but instead a comprehensive evidence review.



2. Mapping of data



Overview of datasets

A total of 18 databases or datasets* are included in this analysis (see table below), six of which are globally focused, and the remainder are regional or country-specific.

Three of the datasets are comprised of proxy measures that focus specifically on gender to serve as comparison. Most of the datasets provide public access to the data directly online, with only a few requiring permissions or only sharing partial data. The data focuses primarily on the public's perception or beliefs about corruption, second to their self-reported experience. Objective data on corrupt events is the least available dataset.

**A database is an organized electronic system for storing, managing, and retrieving structured data. A survey is a research method that collects information from individuals, usually through questionnaires or interviews. While databases focus on organizing and accessing existing data, surveys are designed to generate new data and insights from participants.*

Name	Description	Region or country	Category	Measure of data	Direct or Proxy Measure
<u>Government Defence Integrity Index</u>	The Government Defence Integrity Index evaluates how well defence and security institutions control corruption risks. It draws on evidence from sources such as interviews, media reports, and official documents to score countries across key risk areas. The 2025 edition expanded its scope by introducing pilot gender indicators, increasing coverage from 77 to 82 questions. As a result, the GDI offers both a global benchmark for defence sector integrity and new insights into how corruption interacts with gendered power dynamics.	Global	International Database	Objective and Experience	Direct corruption-gender relation
<u>OECD Gender Dashboard</u>	The OECD Gender Dashboard provides a comparative overview of gender equality policies and outcomes across member countries.	Global	International Database	Objective	Proxy measure/Indirect relation

Name	Description	Region or country	Category	Measure of data	Direct or Proxy Measure
<u>OECD Gender Dashboard</u>	It compiles indicators spanning multiple policy areas, allowing countries to benchmark their progress. The dashboard is designed to track implementation of OECD gender-related recommendations and commitments. While not focused on corruption directly, its measures of equality and governance can serve as proxy indicators for understanding vulnerabilities to gendered forms of corruption.				
<u>World Bank Enterprise Survey</u>	The World Bank Enterprise Surveys gather firm-level data from business owners and top managers in more than 150 economies. They cover a wide range of topics, including corruption, access to finance, infrastructure, and overall business performance. The surveys are nationally representative and allow for comparisons across countries and over time. In addition to the core survey, specialized studies target areas such as microenterprises, providing deeper insight into specific business environments.	Global	International Survey	Experience	Direct corruption-gender relation
<u>World Bank Gender Data Portal</u>	The World Bank's Gender Data Portal is a global platform that compiles indicators on gender equality across sectors such as health, education, employment, and governance. While it does not directly measure corruption, the data can be used as a proxy to explore how gender inequalities intersect with governance and vulnerability to corrupt practices.	Global	International Database	Objective	Proxy measure/Indirect relation
<u>World Bank Group Country Opinion Survey Program</u>	The World Bank Group Country Opinion Survey Program collects regular feedback from stakeholders across its client countries. Participants include senior government officials, parliamentarians, subnational authorities, development partners, private sector representatives, civil society, academia, and the media. The survey tracks	Global	International Survey	Perception	Proxy measure/Indirect relation

Name	Description	Region or country	Category	Measure of data	Direct or Proxy Measure
<u>World Values Survey.</u>	The World Values Survey (WVS) is a large-scale cross-national study that explores human beliefs and values. Conducted in nearly 100 countries, it represents close to 90 percent of the world's population and uses a standardized questionnaire for comparability. The survey has collected data from almost 400,000 respondents, making it the most extensive non-commercial time series of its kind. Its global scope spans diverse cultural and economic contexts, from low-income to high-income countries, providing insights into values, governance, and attitudes toward issues including corruption.	Global	International Survey	Experience and Perception	Direct corruption-gender relation
<u>Africa Integrity Indicators</u>	Africa Integrity Indicators produces original governance data for all 54 African countries, drawing on more than 120 local researchers, experts, and editors each year. The dataset evaluates both the legal framework ("in law") and the actual implementation ("in practice") across political, social, economic, and anti-corruption domains. By measuring this implementation gap, the dataset helps governments, citizens, and civil society identify where reforms are needed and how policies translate into practice.	Africa	International Indicator Database	All	Direct corruption-gender relation
<u>Afrobarometer</u>	Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey network that gathers public opinion data on democracy, governance, the economy, and social issues. It conducts nationally representative surveys across dozens of African countries, using standardized methods to ensure comparability. The data captures both experiences and perceptions, including views on corruption and accountability. With its wide coverage and open access, Afrobarometer is a leading source of insight into African citizens' perspectives on governance.	Africa	International Survey	Experience and Perception	Direct corruption-gender relation



Name	Description	Region or country	Category	Measure of data	Direct or Proxy Measure
<u>Ibrahim Index of African Governance</u>	The Ibrahim Index of African Governance, published since 2007, measures governance performance across all 54 African countries. It defines governance as the provision of political, social, economic, and environmental goods that citizens should expect and states must deliver. Drawing on more than 40 external sources, the IAG provides scores and trends over the most recent 10-year period, producing results at continental, regional, and national levels. The index offers a comprehensive dashboard covering dimensions from security, justice, and rights to economic opportunity, health, and beyond.	Africa	International Database	Objective and Experience	Direct corruption-gender relation
<u>Corruption in Nigeria: Patterns and Trends</u>	Large-scale household survey jointly implemented by Nigeria’s National Bureau of Statistics and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Conducted in 2016, 2019, and 2024, the survey measures experiences of bribery and corruption across all 36 states and the FCT, following UNODC’s international methodology for SDG 16.5.1. The dataset provides detailed disaggregation by sex, age, education, income, region, ethnicity, and disability, allowing in-depth gendered and intersectional analyses.	Nigeria	National Survey	Experience and Perception	Direct corruption-gender relation
<u>Global Corruption Barometer - Latin America and the Caribbean</u>	The Global Corruption Barometer – Latin America and the Caribbean is the most comprehensive survey of corruption in the region. Conducted in early 2019, it gathered responses from more than 17,000 citizens across 18 countries. The survey captures both experiences of bribery and perceptions of corruption. It provides a comparative view of how corruption shapes daily life and governance across Latin American and Caribbean societies.	Americas	International Survey	Experience and Perception	Direct corruption-gender relation



Name	Description	Region or country	Category	Measure of data	Direct or Proxy Measure
<u>Latin American Public Opinion Project</u>	The AmericasBarometer is the flagship survey of the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), covering 34 countries across the Americas and the Caribbean. Using nationally representative samples and a standardized core questionnaire, it enables valid cross-country and over-time comparisons. The survey examines democratic values, political behavior, trust in institutions, and experiences with issues such as corruption, security, and governance. Its breadth makes it one of the most rigorous and comprehensive tools for understanding public opinion in the Western Hemisphere.	Americas	International Survey	Experience and Perception	Direct corruption-gender relation
<u>Global Corruption Barometer - Asia</u>	The Global Corruption Barometer – Asia is one of the most extensive surveys on corruption in the region. Conducted with nearly 20,000 participants across 17 countries, it captures both experiences of bribery and broader public views on corruption. The dataset provides insights into how corruption affects daily life and how citizens perceive the integrity of public institutions. Its scale and scope make it a key resource for understanding corruption patterns across diverse Asian contexts.	Asia	International Survey	Experience and Perception	Direct corruption-gender relation
<u>Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index Data</u>	The Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index is a national survey launched in Vietnam in 2009 by UNDP. It measures citizen experiences and perceptions of governance and service delivery across all 63 provinces. The index benchmarks government performance on issues such as transparency, accountability, and policy implementation. By capturing both experiences and perceptions, PAPI provides valuable evidence on governance quality and corruption risks at the subnational level.	Vietnam	National Survey	Experience and Perception	Direct corruption-gender relation

Name	Description	Region or country	Category	Measure of data	Direct or Proxy Measure
<u>EU Survey on Gender-Based Violence</u>	The EU-Gender-Based Violence survey measures gender-based violence in line with the Istanbul Convention. It gathers information on different types of violence and the dynamics between victims and perpetrators. The scope extends beyond gender-based violence against women to include other forms of interpersonal violence. This provides a comprehensive picture of how violence is experienced across contexts in Europe.	Europe	International Survey	Experience	Proxy measure/Indirect relation
<u>European Quality of Government Index</u>	The European Quality of Government Index provides a regional-level assessment of governance across the European Union. First launched in 2010 and updated in 2013, 2017, 2021, and 2024, it offers a time series of data on governance quality. The index draws on large-scale citizen surveys that capture both perceptions and experiences of public sector corruption. It also examines whether citizens view services as fairly distributed and of reliable quality, making it a key tool for understanding integrity and accountability within EU member states.	Europe	International Survey	Experience and Perception	Direct corruption-gender relation
<u>Global Corruption Barometer - European Union</u>	The Global Corruption Barometer – European Union is one of the most extensive surveys on corruption across EU member states. The survey captures both experiences and attitudes, providing comparative insights across countries in the region. Its findings shed light on systemic risks to transparency and trust in European institutions.	Europe	International Survey	Experience and Perception	Direct corruption-gender relation



Name	Description	Region or country	Category	Measure of data	Direct or Proxy Measure
<p><u>Global Corruption Barometer - Middle East and North Africa</u></p>	<p>The Global Corruption Barometer – Middle East and North Africa is a major regional survey on public experiences of bribery and views on corruption. More than 6,600 citizens participated across six countries, with fieldwork carried out between 2018 and 2019. The survey was conducted in partnership with organizations including NAMA Strategic Intelligence Solutions, Statistics Lebanon, Qiyas Center for Polling, and Afrobarometer. The dataset provides detailed evidence on how corruption is perceived and experienced across diverse political and social contexts in the MENA region.</p>	<p>MENA</p>	<p>International Survey</p>	<p>Experience and Perception</p>	<p>Direct corruption-gender relation</p>



3. Analysis of datasets



At the global level

There is relatively strong coverage globally:

Instruments such as the World Values Survey, the World Bank Enterprise Surveys, and the Government Defence Integrity Index provide broad insights into perceptions, experiences, and institutional safeguards.

Yet these global resources remain largely perception-driven and rarely capture direct evidence of corrupt practices, meaning they offer limited visibility into how corruption is actually experienced in daily life.



At the regional level

Regional representation is uneven:

Africa and Europe stand out for their richer coverage, with Afrobarometer, the Africa Integrity Indicators, the IAG in Africa, a country focus in Nigeria, the European Quality of Government Index and multiple Global Corruption Barometer waves in Europe.

In contrast, other regions are sparsely represented. The Americas, Asia, and the MENA region are primarily represented through the Global Corruption Barometer datasets, with one country focus in Vietnam.

The majority of existing datasets on corruption rely heavily on perception-based measures rather than objective indicators:

- While perception data is more feasible to collect—especially in studies involving sensitive topics such as corruption—it presents limitations when used in isolation.
- Objective data, although more difficult to obtain, can offer critical validation and a deeper understanding of the extent and severity of corruption. Only a handful of datasets—such as the Africa Integrity Indicators, IAG, and the Government Defence Integrity Index—move beyond public opinion to assess institutional safeguards, laws, or practice. When triangulated with other forms of evidence, perception data becomes more robust and meaningful.

Furthermore, there is no standardized methodology for measuring corruption, which hinders cross-comparison and long-term trend analysis. However, there is specific guidance in the field for survey development and administration. For example, the [2018 UNODC Manual on Corruption Surveys](#) provides methodological and operational guidance for countries to design and conduct population- and business-based surveys to measure bribery prevalence and collect related corruption data, with the aim of tracking progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 16, target 5.

Quantitative data dominates the field, often excluding qualitative insights that could contextualize findings and illuminate the underlying mechanisms and lived experiences of those affected. This lack of qualitative data leaves gaps in understanding the nuanced ways corruption manifests across different populations and sectors. Sector-specific analysis is particularly underdeveloped, despite being urgently needed.

Gender is visible in some of these resources, but usually as an add-on rather than a core focus, and explicit attention to practices such as sextortion or coercive gender-based exchanges remains almost entirely absent. Surveys like Afrobarometer, LAPOP, and PAPI allow disaggregation by sex of respondent, enabling gender-based analysis, but among the few large-scale instruments available, the Global Corruption Barometer stands out as one of the only sources to include data on sexual corruption. **This highlights an acute gap in the existing research landscape and underscores the need for more specialized data collection on gendered forms of corruption.**

Many relevant databases are not well-publicized, making them difficult to locate and access. Even when datasets are available, they typically do not proactively disaggregate or analyze data by gender. This represents a missed opportunity to explore how corruption may uniquely impact women and gender-diverse populations.

Regional datasets tend to be organized by sector, yet sectoral data itself is frequently inconsistent and lacking in comprehensiveness. While large-scale datasets occasionally provide gender-disaggregated information, smaller or regional datasets often require additional steps to access such data, further complicating research efforts.

Overall, the table underscores that while the available data landscape is broad, it remains fragmented and shallow in critical areas. To strengthen the evidence base, future efforts need to prioritize systematic, gender-sensitive data collection, particularly in underrepresented regions and sectors where the risks of corruption are most acute.

How data can drive change

Based on the available datasets, there are many findings to be discovered that would reveal general patterns related to gender and corruption. Below are some examples of research that can be done with such data, demonstrating its importance:

Building Linkages Between Institutional and Cultural Forces and Perceptions of Gender and Corruption

Individual or national perceptions are often precursors to behavior but are shaped by institutional and cultural contexts. One line of research could test how variations in institutional and cultural norms influence perceptions or behaviors and how those relationships evolve over time or under different institutional arrangements (e.g., policies, programs, or reforms). For example, merging the World Values Survey or the OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions with national-level performance indicators or public opinion data could reveal whether institutional differences leave an imprint on gender-related corruption or violence – and how these patterns change.

Focused Analyses on Specific States, Areas, or Sectors

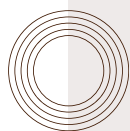
Multiple datasets can be used to examine specific gender dynamics within particular settings. For example, one could explore how gender influences one country's anti-corruption movement and whether its gender quota system helps generate momentum for targeted anti-corruption strategies. Such an approach might even help identify where corruption is most likely to occur and how to fight against it.

Connecting Infrastructure Datasets with External Data Sources

The value of infrastructure datasets can be further demonstrated by integrating them with other external, publicly or privately available datasets. For instance, merging the EU Survey on Gender-Based Violence with the [V-Dem dataset](#) would enable researchers to explore under what conditions gender-based violence is most likely to occur and which institutional factors are most effective in curbing or eliminating it.

Using Datasets to Facilitate Survey Design or Support Experimental Research

Infrastructure datasets establish a baseline and open up countless possibilities for both academic research and policymaking. Specific countries could also design their own surveys and benchmark results against global peers to inform local policy decisions. These datasets also provide a rich source of information for designing various experiments, allowing interventions to be implemented and the effectiveness of policy options to be tested and compared. This approach requires robust research designs, which are increasingly feasible thanks to the availability of existing datasets.



Examples in action

Case Study: Assessing the Risk of Gender-based Corruption in National Defence Institutions Globally: the Government Defence Integrity Index, Patrick Kwasi Brobbey, Transparency International Defence & Security.

The gender dimension of Transparency International Defence & Security's (TI-DS) flagship research project, the Government Defence Integrity Index (GDI), illustrates why disaggregating data is essential, not optional. That is, if corruption measurement tools do not intentionally gather gender-disaggregated data, they risk reproducing blind spots that perpetuate inequalities. By exposing how corruption interacts with gendered power imbalances, the GDI equips reformers with evidence to design policies that are both more equitable and effective. This means that gender-disaggregated data does more than improve our understanding of corruption, as it also helps ensure that anti-corruption tools and strategies protect those most at risk.

Defence is among the most resource-intensive areas of government, and corruption in that context can have lethal consequences. Focusing on five broad defence corruption risk areas (policymaking, finance, personnel management, operations, and procurement), the GDI analyses the availability, implementation, effectiveness, and transparency of institutional and informal controls for managing corruption risks in national defence and security establishments. In building this index, which is currently in its fourth iteration, TI-DS collaborates closely with country-specific sector specialists to collect and analyse empirical data from diverse sources, such as key informant interviews, official documents, and mass media, to score indicators linked to the questions that constitute the index and justify the scoring. As a critical tool for driving global defence reform and improving defence governance, the index provides a framework of good practice for promoting accountable, transparent, and responsible governance in national defence institutions. Driven by the recognition that corruption in the defence sector is not gender-neutral, TI-DS, for the first time, has taken a decisive step to pilot gender indicators alongside the 2025 edition of the GDI. Gendered corruption within the defence sector include: favoritism in promotions, the misuse of authority in recruitment and complaint handling, or sexual corruption in exchange for postings can affect women and men differently.

This is to shed light on gender-related corruption risks in national defence sectors, a phenomenon most integrity assessments have rendered invisible by historically reporting only in aggregate.



Since the 2025 GDI is still underway, its full results are pending. However, its research, consultations, and preliminary findings show that collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data on institutional controls against defence sector corruption can drive positive change:

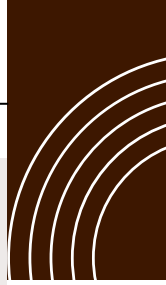
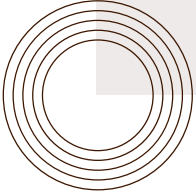
- In some countries, ministries of defence are integrating gender perspectives into anti-corruption measures such as codes of conduct and complaint channels for gender-based abuse. Elsewhere, gender remains absent from integrity frameworks, leaving staff vulnerable without clear redress.
- The GDI's gender assessment provides comparative evidence for local, national, regional, and international actors—highlighting good practices (e.g., transparent, bias-safe recruitment) to emulate and exposing gaps policymakers need to address.
- This comparative lens enables reformers to identify inequalities, demand stronger protections, share practices, and track progress, supporting an actionable agenda for transformation.

Case Study: Using PAPI Data to Uncover Gendered Patterns of Health System Corruption in Vietnam, Michele Coleman, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

The Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) in Vietnam is a comprehensive, publicly available dataset that captures citizen perspectives on governance and service delivery, including experiences with bribery in sectors such as healthcare, education, and public administration. Collected annually through a large, nationally representative survey, PAPI offers policymakers, researchers, and civil society organizations a powerful tool to monitor changes over time and evaluate the effectiveness of governance reforms. Because it contains data disaggregated by demographic characteristics, PAPI enables nuanced analyses of how governance issues—including corruption—affect different population groups. This makes it especially valuable for gender-focused research, as it allows for the identification of patterns that might otherwise remain hidden.

Using the PAPI dataset, current research underway examines the relationship between gender and bribery in Vietnam's healthcare system, where corruption remains a significant barrier to achieving Universal Health Coverage. Predictive modeling identifies gender differences in the likelihood of paying bribes at public health facilities and determines key factors

associated with these disparities, taking an intersectional lens. The quantitative analysis informs a qualitative phase involving in-depth interviews with healthcare users to explore the mechanisms underlying these gendered differences. By integrating statistical evidence from PAPI with qualitative insights, the study will reveal how corruption interacts with gendered patterns of healthcare access—providing actionable evidence to guide anti-corruption strategies and gender-sensitive health policy reforms in Vietnam.



4.

Closing the data gap: Seven priorities for action

The Gender and Corruption Data Taskforce of the Gender, Inclusion & Corruption Working Group from the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC recommends the following action points:

1 Strengthen gender-disaggregated data collection

Develop and advocate for standardized frameworks that require gender-disaggregated data in all corruption-related datasets. Improve existing surveys that do not yet fully collect or disaggregate by gender. Encourage governments, international organizations, and research institutions to integrate gender indicators into existing corruption measurement tools (e.g., surveys, governance indices). Advocate for the expansion of gender-relevant indicators, such as measures of parity in public administration, gender-responsive budgeting, and protections against sexual corruption, to strengthen the visibility of gendered dynamics within governance datasets.

2 Accompany increased data collection with strategies that ensure safe and gender-sensitive reporting mechanisms

Failure to address whistleblowing mechanisms may continue to provide inaccurate perception based-data because it fails to capture an honest narrative of what is happening, especially for additionally sensitive datasets such as sexual corruption.

3 Promote mixed-methods research approaches

Support studies that go beyond quantitative data by incorporating qualitative research to understand the lived experiences of corruption survivors, particularly women and marginalized groups. Fund projects that triangulate perception, experience, and objective data to build a more complete picture of how corruption is gendered in its effects.

4 Invest in sector-specific gender and corruption research

Support studies that go beyond quantitative data by incorporating qualitative research to understand the lived experiences of corruption survivors, particularly women and marginalized groups. Fund projects that triangulate perception, experience, and objective data to build a more complete picture of how corruption is gendered in its effects.

5 Standardize corruption measurement methodologies

Harmonize definitions and indicators for corruption, particularly forms like sexual corruption or "sextortion." Encourage global alignment around minimum standards for gender-inclusive data collection in corruption assessments.

6 Raise awareness and foster political commitment

Launch awareness campaigns to highlight the link between corruption and gender inequality, targeting both public and political audiences. Advocate for political commitment to Resolution 10/10 and other international instruments focused on sexual corruption and gender-sensitive anti-corruption strategies.

7 Advocate for the use of existing datasets for research, policy design and evaluation

Although there is data publicly available as identified in this review, it is not yet actively analyzed by gender. Further, 'closed' datasets exist that would allow for further data analysis and public understanding if they were made public. Leverage available datasets to design context-specific surveys and interventions, especially in countries with active gender equity or anti-corruption reforms. Support experimental and quasi-experimental studies that test policy effectiveness in mitigating gendered corruption. Encourage the linking and analysis of existing datasets, such as institutional data with individual level perception data, to enable gender-sensitive, multi-level analysis.

The way forward

*The evidence presented in this review underscores a simple but urgent reality: **corruption is not gender-neutral.***

Women and gender-diverse individuals experience corruption in ways that are often overlooked, particularly in relation to sexual corruption and other forms of non-monetary abuse. Yet the current data landscape remains fragmented, underdeveloped, and too often blind to gendered dimensions. Without systematic collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated corruption data, policymakers and practitioners cannot design strategies that effectively protect those most at risk or dismantle the structural inequalities that allow corruption to thrive.

This review highlights promising pathways forward. The identification of 18 global, regional, and national datasets demonstrates that relevant data does exist, even if it is uneven and incomplete. Case studies show how gender-sensitive analysis can reveal hidden patterns of corruption and open space for targeted reforms.

Moving ahead, collective commitment is needed from governments, international organizations, civil society, and researchers to standardize methodologies, increase access to data, and invest in sector-specific and mixed-methods approaches. By doing so, we can strengthen the evidence base, ensure that anti-corruption efforts are inclusive and effective, and ultimately advance both integrity and gender equality.

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