



Anticorruption in the Health Sector

Strategies for Transparency and Accountability

Edited by Taryn Vian, William D. Savedoff and Harald Mathisen

Corruption is a serious problem for both rich and poor countries, threatening international development and eroding confidence in governments. In the health sector, corruption is literally a matter of life and death: facilities crumble when repair funds are embezzled; fake drugs flood the market with corrupt regulators managing supply, and doctors extorting under-the-table payments from patients fail to provide needed care. Most major development organizations have rewritten their anticorruption strategies in the last five years, hinting that reform is within reach. But these strategies pay little attention to incentives and capacity at the sector level. Those preparing to fight corruption in the health sector have very few resources to guide them until now.

April 2010
168 pages / 6x9
Paper: US \$21.95
978 1 56549 337 7

Anticorruption in the Health Sector brings practical experience to bear on anticorruption approaches tailored specifically to health. The contributors, all skilled practitioners, address the consequences of different types of corruption and show how agencies can more effectively address these challenges as an integral part of their development work. Both practitioner and classroom friendly, this book finally addresses a neglected issue that has so much bearing on global health and governance.

Taryn Vian teaches courses in health care management, financial management, and transparency in governance at Boston University.

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"Stamping out corruption in health care is a matter of life and death. This timely research shows the need for transparency and accountability in health care and offers sensitive, practical suggestions to address the problem. Governments and providers should take note: the price of corruption in healthcare is paid for in human suffering."

- **Huguette Labelle, Chair, Transparency International, the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption**

"Provides a breadth of interesting and informative essays on the role of corruption in health care delivery in developing countries, and the strategies that have been tested to reverse corruption and thereby increase overall funding for publicly provided health care. It is an invaluable book for anyone who wants to understand the nature of corruption in health care delivery systems."

- **Maureen Lewis, Economic Advisor, Research Department, World Bank**

Contents: 1) Introduction: Closing Opportunities for Corruption in the Health Sector - Taryn Vian, William D. Savedoff and Harald Mathisen; 2) Fighting Fraud in Hospitals - Stephen N. Musau and T. Vian; 3) Embezzlement of Donor Funding in Health Projects - Katherine Semrau, Nancy Scott and T. Vian; 4) Reducing Vulnerabilities to Corruption in User Fee Systems - T. Vian; Part Two: Demanding Payment Where Services Should Be Free; 5) Informal Pay and the Quality of Health Care: Lessons From Tanzania - Ottar Mæstad and Aziza Mwisongo; 6) Strategies for Reducing Informal Payments - Kelly Miller and T. Vian; Part Three: Manipulating Procurement and Drug Supply; 7) Pay for Honesty? Lessons on Wages and Corruption from Public Hospitals - W. Savedoff; 8) Preventing Drug Diversion Through Supply Chain Management - T. Vian; 9) The Impact of Information and Accountability on Hospital Procurement Corruption - W. Savedoff; 10) Transparency and Accountability in an Electronic Era: The Case of Pharmaceutical Procurement; Brenda Waning and T. Vian; Part Four: Restoring Integrity Through Transparency and Accountability; 11) Transparency in Health Programs - T. Vian; 12) Using Financial Performance Monitoring to Promote Transparency and Accountability in Health Systems - David Collins and T. Vian; 13) Budget Transparency, Civil Society and Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys - W. Savedoff and Ethan Joselow



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Taking funds from public coffers. Introduction: Closing Oppor In the health sector, corruption is literally a matter of life and death: facilities crumble when repair funds are embezzled; fake drugs flood the market with corrupt regulators managing supply, and doctors extorting under-the-table payments from patients fail to provide needed care. Most major development organizations have rewritten their anticorruption strategies in the last five years, hinting that reform is within reach. But these strategies pay little attention to incentives and capacity at the sector level. Those preparing to fight corruption in the health sector have very few resources Evidence suggests that corruption in the health sector has a disproportionate effect on disadvantaged populations, and hence is driver of health inequities and an obstacle that must be contended with if truly "no one is to be left behind" on the path towards UHC. In light of the above, WHO, Global Fund and UNDP have joined forces in convening the "Consultation for a proposed Global Network on Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Health Systems", which will be held 26-28 February 2019 in Geneva. This is one of multiple activities supported by the WHO Anti-corruption, Transparency and Accountability workstream, which is co-led by the Gender, Equity, and Human Rights Team and the Department of Health Governance and Financing in 2018-2019. Related links.