Preventive Anti-Corruption Education Project

Leadership through inspiration

Nigeria

Preventive Anti-Corruption Education Project

Introduction

The Preventive Anti-corruption Education (PACE) Project is an international collaborative approach being driven by partnering organisations, specifically, the Institute of Governance and Leadership Studies in Africa (IGLSA) and the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), the Anti-Corruption Education Network (CIC) and Global Risk Alliance Ltd. It is aimed at supporting existing national capacity building initiatives and to undertake assessment of capabilities with a view to improving Ministries, Departments and Agency (MDA) identification and response to corruption risk. Through communication and engagement with stakeholders including the private sector, a risk identification and prevention approach will be introduced to support national development and protect national and international donor funds. Although the project will commence in Nigeria it is a pan Africa approach that can be adapted or replicated in each country.

Background

Nigeria like many countries has investigation as one of its primary responses to corruption and cases under investigation by anti-corruption agencies has increased significantly through the activities of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offence Commission (ICPC). Although preventive action is globally recognised as impactive and cost effective to corruption mitigation this approach is limited in Nigeria.

In an attempt to build prevention capacity and capabilities to mitigate risk within MDAs, the Nigerian government introduced legislation setting up an MDA anti-corruption committee in which each MDA is to identify and provide staff for this purpose. Unfortunately, the MDA Committee and MDA staff aren't adequately funded or trained and to this end the MDA Committee and committee members have limited effectiveness.

Preventive Anti-Corruption Education Project

Project Outcomes

The preventive approach taken by the PACE Project has been designed to achieve a number of outcomes that not only assist with the greater understanding of the risk picture across the public sector in Nigeria but will enhance the prevention approach taken by Ministries, Departments and Agencies including Anti-Corruption Agencies in their proactive approach in the assessment and mitigation of corruption risk. Key aims of the project are to:

1. Enhance the general and specialised knowledge of members of the anti-corruption Committees in the MDAs.
2. Strengthen accountability and compliance structures in the public sector.
3. Develop partnership, communication and engagement with the private sector to gain an understanding of the current business risk to help facilitate MDA operational response or policy change.
4. Through communication and engagement between all stakeholders to enhance the national anti-corruption culture.
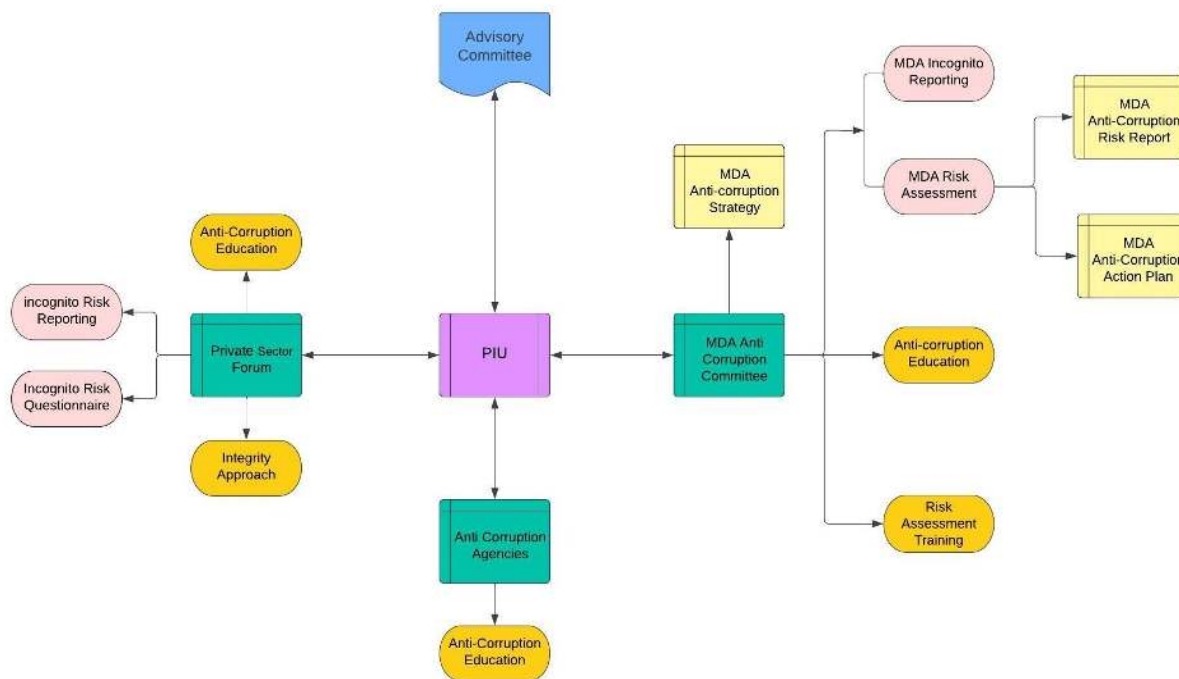
The provision of university certified training courses to MDA and anti-corruption agency staff will enhance expertise and capabilities to identify and mitigate corruption risk within MDAs. To build a stronger national mitigation response a number of activities will be introduced though communication, engagement and sharing risk information. These activities include:

1. Strengthening MDA Committee activities and outputs through the continual training of MDA Committee members and anti-corruption agency prevention staff in a corruption risk assessment approach.
2. Introducing a Private Sector Forum in Nigeria to communicate corruption risk to help facilitate a prevention response by the relevant MDA or stakeholders, and to engage the private sector in developing a business integrity approach.
3. From the data collected through the training, MDA risk assessments and business reporting, create a national MDA anti-corruption risk assessment.
4. Through the Project Advisory Committee introduce success measurement within the project to highlight the positive impact of the project.

Methodology

An outcome of the project is to increase information on corruption risk to facilitate a coordinated national response. There are a number of elements within the project's approach that will run in parallel. The first phase will involve the introduction of the anti-corruption training programme that will incorporate a number of university accredited courses including professional certificates in anti-corruption, tackling financial corruption and corruption and procurement fraud. To further assist capacity building a one-year post graduate diploma in anti-corruption is being introduced to support professionals life long learning.

MDA Anti-Corruption Committee

To build the capacity and expertise of the committee and its members, training and mentoring will be provided on how to conduct an in-depth assessment of MDA corruption risk. Additionally, engagement with the committee will be an important part of assessing the current format, activities and its impact following PACEP engagement.

Preventive Anti-Corruption Education Project

Private sector

Engagement with the private sector through PACEP will have a significant benefit in understanding the national corruption risk profile. To build a picture of risk and to engage business in mitigating the bribery and associated financial crime risk, the project will take a tiered approach to corruption risk. This will include, where appropriate, the provision of training programmes, sharing of risk information with project stakeholders through the incognito project solution to coordinate an MDA response to identified risks and engaging business associations in the introduction of a business integrity approach.

Partnership approach

In addition to the engagement with anti-corruption agencies, MDAs and the private sector, to maximise the outputs from this project, actively developing stakeholder relations with national and international organisations that have an interest in anti-corruption including transnational corruption will be of significant value.

Technology

In coordinating the training programmes the project will use the learning management system hosted within the Anti-Corruption Education Network (ARRAN) website where students can obtain access to additional online courses, training materials and engage with tutors in the completion of course assignments. Dependent on the requirements of project partners the ARRAN site can be used as a central platform for group discussions and forums to share best practice and challenges in mitigating corruption risk.

To maximise the opportunity to receive information from the public sector, private sector and projects on corruption risk, an incognito solution will allow individuals to report and discuss risk through PACEP without disclosing their identity.

Preventive Anti-Corruption Education Project

Project Advisory Committee

There will be a Project Advisory Committee which will comprise of relevant national and international stakeholders including the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), private sector and academia. The role of the Advisory Committee is to review all programmes and provide necessary guidance especially in response to developments within the project. The Committee will also suggest new interventions which it may deem necessary to enhance the outcomes of the project.

Performance measurement

The data collected as part of the training programmes, risk assessment and business incognito and integrity approach can be used to measure the performance of each MDA and the national MDA anti-corruption approach and performance. When assessed on an annual basis it can be be used to introduce an MDA risk baseline and develop a national MDA anti-corruption risk assessment to improved performance against historical measurement.

Outcomes

The main outcome of all activities, whether through education programmes, the assessment and sharing of best practice within MDA Committees, the reporting of risk by the private sector or communication and engagement between stakeholders, will be the increase in levels of identified corruption and associated financial crime risk. Through national reporting it will help build a clearer picture of corruption risk throughout Nigeria. These activities in turn will enhance the national assessment and response to corruption through MDA operational action directed through the MDA Committee, and where appropriate, the review or introduction of national policy.

Want to know more?

If you want know more about the project, how we can help in your national response to corruption risk or how your organisation can take an active part in the PACE Project, you can contact us at the details below.

Nigeria

Lanre Adebayo PhD

Telephone: +234(0) 803 3497161

Email: pacep@iglsa.com

United Kingdom

Steve Tosh

Telephone: +44(0) 203 0519297

Email: pacep@global-riskalliance.com