



Final report

2020-2021

Deepening U4's health sector work
and supporting the CATCH

CMI | **U4** ANTI-CORRUPTION
RESOURCE CENTRE

ABOUT THIS REPORT

In late summer 2020, CMI-U4 received funding from Norad to deepen its health sector work and to support the Coalition for Accountability, Transparency and Anti-corruption in the Health Sector (CATCH). This Coalition is composed of World Health Organisation (WHO), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank. CMI-U4 is a collaborating knowledge partner providing research for evidence-based policy-making and technical assistance. This report covers the period March 2020 to December 2021.

ABOUT U4

U4 is a team of anti-corruption experts working to reduce the harmful impact of corruption on society. We share research and evidence to help international development actors get sustainable results. The work involves dialogue, publications, online training, workshops, Helpdesk, and webinars. U4 is a permanent centre at the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) in Norway. CMI is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary research institute with social scientists specialising in development studies.

www.U4.no

U4@cmi.no

CONTENTS

4	U4 in the health sector: 2020-2021
6	Strengthening U4 human resources capacity to create and share knowledge on CATCH in the health sector
7	U4 publications, courses and helpdesk answers
11	Online courses
13	Events, workshops and webinars
14	Upcoming activities: Phase 2
19	Closing remarks

U4 IN THE HEALTH SECTOR (2020-2021)

Responsible staff U4 reacted quickly to provide evidence-based research and policy recommendations on corruption challenges during Covid-19. The pandemic gave fresh impetus to the importance of addressing corruption in various areas, especially in the health sector.

Senior Adviser
Monica Kirya

Adviser
Daniel Sejerøe
Hausenkamph

Adviser
Daniela Cepeda Cuadrado

Since the summer of 2020, the U4 Health team has been working with the Coalition on Accountability, Transparency, and Anti-corruption (CATCH) to undertake the important task of strengthening anti-corruption, transparency and accountability (ACTA) in health systems at both international and national levels. U4's role as a collaborating knowledge partner is facilitated through Norad's additional funding.

During this first phase of the project covering until December 2021, the U4 team has focused on supporting the establishment of CATCH structures and processes. CATCH has been making solid progress in establishing its architecture and planning activities, outputs and outcomes. Some of the outputs have been delivered in 2021 while others will be ready in upcoming phases of CATCH in the following years.

In addition to our support for the CATCH, U4 has greatly expanded its work on the health sector and has been able to produce a variety of outputs covering a wide range of topics in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, from illicit financial flows, civil society's role, justice sector developments, and human rights, among others.

U4 health team

We also recruited two new staff as health advisers: Daniel Sejerøe Hausenkamph (started 1 November 2020) and Daniela Cepeda Cuadrado (started 1 Feb 2021).

From October 2020 to mid-November 2021, an external consultant, Sarah Steingrüber, came on board acting as the Coalition Coordinator. Her work was a pro bono contribution from U4 to the Coalition and her tasks involved setting up the coordination mechanisms and compiling necessary documentation for the CATCH members to work on corruption in the health sector at a national and global levels.

This consultant also supported the proposal development for a further CATCH strategic partnership, a Health Systems Global Thematic Working Group (TWG) on good governance, accountability and anti-corruption for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This TWG can serve as an amplifier of CATCH's activities, support researchers and organisations working on issues of Health and provide an additional stakeholder pool for CATCH's Community of Practice.

High level of output productivity

Several research outputs and digital events have been completed by U4 in this first CATCH phase. These include 22 blog posts and 10 publications on Covid-19 and corruption, some of them backed-up by webinars. These resources were widely distributed and have been referenced by other organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Transparency International, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Furthermore, web statistics show that the [U4 Brief on corruption in the time of Covid-19](#) has over 18 000 views, and Covid-19 and health-related blog posts continue to resonate and inform government policy on Covid-19 vaccines, eg the [blogpost on](#)

[vaccine certificate fraud](#) was used by the Australian parliament on a report on vaccine related fraud and security risks.

A contribution from the Norad grant supports the U4 Helpdesk, which is tasked to answer requests from our partners related to health and corruption. As of December 2021, a total of four answers have been provided. They relate to the Covid-19 vaccine rollout, the role of professional enablers of economic crimes during the Covid-19 crisis, the costs of corruption during humanitarian crises, and how to address corruption risks in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services in sub-Saharan Africa. These answers are available at [our website](#) as a global public good.

In 2021 we engaged with animation studios to develop explainer videos on anti-corruption in the health sector. We produced three videos, that have improved our online course "Corruption in the health sector", and will also be part of the upcoming self-paced course on "Corruption in health emergencies". The videos cover issues such as why falsified medical products proliferate, how corruption happens in the Covid-19 vaccine supply chain, and how to mitigate these risks.

Finally, our team has developed a Covid-19 corruption trends newsletter which has served as one of the sources for CATCH to develop the report "Fraud, anti-corruption, transparency and accountability during the Covid-19 pandemic", as well as one of the main sources of information for other anti-corruption actors such as the Center for International Private Enterprise's Anti-corruption Governance Center (CIPE).

Relevant high-quality capacity training

Concerning capacity building, U4 has delivered six health courses with more than 150 participants from U4 partner agencies, multilateral bodies, ministries of health and civil society organisations taking the course. Participants data from these courses show a 75% completion rate (113 p.) with 97% confirming the training was relevant to them and helped build their confidence in addressing corruption challenges in their work.

Webinars and other online events were also part of U4's portfolio between 2020 and 2021. More

than 475 persons took part in our four webinars and three online in-country workshops. One of these webinars was held in collaboration with the Center for Global Development (CGD) showing synergies with other actors in the health sector area.

Feedback from the FCDO health team, who joined or who participated in the online in-country workshop on health sector corruption in Zimbabwe's pharmaceutical sub-sector, expressed their satisfaction regarding U4's training. They mentioned that, as a result of the workshop, they have now placed anti-corruption as a priority in their programmatic work and they are discussing development of a section on accountable service delivery in a new health business case that will cover programmes for the next five years.

Our in-country workshop (ICW) in Colombia, held in November 2021, served as a space to discuss the findings of a recent study commissioned by U4 and FCDO on falsified medicines in the country; and our ICW in Indonesia provided information on the current situation regarding insurance fraud in the country and its effects on different groups of the population.

We have also participated in numerous events on Covid-19 and corruption, including sessions of the OECD Integrity Forum and the OECD Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT) committee meeting on preventing corruption in the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out.

It has been a rewarding first phase for U4 under the CATCH initiative. This report provides a detailed account of the outputs delivered under the health theme by U4 and well as the joint outputs with CATCH.

STRENGTHENING U4 HUMAN RESOURCES CAPACITY TO CREATE AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

Through CATCH, U4 recruited two new staff for the Health theme: Daniel Sejerøe Hausenkamph (started 1 November 2020) and Daniela Cepeda Cuadrado (started 1 February 2021). Daniel is a public health professional with a Bachelor degree in Health Promotion from the Gothenburg University and a Master of Medical Science in Public health from the Lund University. Daniela is a public policy professional with a Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences from the University of Sydney and a Master of Public Policy from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.

Moreover, U4 continued to work with Affiliate Expert, Sarah Steingrüber, who took on an additional role as Coordinator of the CATCH through a U4-funded pro bono contribution to the World Health Organisation.

By the end of this first phase of the CATCH (Dec 2021), the Coordinator had completed the following deliverables:

1. **Governance arrangements**, including vision, objectives, value proposition, and an organigram outlining the various members of the Coalition, who have been approved and confirmed by the CATCH Steering Committee members (SC) in January 2021. WHO has now taken the lead on completing this process in accordance with the legal requirements of the SC.
2. **Terms of Reference documents for the SC**, including generic terms for Working Groups, approved by the SC members. These will be included as part of the overall governance arrangements.
3. **A detailed and strategic mapping of potential donors to further support CATCH programmatic work**. This mapping includes stakeholder priorities, overview of funding investments in CATCH-related areas, and strategic recommendations for prioritising

which stakeholders to approach.

A fundraising strategy, including an estimated budget for 2022-2024, was also provided as a complement to the mapping of potential donors.

4. **Workplan development** to determine the strategic direction and development of the Year-1 Workplan, including the roles and responsibilities of SC members and the role of U4 in several activities. External stakeholders, who can meaningfully contribute to the Coalition, have also been identified.
5. **A detailed plan of action** for each of the five workstreams including feasible and achievable activities per axis. The five workstreams include Health Systems Strengthening, Capacity Development, Corruption Risk Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Community of Practice. The Community of Practice is a cross-cutting element that will influence the other workstreams. Where relevant, workstreams also include activities to support global pandemic preparedness for health emergencies.
6. **A programme strategy document** that lays out the workstreams and their corresponding activities for the initial funding period (2021-2022). It also includes details regarding an initial communication strategy, as well as M&E framework for each workstream.
7. **A Global Thematic Working Group**. The consultant supported the proposal development for a further CATCH strategic partnership, namely a Health Systems Global Thematic Working Group (TWG) on good governance, accountability, and anti-corruption for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

U4 PUBLICATIONS, COURSES AND HELPDESK ANSWERS

'Indeed, U4 is surely among the leading producers of existing material being produced on this issue [Covid-19 work]'

Professional by OECD

The U4 Health team has had a high volume of outputs in this first phase of the collaboration. A total of 22 blog posts, a specific topic page ([COVID-19 and corruption](#)), and 10 publications on Covid-19 and corruption are available on our website as a global public good.

U4 research has been shared and referenced by international stakeholders such as the IMF, UNODC, UNDP, Transparency International, and OECD to ensure effective corruption risk management in response of Covid-19.

Our Helpdesk has also contributed to the Health theme work. As of December 2021, a total of four answers have been provided on different topics, including the Covid-19 vaccine rollout, the role of professional enablers of economic crimes during the Covid-19 crisis, the costs of corruption during humanitarian crises, and a groundbreaking question on addressing corruption risks in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services in sub-Saharan Africa. These answers are available at [our website](#).

Below we list individually the items delivered for easier reference.

PUBLICATIONS

BRIEF
MARCH 2020

**Corruption in the time of Covid-19:
a double threat for low-income countries**

Kirya, M., Jackson, D., Mullard, S., Steingrüber, S.
Also available in French.

GUIDE
MAY 2020

Supporting civil society during the Covid-19 pandemic

Mullard, S., Aarvik, P.
Also available in Spanish.

BRIEF
MAY 2020

**Anti-corruption in Covid-19 preparedness and response.
Mainstreaming integrity into pandemic plans and policies**

Kirya, M.

BRIEF
MAY 2020

Covid-19, cash transfers, and corruption: Policy guidance for donors

Nicaise, G.

BRIEF
JUNE 2020

Covid-19 and donor financing: Minimising corruption risks while ensuring efficiency

Hussmann, K.

ISSUE
JUNE 2020

Health sector corruption: Practical recommendations for donors

Hussmann, K.

Also available in Spanish.

BRIEF
JULY 2020

Emergency release of people from prison because of Covid-19: A brief analysis through an anti-corruption lens

Jennett, V.

Also available in Spanish.

BRIEF
APRIL 2021

The Universal Periodic Review process. A strategy to tackle health sector corruption

Sekalala, S., Masud, H.

ISSUE
OCTOBER 2021

Global access to Covid-19 vaccines: Lifting the veil of opacity

Hussmann, K.

ISSUE
DECEMBER 2021

Weak links: How corruption affects the quality and integrity of medical products and impacts on Covid-19 response

Steingrüber, S., Gadanya, M.

BLOGS

BLOG
MAY 2020

How to do social accountability during distancing and lockdowns?

Mullard, S.

BLOG
MAY 2020

Threats to independent journalism post-Covid-19: What are the impacts for anti-corruption efforts?

Mullard, S.

BLOG
MAY 2020

Mainstreaming AC in pandemic response plans and policies

Kirya, M.

BLOG
MAY 2020

Covid-19 will tax justice finally triumph?

Lemaître, S.

BLOG
JUNE 2020

Corruption limits access to safe water and the effectiveness of the Covid-19 response in developing countries: The case of Uganda

Kirya, M., Katuramu, G. W.

BLOG
JUNE 2020

Blockchain technology to prevent corruption in Covid-19 response: how can it help overcome risks?

Aarvik, P.

- [BLOG](#)**
JULY 2020 **Covid-19 supplementary budget: pandemic response or cash bonanza?**
Nambatya, P.
- [BLOG](#)**
JULY 2020 **Corruption in the health sector: current strategies and recommendations for donors**
Hussmann, K.
- [BLOG](#)**
DECEMBER 2020 **African civil society is busy ensuring accountable Covid-19 relief**
Aarvik, P.
- [BLOG](#)**
APRIL 2021 **How grand corruption during Covid-19 threatens human rights**
Cepeda Cuadrado, D., Sejerøe Hausenkamph, D.
- [BLOG](#)**
APRIL 2021 **How to hold political leaders to account for Covid-19 corruption**
Cepeda Cuadrado, D., Sejerøe Hausenkamph, D.
- [BLOG](#)**
APRIL 2021 **Covid-19 corruption in 2021: January – April developments**
Cepeda Cuadrado, D.
- [BLOG](#)**
MAY 2021 **Vaccine hesitancy, institutional mistrust and corruption in sub-Saharan Africa: everything is connected.**
Sejerøe Hausenkamph, D.
- [BLOG](#)**
MAY 2021 **Community mobilisation: a strategy to rebuild trust and promote vaccine uptake in sub-Saharan Africa**
Sejerøe Hausenkamph, D.
- [BLOG](#)**
MAY 2021 **Tackling corruption in Zimbabwe’s National Pharmaceutical Company – NatPharm**
Gumbo, O.
- [BLOG](#)**
JUNE 2021 **Covid-19 corruption in 2021: April - May developments**
Cepeda, D.
- [BLOG](#)**
JULY 2021 **Pharmaceutical companies' payments to healthcare professionals: an eclipse of global transparency**
Cepeda Cuadrado, D., Sejerøe Hausenkamph, D.
- [BLOG](#)**
AUGUST 2021 **Covid-19 corruption in 2021: Late May - July developments**
Cepeda Cuadrado, D.
- [BLOG](#)**
AUGUST 2021 **Covid-19 vaccine certificates: the digitalisation of fraud**
Sejerøe Hausenkamph, D.
- [BLOG](#)**
OCTOBER 2021 **Global access to Covid-19 vaccines: Lifting the veil of opacity**
Hussmann, K.

BLOG
NOVEMBER 2021

Covid-19 corruption in 2021: August - September

Cepeda Cuadrado, D.,

BLOG
DECEMBER 2021

Covid-19 corruption in 2021: the pandemic rages on

Cepeda Cuadrado, D.

HELPDESK ANSWERS

APRIL, 2020

The costs of corruption during humanitarian crises, and mitigation strategies for development agencies

MAY, 2020

Professional enablers of economic crime during crises

APRIL, 2021

Mitigating corruption risks in Covid-19 vaccine rollout: What can donors do?

APRIL, 2021

Corruption and the right to sexual and reproductive health in sub-Saharan Africa

ONLINE COURSES

Our three-week expert-led course on corruption and anti-corruption in the health sector was significantly adapted in response to Covid-19. The addition of a senior learning technology adviser during 2020 also allowed us to revise it in line with best online learning practices, resulting in the development of three explainer videos as a new type of asset in our courses.

Four online courses were held in 2020 and two courses in 2021. Due to the high number of registrations, two classes ran simultaneously in the 2020 Spring and Autumn iterations. It is important to note that the two health sector courses held in spring 2020 had a completion rate of 92%, reflecting considerable interest from anti-corruption and health communities. The majority of participants in 2020 came from the DFID-ACE (Anti-Corruption Evidence) project, with most staff being located in Southern Africa.

In 2021, we had a general decrease in enrollment on our online courses and this was also reflected on our health course with 47 participants enrolling. We believe online fatigue is the main cause for this decline, after a high digital year in 2020. However, data from the 2021 health courses continues to show a high level of

'From the course we have looked at where fraud and corruption acts on the different links and began to look at mitigation measures. In my work I am going to encourage research that looks at each block in turn and identifies the actors with the decision making power and their sources of information (which could be tampered with).'

Participant U4 online Health course, May 2021.

Table 1. Participants' rate of enrolment, completion and satisfaction

U4 Health course						Agree, or strongly agree about the course			
Course	Enrolled	No-shows	Started	Completed	Survey responses	Well managed /	Relevant to me / current work	More confident addressing corruption	Would recommend course to colleagues
Health (6 courses)	175	25	150	113 (75%)	110	99%	97%	98%	96%

Completions are calculated based on the number of participants who actually started the course (no-shows are excluded from the calculation)

Table 2. Number of participants disaggregated per gender

Facilitated Courses	Enrolled		Started		Completed*		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Health (6 courses)	93	82	81	67	58 (72%)	55 (82%)	113 (76%)

* Completions are calculated based on the number of participants who actually started the course (no-shows are excluded from the calculation). Percentages per gender refer to the number of female or male participants that completed the course out of the pool of the same gender per course.

Participating in this training course made me understand much better how different types of corruption can affect the health sector at the systemic level having a negative impact on the main health outcomes (...) all these elements as well as the mentioned systemic approach will be taken into account much more targeted and deeper, both when adjusting the interventions within the ongoing projects, as well as when planning the new projects from the health system.

Practitioner (SDC U4 partner agency)

EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

The speakers had relevant data on the questions of their specialty. High level of professionalism from the event organiser.

Participant in the Covid-19 vaccine development and rollout webinar

In this first phase of CATCH, U4 has held as well as participated in several digital events related to health, corruption, and anti-corruption. More than 475 participants took part of the 7 events held by U4 during this period.

IN-COUNTRY WORKSHOP

ONLINE

JANUARY 2022

HOST: UK FCDO

Health workshop in Indonesia on health insurance fraud

In-country workshop

This workshop served as a space to discuss the findings of a recent study commissioned by U4 and FCDO on falsified medicines in Colombia. The workshop was useful for knowledge sharing and learning among all relevant actors in the field of drug quality including representatives from the Colombian government, civil society, the private sector, and UN agencies. Based on this workshop, we decided that a forthcoming (2022), follow-up U4 FCDO study shall reflect the policy priorities and needs of Colombian government institutions to better detect, control, and contain the proliferation of falsified medicines.

IN-COUNTRY WORKSHOP

ONLINE

NOVEMBER 2021

HOST: UK FCDO

Health workshop in Colombia on fraudulent medicines

U4, in collaboration with FCDO and supported by the Indonesian Commission for the Eradication of Corruption (KPK), commissioned a study on health insurance fraud in Indonesia, aiming to provide information on the current situation and information gaps on the issue: the structural factors enabling it, as well as its effects on different population groups. The study established the impact of Covid-19 on anti-fraud efforts and made recommendations on improving antifraud strategies. The workshop provided a platform to discuss and validate the study findings, with participants from the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), Ministry of Health, Indonesian Doctors' Association, Regulatory agencies, development partners, international organisations, and civil society.

WEBINAR

NOVEMBER 2021

HOST: U4 + CGD

What we know and still don't know: Progress and challenges in the quest for transparency to ensure equity in the Covid-19 vaccine deployment

In conjunction with the Center for Global Development, U4 hosted a virtual discussion on the progress and challenges in the transparent deployment of COVID-19 vaccine, building on recent recommendations from U4 on next steps for greater transparency. Speakers highlighted the importance of transparency in the current moment of the COVID-19 crisis, when equitable distribution surpasses supply as the most pressing challenge.

The panel also discussed topics including possible mechanisms of accountability for manufacturers and procurers and how governments and global COVID-19 vaccine procurement mechanisms should balance public and private interests.

WEBINAR

JUNE 2021

HOST: U4

Covid-19 vaccine development and rollout: Improving transparency and accountability

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, the medical and scientific communities have focused on identifying medicines to treat Covid-19 patients and developing vaccines to achieve immunity against the virus. Nonetheless, progress on rolling out Covid-19 vaccines has been slow and uneven. This webinar sought to answer the question: How can we secure more transparency and accountability across the Covid-19 vaccine value chain to improve access and equity?

The panellist speakers were [Till Bruckner](#) (Director of Transparimed), [Karen Hussmann](#) (U4 Affiliate Expert), [Dr Amaka Vanni](#), (Lecturer in Law, University of Leeds), [Prof Ole F. Norheim](#), (Director of Bergen Centre for Ethics and Priority Setting, University of Bergen, Norway), and [Dr Gayatri Saberwal](#) (Dean, Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology Biotech Park).

In a follow-up survey, 87 % of attendees expressed that they were very satisfied with this webinar's content, 85% expected to use the knowledge they gained in their work, and 100% indicated that they would attend future U4 events.

IN-COUNTRY**WORKSHOP**

ONLINE

DECEMBER 2020

HOST: UK FCDO

Zimbabwe: Health sector anti-corruption

Procurement-related corruption remains a problem in the pharmaceuticals sub-sector in Zimbabwe despite some progress in other areas. Participants from U4 partner agencies, government agencies, anti-corruption- and development actors concluded that passing the Whistleblower Protection Act, establishing beneficial ownership requirements and an open procurement platform would be important in reducing corruption-related problems in pharmaceuticals procurement.

WEBINAR

JUNE 2020

HOST: U4

Corruption, civil society, and Covid-19: the potentials of digital empowerment for social accountability

This webinar was developed in collaboration with Connected Development, Ushahidi. It explored the role that digital tools and platforms can play in supporting civil society and donors in the time of social distancing, and how donors can connect with citizens for digital monitoring.

WEBINAR

HOST: U4

Emergency release of people from prison because of Covid-19

Emergency release of prisoners, while critical to public health, can enable the unjust release from prison of politically connected and wealthy prisoners convicted of corruption offences.

EXTERNAL EVENTS**PRESENTATION**

DECEMBER 2021

HOST: INAI +
UNDP + UNODC**Progress in the SDG 16's goals for good governance during and after the pandemic: Access to information and anti-corruption efforts**

This round table, hosted by the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (INAI) in Mexico along with other UN agencies, served as a space to discuss the progress and challenges in constructing solid and reliable institutions amidst the COVID-19 health crisis, specifically in Mexico. U4 made a presentation on corruption risks and lack of accountability mechanisms during the Covid-19 pandemic.

PRESENTATION

OCTOBER 2021

HOST: HEALTH
ACTION
INTERNATIONAL**Transparency in clinical trials: Development and new priorities**

The webinar shone a spotlight on new developments in clinical trials transparency. It allowed to showcase new and upcoming research into the issue of transparency in clinical trials right through the drug development cycle – from commissioning trials, to ensuring patient access to clinical data. U4 presented its research on the lack of clinical trial transparency for Covid-19 vaccines in Latin America.

As a result of this event, U4 wrote a corresponding blog, which was featured in TranspáriMed titled [Latin America: Poor transparency in vaccine trials undermines pandemic response](#)

PRESENTATION

JUNE 2021

HOST: DHIS2

The Digital DHIS2 Annual Conference 2021

In this conference, U4 health team presented its preliminary findings on the U4 issue titled Anti-corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Health Management Information Systems: A case study of DHIS2

PRESENTATION

JUNE 2021

HOST: FCDO

Preventing corruption in the Covid-Vaccine distribution and roll-out

Together with Transparency International Global Health, U4 presented their findings on how to identify corruption risks across the Covid-19 vaccine value chain and provided corresponding mitigation measures. As part of the presentation, U4 carried out a survey with FCDO staff and developed a guidance note for use by the FCDO Pan Africa department.

**FEEDBACK AND
VALIDATION****MEETING**

APRIL 2021

HOST: UNODC

UNODC guide How to Assess and Manage Corruption Risks in Public Health System Organizations

U4 participated with other anti-corruption and health experts in a 2-day workshop to provide feedback to the latest UNDOC guide on corruption in the health sector.

**FEEDBACK AND
VALIDATION
MEETING**

MARCH 2021
HOST: UNDOC

Promoting integrity and transparency in the provision of health services for people with drug use disorders and distribution/administration of controlled substances

U4 contributed to an informal expert group meeting on promoting integrity and transparency in the provision of health services for people with drug use disorders and distribution/administration of controlled substances. The meeting helped UNODC identify priority areas for its upcoming report on this subject matter.

DISCUSSION

JULY 2020
HOST: IMF

**Promoting effective use of Covid-19 finance:
An IMF discussion with African CSOs**

U4 facilitated a panel discussion on the role of CSOs in verifying and monitoring the use of Covid-19 emergency finance in Africa. As part of the discussion, panelist speakers shared their expertise on what CSOs can do to enhance their monitoring role, what constrains CSOs from monitoring government compliance, and what the IMF can do to help put CSOs in a position to effectively assist governments monitor and verify compliance with the governance conditions on Covid-19 emergency financing.

PRESENTATION

MAY 2020
HOST: OECD DAC
ACTT

Covid-19 corruption risks and the international response

The OECD.DAC Anti-Corruption Task team (ACTT) met to consider the corruption and integrity risks associated with the COVID-19 crisis, and the actions already taken or envisaged by donors (multilateral and bilateral) to ensure effective corruption risk management in such a context. U4 made a presentation on the corruption risks that have emerged during Covid-19 and recommendations on what could be done to mitigate them.

WORKSHOP

APRIL 2020
HOST: UNDP

Impact of Corruption and Integrity on COVID-19 Response and Recovery

UNDP hosted this workshop, as part of the OECD Integrity Forum. Panellist speakers, including U4, discussed the impact of corruption and integrity on COVID-19 response and recovery, and the importance of integrating anti-corruption in and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES PHASE 2

U4 is coordinating with CATCH members for many of these outputs and find synergies that allow this work to complement other deliverables from SC members.

The activities identified for 2022:

<u>BACKGROUND PAPER</u>	Health Insurance fraud in Indonesia
<u>BACKGROUND PAPER</u>	The existence and proliferation of fraudulent medicines in Colombia
<u>ISSUE PAPER</u>	Safeguarding the Covid-19 vaccine distribution: Evaluating the role of blockchain
<u>ISSUE PAPER</u>	Anti-corruption, transparency, and accountability in health management information systems: Exploring the potential of DHIS2
<u>ISSUE PAPER</u>	Weak links: How corruption affects the quality and integrity of medical products and impacts on the Covid-19 response
<u>PRACTICE INSIGHT</u>	Civil Society Monitoring in the Health Sector: Taking stock of the Partnership for Transparency Fund's work to ensure clean procurement and quality service provision
<u>PRACTICE INSIGHT</u>	Transparency as a game changer in the Colombian health sector? Insights from the project ACTUE Colombia

The following outputs are tentative joint products of U4 and CATCH under ongoing discussion:

ONLINE **Self-paced module on corruption, pandemics, and health emergencies**
LEARNING
JOINT U4-CATCH

ONLINE **Health online course expansion and update**
LEARNING
JOINT U4-CATCH

Anti-corruption Partnership Pilot (APP)

U4 and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) have initiated the Anti-corruption Partnership Pilot (APP), a three-year multi-stakeholder initiative to implement an anti-corruption project based on best-practice principles across three pilot countries. Within this framework, U4 and Sida will focus on integrating anti-corruption measures in the health sector in Zambia, Moldova (tentatively) and a third country, which is yet to be determined.

The pilot project will involve an adaptive, problem-driven approach, with room for learning on the go. In the case of Zambia, its main objectives are to build the capacity of health and anti/corruption governance teams, and those of their implementing partners, to assess, prioritise and design appropriate mitigation measures for corruption risks in the health sector, based on the WHO Guidance for Member States; and develop a tool and framework for monitoring, evaluation and learning on integrating anti-corruption measures in health systems assessments, plans and policies.

This initiative reflects the growing interest from the donor community to identify and mitigate corruption in the health sector, and provides an unprecedented opportunity for U4, U4 partners and CATCH to work together.

CLOSING REMARKS

Corruption in the health sector can mean the difference between life and death, especially during health emergencies. Corruption affects the quality, equity, efficiency, efficacy, and accessibility of health services, especially for marginalised groups. Knowing this, integrating anti-corruption measures is a crucial aspect to strengthen health systems, ensure an effective and efficient use of their resources, and enhance patient care. At U4, we seek to support our partners' work through rigorous, evidence-based insights on anti-corruption, so that all health sector interventions can lead to better health outcomes. From 2020 to 2021, the U4 team has successfully provided evidence-based research, training and advice on how to address corruption risks in the health sector, including in the context of Covid-19.

In the first phase alone, we have published 22 blog posts and 10 publications on Covid-19 and corruption, some of them backed-up by webinars; published four Helpdesk answers; facilitated six online courses on corruption and anti-corruption in the health sector with more than 150 participants from U4 partner agencies, multilateral bodies, ministries of health and civil society organisations; and actively participated or hosted numerous webinars and events. We aim to align our work with the CATCH's priorities and will continue to produce knowledge outputs and policy recommendations, which can inform donors' work on anti-corruption and health in their operating countries.

Going forward, our team will focus on producing joint knowledge products with CATCH, continuing to produce U4 publications on health and Covid-19, and deepening evidence on anti-corruption in the health sector through the Anti-Corruption Partnership Pilot.



ANTI-CORRUPTION
RESOURCE CENTRE

U4 – Chr. Michelsen Institute

P.O. Box 6033
N-5892 Bergen, Norway

Visiting address:
Jekteviksbakken 31, Bergen

+47 479 38 000
u4@cmi.no
www.u4.no