Corruption, Ethics, and Why?

*More than a structural problem*

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The Copenhagen Consensus Center: 10 challenges

• Air pollution
• Conflicts
• Diseases
• Education
• Global warming
• Malnutrition & hunger
• Sanitation and water
• Subsidies and trade barriers
• Terrorism
• Women and development

What are the largest problems in the world?

UN Millennium Development Goals

• End Poverty and Hunger
• Universal Education
• Gender Equality
• Child Health
• Maternal Health
• Combat HIV/AIDS
• Environmental Sustainability
• Global Partnership
Every One of These “Largest Problems” In The World Is..

• Either man-made, or pushed to a crisis point, by decisions of humans.
• Are these decisions the result of ignorance, selfishness, corruption, or crime?
• Can it be said that every one of world’s “largest problems” exists due to choices & decisions made worse by corruption?

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- Conflicts
- Diseases
- Education
- Global warming
- Malnutrition and hunger
- Sanitation and water
- Subsidies and trade barriers
- Terrorism
- Women and development
Corruption is often conceptualized as a crime problem. Common framework: those in positions of trust misuse their authority.

- Theft or misuse of public or private funds:
  - Bribery, extortion, money laundering, embezzlement, nepotism, influence peddling

- Opportunity w/o oversight:
  - Little supervision or audit risk.
  - Low odds of apprehension.

- Corruptible official:
  - Untrustworthy person placed in position of authority.
A focus on structural factors:
- Procurement rules.
- Contract bidding processes.

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Growing realization of the need to focus on "push" factors that create vulnerability to exploitation by corrupt opportunities.
Where do the vulnerability factors come from? There are “triggers” to vulnerability.

**Corruption triggers:**
- History in jurisdiction.
- Product market issues.
- Gov’t regulation & enforcement

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Corrupt PEOPLE versus corrupt environment?
- Unethical people
- Self-seeking behavior

Much less attention given to corrupt people (versus environments).

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Unethical people - Self-seeking behavior

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Source of ethics & anti-corruption
- Taught in schools, FBOs?
- Emphasized culturally?
- Ethics training?

Move from structural factors to individual accountability?

Where do corrupt people come from?
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