

Business integrity, data, and anti-corruption

Context

Business integrity refers to the adherence to ethical and moral principles and values in business practices. It involves conducting business in a transparent and accountable manner, complying with laws and regulations, and treating stakeholders (including customers, employees, suppliers, and communities) fairly and honestly. Business integrity encompasses a range of practices and behaviors, including **anti-corruption measures, responsible corporate governance, and ethical decision-making**. Companies that prioritize business integrity are often associated with higher levels of trust and reputation, stronger stakeholder relationships, and long-term sustainable growth.

Business integrity and the fight against corruption have become increasingly important issues globally, especially in developing countries where corruption and unethical business practices can hinder economic growth and social development. The private sector can play a significant role in promoting business integrity, as it can improve the reputation of companies, increase public trust, and foster a healthier and more transparent business environment. **Data plays a critical role in the fight against corruption and unethical business practices**. It can be used to detect and prevent fraudulent activities, identify potential corruption risks, and monitor compliance with ethical standards. Moreover, data analytics tools can help companies identify patterns and trends in their business practices, which can inform their decision-making processes and lead to more efficient and effective operations.

Thus, data can be useful in promoting business integrity in various concrete ways. First, data can be **used to detect and prevent fraudulent activities**, such as money laundering, bribery, and other forms of corruption. For example, data analytics tools can be used to identify unusual patterns in financial transactions or employee behavior, which can be indicators of potential fraudulent activities. Second, data can be used to **identify and mitigate corruption risks in the supply chain**. Companies can use data to monitor suppliers' compliance with ethical standards, track the movement of goods and services, and verify the authenticity of

goods and services. Third, data can be used to **monitor compliance with anti-corruption laws and regulations**. Companies can use data analytics to track and report on compliance with anti-corruption laws and regulations, such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) or the UK Bribery Act. Fourth, data can be used to **promote a culture of ethics and integrity within organizations**. For example, companies can collect and analyze data on employee satisfaction, engagement, and behavior to identify potential areas of concern and to develop training programs and incentives to promote ethical behavior.

Examples of how it is applied

1. Walmart: Walmart uses data analytics to monitor compliance with anti-corruption laws and regulations. In 2011, Walmart's internal investigation unit identified potential FCPA violations in its Mexican operations using data analysis. Walmart used this information to launch an internal investigation, which resulted in significant changes to its compliance program.
 - o <https://corporate.walmart.com/esgreport/governance/digital-citizenship-ethical-use-of-data-responsible-use-of-technology>
 - o <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/22/business/at-wal-mart-in-mexico-a-bribe-inquiry-silenced.html>
 - o <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-walmart-idUKBRE83O1BP20120425>
2. Oxfam: Oxfam, an international NGO, uses blockchain technology to ensure transparency and accountability in its supply chain. The organization uses blockchain to track the origin and movement of goods and services, which helps to prevent corruption and promote fair labor practices.
 - o <https://www.oxfam.org/en/unblocked-cash-project-using-blockchain-technology-revolutionize-humanitarian-aid>
 - o <https://www.oxfam.org/en/tackling-fraud-and-corruption-oxfam>
3. Danone: Danone, a multinational food products company, uses data to identify potential corruption risks in its supply chain. The company collects data on its suppliers' compliance with ethical standards and conducts regular audits to ensure



British Embassy
Mexico City



Public Interest Technology

compliance. This approach has helped Danone to reduce corruption risks and improve its reputation.

- <https://www.danone.com/content/dam/danone-corp/danone-com/about-us-impact/policies-and-commitments/en/2022/danone-integrity-policy-2022-en.pdf>
- <https://www.danone.com/content/dam/danone-corp/danone-com/about-us-impact/policies-and-commitments/en/2022/danone-ethics-line-privacy-statement.pdf>

4. Mexican government: The Mexican government has implemented a blockchain-based system for public procurement to increase transparency and reduce corruption in the bidding process. The system uses blockchain to provide a secure and transparent record of transactions, which helps to prevent fraudulent activities such as bid-rigging and collusion.

- <https://www.gob.mx/epn/articulos/blockchainhackmx-147327>
- <https://www.coindesk.com/markets/2018/04/05/mexico-tests-blockchain-to-track-public-contract-bids/>
- https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/cf_forums/2017_Rome/PPTs/BlockChain/PM_05_Yolanda_Martinez_Mancilla_Mexico_Blockchain_HACKMX.pdf

List of people who work on the topic

Mexico:

- [Dr. Eduardo Bohórquez](#), Executive Director of Transparency International Mexico
- [Dr. Luis Manuel Pérez de Acha](#), lawyer and expert in corporate governance and business integrity
- [Dr. María Amparo Casar](#), researcher and expert in anti-corruption policies and governance
- [Dr. Adrián Franco Barrios](#), lawyer and expert in anti-corruption and compliance
- [Dr. David Arellano Gault](#), expert in anti-corruption and compliance in the financial sector

UK:



British Embassy
Mexico City



Public Interest Technology

- [Richard Bistrong](#), anti-bribery and compliance consultant and speaker, and author of the book "Front-Line Anti-Bribery"
- [Professor Mark Watson-Gandy](#), barrister and specialist in corporate and financial crime, and a non-executive director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO)
- [Alexandra Wrage](#), anti-bribery and compliance consultant and speaker, and founder of the organization TRACE International
- [Rachel Davies Teka](#), Head of Advocacy at Transparency International UK, an NGO that works to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in the public and private sectors
- [Alison Taylor](#), Director of advisory services at BSR, a global sustainability consultancy, and a leading expert on business ethics, human rights, and supply chain sustainability