

Terms of Reference

1. Background

Bhutan Transparency Initiative is a registered Civil Society Organization (CSO) committed to enhancing transparency, integrity, and accountability in the country through the provision of policy-oriented research, development of training tools, and facilitation of policy dialogues, thus we continue to formulate suitable research strategies that contribute to the more effective generation of knowledge on the corruption situation, governance and public service delivery in the country. One of our main research areas among others is the periodic study on the National Corruption Barometer Survey (NCBS) conducted every three years to generate the National Corruption Barometer Report (NCBR). The NCBS is a diagnostic study, to determine the level/trends of corruption and the effectiveness of anti-corruption programs in the country. Besides facilitating evidence-based policy interventions, NCBR serves as a baseline data and reference point for awareness, education, and advocacy programs. The 1st NCBS was conducted in 2016 followed by another one in 2020. This year, BTI intends to conduct the third consecutive NCBS, the NCBS 2023.

Bhutan has always strategically focused on strengthening democratic institutions and its principles for a vibrant democracy. Notwithstanding a relatively younger democracy and being in the region that has “little or no progress on anti-corruption efforts”¹, controlling corruption has yet been a significant achievement for Bhutan. This is confirmed by Bhutan’s ranking in Transparency International’s 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index (25th cleanest country among 180 countries/territories) and the national integrity score of 7.97 (on a scale of zero to ten) as per the National Integrity Assessment (NIA) 2019.

Fighting corruption in Bhutan is a development imperative wherein the Constitution mandates every citizen to *uphold justice and act against corruption*. This in principle has fostered a strong collective effort to prevent and combat corruption at all levels across society. Further, a dedicated Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in place has reinforced the sacred Constitutional responsibility to build a “*happy, harmonious and corruption-free society*”

As the lead agency in preventing and combating corruption, the ACC has introduced numerous policies/strategies/measures/tools to prevent and combat corruption. Agencies are increasingly endorsing the advantage of adopting integrity and anti-corruption tools/measures for internal safeguards. Towards the long-term sustainability of the anti-corruption campaign, the ACC has been making a conscious effort to integrate the anti-corruption agenda into the overall planning process. Thus, in the 12th Five Year Plan (FYP), a dedicated National Key Result Area (NKRA) on ‘*Corruption Reduced*’ has been retained for greater momentum in mainstreaming anti-corruption measures. To realize the NKRA ‘*Corruption Reduced*’, three Agency Key Result Areas and 24 Key Performance Indicators (KPI) have been designed in close consultation with the Gross National Happiness Commission Secretariat (GNHCS) and a core group consisting of officials from 15 key national agencies. Further, these 24 KPIs were further improved based on the recommendations of the review of the National and Integrity Anti-Corruption Strategy 2014-2018,

¹ According to Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index (TI’s CPI) 2018

thereby establishing a clear results chain and ensuring a holistic approach in the fight against corruption.

The sources of data to gauge the accomplishment of these indicators will be TI's CPI, NIA, ACA Strengthening Initiative, NCBR, Youth Integrity Assessment (YIA) and ACC's evidenced-based research, including ACC's administrative data. This variety in the national and international data sets is expected to validate the results with each other.

2. Objective

The main objectives of the study are:

- To assess the citizens' perception of corruption around forms, causes, concentration and levels in the country
- To independently monitor and gauge the progress of reducing corruption in the 12th FYP;
- To facilitate informed and evidence-based policy/decision-making to control corruption in the 12th FYP and beyond.

3. Terms of Reference

1. Review related national and international literature
2. Develop a detailed methodology outlining the scope, objectives, research questions, research design, and methodology to conduct the study, and propose to the client (BTI)
3. Conduct consultative meetings with the relevant agencies (e.g. ACC, NSB etc.) to seek inputs and consensus on the proposed methodology, and get it approved by the client
4. Train enumerators for the study
5. Pretest and refine the survey questionnaires, and get it approved by the client.
6. Conduct and complete the study within two months from the date of award of the contract.
7. Compile and analyze data using the approved statistical tool(s)
8. Write the report and present the first draft to the client and other stakeholders as may be identified by the client
9. Incorporate comments and suggestions from the client and present the final report to the client
10. Submit five hard copies of the report along with soft copy of the report and all relevant data (raw, compiled and analyzed)

4. Qualifications:

- a) Only registered firms and certified individuals are eligible to apply.
- b) Lead Consultant should have a minimum of Master's degree from a recognized educational institute. Addition qualifications will be an added advantage.
- c) Lead Consultant should have proven experience in conducting nationwide social surveys.

- d) Must be able to render mobile data collection solutions
- e) Must be a Bhutanese citizen with valid CID card.
- f) Must have a certified and experienced statistician as a Co-Consultant if the Lead Consultant does not have proven records of being proficient in statistical analysis.
- g) Must have a valid Tax Payer No. (TPN).

5. Duration: Three month