



UNDP Anti-Corruption Compass: Public Procurement Integrity Pillar

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the tool?

The Global Public Procurement Integrity Risk tool and its accompanying methodology can be used to understand how prone public procurement is to corruption across countries (with caveats) and over time. The dashboards measure five integrity risks or “red flags” that may be warning signs of corruption and inefficiencies warranting further investigation. The tool can also be used to examine the transparency of each country’s procurement system.

Disclaimer: high risk values may not necessarily be evidence of corruption and could be influenced by underlying market structures. As such, the risks must be verified through additional research. For example, single bidding may be due to deliberate, unjustified attempts to restrict competition, but it may also be due to monopolistic market structures, often associated with procuring complex products that have few potential suppliers.

Regardless of whether a risk is an indicator of actual corruption, monitoring atypical procurement practices can help to identify and address underlying inefficiencies in the procurement system. Our intention is to offer an objective, comprehensive, and actionable methodology that enables a broad range of users to compare and benchmark public procurement risks, and to use these evidence-based insights to monitor institutional performance and inform reforms.

How do I use the Public Procurement Integrity dashboards?

Global Overview: Compare integrity risks across all countries, clustered into bands – high, medium, and low. Browse by indicator and year.

Country Overview: Explore a country’s risks in more detail. Filter by product market (e.g. construction, healthcare, education), contract size (e.g. high- and medium-value contracts), year, and sub-national regions, where data is available. Compare risks against the global average.

Data Availability sections: See the number of observable contracting procedures and their total value, and what proportion of them can be monitored for integrity risks. These dashboards add important context about the transparency and size of the procurement market.

What are the risk indicators?

Risk Indicator	Description	Reason	Procurement Phase
Non-open procedure	Percentage of contracts that did not use an open, competitive process	When a less transparent and less inclusive procurement method is used, it may indicate the range of bids has been deliberately limited.	Design
No call for tenders published	Percentage of contracts for which a call for tenders was not published	When a buyer does not publish a call for tenders, it is less likely that eligible bidders notice the bidding opportunity, which weakens competition.	Design
Single bidding	Percentage of tenders that had only a single bid submitted	While sometimes unavoidable (e.g. in highly specialised markets), the submission of only one bid in a tender on an otherwise competitive market is the simplest indication of a potential restriction of competition and may represent the ideal outcome for a corrupt buyer and a pre-selected bidder.	Award
Tax haven	Among contracts awarded to foreign suppliers, the percentage of contracts awarded to companies registered in tax havens	Awarding a contract to a supplier registered in a tax haven may indicate an attempt to conceal a conflict of interest in the award of a contract to a politically connected company owner.	Award
Contract modification	Percentage of contracts changed at least once after being signed, such as price increases or delivery delays	There might be justifiable reasons for additional purchases that were not part of the original contract, however, modifications after contract award can be used to extract unwarranted profits, cover the costs of bribes spent to secure a contract award, or cover expenses if the favoured company could only win the contract by offering the lowest price.	Implementation



Why were these indicators chosen?

These five indicators are widely available and have been shown to correlate with corruption at key stages in the procurement cycle. (Many other indicators can be used to monitor corruption risks in public procurement. However, few of these indicators can be used reliably at the global level because procurement systems, regulatory frameworks and data publication practices vary across countries.

How are the risk indicators calculated?

The integrity risks are calculated using official administrative data recorded before, during and after a contract is awarded. The numerical value of an integrity indicator represents the number of risky contracts as a percentage of all measurable contracts for a given country or market. For example, if the procurement method can be measured for 100 contracts and 30 of them were awarded using non-open procedures, the indicator value will be 30%.

What do the indicator bands – high, medium, and low – mean?

The indicator bands reflect the relative position of a country for a given risk indicator and year. Countries in the top third are classified as “high,” the middle third as “medium,” and the bottom third as “low.”

Why is the data availability section important?

The completeness of publicly available procurement data disclosed on open portals is an important indicator of transparency. Information can be missing for a number of reasons, such as the design of the e-procurement system or legislative framework that governs the collection and publication of procurement data, or it can vary across contracts within the same country due to intentional omissions or data errors.

Coverage

Which countries are included?

The 2025 edition of the dashboards will feature 59 countries. Data for countries marked with an asterisk (*) is currently being collected for inclusion on the Anti-Corruption Compass by the end of 2025.

Europe				Americas	Africa, Asia, Australia & Middle East
Albania	France	Malta	Slovenia	Brazil	Australia*
Armenia	Georgia	Moldova*	Spain	Canada*	Bangladesh
Austria	Germany	Netherlands	Sweden	Chile*	China
Belgium	Greece	North Macedonia*	Switzerland	Colombia	Phillipines
Bulgaria	Hungary	Norway	UK	Dominican Republic	Indonesia
Croatia	Iceland	Poland	Ukraine	Ecuador*	Japan*
Cyprus	Ireland	Portugal		Mexico	Kazakhstan
Czechia	Italy	Romania		Paraguay*	Kenya
Denmark	Latvia	Russia		Peru	Saudi Arabia
Estonia	Lithuania	Serbia		Uruguay	
Finland	Luxembourg	Slovakia		US	



Which years are covered?

2017-2024, however data availability varies by country.

Which markets are included?

The markets represent the 10 most common sectors by total spending in a given country's procurement sector. In most countries, contracts have been grouped into product categories using two-digit codes of the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CVP), a classification system from Europe. These countries publish their tenders with CPV codes assigned, or use a product code nomenclature (e.g. UNSPSC), that can be translated to CPV codes. However, some countries either do not use product categorizations entirely or use a nomenclature which has not been translated to CPV categories, hence their market dashboard is unavailable. Disclaimer: Markets are not directly comparable because of differences in their underlying market structure; for example, risks in a country's construction contracts can be monitored over time but they should not be compared to healthcare contracts.

Why do some filter combinations have no value?

On the Country Overview, to avoid misleading interpretations due to a low number of observations, risk analysis is only enabled for market combinations with at least 10 contracts available (for example, if a country only has two high-value construction projects in a given year, an indicator will show as "NA" or "not available"). When no results are displayed, you can verify how many total contracts are available for a market by consulting the Data Availability section.

On the Global Overview, results are only displayed for countries with sufficient data from the original source to measure the given indicator; for example, if a country's procurement system does not publish data on the number of bidders, the number of single-bid contracts cannot be calculated and it will not appear on the map or country list.

Data

What data sources are used?

The data was collected from publicly available datasets of official national procurement systems. The aim was to select as many sources as possible that can be processed with sufficient completeness and consistency, and to collect historical data dating back to the earliest publications possible. In federalised countries, data from sub-national procurement systems was not captured. The full list of sources used for all countries is available in the technical methodology note.

How was the data processed?

The data was collected and processed by the Government Transparency Institute (GTI) for UNDP’s Global Initiative on Measuring Corruption, to create standardised, comparable datasets that enable analysis across countries and time. The approach builds on a set of algorithms originally developed in the EU-funded Horizon 2020 DIGIWHIST project. For an explanation of the key data processing steps, see GTI (2025), “Public procurement data processing”.

Which contracting data was excluded?

Cancelled contracts, contracts without a buyer or winning supplier recorded, and duplicate records (such as contracts of EU member states published on multiple platforms) were excluded, along with contracts with too few observations. This ensures the dataset retains only contracts that are deemed legitimate for analysis.

What contract information is needed to calculate the indicators?

Data related to the following 10 contract characteristics is needed to construct the five integrity risk indicators:

Indicator information	Basic ID information
Number of bidders	Contract price
Procedure type	Contract date
Contract modifications	Procuring body name
Tax haven registration	Supplier name
Call for tender date of publication	Implementation location



Get involved

How can my country's public procurement data be included in the next edition of the Anti-Corruption Compass?

A country's inclusion in the Public Procurement Integrity Risk methodology relies on publicly available data from its national e-procurement system. The data must be of sufficient quality, accessibility, and usability to enable data collection and processing. To calculate the five risk indicators, the source data must include information on specific characteristics of contracting procedures (see Question 15). Our intention is to add data for more countries as it becomes available (see Question 8 for countries covered in 2025).

How can I share feedback on the data?

Feedback can be sent by email to anti-corruption@undp.org.

Can I apply these red flags to my own procurement dataset?

Yes. For the purposes of this project, we have restricted the scope to publicly available, national-level procurement data. However, the methodology is flexible and works with decentralised data collection, and electronic or (a sample of) paper procurement data.

Where can I read the full methodology?

The technical methodology will be available soon on the Anti-Corruption Compass website.