

Facilitation Payments: Quick Choices

You are stopped by the police on your way to work and told that your paperwork is not in order. You can either pay \$2 or go to the station with them. You are not worried about your safety if you go with the police, but you do think that it will be a hassle. **Do you pay the \$2?**

Yes No

Who do you think is participating in an act of corruption in this situation?

You Police Officer

The desperately needed food that you are trying to deliver has been held in customs for days. The customs official has indicated he'll release the goods if your organization will pay a \$10,000 expediting fee. **Do you pay the \$10,000?**

Yes No

Who do you think is participating in an act of corruption in this situation?

You Customs Official

You are delivering aid. You are stopped by a soldier who pulls out a gun, aims it at your head, and tells you that you have to pay \$100 to pass. **Do you pay the \$100?**

Yes No

Who do you think is participating in an act of corruption in this situation? Circle all that apply:

You Soldier

Conflicts of Interest: Quick Choices

The office has an immediate opening for a security guard. The head of security wants to hire his close friend. He says there is no need to go through normal hiring processes because he will personally vouch for his friend. **Do you approve this hire?**

Yes No

The head of services' niece has just graduated from university and wants to get international experience. There is job in the local office that has not yet been posted that fits her skills perfectly. The head of services wants to hire her instead of posting the position. **Do you approve this hire?**

Yes No

Your department's unpaid intern unexpectedly left and you are eager to find a replacement quickly. A local politician has a son who has just finished school and could use some work experience. The politician strongly implies that if you want to continue working in the region, you should give his son the internship. **Do you give the politician's son this internship?**

Yes No

You have worked with a contractor in the past and now consider her a close friend. Your department recently put out a request for proposals, and her bid was selected as the best in terms of price and quality. You were not part of the team who made the selection, but you will sign off on the final contractor. **Do you approve this contract?**

Yes No

Do you think that the head of security hiring his friend in this situation is an act of corruption?

Yes No

Do you think that the head of services hiring his niece in this situation is an act of corruption?

Yes No

Do you think that giving the internship to a local politician's son without opening the application process is an act of corruption?

Yes No

Do you think that awarding the contract to a friend in this situation is an act of corruption?

Yes No

Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Aid

Key Messages

- Corruption is defined by Transparency International as **“the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.”**
- Corruption has many shapes and forms. It can be financial as well as non-financial.
- Say “no” to all forms of corruption, large and small.
- Demonstrate transparency in your work and expect the same from your colleagues and partners.
- Engage the beneficiaries and the local community in zero-tolerance for corruption and establish reporting mechanisms.
- Report your concerns about corruption to management or through your organization’s anonymous reporting mechanism.
- Be familiar with your organization’s Code of Conduct and other related policies.

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Strategies in the Fight Against Corruption

While the best solution will vary, some options and signs you explored in this course are listed below. You should also know and follow your organization's policies.

What you can do to avoid corruption

- Do not pay bribes.
- Request an official receipt or statement for all payments large and small.
- Ask your supervisor or colleagues for help when facing difficult situations.
- Be open about any potential conflicts of interest and remove yourself from participating in such situations.
- Be careful with giving or accepting gifts.
- Band together with other partner organizations and individuals.
- Involve the community, including beneficiaries and local officials.
- Explain how corruption will reduce your ability to help beneficiaries.

Potential signs of corruption

- Someone who seems to be hiding information.
- Changes in behavior and lifestyle of colleagues or partners, such as living above one's means.
- Missing or suspicious information on expense reports, vehicle logs, invoices, beneficiary registrations documents, or other paperwork.
- Changes in work patterns, such as always working late, not taking leave, or missing appointments and deadlines.
- People (managers, employees, volunteers, beneficiaries, etc.) who seem unusually nervous around other people.
- Circumstances that do not match the information you had on a situation in the field.
- Officials who are reluctant to give you access to beneficiaries or information.
- Signs of diversion, such as an increased number of goods reported as destroyed or missing, or relief items showing up at the local marketplace.

Options for reporting

- Share your concerns with management.
- Report your concerns using your organization's anonymous reporting mechanism (phone line, suggestion box, online form, etc.)
- Report your concerns to the human resources department.
- Advocate for mechanisms for anonymous reporting for beneficiaries, officials, and the wider local community.