ANTI-CORRUPTION EDUCATION IN NIGERIA: A COMPLEMENTARY TOOL OR AN ALTERNATIVE TO ENFORCEMENT?

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF EMPOWERING YOUTHS, IGNITING CHANGE, & INSPIRING INTEGRITY
SEE SOMETHING
SAY SOMETHING
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INTRODUCTION

About Step Up Nigeria

Step Up Nigeria is a non-governmental organization founded in July 2018 whose mission is to foster a transparent and equitable society in Nigeria. We actively engage and empower citizens to fight corruption, demand quality services, and promote the delivery of public goods. Our vision is to be a formidable partner in helping Nigeria achieve its socio-economic development, ensuring corruption and poor governance do not hold us back.

At Step Up Nigeria, our core values of integrity, accountability, a results-focused approach, and citizen focus guides us. We believe in upholding the highest ethical standards and promoting transparency in all our activities. We strive to be accountable for our actions, delivering tangible results in our fight against corruption and service delivery improvement. We prioritise the needs and aspirations of citizens, aiming to empower them to participate in governance processes actively and demand the quality services they deserve.
Objectives of this report

The objectives of this report are stated below:

1. To present a comprehensive overview of the initiatives implemented by Step Up Nigeria, which delves into the programs, activities, and strategies the organisation employs to combat corruption.

2. To analyse the evidence-based results of the behavioural change approach in tackling corruption, by examining the impact of collective action, social norms, and behavioural change on reducing corrupt practices. The analysis draws upon empirical evidence and research studies to assess the effectiveness of this approach.

3. To capture and highlight the key lessons learned from implementing anti-corruption education initiatives in Nigeria. Exploring the challenges, successes, and best practices in delivering anti-corruption education programs, providing insights and recommendations for future implementation.

4. To conduct a snap review of the broader sanctions approach in Nigeria and compare it with the anti-corruption education approach to preventing corruption, examining its strengths, weaknesses, and effectiveness in preventing corruption.

5. To provide actionable recommendations to implement anti-corruption education initiatives based on the findings and analysis of this report. These recommendations are targeted at state and non-state actors at the national and sub-national levels to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption education efforts in Nigeria.
Methodology

We use a mixed approach of qualitative and quantitative methods, desk research, and questionnaires to generate evidence for this report. We will highlight the results from the distribution of questionnaires. Step Up Nigeria distributed over 30,000 questionnaires over the past five years, employing a non-probability sampling method to measure key indicators of anti-corruption knowledge among students and other stakeholders. Additionally, we will discuss the findings of Randomised Impact Evaluation.

Chapter three adopts desk reviews to qualitatively analyse Nigeria’s anti-corruption efforts since the fourth republic in 1999. It offers an overview of the country’s current enforcement regime and assesses Nigeria’s progress on global and regional corruption indices. Building on the analyses of chapters two and three, chapter four will provide recommendations for state and non-state actors at national and sub-national levels.

However, it is vital to acknowledge the limitations of this empirical research. Firstly, we conducted the randomised impact in only five states—Lagos, Imo, Oyo, Nasarawa, and Kaduna—and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). While the sample spread adequately covers respondents from critical areas of the country, it may not represent the entire Nigerian population. Secondly, while the analysis in chapter three spans approximately two decades, covering the period since the fourth republic, the analysis in chapter two focuses on a specific number of years. Despite these limitations, patterns and trends can still be identified and analysed effectively.
Anti-corruption education plays a vital role in the fight against corruption. Step Up Nigeria recognises the transformative potential of such education, which goes beyond simple awareness-raising efforts. By imparting anti-corruption values, knowledge, and attitudes and fostering behavioural change, anti-corruption education empowers citizens to act against corruption rather than relying solely on law enforcement agencies.

Step Up Nigeria has successfully implemented anti-corruption education programs that have reached over 50,000 children across five states in Nigeria. The approach to education is crucial for its effectiveness, and the organisation adopts a storytelling approach tailored to different audiences, making anti-corruption teaching relatable and engaging.

One significant aspect of anti-corruption education is its challenging social norms that enable or promote corruption. By teaching society early on about behaviours that encourage corruption, anti-corruption education can work towards changing those norms. It is important to note that anti-corruption education should not be limited to children alone but tailored to different age groups using various tools.

However, it is essential to understand that anti-corruption education is not
a standalone solution but should be part of a comprehensive approach to tackling corruption. Adopting a positive messaging approach is crucial in anti-corruption education. By tailoring the approach to empower citizens effectively, anti-corruption education can motivate collective action against corruption. It can demonstrate actionable steps and build individuals’ capacity to act with integrity. Awareness of the costs of corruption and highlighting actionable ways to combat it are integral to effective anti-corruption education.

Values-based education focused on anti-corruption is critical in addressing negative behaviours that contribute to corruption. An education study conducted by the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS), has shown that citizenship education increases the likelihood of young people rejecting corruption and respecting the law. Teaching students about ethics and integrity can be effective in shaping children into civic-minded adults who act with integrity.

Step Up Nigeria primarily targets children and youth with its anti-corruption education efforts but also trains teachers on anti-corruption values and involves school owners and parents. This comprehensive approach enhances the effectiveness of our programs.

Overall, anti-corruption education is a powerful tool to change attitudes and behaviours that drive corruption,
especially in young people. Step Up Nigeria’s experiences have shown children acting for integrity and schools reporting increased interest in acting with integrity due to our anti-corruption education approach. We have also seen anti-corruption education empowering communities to lead the discourse with politicians on prioritising the delivery of public goods over personal gain. Embracing anti-corruption education can foster a culture of integrity and effectively combat corruption.
B. Our Initiatives

**Catch Them Young Initiative (CYI)**

The Catch Them Young Initiative (CYI) is a programme that prevents corruption by providing anti-corruption education to young people, particularly children in primary and secondary schools. Through storytelling and engaging educational activities, CYI aims to create a generation of young anti-corruption champions who will act with integrity and resist corruption in all its forms.

**Young Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (YACCI)**

The Young Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (YACCI) trains students on the negative impact of corruption and the benefits of integrity. Using storytelling approaches, YACCI aims to create a group of young people committed to tackling corruption and promoting integrity within their classrooms, schools, and communities.

**Integrity Hotline**

The Integrity Hotline is a platform launched by Step Up Nigeria to allow children to report actions they have taken against corruption and submit creative expressions encouraging others to do the right thing. The hotline provides a safe space for children and adults to share their experiences and creative contributions, promoting transparency and accountability.
Teacher Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (TACCI)

The Teacher Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (TACCI) focuses on training teachers to teach anti-corruption and integrity to students using fun and creative approaches. TACCI aims to build a movement of teachers interested in promoting anti-corruption education in schools, empowering them to foster integrity among their students.

Parents Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (PACCI)

The Parents Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (PACCI) aims to extend the teaching of anti-corruption values beyond schools and into Nigerian homes. PACCI works to sensitize parents on ways to promote anti-corruption values within their households and communities, fostering a collective effort in the fight against corruption.

Institutionalising Anti-Corruption Education in Schools (IAE)

The Institutionalizing Anti-Corruption Education in Schools initiative advocates for including anti-corruption education in the curriculum of primary and junior secondary schools at the federal and state levels. Step Up Nigeria collaborates with relevant education departments to integrate our anti-corruption tools and materials into the civic education curriculum nationwide.
Step Up Integrity Certification Program (SICP)

The Step Up Nigeria Integrity Certification programme (SICP) recognises schools that have implemented measures to mitigate academic and admissions dishonesty. Through the programme, Step Up Nigeria supports schools with technical assistance to strengthen integrity measures, fostering a culture of integrity within educational institutions.

Anti-Corruption Star (ACS) Awards

The Anti-Corruption Star (ACS) Awards celebrate individuals who have shown exceptional dedication to fighting corruption and promoting integrity. The awards recognise children, teachers, and media practitioners who have participated in Step Up Nigeria’s programmes and have taken additional steps to educate campaigns or change behaviours that enable corruption.

Citizen’s Watchdog Initiative (CWI)

The Citizen’s Watchdog Initiative engages the public sector in tackling corruption. Step Up Nigeria uses innovative tools, such as virtual reality films, to sensitize senior public officials about the cost and consequences of corruption. By engaging public officials, the initiative aims to promote transparency, accountability, and ethical behaviour within the government.
First Time Voters Integrity Initiative

The First Time Voters Integrity Initiative (FTVII) empowers young, first-time voters to participate effectively in governance and elections. FTVII encourages young people to act with integrity, hold elected representatives accountable, and reject electoral fraud and violence. The initiative also challenges social norms that promote vote-buying through enlightenment and re-orientation.

Step Up Media

Step Up Nigeria utilizes various media platforms, including YouTube, podcasts, and social media channels, to reach a wider audience beyond the school environment. Through these media outlets, Step Up Nigeria educates and raises awareness about corruption, integrity, and the importance of citizen engagement in the fight against corruption.
A. Evaluation Methods Used by Step Up Nigeria

Step Up Nigeria employs a range of evaluation methods to assess the effectiveness of its interventions and capture valuable learning for improving anti-corruption initiatives in Nigeria. Our evaluation approaches encompass qualitative and quantitative methods tailored to the specific evidence we aim to gather. Over the past five years, we have focused our work on the following key objectives:

1. Improving Knowledge and Attitudes
   We strive to improve the knowledge and attitudes of targeted communities, including children, youth, teachers, and community members, regarding the costs of corruption and behaviours that enable it.

2. Influencing Behaviours
   We aim to influence the behaviours of targeted communities, encouraging them to act with integrity and combat corrupt practices.

3. Capacity Building
   We seek to build the capacity of targeted communities to act against corruption, empowering individuals to demand service delivery improvements and actively participate in anti-corruption efforts.
How to act against corruption as a young person

YOU NEED TO BE SWIFT

S: Speak to your family and friends about fighting corruption

W: Write about the need to act with integrity

I: Illustrate your views on corruption

F: Follow rules

T: Take action through leading on anti-corruption programmes (anti-corruption clubs)
4. Institutionalising Anti-Corruption Education

Our focus includes institutionalising the teaching of anti-corruption values in schools and embedding anti-corruption education as an integral part of the curriculum.

We employ a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the impact of our tools and approaches on knowledge and attitude changes. Changes in knowledge are measured by evaluating the increased understanding among targeted children about the nature of corruption, its societal costs, and its role in combating it. We observe changes in attitude through the commitment children demonstrate to tackle corruption within their communities. This commitment may include pledges to promote integrity or cease corrupt practices.

We use the following tools to capture evidence and assess changes in knowledge and attitudes:

1. **Surveys**

We employ pre- and post-intervention surveys to gauge progress and changes in knowledge and attitudes. We administer Questionnaires before and after our storytelling interventions. We conduct end-line evaluations 3-6 months after our intervention to assess the retention of knowledge gained.

2. **Creativity Sessions**

These sessions provide a more realistic assessment of knowledge and attitude changes among targeted children. Following their engagement with our interventions, we organise creativity sessions where children write stories, plays, poems, and songs or create illustrations demonstrating their understanding of corruption based on our storytelling interventions.

3. **Interviews**

We conduct key informant interviews to assess individual-level changes in knowledge about corruption.
4. Focus Group Discussions (FGD)

When time and consent permit, we engage in focus group discussions to gather qualitative information from children about the lessons learned from our interventions and whether they are inspired to act against corruption. Through FGDs, we can effectively assess the levels of commitment, knowledge, and behavioral change among participants by engaging with the target audience in group discussions, we gain valuable insights into the effectiveness of our initiatives and identify areas for improvement.

An essential aspect we are eager to evaluate is the influence of storytelling through animation and storybooks on children’s behaviour regarding corruption and integrity. Changes in behaviour include the willingness to talk and educate others about the need to combat corruption, acting with integrity in real-life corruption dilemmas, and reporting corrupt practices witnessed.

To evaluate behavioural changes, we utilise the following evaluation approaches:

1. Randomised Impact Evaluation

We conduct randomised impact evaluations to assess the effectiveness of anti-corruption education using storytelling. This involves randomly allocating participants into treatment (receiving anti-corruption education) and control groups (receiving non-anti-corruption education). The impact is tested by presenting participants with real-life scenarios to determine if they will act with integrity given the opportunity to act otherwise. For example, we organise English and Math tests, assessing if students will cheat when given the opportunity of power, access to resources and discretion.

2. Most Significant Change

We collect stories of change and identify the most significant changes from the stories gathered. This approach complements other evaluation methods, providing additional insights into our impact.

3. Beneficiary Feedback

We regularly collect feedback from beneficiaries before, immediately after, and 3-6 months after our interventions. This solicitation of views and experiences helps us understand our projects or interventions’ positive and negative aspects, and to capture sustained changes (Pre, Post, and Endline Approaches).
4. Case Studies

We employ case studies to delve deeper into the outcomes or impact of our projects. This approach offers in-depth information and evidence of observed changes in individuals or organisations resulting from our interventions.

By employing these evaluation methods, we ensure a comprehensive assessment of the impact and effectiveness of our interventions in combatting corruption and promoting integrity.

We conduct randomised impact evaluations to assess the effectiveness of anti-corruption education using storytelling. This involves randomly allocating participants into treatment (receiving anti-corruption education) and control groups.
B. Key Findings and Insights from the Evaluation Results

Since 2018, Step Up Nigeria has trained 51,318 children on anti-corruption values. We conducted evaluations on 33,331 children to assess the impact of our anti-corruption education program on their knowledge and attitudes toward corruption. We utilized questionnaires to gather this data. It is important to note that our questionnaires primarily consisted of multiple-choice questions, and we observed instances where children selected what they felt was right, especially during the pre-evaluation period. We introduced qualitative measures in our post-evaluation to ensure an accurate assessment of our program’s impact. We conducted an end-line evaluation to assess knowledge sustainability after 3–6 months. Additionally, we launched an integrity hotline to collect feedback on children’s anti-corruption actions, which helps us gauge the effectiveness of our sessions.

The table below presents the percentages of students’ responses in different measurement indicators before and after the evaluation, highlighting the improvements observed after implementing the anti-corruption education program.

### B.1 Results from monitoring questionnaires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students that demonstrate a strong understanding of corruption</th>
<th>47.39%</th>
<th>60.32%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-evaluation</td>
<td>Post-evaluation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students that demonstrate a commitment to speak up against cheating behaviors</th>
<th>21.5%</th>
<th>24.68%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-evaluation</td>
<td>Post-evaluation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students that show strong anti-corruption values</th>
<th>79.67%</th>
<th>82.45%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-evaluation</td>
<td>Post-evaluation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students that demonstrate confidence to tackle corruption</th>
<th>73.9%</th>
<th>81.72%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-evaluation</td>
<td>Post-evaluation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our findings indicate an increase in the percentage of students demonstrating a strong understanding of corruption, with an approximately 20% increase after engaging children using our anti-corruption storytelling tools. Additionally, we observed a smaller but noteworthy increase of 14% in the number of students demonstrating a commitment to speak up against cheating. Interestingly, before our intervention, most children stated that they had confidence in tackling corruption, with 73% of students expressing such confidence. After teaching the children using our storytelling approach, it increased by 10% after our intervention. In the endline evaluation conducted four months later, we found that 60% of children retained a strong understanding of corruption, highlighting the sustainability of our anti-corruption education program. Over the past five years, we have identified nearly 5000 young anti-corruption champions who have displayed a genuine interest in promoting integrity at home and school. These results demonstrate our initiatives’ effectiveness and their positive impact on shaping the attitudes and behaviours of the younger generation. Our findings demonstrate some progress in improving the knowledge and skills of targeted students to act with integrity and tackle corruption.

In conclusion, our evaluation highlights the positive impact of our anti-corruption education program on children’s understanding of corruption, their commitment to addressing cheating behaviours, and their confidence in tackling corruption. These findings indicate progress towards fostering a culture of integrity and combating corruption among the targeted students.
B.2 Randomised Impact Evaluation Findings

As part of our comprehensive monitoring and evaluation programme, Step Up Nigeria conducted a randomised impact evaluation to assess the effectiveness of our "SEE" approach in vaccinating children against corruption. This evaluation aimed to gather evidence and test the impact of our programme on preventing corrupt behaviours and influencing children to act with integrity.

The "SEE" approach, which stands for Show, Educate, and Empower, formed the core of our anti-corruption education program for children. Through this approach, we aimed to show children the costs of corruption and the benefits of integrity through engaging stories, educate them on essential anti-corruption values such as transparency, accountability, integrity, fairness, and honesty, and empower them to become agents of change in promoting integrity and combating corruption.

To evaluate the impact of our program, we selected Emeka's Money Storybook and Film as the intervention material. This book and film explored behaviours prevalent in Nigerian society that enable corruption to occur. Our evaluation focused on school children between the ages of 10 and 15 in junior secondary school, targeting this age group as a crucial stage for shaping attitudes and values.

We conducted the randomised impact evaluation in early 2021. We implemented a rigorous process to randomly assign participating schools to either the intervention group, where they received Emeka’s Money Storybook and Film along with accompanying discussions, or the control group, which did not receive the intervention. By comparing the outcomes between the two groups, we aimed to assess the impact of our storytelling vaccine on
children’s understanding of corruption and their propensity to act with integrity.

Through careful data collection and analysis, we measured key indicators such as children’s understanding of corruption, commitment to anti-corruption behaviours, and confidence in tackling corruption. The evaluation process involved pre- and post-assessments capturing changes in attitudes and behaviours over time.

The findings from this randomised impact evaluation will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of our anti-corruption education program and the role of storytelling in influencing children’s attitudes and actions towards corruption. These findings will contribute to our programme’s ongoing refinement and improvement, ensuring its continued impact in shaping the next generation of anti-corruption champions.

In conclusion, randomised impact evaluation is critical to our commitment to evidence-based programming. By rigorously assessing the impact of our interventions, we strive to continuously enhance our efforts in fostering integrity and combating corruption among children.
Our Trial Population

1168
Total number of children that participated in the film screening and book reading

38
Total number of schools (film screening and participatory book reading)

States
Lagos, Abuja and Kaduna

22
Total number of schools for film screening

16
Total number of schools for participatory book reading
Randomisation Process

We used the randomisation process for our impact evaluation to ensure fairness and unbiased allocation of participants. Here are the key details of our randomisation process:

1. **Simple randomisation**

   We used a simple method to ensure equal distribution between the control and treatment groups. We randomised at both the school and class levels.

2. **Verbal randomisation**

   Children took turns naming colours or cartoon characters or using ballot papers to determine the group assignment. This process ensured that no one knew beforehand their assigned group.

3. **Phased design approach**

   We adopted a phased design approach in our evaluation. The control group received the treatment after the initial evaluation period. This approach ensured that, eventually, all participants would benefit from the treatment being given.

### FILM SCREENING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
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### PARTICIPATORY BOOK READING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
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Intervention/Treatment

Our intervention consisted of two different treatments:

1. Anti-corruption animated film

Participants in the treatment group watched a 10-minute anti-corruption animated film called “Emeka’s Money.” This film aimed to deliver the anti-corruption message directly through engaging visuals and storytelling without any subsequent discussions.

2. Participatory book reading

Another treatment involved a participatory book reading session using “Emeka’s Money,” an anti-corruption storybook. During this session, we taught children about anti-corruption values, negative behaviours that drive corruption, and the negative impact of corruption on people’s lives. This mode of interaction allowed for discussions and engagement with the content of the storybook.

Measurement Framework

We used a measurement framework to assess the impact of the treatments on children's anti-corruption values and behaviours. Since we were working with children and prioritised their well-being, we designed scenarios they could relate to linked to their experiences.
Likelihood to cheat

We assessed whether participants were likely to cheat for themselves, cheat for others, or not cheat at all after watching the anti-corruption film. This measurement aimed to capture the movie’s influence on their ethical decision-making.

Evaluation Test

We conducted a Mathematics and English test competition to test for cheating behaviours. We promised participants good prizes if they achieved the highest scores. We intentionally made the questions challenging, approximately two grades higher than their regular class level. The competition simulated an examination scenario, allowing us to assess the participants’ temptation to cheat.

Through careful data collection and analysis, we measured key indicators such as children’s understanding of corruption, commitment to anti-corruption behaviours, and confidence in tackling corruption. The evaluation process involved pre- and post-assessments capturing changes in attitudes and behaviours over time.
Testing for Cheating

During the evaluation test, we implemented several measures to detect cheating:

1. Self-marking and marking friends’ scripts

We gave participants answer sheets to mark their friends’ test scripts in the English test. For the Mathematics test, each participant scored their own script.

2. Use of different pen colours

Blue pens were used for writing, while we used black pens for marking. This distinction helped identify any alterations or incorrect marking of answers.
Findings and Results

1. Reduced cheating behaviours:
Both the film screening and participatory book sessions resulted in a reduction in cheating compared to the control group. The decrease in cheating was statistically significant, with a 99% confidence level.

2. A stronger understanding of corruption
Participants in the treatment group demonstrated a stronger knowledge of corruption than the control group.

3. Increased motivation to tackle corruption
Participants who watched the film showed increased motivation.

4. End-line evaluation
The end-line evaluation conducted after four months showed a reduction in cheating behaviours by 16%. Although slightly lower than the original evaluation, which showed a 20% reduction, this finding highlighted the need for sustained intervention and multiple “doses” of storytelling to address social norms effectively. Additionally, the evaluation revealed that children were more willing to cheat for their friends than themselves, indicating that storytelling interventions may have a greater impact on building personal integrity than addressing social pressures or norms.

These findings underscore the potential of storytelling interventions in shaping attitudes and behaviours about corruption among children. They provide valuable insights for further refining our approach and developing targeted interventions to effectively promote integrity and combat corruption.
C. Impact of Anti-corruption Education on Behavioural Change

The impact of anti-corruption education extends far beyond increasing awareness and knowledge about corruption. One of the significant outcomes of implementing anti-corruption education is the transformation of behaviour among individuals, particularly within targeted communities and educational institutions. By instilling a strong sense of integrity, promoting ethical values, and empowering individuals to act, anti-corruption education is pivotal in driving positive behaviour change.

Through our efforts in anti-corruption education, we have witnessed remarkable shifts in behaviour among primary school children and other stakeholders. This section explores the profound impact of anti-corruption education on behaviour change, highlighting the key outcomes and results achieved in targeted communities. By fostering a culture of integrity, empowering youth as anti-corruption champions, and establishing platforms for engagement, individuals are inspired to act with integrity, challenge corrupt practices, and become agents of change within their communities.

The following outcomes illustrate the tangible results of anti-corruption education, demonstrating the power of knowledge, awareness, and engagement in promoting ethical behaviour and combating corruption. These outcomes showcase the transformative effects of anti-corruption education, from empowering primary school children to challenging corruption within their families to incentivising schools to cultivate a culture of integrity and strengthening examination measures to prevent cheating. Together, these results paint a compelling picture of how anti-corruption education has catalysed behaviour change, creating a ripple effect that propagates within communities and institutions.
Result 1: Increased Awareness and Advocacy on The Costs of Corruption, Its Impact on Services, and The Role That Citizens Can Play.

Primary school children in targeted communities including children living with disabilities have better-understood corruption’s harmful effects.

They are articulating demands for improved services, challenging corrupt practices, and actively seeking positive changes.

Through our efforts, targeted communities and stakeholders have gained awareness that the fight against corruption is not solely the responsibility of anti-corruption agencies. They now understand their own role in tackling corruption and have developed an understanding of how they can contribute. They actively engage in promoting integrity through their behaviours and motivating others to act with integrity as well.
Youth speak up, advocate for their rights, and become agents of change within their communities. Through our efforts, youth have found their voice, advocating for their rights and becoming agents of change within their communities. **Out of the 51,000 children sensitised, over 3,000 young anti-corruption champions have emerged as leaders in promoting anti-corruption values.** These champions actively challenge corrupt behaviours, such as cheating and bribery, within their families and communities. They also engage their peers, emphasising the importance of acting with integrity.

Step Up Nigeria empowering targeted communities and stakeholders with tools and responses, has increased awareness and understanding of their role in combating corruption. They have realised that their actions can make a difference. They have developed strategies to tackle corruption through their behaviours and inspire others to act with integrity.
Result 2: Empowering Youth in Marginalised Communities

Targeted youth in marginalised communities who have received anti-corruption education inspire their peers and mobilise their communities.

They demonstrate the importance of integrity, resist corruption, and encourage others to join the fight.
Result 3: Building a Culture of Integrity in Schools & Marginalised Communities

Integrity certification programs have successfully incentivised schools to foster a culture of integrity. As a result, targeted schools have established comprehensive codes of conduct for parents, students, and teachers. Additionally, these programs have strengthened examination measures, making it increasingly challenging for cheating to occur. By implementing codes of conduct and enhancing examination measures, targeted schools are creating an environment that discourages unethical behaviour and upholds the values of integrity. These measures contribute to a fair and honest educational system, fostering a culture where cheating is less likely to occur.
Teachers have been trained to use creative tools, develop anti-corruption lesson plans, and promote integrity within schools.

Schools embrace integrity as a core value and create an environment that upholds ethical principles.

Low-cost private schools are transforming, embracing a culture of integrity by integrating anti-corruption education into their curriculum. Marginalised youth are empowered through access to anti-corruption resources, becoming passionate advocates for integrity within their communities. We have successfully provided marginalized youth access to anti-corruption resources, enabling them to actively participate and champion integrity values. By mainstreaming anti-corruption education into their curriculum, these schools are creating an environment that promotes ethical behaviour and upholds the values of integrity. Furthermore, by providing marginalised youth access to anti-corruption resources, we empower them to actively advocate for integrity within their communities. Our holistic approach ensures that integrity becomes ingrained in both the educational system and the actions of young individuals, promoting a society that values honesty, transparency, and ethical conduct.
We have successfully provided marginalized youth access to anti-corruption resources, enabling them to actively participate and champion integrity values. By mainstreaming anti-corruption education into their curriculum, these schools are creating an environment that promotes ethical behaviour and upholds the values of integrity.

Result 4: Empowering Artistic Expression Against Corruption

Targeted children are now expressing their views on corruption through creative writing, poems, and art.

Their creative works foster critical thinking and innovative approaches to combat corruption.

Artistic expression has become a powerful tool for raising awareness, inspiring dialogue, and finding creative solutions to corruption.
Result 5: Empowering Marginalised Youth in Constructive Engagement with Politicians

We have successfully established platforms facilitating constructive engagement between politicians and marginalized youth in marginalized communities. These platforms allow marginalized youth to voice their concerns, contribute ideas, and collaborate with politicians. Concrete outcomes include the construction of vital infrastructure, such as boreholes and solar panels in targeted communities, achieved through the leadership and constructive engagement of young people with politicians. Our youth-driven initiatives have effectively held politicians accountable and driven positive service delivery changes.

Youth engagement in the fight against corruption has contributed to establishing social sanctions. Collective actions by youth promote integrity, reject corrupt behaviour, and foster increased accountability and transparency. Communities are actively rejecting corruption and holding individuals accountable for their actions.
We have empowered marginalised youth with tools and skills to engage constructively with politicians. The establishment of these platforms enables marginalized youth to have a voice in decision-making processes and actively contribute to addressing community needs. The tangible outcomes, such as infrastructure construction, exemplify the positive impact of our youth-led initiatives and their ability to hold politicians accountable for delivering improved services.

These 5 main outcome results showcase the tangible impact of our anti-corruption education efforts over the last five years. They demonstrate that youth are speaking up, advocating for change, and becoming leaders in the fight against corruption. A culture of integrity is being built, and artistic expression is driving innovative solutions. Social sanctions against corruption are being established, creating a more accountable and transparent society.

We have successfully established platforms facilitating constructive engagement between politicians and marginalised youth in marginalised communities. These platforms allow marginalized youth to voice their concerns, contribute ideas, and collaborate with politicians.
D. Case studies highlighting successful behaviour change approaches

Case study 1: Empowering Almajiri Children to Reject Corruption

At the Shangaya Goni Mahmud Almajiri Centre in Nasarawa State, Step Up Nigeria conducted an impactful engagement with 120 children using the thought-provoking film “Halima’s Vote.” The screening session was followed by a discussion led by our team, highlighting the significance of acting with integrity and the detrimental effects of corruption and vote-buying.

The impact was evident as the children actively participated in the discussion, sharing their thoughts and ideas on creating a different future. As the 2023 general elections approached, a politician visited the centre, offering gifts and money to the children. Surprisingly, the children responded by singing Halima’s Vote songs, conveying their refusal to accept any inducements and urging the politician to prioritize doing what is right for them.

This case study exemplifies the transformative power of anti-corruption education, as these marginalized children, typically vulnerable to exploitation, demonstrated resilience, integrity, and a commitment to hold politicians accountable. Step Up Nigeria’s engagement has empowered these children to become agents of change, influencing societal attitudes and advocating for a corruption-free future.

The impact extends beyond a single interaction, potentially inspiring others and creating a ripple effect within the community. This case study underscores the importance of early education and awareness in cultivating a generation that rejects corruption, embraces integrity, and actively participates in shaping a better Nigeria.
Musa Sheriff, an Emmanuel Nursery & Primary School student in Lagos State, faced challenges due to his underprivileged background. Being older than his classmates, he sought solace among older students from the nearby junior secondary school involved in destructive activities such as drug use and cybercrime. Concerned for his well-being, Musa’s parents feared these negative influences would influence him.

However, a positive change in Musa’s behaviour took place, capturing his parents’ attention. They reached out to the school to understand the catalyst behind this transformation. The school revealed that Musa’s attitude had shifted after reading Ansa’s speech, a powerful message distributed by the Step Up team. Inspired by the speech in the anti-corruption storybook, Musa developed a newfound motivation to act with integrity and promote ethical values among his peers.

Driven by his determination, Musa actively intervened when he encountered negative situations in his community. He prevented young boys from purchasing illicit drugs and stood up against the street bully, Haruna, by preventing him from extorting money from Mama Gold’s son, Tobi, in her absence. Musa has become a self-proclaimed neighbourhood guard, ensuring that young boys in his community make the right choices and uphold integrity.

Musa’s parents and the neighbourhood security guard witnessed Musa encouraging his friends to always choose the path of righteousness. Musa’s remarkable transformation demonstrates the profound influence of Step Up’s initiatives in empowering youth to become advocates of integrity and change agents within their communities.

This case study exemplifies how anti-corruption education can empower youth to take action against negative influences and promote a culture of integrity and ethical values within their communities.

We have successfully established platforms facilitating constructive engagement between politicians and marginalized youth in marginalized communities.
Step Up Nigeria has been actively building the capacity of first-time voters in marginalized communities where public services are virtually non-existent. Through virtual reality and films, we educated these voters on their potential role in shaping the discourse against vote buying and selling. We empowered them to constructively engage with politicians, leveraging their votes as a bargaining tool to demand better services.

On February 9th, 2023, Step Up Nigeria organized an election husting session in Lagos State, providing the first platform for engagement between first-time voters and aspiring/incumbent politicians. In Shogbesan Ajegunle Community, a group of passionate first-time voters led the discussion with an aspiring candidate from one party who sought a seat in the State House of Assembly to represent the community. During the husting, these voters fearlessly addressed critical service delivery challenges, such as the lack of electricity caused by a malfunctioning transformer in their area.

In response to the voters’ concerns, the political candidate promised to address the issue promptly. However, the impact of the discussion continued further. The news of the community’s predicament disadvantaged youth like Musa to rise above challenging circumstances, make positive choices, and actively contribute to building a better society. Our interventions have played a pivotal role in shaping Musa’s character, inspiring him to become a neighbourhood guardian and embody the values of integrity and responsible citizenship.

Musa Sheriff

Case study 3: Empowering First-Time Voters to Drive Accountability and Improve Services in Lagos State
reached the incumbent representative party, who took swift action to repair the malfunctioning transformer. Within days, the politician restored the community’s electricity, demonstrating the power of empowering first-time voters and fostering healthy competition among politicians.

This case study is a powerful example of how Step Up Nigeria’s efforts have enabled first-time voters to recognize the strength of their votes in demanding better services and accountability from political and office holders. By equipping them with the knowledge and skills to engage constructively, we have created a platform to raise their voices, leading to tangible improvements in their communities.

Through this impactful case study, we celebrate the transformative potential of empowering first-time voters, who now understand their role in shaping the political landscape and driving positive change. It exemplifies the success of our approach in building healthy competition among politicians and inspiring greater accountability in delivering public services.

Through a transformative virtual reality session facilitated by Step Up Nigeria, the Agunji Community experienced a remarkable shift in their engagement with politicians and their approach to demanding better services. Rejecting the lure of vote buying, community members rallied together to utilize the power of their votes for community development during the last election.
In a candid and fearless discussion with a politician vying for a seat in the House of Senate, representing their community, Agunji Community raised critical service delivery challenges. These challenges included issues such as the lack of reliable electricity and access to clean water. In response, the politician committed to addressing these pressing concerns.

The impact of this engagement was tangible and transformative. The committed politician swiftly took action, delivering solar panels to power the borehole pump and providing a new transformer for the community. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the profound influence of informed and empowered citizens who hold their leaders accountable.

The transformation experienced by the Agunji Community exemplifies the power of active civic participation and the ability of citizens to demand and secure essential services for their well-being. By rejecting the influence of vote buying and uniting to voice their demands, the community demonstrated their commitment to shaping a better future for themselves and future generations.

This case study showcases the potential for positive change when citizens are empowered, informed, and united in pursuing improved services. It highlights the role of Step Up Nigeria in facilitating this transformation and underscores the importance of how anti-corruption education can ignite active civic engagement in building stronger communities.

Clement, a first time voter from Agunji community in Nasarawa with the newly installed transformer and solar powered water pump.
Winners School, one of the schools that Step Up Nigeria certified for its commitment to integrity, implemented various measures to promote integrity among its students, teachers, and parents. Mrs Ndukwu Busayo, the proprietress, faced a challenging situation that put her dedication to upholding integrity and maintaining high standards to the test. During a school examination, a 9-year-old child in Primary 4 was caught cheating and was promptly brought to the office of the proprietress for disciplinary action.

Mrs Ndukwu scolded the child, reminding her of the school rules, and decided that she should rewrite the exam in another class due to her actions. However, the child’s father reacted aggressively and threatened Mrs Ndukwu, expressing his intention to physically harm her for scolding his child. The following day, the child’s mother also called, threatening to have the teacher who reported her child arrested.

Feeling intimidated by the threats, Mrs Ndukwu maintained her commitment to integrity and decided to take a stand. She headed to the police station to provide a statement of what occurred at her school, refusing to succumb to the pressures imposed by the child’s parents. In a firm response, she told the parents that if they were not satisfied with the school’s standards, they were welcome to enrol their child in another institution.

Surprisingly, the child returned to the school to finish the rest of her examination, and no further action was taken against Mrs Ndukwu. The child’s parents did not follow through with their threats of violence or legal action.
This case demonstrates the importance of maintaining integrity and upholding standards in adversity. Mrs Ndukwu’s unwavering commitment to her school’s principles of integrity and ethical conduct ensured that the consequences of cheating were supported and the school’s reputation was protected. Through her actions, Mrs Ndukwu set an example for her students, emphasizing the importance of honesty, accountability, and the consequences of unethical behaviour.

In another instance within the same school, two students displayed acts of integrity by reporting their classmates for cheating during examinations. Favour, a 13-year-old in JSS 2, caught a boy cheating and promptly told him to their teacher, who scolded the cheater. Similarly, a 12-year-old girl in JSS 2 witnessed her classmate cheating during a test and took the initiative to report him to the teacher. Consequently, the boy was disciplined and received corporal punishment in front of other students, serving as a deterrent against future cheating incidents.

These incidents highlight the positive impact of anti-corruption education and the culture of integrity fostered within Winners Schools. The student’s willingness to report cheating demonstrates their understanding of the importance of honesty and their commitment to upholding ethical values, contributing to the overall integrity of the school environment.

The student’s willingness to report cheating demonstrates their understanding of the importance of honesty and their commitment to upholding ethical values, contributing to the overall integrity of the school environment.
HALIMA’S VOTE
A Modern Parable About the Impact of Vote Buying in Nigeria

WRITTEN BY ONYINYE OUGH
ILLUSTRATED BY ADENIYI ODELEYE
This section provides an analysis of Nigeria’s current sanction and enforcement regime. Since Nigeria transitioned to law in 1999, various administrations have tried to combat corruption. As a result, Nigeria has numerous anti-corruption institutions, which some argue are necessary given the population and challenges, while critics suggest merging these institutions due to overlapping mandates.

The section reviews the use of anti-corruption education through institutions such as the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), the National Orientation Agency (NOA), and the Ministry of Information. However, these efforts have been limited compared to enforcement measures, which have focused on the number of convictions, arrests, and confiscations rather than promoting integrity and behavioural change.

Research conducted by Chatham House and Nigeria’s National Bureau of Statistics revealed that many people engage in corrupt practices because it is considered a norm, despite being aware of their illegality and the potential sanctions imposed by law enforcement officials. The study suggests reframing anti-corruption messaging to encourage civic engagement and collective action among citizens.
Recent statistics indicate that bribery and corruption remain pervasive in Nigeria, with a small percentage of citizens refusing requests for bribes. There is also a tradition in Nigeria where community members expect special treatment from political officeholders, resulting in the misuse of constituency funds and the erosion of social norms and values.

The chapter includes trend analysis, presenting Nigeria’s performance on Mo Ibrahim’s Governance Index since 2012 and Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) since the launch of its new methodology. This analysis aims to assess the progress in anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria, considering the emphasis on enforcement and sanctions.

Overall, this section highlights the need for a more comprehensive approach to combat corruption in Nigeria, focusing on enforcement and promoting integrity, behavioral change, and collective action among citizens.

Since Nigeria’s fourth republic in 1999 which signaled an end to military rule in Nigeria, there have been numerous anti-corruption drive by successive administration to tackle corruption. Due to this drive by past administrations, Nigeria is not in short supply of anti-corruption institutions rather, the Nigerian space is saturated with these institutions.

Research conducted by Chatham House and Nigeria’s National Bureau of Statistics revealed that many people engage in corrupt practices because it is considered a norm, despite being aware of their illegality and the potential sanctions imposed by law enforcement officials.
Review of Sanctions and Enforcement Approach

There has been some notable use of the integrity approach through the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), the National Orientation Agency (NOA), and the Ministry of Information. However, they are limited when compared to enforcement.

Numerous anti-corruption initiatives in Nigeria have focused on tangible outcomes, such as the number of convictions, arrests, and confiscations, overshadowing the importance of integrity and behavioural change. However, research conducted by Chatham House and Nigeria’s National Bureau of Statistics in 2017 shed light on a concerning reality: despite being fully aware of the illegality of corrupt practices and the potential sanctions, a significant number of respondents admitted to engaging in corruption due to its societal acceptance as a norm.

This research surveyed over 4,000 individuals and revealed the prevailing mindset towards corruption in Nigeria. It emphasized that many people continue to participate in corrupt activities, disregarding the potential consequences imposed by law enforcement officials. These findings underscore the urgent need for a transformative approach.

The research suggests reframing anti-corruption messaging towards a more civic-focused strategy to address this issue. This approach aims to bring about behavioural change by fostering collective action among citizens. By encouraging citizens to actively participate in combating corruption and challenging societal norms, Nigeria can pave the way for lasting change.

The significance of these findings becomes even more evident when considering recent statistics. Nigeria’s last two nationwide corruption surveys, conducted by the UNODC and the National Bureau of Statistics in 2019 and 2016, indicated that only a tiny percentage of citizens refused requests for bribes. In 2019, the refusal rate stood at just 19%; in 2016, it was even lower at 16%. These numbers highlight the widespread acceptance of bribery and corruption in Nigerian society.
In addition to bribery, Nigeria faces challenges related to the expectations of special treatment from political officeholders within communities. These expectations often lead to the misuse of constituency funds by lawmakers. Furthermore, communities often fail to question the accumulation of unexplained wealth by Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) or other individuals, further eroding critical social norms and values.

Given these statistics and trends, it is evident that a more comprehensive approach is needed to tackle corruption effectively in Nigeria. Beyond focusing solely on enforcement measures, Nigeria must prioritize initiatives that promote integrity, encourage behavioural change, and foster collective action among citizens to address corruption at its roots.

Nigeria’s struggle with corruption is well documented, with recent statistics revealing that only a tiny percentage of citizens resist requests for bribes. Nigeria’s last two nationwide corruption surveys conducted by the UNODC and the National Bureau of Statistics in 20197 and 20168 show that corruption remains a pervasive issue. In 2019, only 19% of citizens refused requests for bribes; in 2016, that number was even lower at 16%. These statistics highlight the acceptance of bribery and corruption as a norm in Nigeria.
In addition to bribery, there is an unspoken tradition in Nigeria where community members expect special treatment from their political officeholders. These treatments can come in the form of employment, distribution of food items, and other favours. Public officeholders, including lawmakers, must provide these benefits to their constituents to maintain community acceptance and credibility.

This has resulted in lawmakers’ misuse of constituency funds in Nigeria. Furthermore, communities fail to question unexplained wealth by different Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) or citizens, leading to the accumulation of wealth through legal and illegal means and the erosion of critical social norms and values.

In 2019, the refusal rate stood at just 19%; in 2016, it was even lower at 16%. These numbers highlight the widespread acceptance of bribery and corruption in Nigerian society.
Trend Analysis

The figures below show Nigeria’s performance on the Mo Ibrahim’s Governance Index since its inception in 2012, and Nigeria’s performance on TI’s Corruptions Perceptions Index (CPI) since the launch of its new methodology to date. The aim of this trend is to measure if there has been substantial progress in anti-corruption across these two globally recognized indicators in a period where Nigeria’s emphasis has been focused on enforcement and sanctions.

![Graph showing trend of Nigeria’s Security and rule of Law from 2012 – 2021](image)

Figure 1: Trend of Nigeria’s Security and rule of Law from 2012 – 2021
The above chart shows Nigeria performing below the African average in terms of security and rule of law, despite the existence of numerous anti-graft agencies. As also observed in figure 2 below, the improvements when they occur have been marginal. This is important to observe as it was the beginning of former President Buhari’s administration which had anti-corruption as top on its agenda with momentum around the enforcement and sanctions approach. These includes the London 2016 Anti-corruption summit and the Global Forum for Asset Recovery (GFAR) summit where Nigeria made numerous anti-corruption commitments around enforcement. In addition to the above, the African Union naming the President its anti-corruption champion in 2018.

![Figure 1: Trend of Nigeria’s Score on the Corruptions Perceptions Index (CPI) of Transparency International](image)

**Cost of Enforcement and Sanction**

One key factor in analysing the enforcement and sanctions approach is the cost, which we can view in two ways: the duration of trials and the financial and human resources required to enforce these sanctions.

Reports indicate that within the Nigerian judicial system, cases can take significant time to reach a conclusion. For instance, it was disclosed by the then Chief Judge of Oyo state in 2016 that, on average, it takes 22 years to conclude a case up to the Supreme Court. Noteworthy examples include the trials of Jolly Nyame, the former governor of Taraba.
state, which lasted 11 years, and Joshua Dariye, the former governor of Plateau state, whose trial lasted 14 years.

To further understand the financial aspect, let’s consider the budgetary allocation and the number of convictions secured by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from 2015 to 2022. Table 1 provides an analysis of these figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of Convictions</th>
<th>Budget Allocated (billion naira)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1281</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2220</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>3785</td>
<td>31.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8978</strong></td>
<td><strong>185.7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Analysis of EFCC’s budgetary allocation against the number of convictions (2012 – 2022)

The above table shows the number of budget funds for the EFCC, and the number of convictions secured by the agency for the same period from 2015 to 2022. According to this data, the agency recorded 8,978 convictions over eight years and had a total of about 185.7 billion Naira. This shows that, on average estimate, the EFCC has one conviction for every 20 million naira budgeted by the commission, in contrast to anti-corruption education used under the integrity approach, where in the first quarter of 2023, it costs about N8,075 to educate a student.

These findings highlight the potential cost-effectiveness of anti-corruption education compared to the enforcement and sanctions approach. Allocating resources towards educating individuals on the importance of integrity and ethical behaviour can potentially yield impactful and long-term results in curbing corruption. Furthermore,
investing in anti-corruption education initiatives may provide a more efficient use of resources in the fight against corruption.

However, both approaches have their merits and should ideally work in tandem. While anti-corruption education promotes preventive measures and behavioural change, the enforcement and sanctions approach is a deterrent and ensures accountability. By combining both approaches, Nigeria can strive towards a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy that addresses the root causes, educates individuals, and provides effective enforcement and sanctions when necessary.

On average, the EFCC has one conviction for every 20 million naira budgeted by the commission. In contrast, anti-corruption education demonstrates a significantly lower cost of approximately 8,075 Naira to educate one student.
Pros and cons of anti-corruption education

**PREVENTION APPROACH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros of Prevention Approach</th>
<th>Cons of Prevention Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prevention:</strong> Anti-corruption education prevents corrupt behaviour by promoting integrity, ethics, and values. It aims to address the root causes of corruption and instil a culture of transparency and accountability.</td>
<td><strong>Time-Intensive:</strong> Achieving widespread behavioural change through education takes time and persistence. It requires continuous efforts to reach individuals and communities and may take considerable time to see significant results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long-term Impact:</strong> By targeting individuals early, anti-corruption education can impact societal norms and attitudes towards corruption. It can help shape the behaviour and mindset of future generations.</td>
<td><strong>Challenges in Measurement:</strong> Measuring the direct impact and effectiveness of anti-corruption education programs can be challenging. Evaluating behaviour change and quantifying the reduction in corrupt practices can be complex but achievable if well-designed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost-effectiveness:</strong> Implementing anti-corruption education programs can be relatively cost-effective compared to enforcing and sanctions’ financial and human resource requirements. It focuses on investing in education and awareness, which can yield long-term benefits in curbing corruption.</td>
<td><strong>Limited Immediate Deterrent:</strong> While anti-corruption education aims to prevent corruption, it may not provide an immediate deterrent or punishment for individuals engaged in corrupt practices. It focuses on changing mindsets rather than enforcing immediate consequences.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SANCTIONS APPROACH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros of Sanctions Approach</th>
<th>Pros of Sanctions Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deterrence:</strong> The enforcement and sanctions approach serves as a deterrent against corrupt behaviour. The fear of legal consequences and punishment can discourage individuals from engaging in corrupt practices.</td>
<td><strong>Resource Intensive:</strong> Enforcement and sanctions require significant financial, human, and institutional resources. Investigations, trials, and monitoring processes can be time-consuming and costly, often damaging the justice system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountability and Justice:</strong> This approach ensures accountability and justice by investigating and prosecuting corrupt individuals. It powerfully conveys that corrupt acts will not go unpunished and reinforces the rule of law.</td>
<td><strong>Challenges in High-Level Cases:</strong> High-profile corruption cases may face delays, challenges, and potential interference, leading to prolonged trials and reduced public trust in the effectiveness of the enforcement system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visible Results:</strong> The number of convictions, arrests, and confiscations can be tangible indicators of success in the fight against corruption. This approach provides visible results that demonstrate a commitment to combating corruption.</td>
<td><strong>Limited Preventive Focus:</strong> The enforcement and sanctions approach primarily focuses on punitive measures after corruption. While it holds individuals accountable, it may not address the underlying causes or prevent future instances of corruption.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These pros and cons are not mutually exclusive, and a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy should ideally combine elements of both approaches to maximize effectiveness.
Step Up Nigeria’s work in promoting integrity, empowering youth, and fostering engagement have resulted in several lasting impacts that continue to shape Nigerian society. Through our dedicated efforts and collaborations, we have created meaningful changes that address corruption and inspire positive action. The following legacies exemplify the transformative outcomes achieved through our initiatives.

1. Empowered Anti-Corruption Champions

Step Up Nigeria has nurtured diverse groups of anti-corruption champions across various segments of society. These include young anti-corruption champions, parent anti-corruption champions, and teacher anti-corruption champions. We have equipped them with knowledge and motivation, and these champions actively advocate for integrity and combat corruption within their respective spheres. They serve as powerful role models, fostering a culture of ethical behaviour and accountability.
2. Sustainable Engagement Platforms

Our organisation has successfully established sustainable platforms for constructive engagement, which now operate independently. These platforms provide spaces for dialogue and collaboration between politicians, marginalised youth, and other stakeholders. The legacy of these platforms ensures ongoing conversations about corruption, promoting transparency, inclusivity, and effective governance beyond the efforts of Step Up Nigeria. Some schools have adopted similar platforms as part of their curriculum or special celebrations, expanding the reach of this legacy.

3. Anti-Corruption Education and Resource Dissemination

Step Up Nigeria’s commitment to anti-corruption education and resource dissemination has had a significant impact. Our comprehensive educational materials, innovative teaching approaches, and accessible resources continue to be utilized by educators, schools, and communities. This legacy ensures the sustainability of efforts promoting integrity, equipping individuals, including children, with the necessary tools to combat corruption and make informed choices.

4. Recognition through Anti-Corruption Awards for Children

Step Up Nigeria has introduced prestigious anti-corruption awards for children. These awards recognise and celebrate the exceptional efforts of young individuals in championing integrity and combating corruption. Some schools have embraced similar award programs, fostered a culture of integrity and encouraged children to actively engage in anti-corruption initiatives as part of their curriculum or special celebrations. This legacy encourages children’s participation and reinforces the significance of integrity from an early age.
Step Up Nigeria’s commitment to anti-corruption education and resource dissemination has had a significant impact. Our comprehensive educational materials, innovative teaching approaches, and accessible resources continue to be utilized by educators, schools, and communities.

These legacies exemplify the sustained impact of Step-Up Nigeria’s commitment to promoting integrity and combating corruption. They demonstrate the collective efforts of individuals, schools, and communities to create a transparent, accountable, and corruption-free Nigeria.
LESSONS LEARNT

1. The storytelling approach has proven effective in teaching children about the dangers of corruption and promoting integrity

Through engaging narratives and relatable characters, storytelling captivates children’s attention and helps them understand the impact of corruption on their daily lives. It allows them to empathise with the consequences of corruption and envision the type of leaders they aspire to be.

2. Innovative tools and approaches beyond storybooks are necessary to capture the attention and interest of young people in anti-corruption education

While books are valuable resources, incorporating interactive and multimedia elements enhances engagement. Storytelling tools could utilise technology like virtual reality or online platforms to create immersive experiences and interactive learning activities that resonate with tech-savvy young people.
Integrating anti-corruption education into subjects like Civics Education, English literature, and Social Studies can be effective. We do not need to create anti-corruption education as a stand-alone subject to teach anti-corruption values in schools.

Establishing mentorship programs and supporting student-led anti-corruption clubs provide ongoing guidance and support to young advocates. These initiatives nurture their leadership skills, empower them to take action and create a network of like-minded individuals committed to promoting integrity and combating corruption within their communities.
Building community champions and recruiting local facilitators in marginalised communities strengthens anti-corruption efforts

Local facilitators who understand marginalised communities’ unique challenges and dynamics can effectively mobilise and engage community members. By involving them in the implementation and decision-making processes, there is greater ownership and sustainability of anti-corruption initiatives, as local champions are empowered to drive change from within.

Utilising storytelling across different sectors can effectively communicate audit report findings to citizens, highlighting the costs of corruption

By presenting audit report findings through compelling stories and real-life examples, citizens can better grasp the impact of corruption in various sectors. This approach helps bridge the gap between technical reports and public understanding, making the consequences of bribery more tangible and relatable.

Inclusivity in Anti-Corruption Education: The need to design anti-corruption education programmes that are inclusive and accessible to children and youth living with disabilities.

Step Up Nigeria’s experience in engaging persons with disabilities as anti-corruption champions have positively impacted their confidence and ability to make a difference. This inclusive approach sends a powerful message to other children living with disabilities that they can actively participate and contribute to the fight against corruption. We have recognised the potential of persons with disabilities as change agents and provided them with opportunities to engage in anti-corruption initiatives actively. By involving persons with disabilities in anti-corruption education programs,
Recognising the importance of empowering young girls and providing them with the necessary tools and resources to become leaders in the fight against corruption. Step Up Nigeria’s experience has shown that books such as “Halima’s Vote,” “Tosin’s Story,” and “Ansa’s Speech” have inspired many girls and young women to take action against corruption. By amplifying their voices and providing them with platforms for engagement, we can nurture a new generation of female anti-corruption leaders.

Step Up Nigeria recognises the value of continuous reflection and learning with beneficiaries and stakeholders as a valuable strategy for successfully implementing an anti-corruption program. Through regular engagement and feedback sessions with schools, policymakers, students, and other partners, Step Up Nigeria has been able to adapt and improve its anti-corruption program over the years. By actively involving beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design and planning of initiatives, we have tailored our anti-corruption education programme to the specific needs and contexts of the target audience. This approach has enabled the organisation to generate anti-corruption education programs that are fit for purpose and have a more significant impact.
This ensures that anti-corruption education becomes integral to the formal education system. Anti-corruption education should not just teach people about the negative impact of corruption but inspire them to resist it and take action against corruption. Using traditional approaches such as written exams to assess students’ understanding of corruption may not be practical to evaluate students in this area. It may only encourage students to learn to pass exams without necessarily internalising the values and motivations to act with integrity. It is more effective to adopt project-based and real-life scenario assessments. We can evaluate the practical application of anti-corruption values in students’ lives.

**ONE**

Institutionalise anti-corruption education by infusing relevant anti-corruption topics that focus on the costs of corruption, benefits of integrity and the role of citizens in fighting corruption into the national values curriculum and other relevant subject areas.
This approach allows students to practically apply their knowledge and skills, encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By immersing students in realistic scenarios, they can experience the consequences and impact of their choices, fostering a greater sense of responsibility and commitment to anti-corruption values.

**THREE**

Encourage collaborative learning and group projects that involve students in addressing real-world corruption issues within their communities.

This approach promotes teamwork, empathy, and active citizenship, enabling students to contribute to the fight against corruption actively. By engaging students in community-based projects, they develop a deeper understanding of the societal impact of corruption and become motivated agents of change. Incorporate peer evaluation and feedback mechanisms into the assessment process. This approach promotes active engagement among students and encourages self-reflection and accountability. By involving peers in the evaluation process, students can learn from each other, share diverse perspectives, and reinforce the importance of anti-corruption values within their peer networks.
Training programs should emphasize interactive and participatory techniques that promote critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and practical application of anti-corruption principles. Equipping teachers with the necessary tools and skills can effectively engage students and foster a culture of integrity within the classroom.

FIVE

Strengthening Anti-Corruption Education in Formal and Informal Settings

Develop comprehensive anti-corruption curricula for formal education institutions at all levels, using age-appropriate materials and interactive teaching methods.

SIX

Collaborate with NGOs and community leaders to promote anti-corruption education in informal settings such as community centres, religious institutions, and youth groups.
Collaborate with academic institutions and associations to integrate anti-corruption education into teacher training college programmes.

Foster communication and collaboration between law enforcement agencies and educational institutions to share resources, expertise, and best practices in anti-corruption education. Establish joint initiatives and programs that involve enforcement agencies delivering guest lectures, organizing workshops, or participating in educational campaigns. Create platforms for dialogue and information exchange between enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and anti-corruption organizations to address challenges and identify areas for improvement.

Co-create initiatives with partners, enabling ownership and partnerships to implement anti-corruption programs in schools. Regularly engage schools, policymakers, students, and other partners to reflect on and improve anti-corruption education. Involve beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design and planning of initiatives to ensure relevance and effectiveness.
Ensure that anti-corruption education programs actively promote gender inclusion and empower young girls to become leaders in the fight against corruption. Mainstreaming gender can include incorporating gender-responsive content, stories, and examples that resonate with girls’ experiences and challenges. Additionally, provide mentorship programs and role models to inspire and guide young girls in their anti-corruption efforts.

Ensure that anti-corruption education programmes are accessible and inclusive, considering the needs and capabilities of children and youth with disabilities. Inclusiveness includes providing materials in various formats (e.g., Braille, audio, or sign language), adapting teaching methodologies, and creating a supportive learning environment. It could also entail actively involving persons with disabilities in designing, planning, and implementing anti-corruption education initiatives. Promoting their active participation and leadership roles is essential, challenging societal perceptions and promoting inclusivity. Forge partnerships with disability-focused organizations, advocacy groups, and experts in inclusive education to ensure the effective inclusion of persons with disabilities in anti-corruption education. Collaborative efforts can leverage expertise, share best practices, and create a more comprehensive and impactful approach to promoting integrity among all children and youth.

This includes conducting rigorous research and evaluation to identify what works and what does not work in anti-corruption education initiatives. By collecting evidence, policymakers and practitioners can make informed decisions, refine program strategies, and allocate resources effectively to maximise impact.
CONCLUSION

The report acknowledges that anti-corruption education is not a standalone solution or a magic bullet that can single-handedly solve the corruption challenge. However, it emphasizes its significant potential in preventing corruption and reducing the burden on the justice system. Preventing corruption and reducing the number of cases going to court saves financial resources. It highlights that tackling corruption requires a comprehensive approach that includes preventive measures, such as anti-corruption education, establishing systems that make corruption difficult and building a society that does not tolerate corruption. Strengthening sanctions and enforcement, both legally and socially, to punish corrupt offenders is also crucial. A holistic approach is necessary to combat corruption, and anti-corruption practitioners should consider complementary approaches like anti-corruption education alongside sanctions.

Fighting corruption begins with what we teach our children, hence the importance of anti-corruption education. In the words of Nelson Mandela, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” By instilling values of integrity and ethical conduct in the minds of our youth, we lay the foundation for a future generation that will actively fight against corruption and work towards a more transparent and equitable society.
CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF: EMPOWERING YOUTHS, IGNITING CHANGE, INSPIRING INTEGRITY

52,000 Children & Youth Educated

65,000 Books Disseminated

900 Schools Reached

830 Teachers Trained

600 Parents Sensitized

5,000 Anti-corruption Champions Raised

285,000 Views on YouTube

15,000 Podcast Plays
ARRAY OF TOOLS USED

- Emeka's Money
- Halima's Vote
- TACS
- Tosin's Story
- Ansa's Speech
- School
- Do It Right!
- Abike's Story
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