



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Country Office Myanmar

A Brief Guide: How to Act with Ethics and Integrity during the Covid-19 Pandemic?

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May 2020
Yangon, Myanmar

Our aim is to:

- Understand basic concepts of ethics and integrity
- Recognize connections between ethics, integrity and corruption in relation to Covid-19 pandemic
- Understand how to act ethically and with integrity during the Covid-19 pandemic

Key Ethical message for public to adhere during the Covid-19 pandemic (1)

Not to seek favors or exert influence to obtain preferential treatment and medical attendance.

Follow the government instructions regarding lock down and don't use one's position to breach the lockdown rules.

Obey quarantine procedures and not circumvent.

Key Ethical message for public to adhere during the Covid-19 pandemic (2)

Avoid buying or selling fake face mask or other protective equipment.

Check the facts. Don't trust or spread the fake news. Try to find relevant information on Covid-19 situation on the reliable websites.

Try to avoid unnecessary physical access to the public institutions during the pandemic.

Concepts of Ethics, Integrity and Corruption



What is Ethics?

- “The discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duties and obligations.”
- „A set of moral principles: A theory or system of moral values.“
- *(Merriam-Webster dictionary)*





Personal values

- “Personal values are the things that are important to us, the characteristics and behaviours that motivate us and guide our decisions.”

Integrity



What is integrity?

- The concept of integrity has been derived from the Latin "integritas" (wholeness).
- It is defined as consistency between beliefs, decisions and actions, and continued adherence to values and principles.
- Some of the values that are often mentioned in this regard are honesty, openness, accountability and trustworthiness.

What is integrity

- Integrity is exemplified by honesty and consistency in doing the “right” thing according to one’s values, beliefs, and principles.
- A person is not born with or without either integrity or ethics; they are learned from the family and society.





What is corruption?

„The abuse of entrusted power for private gain”

(Transparency International)

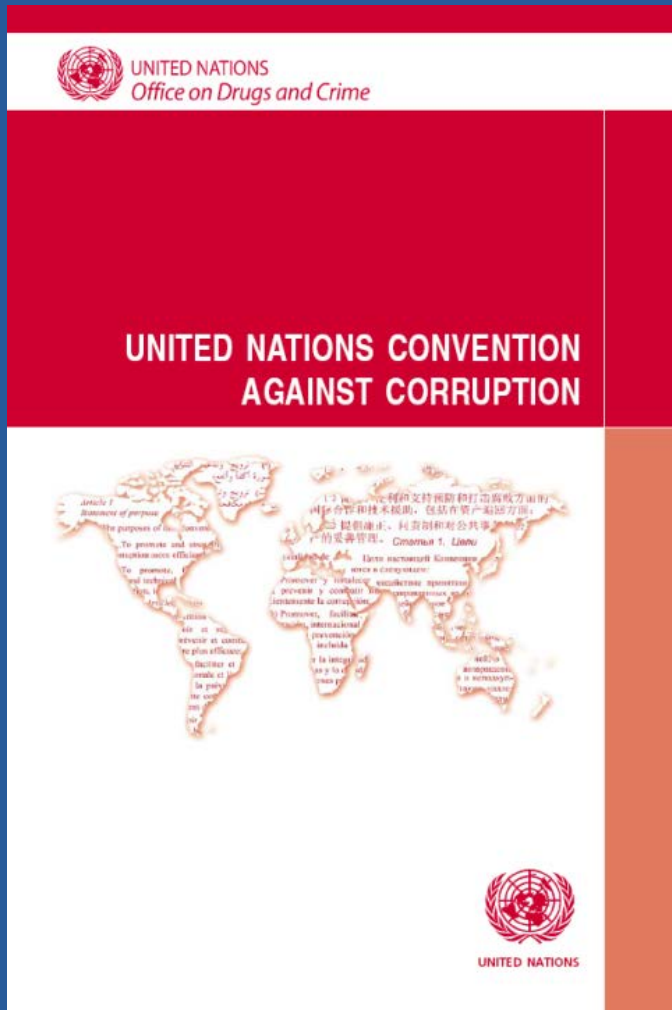
The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)

First and only legally-binding universal anti-corruption instrument

Adopted by the General Assembly:
Resolution 58/4, 31 October 2003

Entry into force:
14 December 2005

Myanmar:
Signed UNCAC on 2 December 2005
Ratified UNCAC on 20 December 2012
Entered into force: 19 January 2013



Corruption effects

Poverty and
inequality

Personal loss,
intimidation, and
inconvenience

Impunity and
partial justice

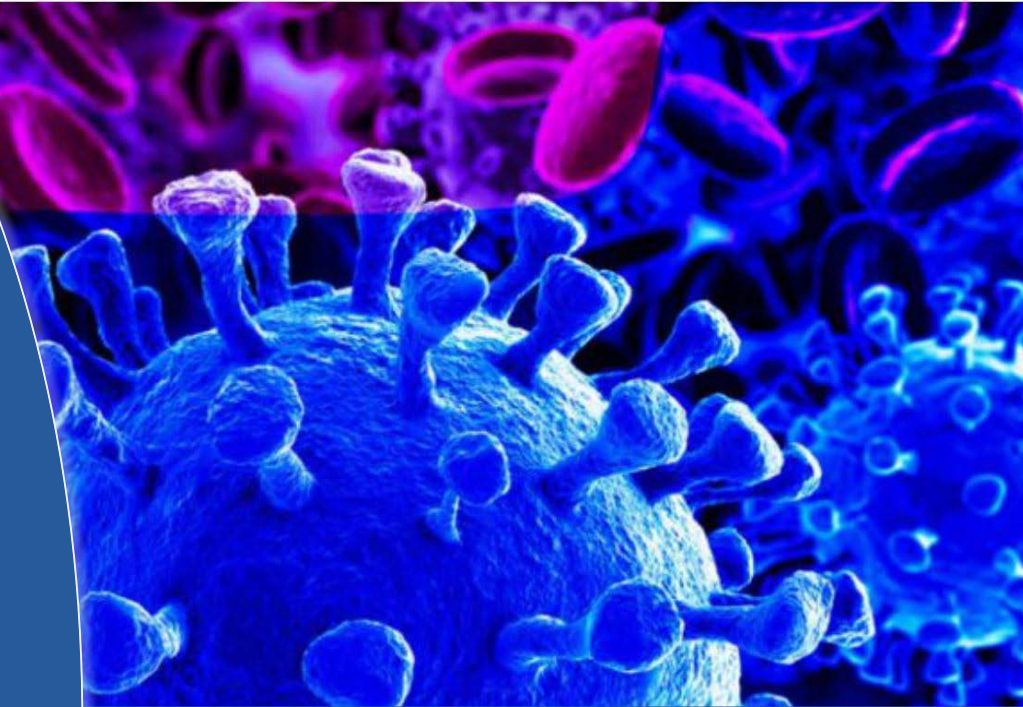
Organized crime
and terrorism

Corruption hinders
the rule of law
and erodes
economies

Undermines
human rights

Corruption can:

- Erodes economies
- Contributes to political instability
- Destroy lives, particularly during the health crisis, pandemics and natural disasters



Bribery risks during the Covid- 19 pandemic (1)

Urgent simplification of the procurement processes can lead to more opportunities for corruption and bribery

Corruption and bribery risks due to the urgency of the procurement of the protective and medical equipment

Risk of fraud in procurement of the medical equipment

Bribery risks during the Covid- 19 pandemic (2)

Bribery risks in terms of getting the unjustified medical help, visas or for early release from the quarantine, etc.

Risk that people or companies that should not be entitled for it will get the Covid-19 aid instead of people who really need it if there is no clear predefined criteria, adequate monitoring and oversight.



Code of Conduct

What is Code of Conduct?

- A Code of conduct is a set of principles that may guide the members of the organization (i.e. company, university, hospital ...) to behave ethically and accept the ethical and morally right decisions.



ACC's Myanmar Code of Conduct

Vision

To promote public prosperity through combating widespread corruption in the country hand in hand with the people

Objective

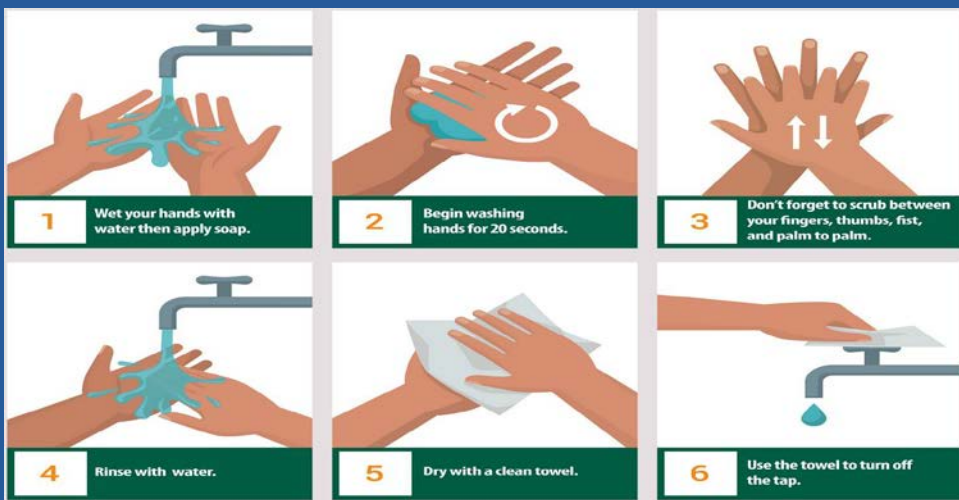
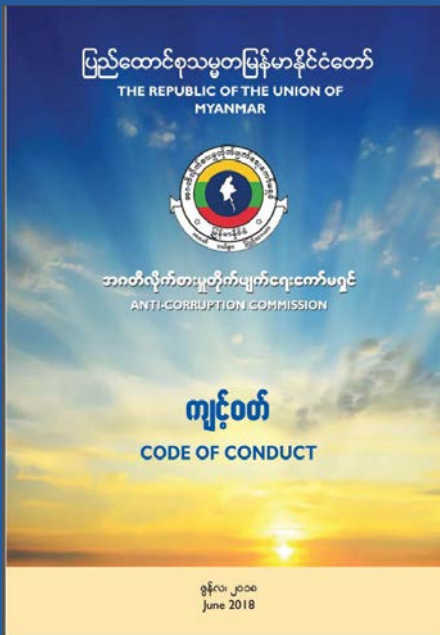
To provide guidance for proper ethical behaviour and conduct in discharging duties;




Basic principles

- a) Integrity
- b) Independence
- c) Accountability
- d) Transparency
- e) Fairness
- f) Inclusiveness

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How to act
ethically
and with
integrity
during the
Covid-19
pandemic?

1) Follow your
personal values

2) Avoid giving
bribe

3) Report
corruption!

1) How to follow your personal values?

- 1) Discuss with your family and colleagues what are your personal values and how can you follow them during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) Read the Anti-Corruption Commission Code of Conduct and think whether could you apply its basic principles to your working life during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3) Be honest to your family and friends on how do you feel during the Covid-19 pandemic.

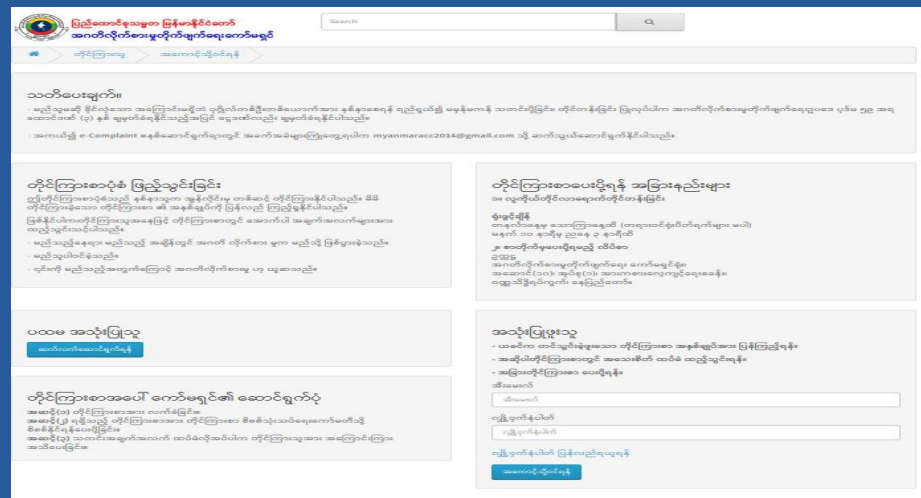
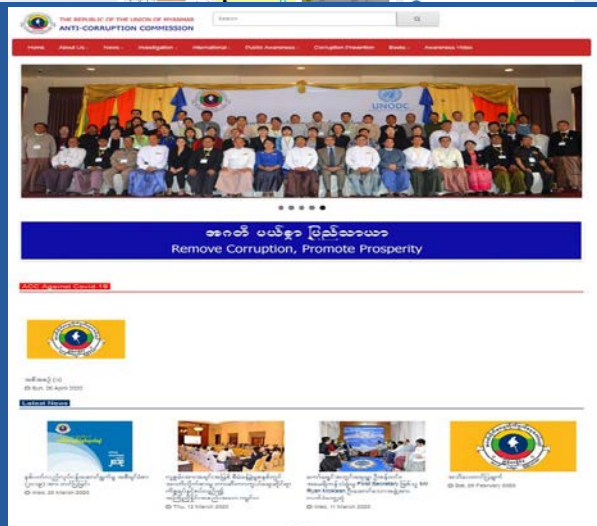
2) How to avoid giving bribe? (1)

- Avoid an unjustified prioritization in receiving the medical services or medicine.
- Avoid breach of the quarantine rules, etc.
- Avoid buying or selling fake face mask or other protective equipment.

2) How to avoid giving bribe? (2)

- Avoid buying or reselling face masks or gloves for unreasonable high prices.
- Try to use online processes for the communication with the public institutions whenever possible.

3) Report corruption!



UNODC response



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**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Rec

ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION

in the allocation and distribution of emergency economic rescue packages in the context and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic

A contribution to the economic security of countries and communities

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the current outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), a respiratory illness caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), is a pandemic.

taking such emergency measures, Member States have necessarily relaxed safeguards by trading compliance, oversight and accountability for speed of response and achievement of rapid impact, thus leading to the creation of significant opportunities for corruption to thrive.

While recognizing the need for urgent action to prevent economic and social collapse, the lack of sufficient accountability and oversight mechanisms in the allocation and distribution of economic stimulus packages increases the risk that corruption and fraud will weaken the impact of the measures being taken and result in a



Two things awe me most,
the starry sky above me
and the moral law within me.

Immanuel Kant

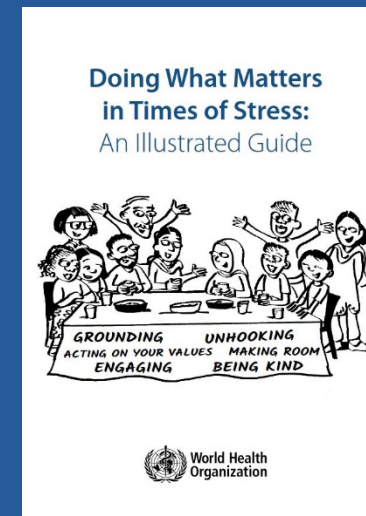
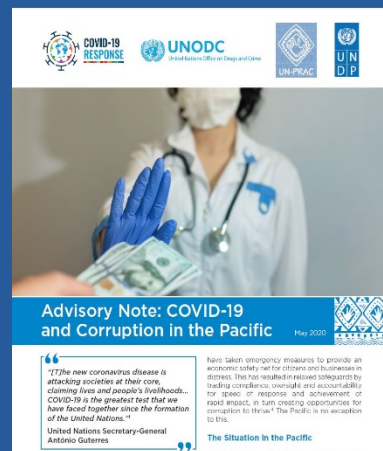
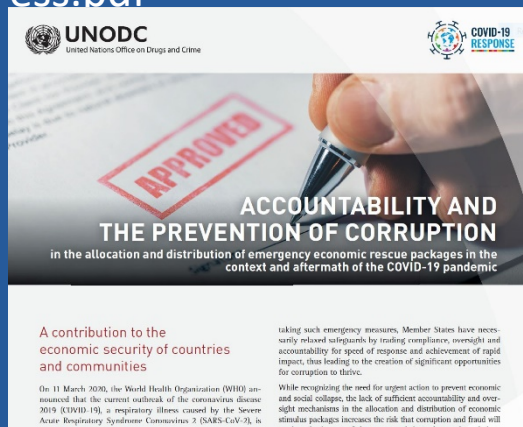
THANK YOU

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Suggested additional reading:

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2. Advisory Note: Covid-19 and Corruption in the Pacific. Available at: <https://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/library/eg/covid19-and-corruption-in-the-pacific.html>
3. World Health Organization. Doing what Matters in Times of Stress: An Illustrated Guide. Available at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/who_doing_what_matters_in_times_of_stress.pdf



Sources

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- Genesis health care system: How to wash your hands. Available at: <https://www.geneshcs.org/news-publications/newsroom/how-to-wash-your-hands-infographic>
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