



Fact Sheet: “Public Office, Private Interests: Accountability through Income and Asset Disclosure”

The Significance of the Study

“Public Office, Private Interests: Accountability through Income and Asset Disclosure” makes the case that financial disclosure systems are crucial to curbing corruption. Income and asset disclosures help build a climate of integrity in public administration, encourage citizen’s trust in their senior public officials, and ultimately, prevent and detect the use of public office for private gain. The potential contribution of these systems to broader anti-corruption efforts in terms of prevention, detection and prosecution of corruption is largely untapped. By giving an overview of the different types of IAD systems, this guide seeks to promote awareness of these areas and guide policy-makers and practitioners in establishing the capacities and institutional linkages necessary for implementation.

The publication is presented in two volumes:

- **Volume I** is for IAD policy makers, practitioners, and others who are interested in anticorruption tools and procedures. The guide explores: the institutional arrangements and regulatory frameworks for IAD systems; the scope and coverage of a system; and the institutional capacities required for implementing agencies to fulfill their mandate.
- **Volume II** examines the IAD systems in 10 economies (Argentina; Croatia; Guatemala; Indonesia; Jordan; the Kyrgyz Republic; Mongolia; Rwanda; Slovenia; and the United States) and one special administrative region (Hong Kong SAR, China).

Key Findings

- **Context and objectives matter:** The effectiveness of an IAD system depends on customized design and careful implementation
- **Customization is key:** The scope and coverage of an effective and credible IAD regime reflects a country’s risk profile and resource capacities.
- **A credible review of the content of income and asset disclosures is essential:** Challenges in this area are related to a lack of internal resources and data management capacities.
- An impactful and credible IAD system requires both a *credible threat of detection* of violations (such as non-disclosure, or late/false submissions) and a *credible threat of consequences* for such violations.
- **Public access to declarations generates some legitimate debates:** Striking a balance between public access to information and a filer’s right to privacy is a challenge faced by most systems.

Methodology

The Guide is based on detailed studies of IAD systems in 10 countries and one special administrative region, detailed analyses of IAD regulation in 88 countries (see <https://www.agidata.org/pam/> for more information) and a review of the existing literature on IAD issues. The findings in these case studies are based on research and interviews with IAD system administrators, policy makers, civil society representatives, and academics.

“Public Office, Private Interests: Accountability through Income and Asset Disclosure” is a project of [the Stolen Asset Recovery \(StAR\) Initiative](#), a partnership formed by the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to help end safe havens for proceeds of corruption and facilitate more systematic and timely return of stolen assets.

For more information, please visit: www.worldbank.org/star