Measuring Bribery in the Private Sector

Harnessing the Power of Data to Promote the Anti-Corruption and Development Nexus

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Why Measure Corruption?

- Deprives people of access to basic public services

- Increases the cost of doing business, distorts fair competition

- Inefficient allocation of public resources, decrease trust in institutions

- Reduces investment: both foreign and domestic

- Hinders economic development

Robust corruption and anti-corruption measurement are fundamental to know what works, what doesn't and why

International frameworks for corruption measurement

➤ The 2030 Agenda adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly acknowledges corruption as a key obstacle to sustainable development – Goal 16

➤ Demonstrates the commitment by Member States in addressing corruption

➤ United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) – one of the most ratified UN conventions

➤ Article 61 of UNCAC on the collection, exchange and analysis of information on corruption, underscores the need to analyse trends in corruption and the circumstances in which corruption offences are committed
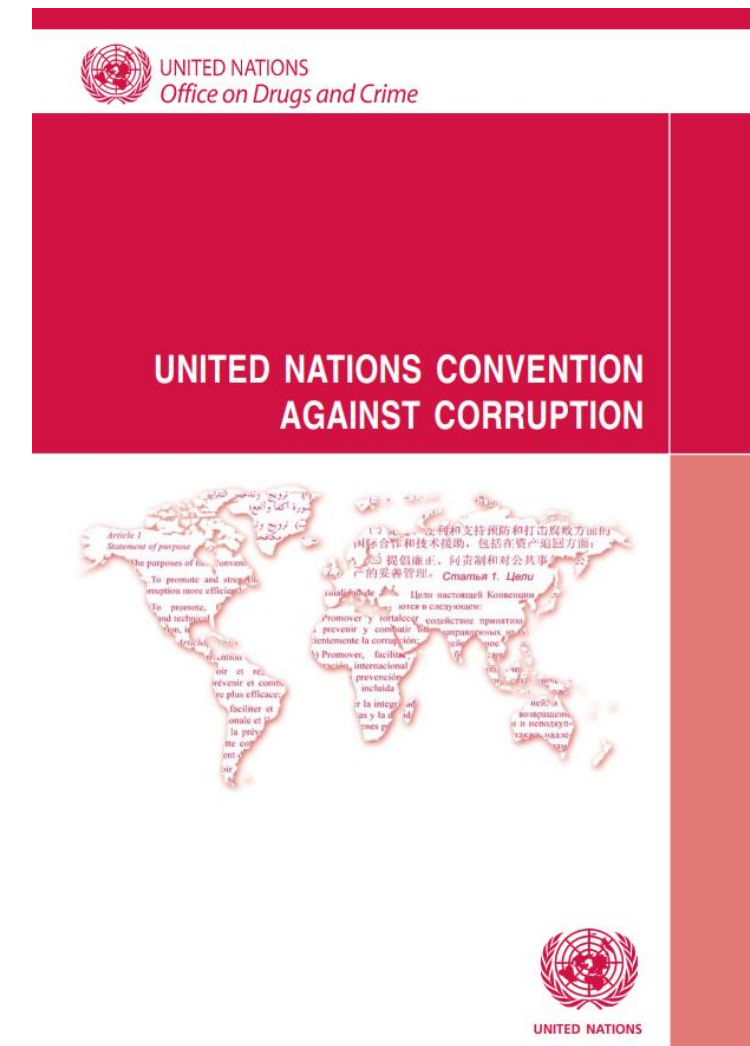
Main approaches to measuring corruption

➢ Corruption is a crime – hidden illicit behaviours that are not detected or reported to authorities

➢Significant progress in corruption measurement over the past 2+ decades
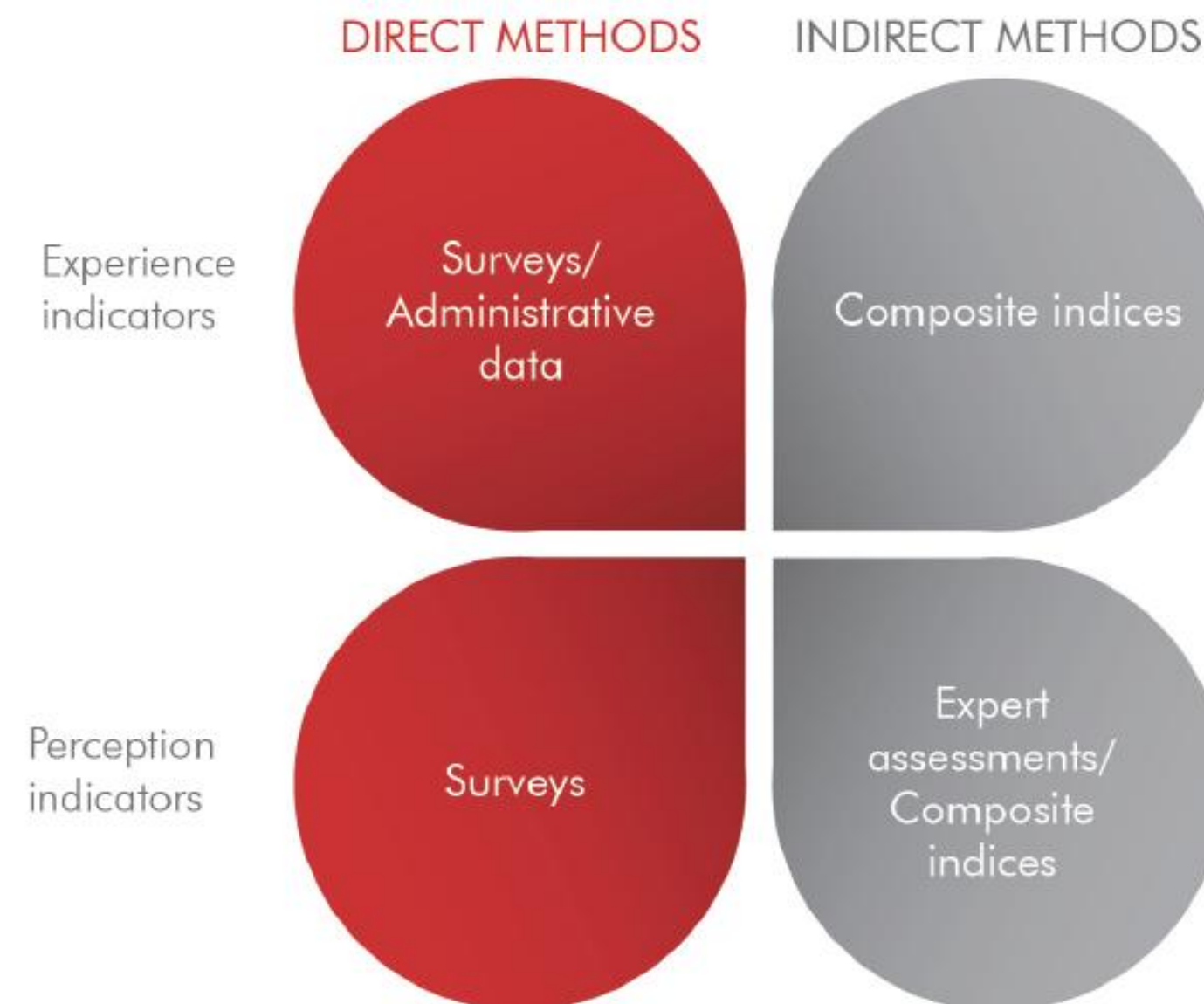
Main approaches to measuring corruption

➢ World Bank – Enterprise Survey

➢ Flash Eurobarometer 374: Businesses' attitudes towards corruption in the EU – European Commission

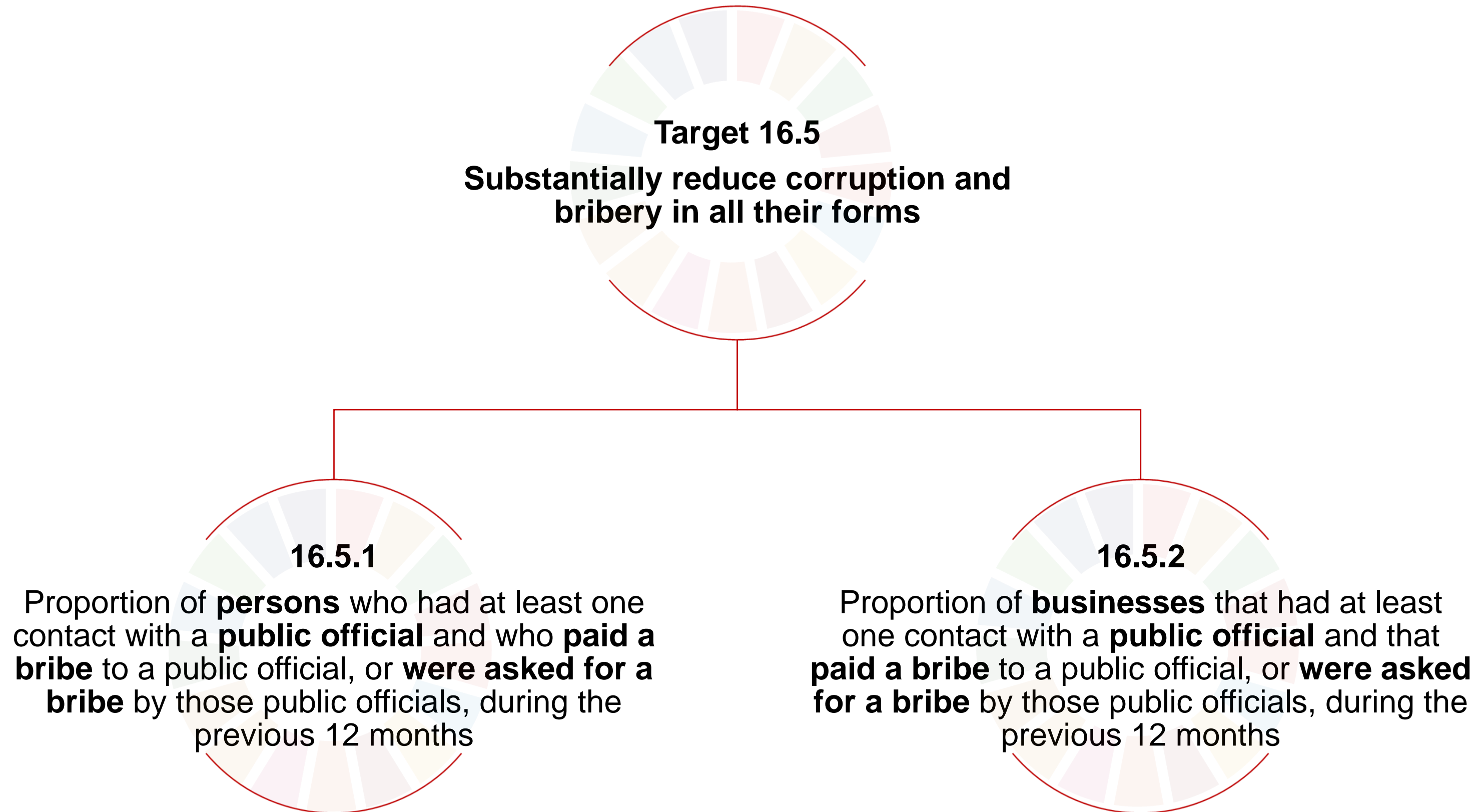➢ UNODC Business, Corruption and Crime in the western Balkans

➢The Crime Against Business in Europe: a Pilot Survey - European Commission, Gallup and Transcrime

➢ Country-level specific surveys

2030 Agenda and Measuring Bribery

Target 16.5

Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.5.1

Proportion of **persons** who had at least one contact with a **public official** and who **paid a bribe** to a public official, or **were asked for a bribe** by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

16.5.2

Proportion of **businesses** that had at least one contact with a **public official** and that **paid a bribe** to a public official, or **were asked for a bribe** by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

SDG Indicator 16.5.1 & 16.5.2

Acts of bribery are **heavily underreported/undetected to the authorities (hidden/dark figure of crime).** This indicator needs to be based on data collected through **sample surveys** of the adult population or businesses

$$16.5.1 = \frac{\text{Number of people who paid a bribe to or were asked for a bribe by public official}}{\text{Total number of people who had contact with public officials}}$$

$$16.5.2 = \frac{\text{Number of businesses that paid a bribe to or were asked for a bribe by public official}}{\text{Total number of businesses who had contact with public officials}}$$

Measurement options

Dedicated Survey

➢ Thoroughly address corruption

➢ Comprehensive

➢ Accuracy of results

➢ Possibility to collect a lot of policy-relevant data on corruption

➢ Costly and not regular

Integrated Module

➢ Set of core questions

➢ Any ongoing survey including CVSs

➢ Limited set of questions

➢ Possibility to link corruption to other topics

➢ Possibility to collect data on a more regular basis

➢ Accuracy?

International standards

➢ **UNODC, UNDP and UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence** have developed a Manual on Corruption Surveys

➢ The Manual guides countries who are embarking on such journey for the first time

➢ Methodological and operational guidelines from planning to data analysis and report drafting

➢ Both prevalence among the population and businesses
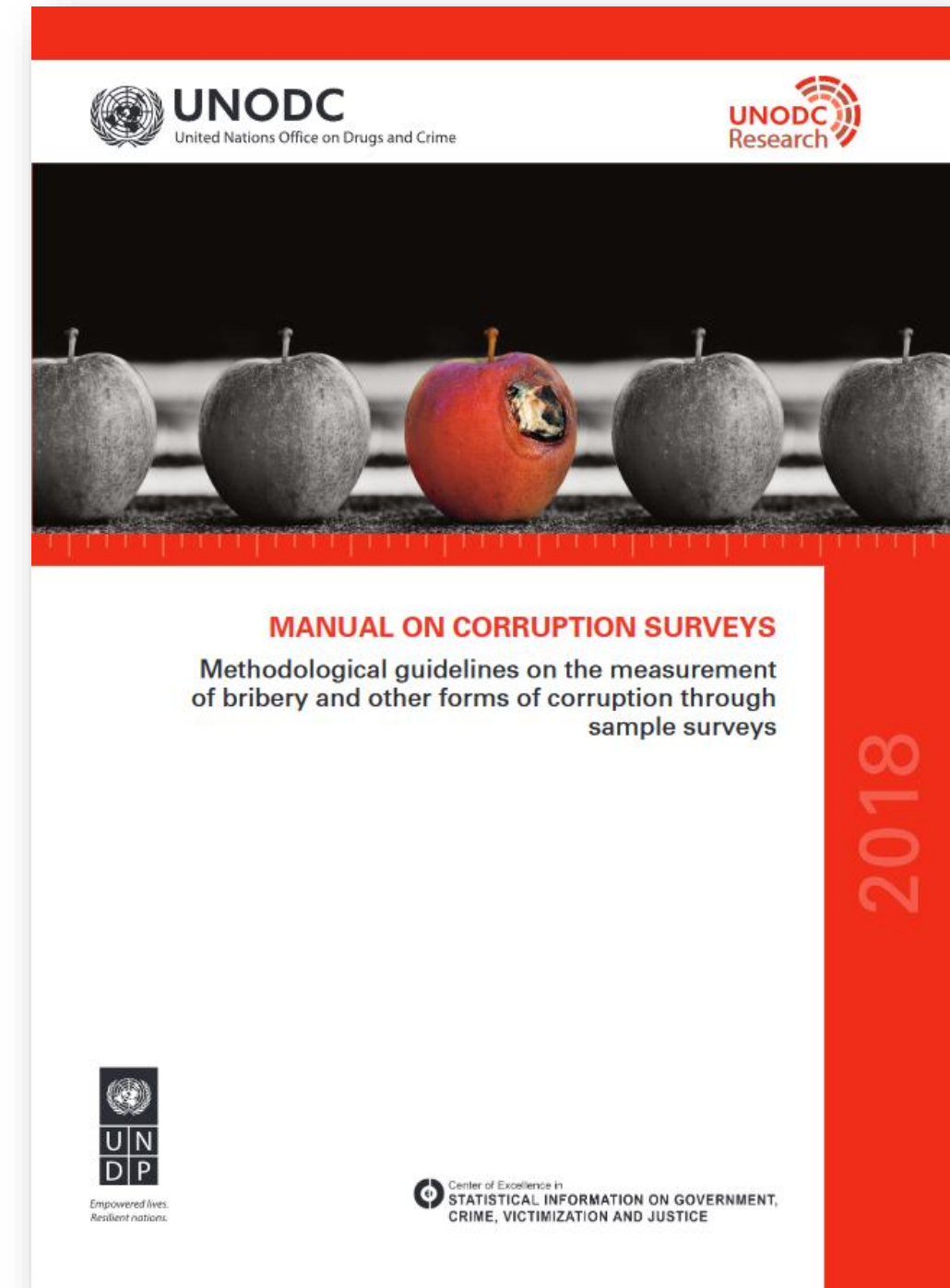
Challenges and gaps for business bribery

A great focus on the experiences of the population but the private sector is a key partner and needs in depth analysis

The available data for most countries only provides information on the prevalence of bribery (SDG indicator)

Data on patterns, drivers of and vulnerabilities to corruption are needed to provide actionable and policy-relevant information

Challenges

UNDP Global Corruption Measurement Initiative

➤ 2023 – 2027 and part of the UNDP's Global Anti Corruption Programme

➤ Objective: To develop new evidence-based methodologies and tools for measuring corruption that can be used to measure countries' performance and progress in combating corruption.

➤ Focus on two main areas: integrity in public procurement and experiences of businesses with bribery (bribery measurement).

➤ The standardized tools, methodologies and data will significantly contribute to evidence to inform policy decisions on anti-corruption reforms.
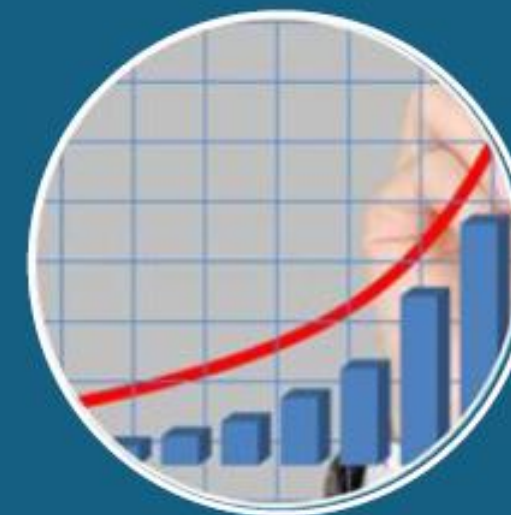
Three streams of measurement

Integrity in public procurement

Internationals norms and standards

**(This stream has been put on hold until the 11th Session of CoSP to UNCAC)**

Experiences of businesses with bribery and its drivers

UNDP Survey on Bribery among Businesses

1. Methodology looks at both experiences with bribery and its drivers

2. Collect data for multiple indicators that can be classified broadly into 3 main areas

3. Partnering with IMD to attach a detailed business bribery survey module to their ongoing World Competitiveness Survey – 60+ countries
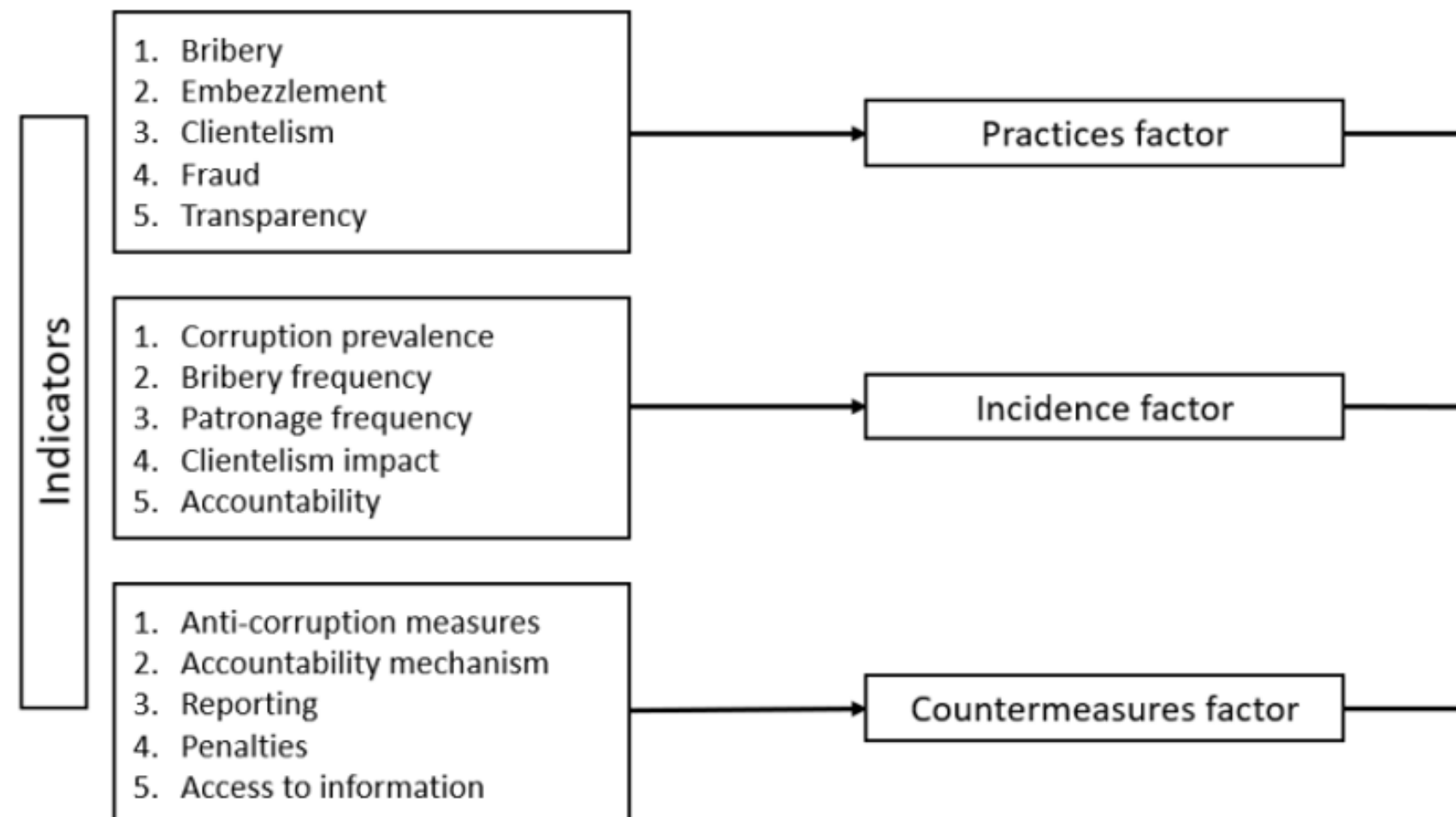
What data are we collecting?

➢ Understanding bribery in terms of types of public official involved, administrative procedures particularly at risk, types of bribes requested

➢ Contexts and mechanisms where and when bribery takes place, including on modus operandi, main reason for paying a bribe

➢ Identifying economic sectors particularly vulnerable to bribery

➢ Perception in order to contrast the results with the experience of respondents

➢ Anti-corruption measures, including reporting channels and systems available to businesses that experience bribery

➢ Information on vulnerabilities, drivers and risk factors related to bribery, as well as on red tape and quality of services provided by the public sector

Questionnaire – main question

1 *"In the last 12 months has your business entity been in contact with a PUBLIC OFFICIAL, including through an intermediary, for one of the following administrative procedures?"*

12+ services such as
- ❖ Building permits
- ❖ Procurement procedures
- ❖ Utility connections
- ❖ Processing tax declarations
- ❖ Dealing with labour regulations
- ❖ Clearing goods through customs
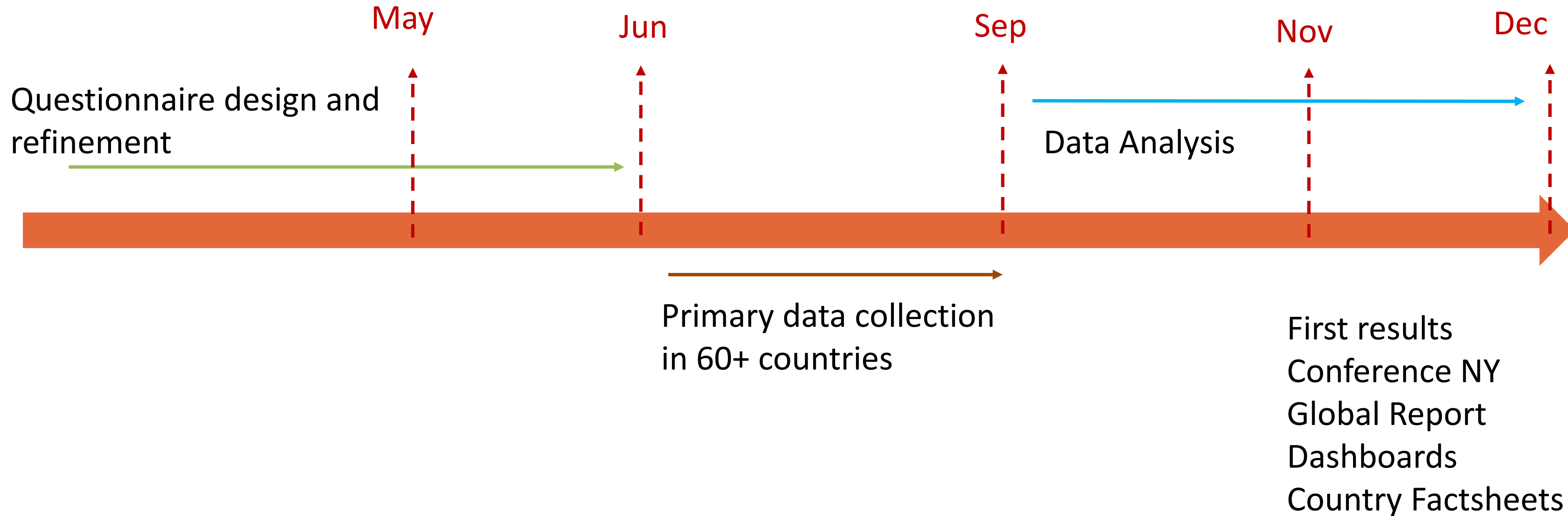
Questionnaire – main question

2 *"In the last 12 months did your business entity* have to give *the civil servant or public official administering the procedure some* gift, a counterfavour or some extra money, *including through an intermediary, with the exclusion of the correct amount of official fees?"*

3 *"In the last 12 months, was there any occasion when a public official, directly or indirectly, asked you to give a gift, a counterfavour or some extra money for an issue or procedure related to his/her functions but* you did not give anything*?*

Timeline

May   Jun   Sep   Nov   Dec

Questionnaire design and refinement

Data Analysis

Primary data collection
in 60+ countries

First results
Conference NY
Global Report
Dashboards
Country Factsheets

THANK YOU AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN NEW YORK

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