

IMF Article IV reports SIDS countries A-C



The most recently published IMF Article IV reports for small island developing states (SIDS) beginning with the letters A to C as at 4 January 2024 are listed below. The reports can be accessed by clicking on to the respective countries.

- [Antigua and Barbuda](#)
- [Aruba](#)
- [The Bahamas](#)
- [Barbados](#)
- [Belize](#)
- [Cabo Verde](#)
- [Comoros](#)
- [Curacao](#)

Other SIDS Article IV reports

Click on to the links below to access Article IV reports for other [SIDS countries](#).

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Developing Systems to Combat Corruption



Posted by David Fellows [\[1\]](#)

Introducing the concept of “objective data”

In March 2018, we republished a short note on the use of [objective data](#) to combat corruption [\[2\]](#). The piece highlighted statistical techniques being used in western countries to identify corruption by correlating unorthodox procurement practices with aberrant supplier behaviour established from factually based ‘objective’ administrative data. It was suggested that less complex approaches to the analysis of ‘objective’ data could be used to indicate the need for further forensic examination of officials, suppliers, and politicians. The emphasis was on finding workable approaches for developing countries that were compatible with the available resources.

The term ‘objective’ data refers to factual information

derived from official government records. It represents data on transactions, activity schedules, and personal information, recorded through established processes, that give the information credibility. This contrasts with 'subjective' data which is often based on opinions or experience that is poorly evidenced and of limited application, as is the case with corruption perception surveys.

Frequent use of objective data

Objective data is checked and compared in dozens of administrative processes which can produce anomalies that may indicate the presence of corruption. For example, invoices are checked against orders and goods received notes or contract certificates, or payroll submissions are checked against timesheets. In addition, national bodies charged with the oversight of public administration – such as supreme audit institutions and public procurement commissions – are routinely engaged in the examination of objective data which can also lead to the identification of corruption.

Such findings are then included in published reports that may be used to identify process deficiencies or potentially to prosecute cases of fraud and corruption. These oversight functions can be particularly effective when they are invested with independence from government, extensive powers of enquiry, transparency of reporting, and due consideration of findings.

Developing objective administrative data systems

Apart from routine scrutiny provided by administrative processes and oversight arrangements, programs of administrative reform provide excellent opportunities for the development of systems that incorporate the automatic validation and cross-referencing of administrative data to

help identify patterns of corrupt activity.

Such arrangements are straightforward, well known, and remarkably simple to put into effect but in practice they are rarely complete or well executed. Too often there is a lack of expectation that good administration will have a beneficial effect. This places a premium on those who hold relevant managerial roles, requiring them to value high standards of administrative practice; exercise oversight responsibilities courageously, insightfully and in partnership with others as necessary; and ensure that reform opportunities are used to best effect. Well prepared and committed management is a prerequisite to any well-intentioned anti-corruption initiative.

Objective administrative data applications

Some examples of objective administrative data and its use to combat corruption are included in an Appendix available [here](#).

The use of objective data could also be developed in other ways. For example:

1. Countries could prepare anti-corruption strategies that include the use and development of objective data and staff training. Such strategies should be accompanied by operational guidance. Anti-corruption strategies and related material are often referred to as being part of the standard anti-corruption armoury but are rarely made available. In practice, however, few of these documents have been produced to a reasonable standard anywhere in the developing world, and perhaps it is time to redress this omission.
2. Additionally, collaboration between states, perhaps on a regional basis, could be helpful in developing techniques for interrogating data, preparing anti-corruption strategies, sharing knowledge of corrupt practices, and building operational cooperation between

countries

3. Consideration should also be given by multilateral agencies and regional representative bodies to the development of an international systems assessment schema (akin to PEFA methodology^[3]) that would indicate the efficacy and shortcomings of individual administrative systems for the purposes of combatting corruption.

This article is written with government administration in mind, but similar considerations apply to local governments and state-owned enterprises.

^[1] Director, PFMConnect. The author thanks John Leonardo for his helpful comments.

^[2] This blog was first published at <http://blog-pfm.imf.org/pfmblog/2018/03/how-useful-are-perception-indices-of-corruption-to-developing-countries.html>

^[3] See https://pefa.org/sites/default/files/PEFA%20Framework_English.pdf

Forthcoming blog: Developing Systems to Combat Corruption



In a March 2018 blog PFMConnect co-principal David Fellows discussed the [deficiencies surrounding corruption perception indices](#) and outlined how objective data analysis could offer a clearer insight into the systemic nature of corrupt behaviour, thus providing a more precise indication of the corrupt parts of an administration, the number of external parties that are engaged in corruption, and features of the [public financial management \(PFM\) system](#) that need to be strengthened in order to combat corruption.

In a forthcoming blog “**Developing Systems to Combat Corruption**”, David describes how an objective data system is used in practice and how the concept may be developed. Some further examples of objective data and their use to combat corruption is available [here](#).

Videos addressing good public financial management

We have commenced the publishing of videos about aspects of our work associated with supporting good public financial management.

We list below the videos available to-date:

Small island developing states need improvements in their digital communication infrastructure to help them recover from COVID-19. We have set out four collaboration approaches for SIDS and their stakeholders to consider actioning in our [“Small Island Developing States, COVID-19 and Digital Technology”](#) video based on our recent blog. [Petit États insulaires en développement, COVID-19 et technologie numérique](#). [Pequeno Estados em Desenvolvimento insular, COVID-19 e Tecnologia Digital](#). [Pequeña Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, COVID-19 y Tecnología Digital](#).

[Improving PFM digital transparency in SIDS finance ministries](#) (<http://blog-pfmconnect.com/wp-content/uploads/Videos/Improving-PFM-digital-transparency-in-SIDS-finance-ministries.mp4>) examines recent trends in the use of public financial management (PFM) digital platforms by the finance ministries of small island developing states (SIDS) and potential opportunities. A shorter version of this video examines **SIDS finance ministries** use of [Facebook](#) to promote PFM digital transparency in small island developing states

[COVID-19, Brexit and the English Regions](#) (<http://blog-pfmconnect.com/wp-content/uploads/Videos/COVID-19-Brexit-and-the-English-Regions.mp4>) discusses the UK Government’s levelling-up policy for the English regions and the impacts of COVID-19 on the implementation of this policy.

[Virtual Schooling in the UK](#) (<http://blog-pfmconnect.com/wp-content/uploads/Videos/Virtual-Schooling-in-the-UK.mp4>) examines the development of **virtual schooling** in the **United Kingdom** to support home education resulting from the Covid-19 lockdown.

[Digital government in developing countries](#), based on our recent [blog](#), recommends developing countries should employ an evolutionary approach to digitally-enabled reform and outlines

a detailed implementation strategy for them to adopt in such projects. [Gobierno digital en países en desarrollo. Le gouvernement numerique dans les pays en developpement. Governo digital nos países em desenvolvimento.](#)

[Local government revenue systems corruption](#) outlines the different parts of local government revenue systems and presents strategies for combatting associated corruption. [Corrupción de los sistemas de ingresos del gobierno local. Corrupção dos sistemas de receita do governo local. Corruption des systèmes de revenus des administrations locales.](#)

[Supporting good public financial management](#) provides images of some of the countries where we have supported the development of good public financial management (PFM). You can view all the countries and places where we have worked [here.](#)

[Evaluating public private partnerships](#) highlights a number of questions to be addressed by public sector organisations when considering the merits of a public private partnership (PPP)