

**Integrity reform in Afghanistan:**

**Taking stock and the way ahead –  
towards shared priorities and  
better donor co-ordination**

**4 + 5 May 2009**



Anti-  
Corruption  
Resource  
Centre  
[www.U4.no](http://www.U4.no)

## **Anti-corruption in post-conflict countries**

**A framework for analysis, review and priority setting**

Session 2

May 4th 2009

12.00 – 13.00

# Objectives of the session



## **Aim**

To contextualize AC work in post-conflict countries and Afghanistan

## **Objectives**

- to review AC work in the specific situation of post-conflict
- to suggest a strategic framework for analysis and review of AC efforts in Afghanistan

# **What do we know about anti-corruption reform in post-conflict countries?**

# Donor approaches to corruption in post-conflict countries I

## General characteristics:

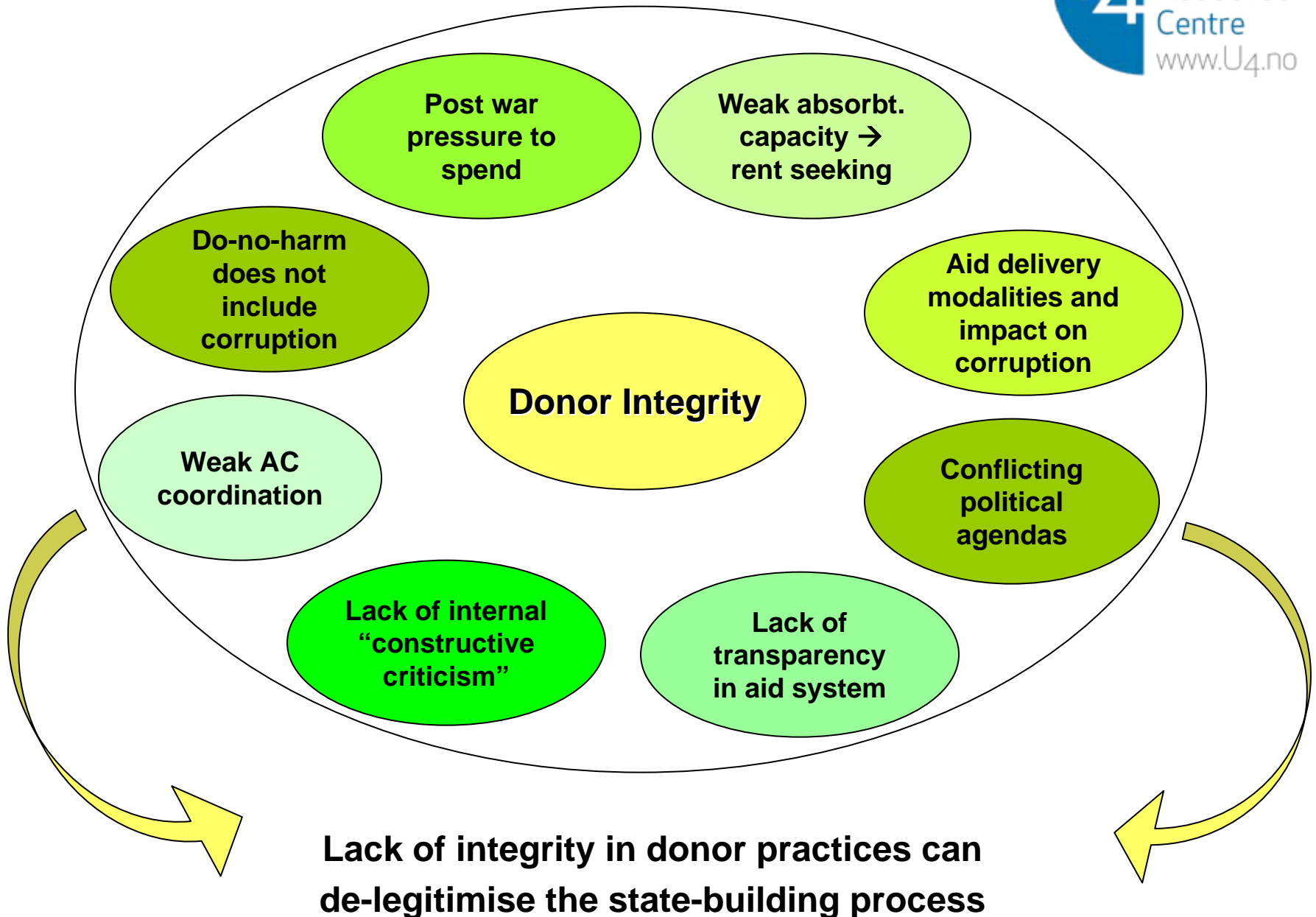
- Focus on AC/integrity only **after 5 years** (approx.)
- Focus on financial accountability
- AC contextual analyses looks at legal and institutional systems
- Little attention to understand systemic corruption
  - Little knowledge about specific context and patterns of corruption
- Technical & prescriptive → disregarding politics
- No agreement on prioritization
- No do-no-harm → no assessments of impact of AC on state building

# Donor approaches to corruption in post-conflict countries II

## Programming approaches:

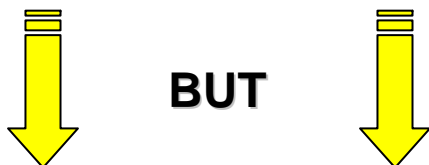
- Control mechanisms in public expenditure
- Neglect of AC in elections and competitive politics
- Focus on the executive, little on parliaments, CSO, private sector
- National strategies and agencies → popular yet ineffective
- Judicial sector reform → striking weakness in AC
- No focus on systemic corruption in service delivery
- AC campaigns risk fuelling cynicism and distrust of the state
- Community driven reconstruction has been promising for accountability

# Donor practices

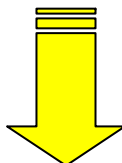


# What does this tell us?

- Very little context-specific AC reform guidance
  - “Business as usual”
  - Traditional often unsuccessful tools (AC commissions, strategies)
- AC vaguely embedded in core reforms – more hope for change than strategic focus



- Post-conflict countries particularly challenging → politics dominant
  - Fragile peace and high risk to return to conflict
  - Fervent struggles for power (political, economic, control of natural resources)
  - High and rapid inflow of aid
  - Competing priorities → everything is urgent and important
  - Corruption (old and new risks for corruption) are omnipresent
- Multiple reasons why corruption is bad → multiple reasons why to address it

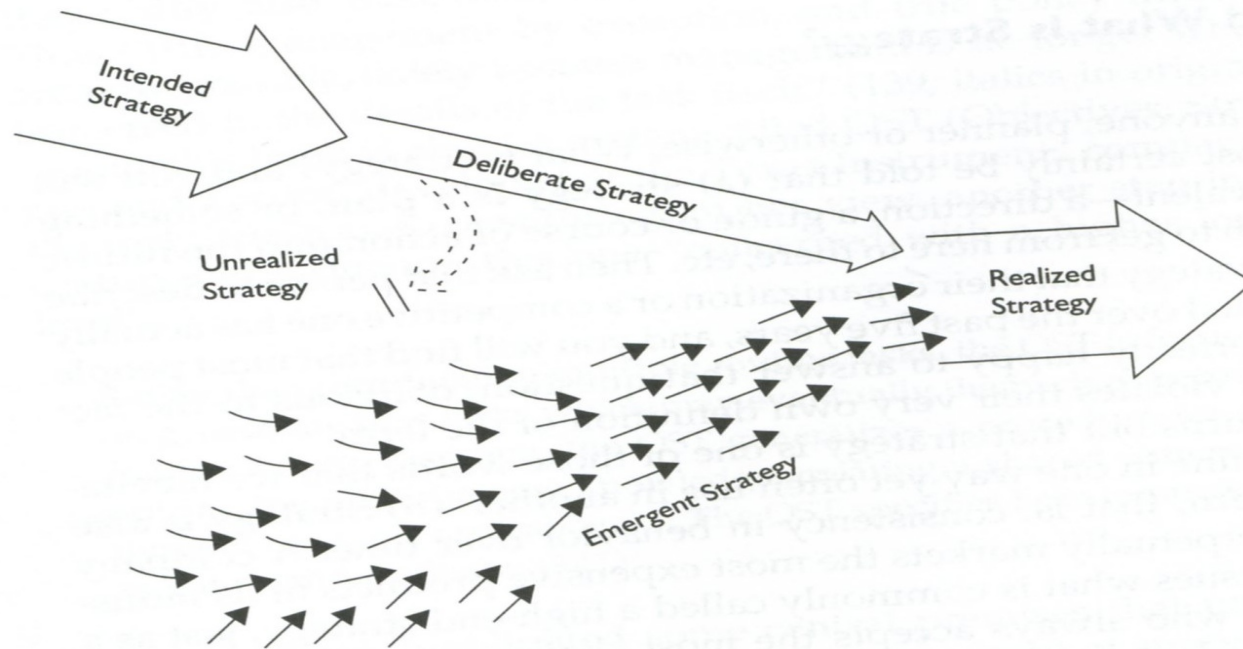


**NEED FOR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

# Why a strategic framework?

## Shared vision about direction

- Political and motivational issues (Why?)
- Main goal & objectives (What?)
- Main actors and opponents (Who)
- Prioritization and sequencing (How?)
- Trade-offs



# Why a state building lens for anti-corruption?

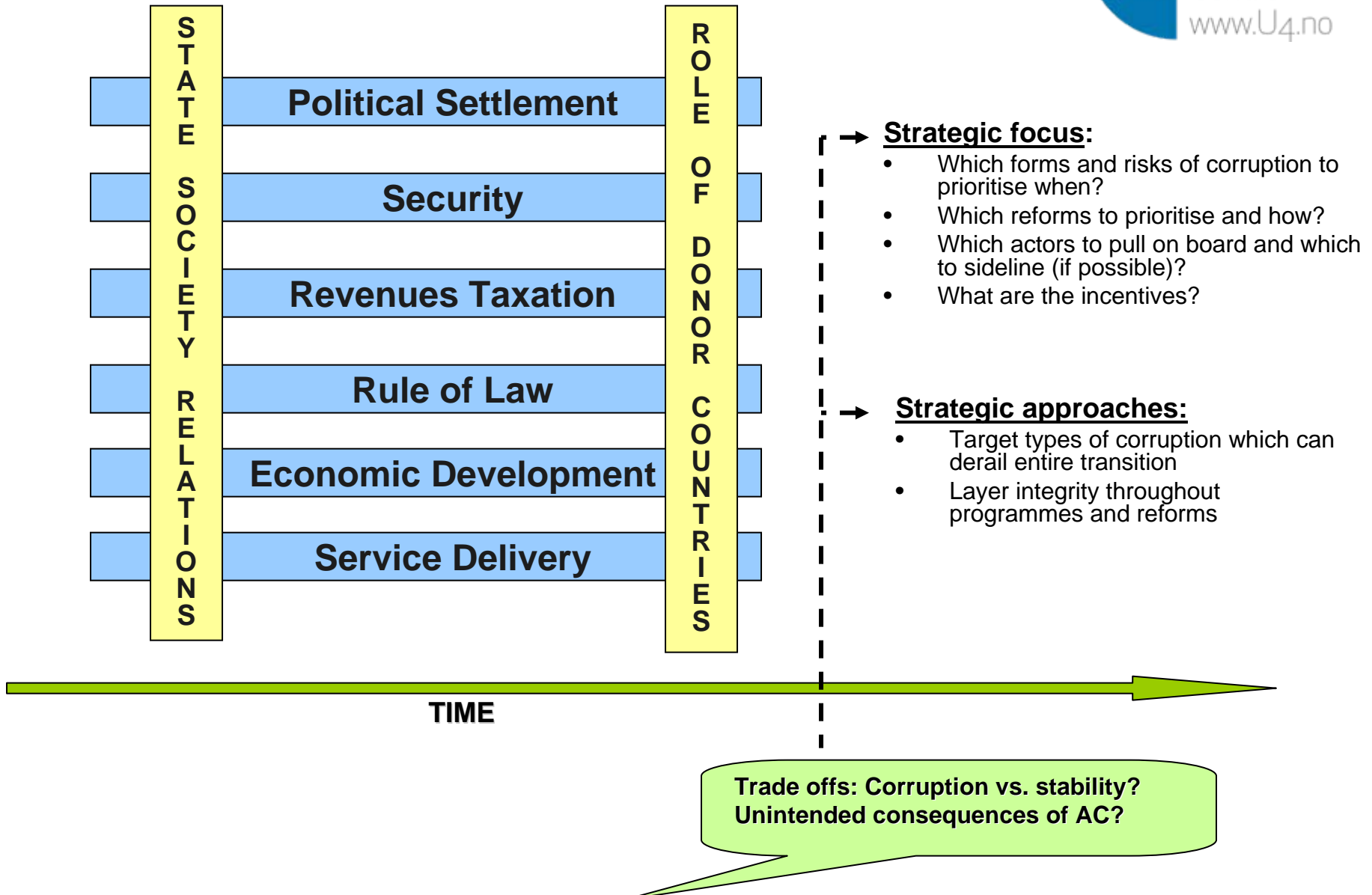
- Key aim in post-conflict countries → state building
  - Strengthening capacity, institutions and legitimacy of the state – driven by state-society relations
- State-building based on legitimacy  
→ poor legitimacy is a major contributor to state fragility
- Corruption has major impact on legitimacy
  - De-legitimises the state, **destabilising**, increases inequities, weak security and service delivery, legitimises those “who promise to do something about it”.

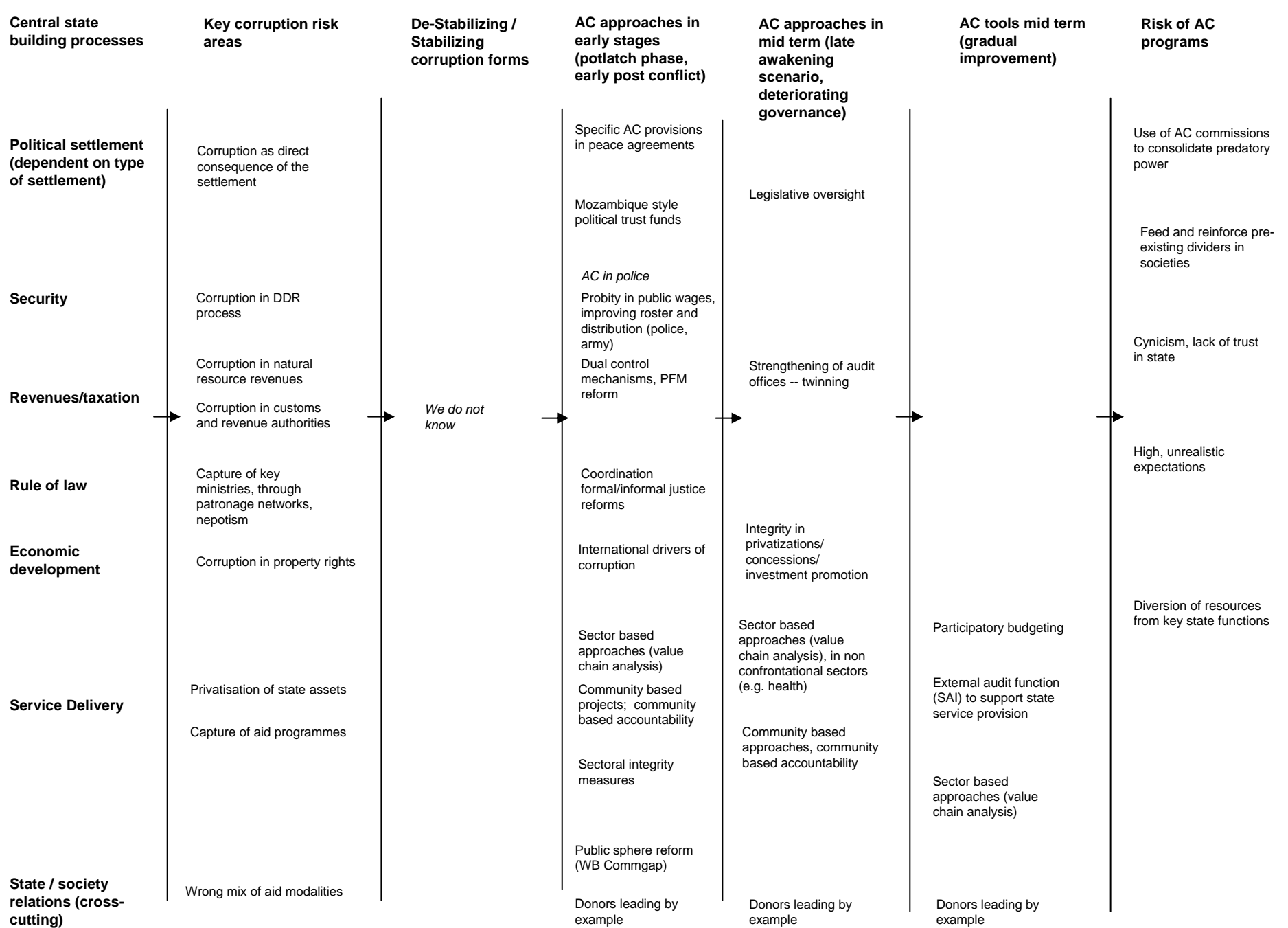


**Contradiction?**  
**Double edged sword?**  
**Two sides of the same coin?**

- Subsidy or bonus function, **stabilises**, sustains political survival, short term solutions.

# AC with a state building lens





# Do we know .....?

- .... which types of corruption may derail the transition, destabilize the fragile situation?
- ... which types of corruption have a stabilizing effect? Short-term versus long-term?

# Main issues for AC in post-conflict

- Start early to focus on integrity
- Layer integrity / AC in all (core) programmes
- Contextualize AC reform specific to post-conflict setting
- Develop strategic framework or vision
- Recognize dominance of politics for AC → link with legitimacy
- Use *corruption* to analyze problem – *integrity* to go against it
- Get donors to lead consciously and consistently by example

**Thank you**