
CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2015



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
the global coalition against corruption

Transparency International is a global movement with one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption. With more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we are leading the fight against corruption to turn this vision into reality.

www.transparency.org

Generous support for the 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index was provided by Ernst & Young.

NOT ONE SINGLE COUNTRY, ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, IS CORRUPTION-FREE

Public sector corruption isn't simply about taxpayer money going missing. Broken institutions and corrupt officials fuel inequality and exploitation - keeping wealth in the hands of an elite few and trapping many more in poverty.

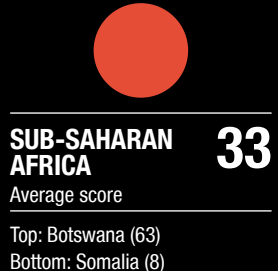
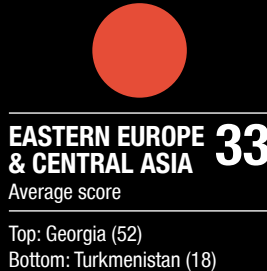
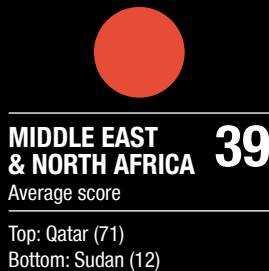
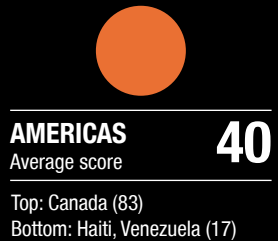
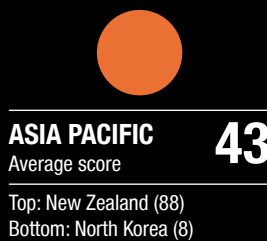
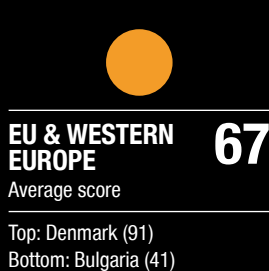
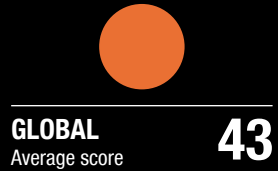
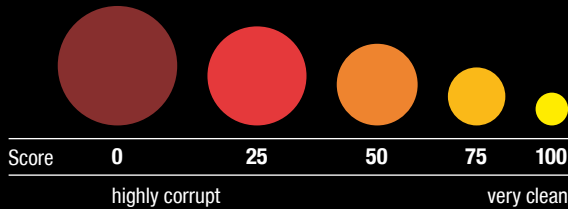
Based on expert opinion from around the world, the Corruption Perceptions Index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption worldwide. Not one of the 168 countries assessed in the 2015 index gets a perfect score and two-thirds score below 50, on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). More than 6 billion people live in a country with a serious corruption problem.



The 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index clearly shows that corruption remains a blight around the world. But 2015 was also a year when people again took to the streets to protest corruption. People across the globe sent a strong signal to those in power: it is time to tackle grand corruption.

José Ugaz, Chair, Transparency International

THE GLOBAL PICTURE



LESS THAN 50 = SERIOUS CORRUPTION PROBLEM

2 in 3
countries worldwide
score below 50

53%
of G20 countries score
less than 50

100%
of BRICS countries
score less than 50

6 billion+
people live in countries with a
serious corruption problem

COUNTRY CONTRAST

TOP SCORERS

DENMARK

91



FINLAND

90



LOWEST SCORERS

NORTH KOREA

8



SOMALIA

8



WHAT'S CHANGED?

Comparison of 2012 and 2015 performance

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE IMPROVED INCLUDE

GREECE
SENEGAL
UK



COUNTRIES THAT HAVE DECLINED INCLUDE

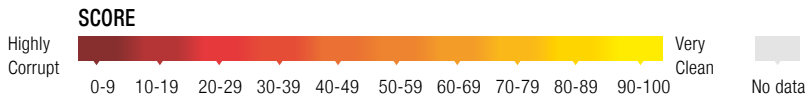
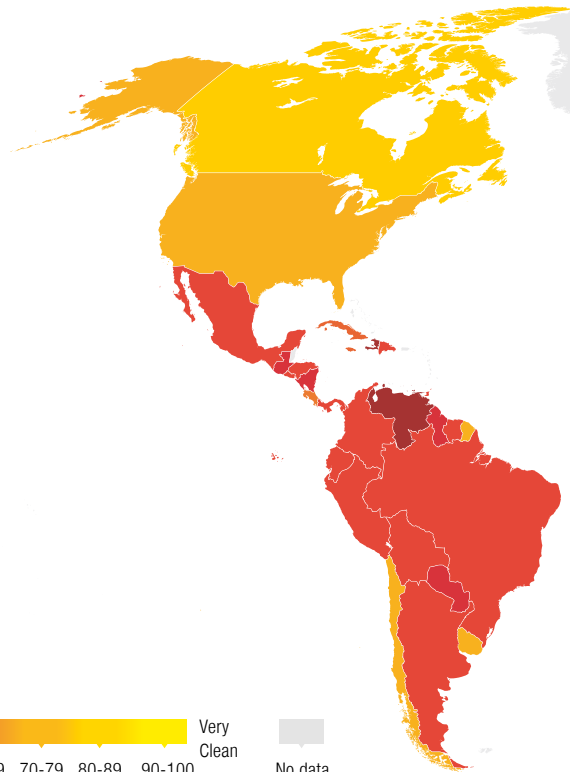
AUSTRALIA
BRAZIL
SPAIN
TURKEY



168 COUNTRIES. 168 SCORES.

HOW DOES YOUR COUNTRY MEASURE UP?

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 168 countries/territories around the world.

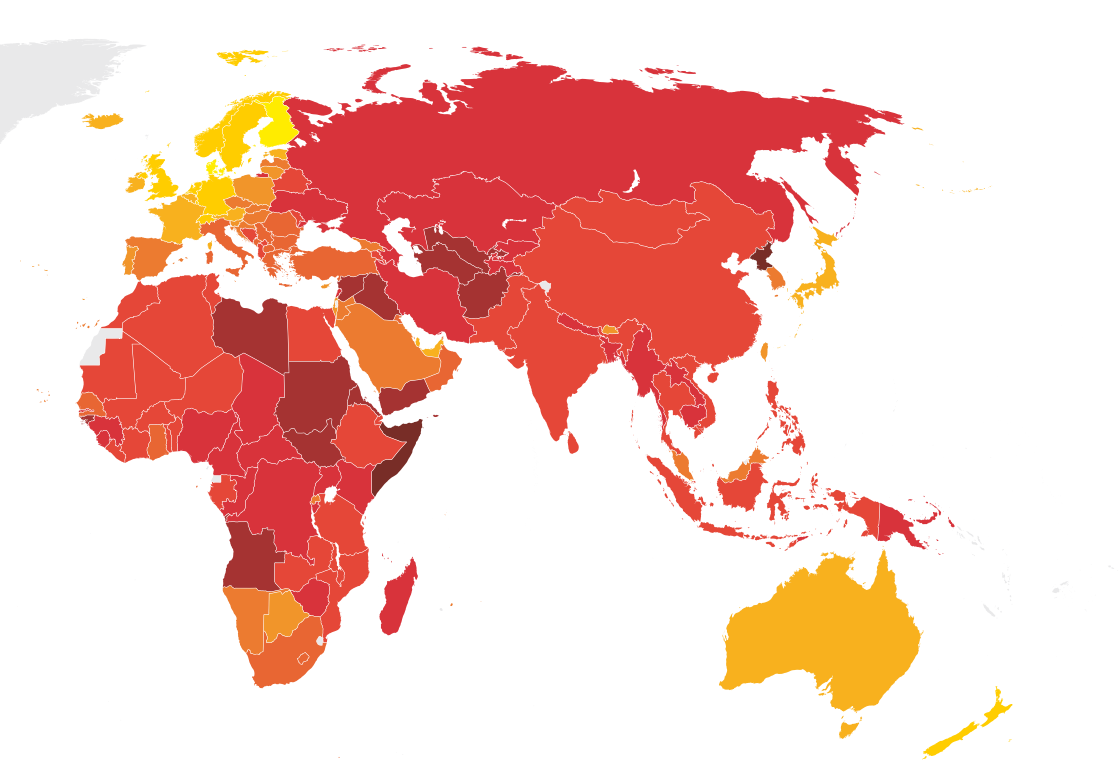


RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE
1	Denmark	91
2	Finland	90
3	Sweden	89
4	New Zealand	88
5	Netherlands	87
5	Norway	87
7	Switzerland	86
8	Singapore	85
9	Canada	83
10	Germany	81
10	Luxembourg	81
10	United Kingdom	81
13	Australia	79
13	Iceland	79
15	Belgium	77
16	Austria	76
16	United States	76
18	Hong Kong	75
18	Ireland	75
18	Japan	75
21	Uruguay	74
22	Qatar	71

23	Chile	70
23	Estonia	70
23	France	70
23	United Arab Emirates	70
27	Bhutan	65
28	Botswana	63
28	Portugal	63
30	Poland	62
30	Taiwan	62
32	Cyprus	61
32	Israel	61
32	Lithuania	61
35	Slovenia	60
36	Spain	58
37	Czech Republic	56
37	Korea (South)	56
37	Malta	56
40	Cape Verde	55
40	Costa Rica	55
40	Latvia	55
40	Seychelles	55

RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE
44	Rwanda	54
45	Jordan	53
45	Mauritius	53
45	Namibia	53
48	Georgia	52
48	Saudi Arabia	52
50	Bahrain	51
50	Croatia	51
50	Hungary	51
50	Slovakia	51
54	Malaysia	50
55	Kuwait	49
56	Cuba	47
56	Ghana	47
58	Greece	46
58	Romania	46
60	Oman	45
61	Italy	44
61	Lesotho	44
61	Montenegro	44
61	Senegal	44
61	South Africa	44

66	Sao Tome and Principe	42
66	The FYR of Macedonia	42
66	Turkey	42
69	Bulgaria	41
69	Jamaica	41
71	Serbia	40
72	El Salvador	39
72	Mongolia	39
72	Panama	39
72	Trinidad and Tobago	39
76	Bosnia and Herzegovina	38
76	Brazil	38
76	Burkina Faso	38
76	India	38
76	Thailand	38
76	Tunisia	38
76	Zambia	38
83	Benin	37
83	China	37



RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE
			103	Moldova	33			
83	Colombia	37	107	Argentina	32	123	Madagascar	28
83	Liberia	37	107	Belarus	32	123	Timor-Leste	28
83	Sri Lanka	37	107	Côte d'Ivoire	32	130	Cameroon	27
88	Albania	36	107	Ecuador	32	130	Iran	27
88	Algeria	36	107	Togo	32	130	Nepal	27
88	Egypt	36	112	Honduras	31	130	Nicaragua	27
88	Indonesia	36	112	Malawi	31	130	Paraguay	27
88	Morocco	36	112	Mauritania	31	130	Ukraine	27
88	Peru	36	112	Mozambique	31	136	Comoros	26
88	Suriname	36	112	Vietnam	31	136	Nigeria	26
95	Armenia	35	117	Pakistan	30	136	Tajikistan	26
95	Mali	35	117	Tanzania	30	139	Bangladesh	25
95	Mexico	35	119	Azerbaijan	29	139	Guinea	25
95	Philippines	35	119	Guyana	29	139	Kenya	25
99	Bolivia	34	119	Russia	29	139	Laos	25
99	Djibouti	34	119	Sierra Leone	29	139	Papua New Guinea	25
99	Gabon	34	123	Gambia	28	139	Uganda	25
99	Niger	34	123	Guatemala	28	145	Central African Republic	24
103	Dominican Republic	33	123	Kazakhstan	28	146	Congo Republic	23
103	Ethiopia	33	123	Kyrgyzstan	28	147	Chad	22
103	Kosovo	33	123	Lebanon	28	147	Democratic Republic of the Congo	22
						147	Myanmar	22
						150	Burundi	21
						150	Cambodia	21
						150	Zimbabwe	21
						153	Uzbekistan	19
						154	Eritrea	18
						154	Syria	18
						154	Turkmenistan	18
						154	Yemen	18
						158	Haiti	17
						158	Guinea-Bissau	17
						158	Venezuela	17
						161	Iraq	16
						161	Libya	16
						163	Angola	15
						163	South Sudan	15
						165	Sudan	12
						166	Afghanistan	11
						167	Korea (North)	8
						167	Somalia	8

AMERICAS



81% OF COUNTRIES SCORE LESS THAN 50**IN BRIEF**

We witnessed two remarkable trends in the Americas in 2015: the uncovering of grand corruption networks and the mass mobilisation of citizens against corruption. It's no surprise that Brazil – which faced its largest-ever corruption scandal around Petrobras – is this year's biggest index decliner in the Americas, yet there and elsewhere we saw corruption investigations against people who looked untouchable only 12 months ago. The challenge now is to tackle the underlying causes. The citizens who took to the streets demanded an end to corruption for good – only serious institutional reform will make that happen.

THE GOOD

The fight against impunity may be far from over, but 2015 sent a strong warning to the corrupt. As three members of Honduras's elite Rosenthal clan were charged with money laundering and Guatemala's president was jailed for reportedly taking bribes, even the most powerful figures found they could no longer rely on their cash and connections to protect them. Scores may not have improved dramatically, but it's worth remembering that marginal upward movement or stagnation can also be the result of corruption becoming more visible and talked about.

THE BAD

But arrests aren't enough. However welcome, prosecuting existing politicians won't stop new corrupt individuals getting rich at the expense of citizens. Many countries low down the index have ample natural resources – take Argentina, Mexico or oil-rich Venezuela, the region's lowest scorer – yet long-standing corruption has led to a desperate lack of investment in security, education and health. Until these weaknesses are addressed, corruption will continue to be the norm and citizens' quality of life will not improve.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Governments need to ensure real and systemic reform – starting with freeing judiciaries from political influence and creating better regional cooperation between law enforcement to stop the corrupt hiding in different jurisdictions. Citizens, meanwhile, should continue their calls for change. In 2015 we saw ever more people connect the poor services they receive with the illicit enrichment of a few corrupt individuals. These people need to keep up their pressure on leaders, and demand the accountable, well-functioning institutions they deserve.

ASIA PACIFIC



67% OF COUNTRIES SCORE LESS THAN 50**IN BRIEF**

If there was one common challenge to unite the Asia Pacific region, it would be corruption. From campaign pledges to media coverage to civil society forums, corruption dominates discussion. Yet despite all this talk, there's little sign of action. Between Australia's slipping scores and North Korea's predictably disastrous performance, this year's index shows no significant improvement. Has Asia Pacific stalled in its efforts to fight corruption?

THE GOOD

The public desire for change is huge. In India, Sri Lanka and elsewhere, we've seen a host of governments coming to power on anti-corruption platforms. As corruption continues to dominate media coverage across and beyond the region, increasing interest in the issue has sparked a raft of new research into both public and private sector corruption.

THE BAD

So why this picture of zero progress? Despite boastful efforts on petty corruption, Malaysia's 1MBD scandal brought the crux of the challenge into sharp focus: is political leadership genuinely committed to fighting corruption throughout society? The Malaysian prime minister's inability to answer questions on the US\$700 million that made its way into his personal bank account is only the tip of the iceberg.

In India and Sri Lanka leaders are falling short of their bold promises, while governments in Bangladesh and Cambodia are exacerbating corruption by clamping down on civil society. In Afghanistan and Pakistan a failure to tackle corruption is feeding ongoing vicious conflicts, while China's prosecutorial approach isn't bringing sustainable remedy to the menace. This inability to tackle root causes holds true across the region – witness, for example, Australia's dwindling score in recent years.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Reversing corruption is clearly not solely down to governments, but they're the ones with the largest role and the power to create enabling environments for others. This year's poor results demand that leaders revisit the genuineness of their efforts and propel the region beyond stagnation. They must fulfil promises, and ensure efforts aren't undermined in practice. Anti-corruption commissions are a prime example here: while their creation across the region is commendable, ongoing political interference and inadequate resources has meant many are unable to fulfil their mandate. This has to be addressed.

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA



44% OF COUNTRIES SCORE LESS THAN 50**IN BRIEF**

While a handful of countries have improved, the general picture across this vast region is one of stagnation. Governments are willing to pass laws addressing corruption, yet enforcing them is a different matter. Also very worrying is the marked deterioration in countries like Hungary, FYR of Macedonia, Spain and Turkey. These are places where there was once hope for positive change. Now we're seeing corruption grow, while civil society space and democracy shrinks.

THE GOOD

Nordic countries score highly again – with Denmark, Finland, Sweden coming top three, and Norway not far behind. Yet we've seen big corruption cases in all four in 2015, including 13 Danish public employees arrested in a corporate bribery case; the mayor of Bergen, Norway's second largest city, charged with bribery; Sweden's partly state-owned TeliaSonera (in which Finland also has a minority stake) exiting Eurasian markets amid huge bribery allegations in Uzbekistan; and the ongoing trial of the former head of Helsinki police's antidrug squad, charged with running a drug cartel of his own. Clearly there's still work to be done.

THE BAD

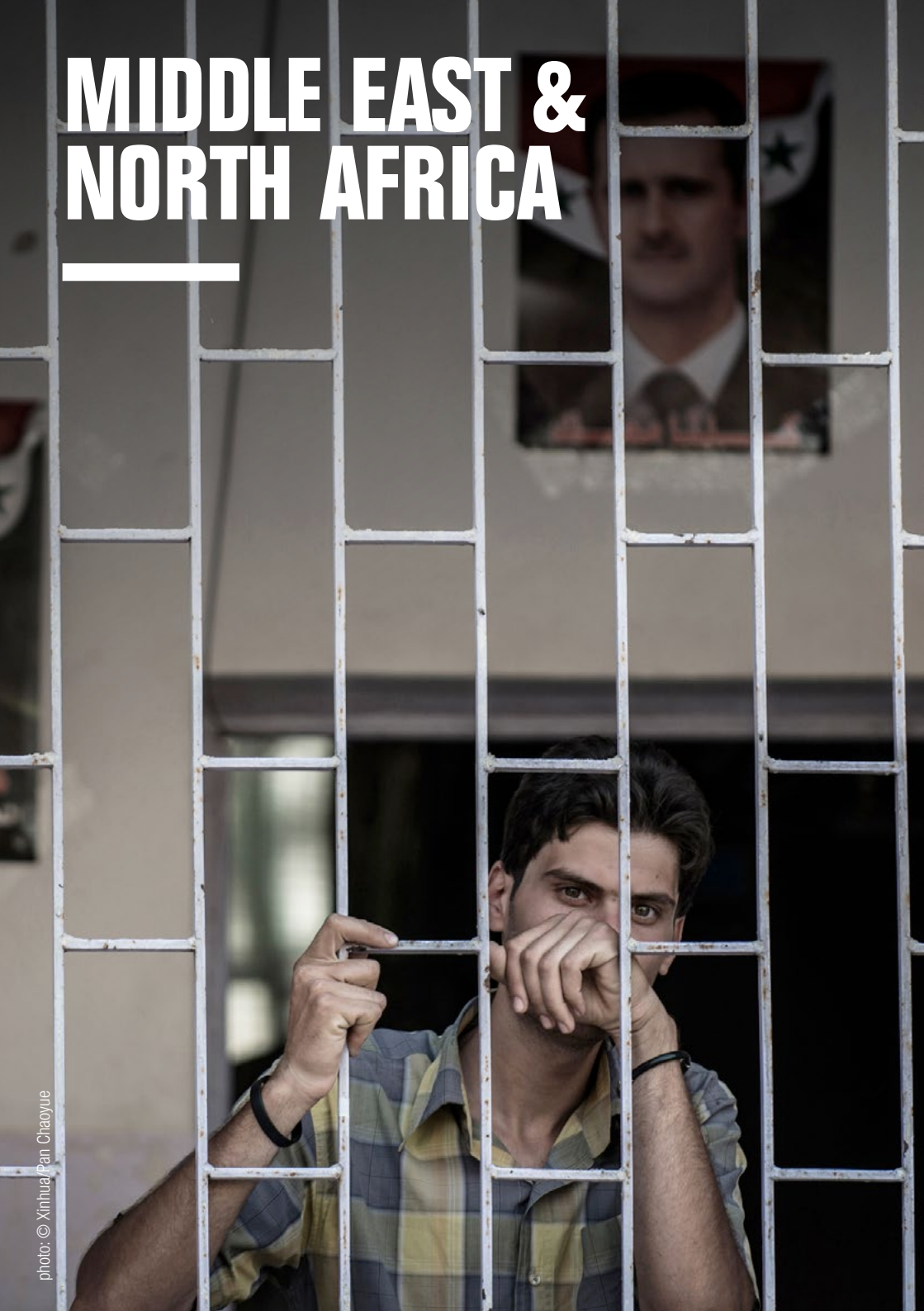
Corruption remains a huge challenge across the region, often going hand in hand with repression. In low-scorers Hungary, Poland and Turkey (which has plummeted in recent years along with Spain) politicians and their cronies are increasingly hijacking state institutions to shore up power, a worrying trend also affecting the Balkans. It's even grimmer further down the index: in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan and others, governments are restricting, if not totally stifling, civil society and free media – both proven to prevent corruption. Ukraine also does badly, as the government drags its heels on reform.

Western Europe's relentless stream of banking scandals continued in 2015, as Deutsche Bank paid the largest Libor fine in history in a market-rigging scandal. More proof that the financial sector – banking in particular – is in dire need of reform.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Laws need real teeth. There's anti-corruption legislation on the books everywhere – albeit patchy and imperfect – but a failure to implement and enforce is allowing the corrupt to operate with impunity. Governments must tackle political corruption and reform the financial sector, and this can't happen until laws and regulations are put into action and civil society and the media are genuinely free.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA



68% OF COUNTRIES SCORE LESS THAN 50**IN BRIEF**

Once again, three of the bottom 10 countries in this year's index are from the MENA region – Iraq, Libya and Sudan. The ongoing devastating conflicts in these and other countries, such as Syria and Yemen, inevitably mean that any efforts to strengthen institutions and the state have taken a back seat. Yet security will only succeed long term if governments make a genuine break with cronyism and build trust with citizens. This will require a huge change in political will.

THE GOOD

Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia all improved slightly on last year's performance. For Saudi Arabia it's the third year in a row where we've seen this kind of upward movement. Falling oil prices and a costly military intervention in Yemen have only strengthened the country's austerity resolve, and there's political recognition that solid structures and a clean business environment are needed to attract foreign investment. There's also been some opening up with the increased participation of women in political life. The obvious and glaring issue remains the surge in executions in recent years as part of a wider crackdown on civil society and internal dissent.

THE BAD

Most countries have maintained the same poor score, and some (Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia) have deteriorated slightly. Political corruption in particular remains a huge challenge. The rise of ISIS and the ensuing fight against terrorism have been used by many governments as an excuse to crack down on civil liberties and civil society. Far from helping, such an approach means that entrenched corrupt networks go unchallenged, often serving as yet further financial fodder for terrorism.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

As many states feel confronted by existential threats, it is more important than ever to make combating corruption a top priority. Reduced civil liberties cannot be a casualty in any war against terrorism. As corruption is included in the new Sustainable Development Goals, enlightened decision-makers are starting to realise that development and anti-corruption must be interlinked, citizens urgently need their governments to move beyond conceptualisation to actually taking long-term action. And civil society must have the space to be a serious partner in the fight against corruption. Governments have demonstrated that they cannot do this alone.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



87% OF COUNTRIES SCORE LESS THAN 50**IN BRIEF**

Sub-Saharan Africa faced a myriad of threats in 2015, from the Ebola epidemic to rising terrorism. Again and again we saw corruption exacerbate the causes of crises, and undermine the response. This year's index presents a worrying picture – with 40 of 46 countries showing a serious corruption problem and no improvement for continent powerhouses Nigeria and South Africa. Indicators for rule of law and justice score particularly badly. While some governments are reducing risks for business, there's little change for citizens – as systemic corruption leaves many countries struggling to uphold basic rule of law.

THE GOOD

Progress is possible. Looking at the different areas covered by the index, we can see particular improvement around transparency in financial management – good news for the companies operating in the region. Overall a number of countries have all improved in recent years, notably Senegal, which has risen significantly since the government introduced a series of anti-corruption measures. Regional high-performer Botswana scores 63 out of 100 in the index. As the new Sustainable Development Goals act as a catalyst for strengthening governance, there's hope other countries could follow.

THE BAD

But corruption continues to deny citizens justice and security. As conflict-ridden Somalia lands at the bottom of the index again, many other countries are let down by a failure to uphold rule of law. Reinforcing our African public survey – which found police and courts have the highest rates of bribery – law enforcement isn't always working to protect citizens. In many countries, including low-scorers Angola, Burundi and Uganda, we're seeing a failure to prosecute corrupt public officials on the one hand, and intimidation of citizens who speak out against corruption on the other.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

If corruption and impunity are to “be a thing of the past” as boldly stated by the African Union in Agenda 2063, “The Africa We Want”, governments need to take bold steps to ensure rule of law is the reality for everyone. Prosecuting corruption will restore faith among people who no longer believe in the institutions that are supposed to protect them. Transparency and accountability must go hand in hand when tackling corruption – as these results show, this is still far from the norm in Africa.

Editor: Rachel Beddow
Design: Kerstin Deinert

© 2016 Transparency International. All rights reserved.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.
Cover photo: © A.M Ahad

Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this report. All information was believed to be correct as of January 2016. Nevertheless, Transparency International cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of its use for other purposes or in other contexts.

SUPPORT US

With more than 20 years fighting corruption around the world, we rely on people like you to achieve much needed change. To find out more about what we do and how you can become a part of it visit

www.transparency.org/getinvolved

