FIGHTING CORRUPTION, DEMANDING JUSTICE

Impact Report
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

Cover photo © TI Cambodia

Transparency International’s first international anti-corruption youth camp in the Asia Pacific region took place in Cambodia. The photo shows the camp leader motivating participants before they take a bike ride around the temples to promote Transparency International Cambodia’s anti-corruption legal advice centre and encourage citizens to report corruption.
One global movement, one vision: a world free of corruption. When we started out more than 20 years ago, people said nothing could be done about corruption. Few imagined international anti-corruption laws, corrupt dictators brought to justice, companies held to account, or individual citizens making the difference. We’ve proved all of this possible. And with our partners and supporters around the world, we will continue turning our vision into reality.
Corruption is never inevitable. That was our message when we began more than 20 years ago. Back then it was radical. Today it’s widely accepted. Accountability and transparency are now enshrined in law, expected of leaders and demanded of business.

We’re proud of how far we’ve come. And yet, grand corruption continues to devastate the lives of millions. Criminals who loot states continue to enjoy elite positions and jet-set lives of luxury. This has to stop.

Alongside prevention, we need to break impunity. This is at the heart of our Strategy 2020. Where laws have been enacted they must be enforced. Where crimes have been committed, there must be consequences. Regardless of status, the corrupt must be unmasked, brought to justice and socially sanctioned.

As we embark on this new stage, we have a strong foundation to build on.

Thanks to international corruption conventions, we have a vital framework for global action. Like in France, where the UN Convention against Corruption allowed us to take on the son of Equatorial Guinea’s President Obiang. The case set a global precedent, and sent a powerful message to the corrupt.

With two decades of national and global corruption expertise, we are powerfully-positioned to speak out on what must change – as seen in our campaign to end secret company ownership. With action now being taken by the G20 and EU, as well as by a growing number of national leaders, it’s rapidly getting tougher for the corrupt to escape detection.

But most importantly, we stand united as a powerful global movement. Active in more than 100 countries, made up of thousands of determined and courageous individuals, our collective voice cannot be ignored. Together we can speak out against corruption boldly and globally.

More than 20 years on, our message to people of all walks of life remains unchanged: corruption is never inevitable, and together we can build a world that is cleaner, safer and more just. But we also have a new message – a message directly to the corrupt: Your days of impunity are numbered.
It’s two decades since Transparency International first put corruption on the front pages. Since then, we’ve driven the debate on what needs to happen next.

With global indices and landmark assessments, we’ve shown that no country, region or sector can be complacent on corruption. We’ve used the findings to secure legislative changes from governments, and set new global benchmarks that raised the bar for business. Across the world, our movement has worked to improve policies and drive innovative solutions, including the increasing use of participatory digital tools.

With groundbreaking research, we’ve exposed the links between corruption and the most urgent issues facing the world today – from poverty to human rights abuse to climate change. We’ve put the issue firmly on the global agenda: as of September 2015, good governance is included in the Sustainable Development Goals. It’s a watershed moment for equality and justice – we will leave no stone untouched to ensure promises turn into action.

From extractive industry transparency to water integrity, some of the game-changing initiatives we helped incubate are now powerful drivers for change in their own right. Others, such as our anti-corruption advice centres, have become central to our movement. Offering a lifeline to the victims and witnesses of corruption, our centres are now in operation in 67 countries. Recently, they provided support to their 200,000th client.

Momentum is building, and as we begin our Strategy 2020, we’re not slowing down. In our summer schools and anti-corruption camps, we’re supporting new leaders and fostering the brightest new initiatives. In our chapters worldwide, we are working with more people than ever to take action against corruption and transform their communities and daily lives. Locally, nationally and globally, we continue to innovate and grow. Our vision, meanwhile, remains constant: a world free of corruption. Nobody can do it alone – everyone can make a difference.
Anti-corruption festival in Peru organised by Transparency International chapter Proética.
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How corrupt is your country? Since 1995, we’ve put a number on corruption, and put corruption on the map.

Drawing on expert analysis, the Corruption Perceptions Index rates countries according to their perceived level of public sector corruption.

It’s become a go-to reference point for decision-makers, companies and journalists worldwide. Recognising the problem is only the first step, but a poor score raises questions that can’t be ignored. For leaders, the pressure is on to answer.
175 countries and territories worldwide are included in the 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index.

"Transparency International rankings continue to be a leading data source for companies looking to shore up compliance controls"

The Wall Street Journal

75% of compliance officers used the index in their work (2014).
To stop corruption you have to understand it.

From surveying hundreds of thousands of people worldwide to mapping a country’s individual corruption risks, our national and global research looks at corruption from every angle.

We go beyond measuring the scale of the problem. Drawing on more than 20 years of anti-corruption expertise, we identify the underlying causes and offer tailored solutions.
114,000 people + 107 countries = world’s largest public opinion survey on corruption

GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER

NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

106 countries and territories have come under the spotlight with our national integrity system assessments.

1,800+ institutions assessed since 2001.

2012 Spotlight: Europe

Biggest ever assessment of Europe’s corruption risks, covering 25 states.

800 advocacy events 1 million people reached

Laws changed across the region, including electoral code, campaign financing and whistleblower protection.
No country can afford to ignore its reputation for corruption. That means no country can ignore Transparency International.

The Economist
From day one, we’ve had a clear message for leaders: to beat corruption, countries need to work together.

We campaigned to secure the world’s first global convention against corruption and now lead a worldwide coalition to get governments to sign up and hold them to their promises.

And in a landmark case, we used the agreement to take on the son of a notorious dictator, setting a historic precedent for recovering dirty money worldwide.
2003
We successfully advocate for the UN Convention against Corruption, the world’s first ever global corruption convention.

2006
Global Coalition
launched to ensure leaders sign the commitment and make good on their word. Today, we have more than 350 NGO member organisations working in more than 100 countries worldwide.

2009
Our campaign secured an official review mechanism to ensure pledges become reality.

176 countries worldwide are now party to the convention.

SPOTLIGHT
While the country’s citizens live in extreme poverty, the son of President Obiang of Equatorial Guinea used to stash luxury purchases in France with ease. No more. In a historic ruling, French courts upheld our right as an anti-corruption NGO to sue in corruption cases – the first time the convention has ever been used in this way. Millions of dollars of seized assets later, the president’s son faces indictment and an arrest warrant.
Corporations from wealthy nations might obey laws at home, but they often behave very differently abroad, paying off officials to secure contracts and skirt regulation.

Corporate bribes distort markets, undermine democracy and endanger lives. No business – however big – should get away with it.

In another global milestone, we campaigned for the first international convention on foreign bribery. Now signed by the world’s leading economies, we’re monitoring progress to ensure pledges are enforced.
The OECD treaty requiring all signatories to ban international bribery was a victory for Transparency International.

Washington Post

41 countries responsible for almost 90 per cent of total foreign direct investment outflows, have ratified the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention worldwide.

$1.56 billion in foreign bribery penalties paid by businesses in 2014 in the US alone.

Back in 1993 when we started Foreign bribery was widely accepted – in some countries it was even tax deductible.

1997 OECD Anti-Bribery Convention is created, the world’s first international convention on foreign bribery.

"The OECD treaty requiring all signatories to ban international bribery was a victory for Transparency International."
Offering a simple way to move dirty money anonymously, secret companies are great news for terrorists, international drug cartels, and corrupt leaders.

They’re very bad news for billions of people in developing countries, where US$1 trillion is lost annually to corruption involving these “shell” firms.

We want to strip away the secrecy that allows the grand corrupt to escape punishment. With global and national actions, our “Unmask the Corrupt” campaign is forcing leaders to reveal who’s really profiting from companies.
Global campaign reaching

2 million people in 1st year

+ 

Open letter signed by

19 leading NGOs and 2 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

= 

Worldwide action to unmask the corrupt

Global

G20 releases historic principles calling on members to make it harder for the corrupt to hide behind secret companies.

Regional

EU passes a new directive obliging member states to create central registries listing the real owners of companies.

National

The Norwegian Parliament decides unanimously to create a public registry of company ownership.

100,000 UK properties registered to overseas companies will be listed in a new land ownership registry, unmasking their true owners.
From my own experience, I can say that the United Nations’ work on corruption benefitted enormously from the benchmarks created by Transparency International.

Kofi Annan, former UN secretary general
From murky deals to billion dollar cartels, we all know what bad behaviour looks like in business. We’re showing how things can be done differently.

With benchmarks for corporate integrity and transparency, we’ve set global standards for positive corporate behaviour, and developed tools, trainings and assessments to enable all companies to protect against risks.

We’ve increased demand among investors and consumers for accountable, transparent business. Industry leaders are now building their reputations on clean, sustainable success and publishing the reports to prove it. Their competitors can’t afford to lag behind.
US$14,000,000,000,000+
combined market value of companies in our 2014 assessment of corporate transparency and corruption risks.

8,000 companies worldwide are committed to fighting corruption after we made sure anti-corruption was included as the 10th principle in the UN Global Compact, the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative.

“
There is nothing which holds back balanced and socially beneficial development more than corrupt business practices, and Transparency International is in the forefront of the fight to root them out.”

Sir Howard Davies, former chair of the UK Financial Services Authority
Hugely lucrative and notoriously secretive, defence deals between governments and arms companies offer fertile ground for corruption.

Back in 2012 we released the first index of secrecy and corruption risks in governments and defence companies worldwide. Since then we’ve used the findings to push both sides to do better.

Progress is positive, but there’s still a lot to be done. Military corruption isn’t simply wasteful – it undermines security, fuels conflict and puts lives at risk. There can be no excuse for inaction.
2012
First ever
We release the first global analysis of corruption risks and vulnerabilities in governments and defence companies.

"With this groundbreaking study, Transparency International UK is encouraging companies to move a step further... I very much hope that the industry responds to the challenge."

Lord Robertson, former secretary general of NATO

2014
Nearly 2 in 3 companies improve performance

60% of companies are now better at addressing corruption risks.
From rural villages to the corridors of power, we work with citizens, governments and businesses to stop the abuse of power, bribery and secret deals. As a global movement with a local presence in more than 100 countries, we are committed to turning our vision of a world free of corruption into reality.
Transparency International Kenya staff introduces a new service to a local community that enables them to submit complaints or feedback about aid and service delivery. The public can submit their complaints through a toll-free SMS line, online or by visiting the nearest office of a participating organisation.
Transparency International Bangladesh boat rally to protest river pollution on World Water Day. The demonstration caught the government’s attention about the importance of protecting rivers in the country from illegal occupation and the urgent need to prevent pollution from industrial waste dumping.
In Africa, more money is lost every year to illicit financial flows than comes in as aid. Over in Mexico, families spend up to 14 per cent of their income on bribes for basic services such as water, medicine and education.

Globally, regionally and nationally, the story’s the same – you can’t tackle poverty without tackling corruption.

Teaming up with like-minded organisations, we’ve called on leaders to put corruption-fighting at the heart of the development agenda. We succeeded – as of 2015, good governance is part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our research shows all are worse in countries with high levels of bribery.

+ 3.6 million people say “an honest and responsive government” is a priority global development issue, according to a UN poll.

UN leaders include good governance and fighting corruption in the 16th Sustainable Development Goal.

“Don’t let anyone get away with leaving corruption out of how we tackle poverty.”

UK Prime Minister David Cameron
Climate change is the greatest threat we’ve ever faced. If corruption derails efforts to tackle it, we’re all in serious trouble.

This was our warning in 2011, when our groundbreaking Global Corruption Report gathered international experts to show for the first time how corruption is jeopardising our response to climate change.

Despite billions of dollars of pledged investment, the corruption risk to climate programmes had been largely overlooked. Today it’s accepted by leaders and increasingly addressed by global climate funds.
50+ leading experts from around the world share expertise for our global corruption report on climate change.

“Transparency International makes the case comprehensively that fighting for climate justice also means fighting the scourge of corruption. They are right and I am proud to offer my support.”

Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director, Greenpeace International

US$10,676,000,000 of pledged climate finance will now be distributed with zero-tolerance corruption policies covering both the global fund and the local recipient organisations.
Public money should go on improving life for citizens – not on bankrolling the luxury lifestyles of the corrupt.

Our specialist teams keep watch on government spending around the world. Investigating suspicious deals, they’ve helped expose attempted public theft running into billions of dollars.

We also untangle and map complex funding channels, mapping out where money is coming from and where it should be going – enabling citizens to follow the money, and giving them the means to speak out if it fails to arrive.
6,200 government cars seized
from civil servants in Palestine after we revealed they were being used illegally for private journeys and even sent abroad – costing the public US$18 million+ per year.

Up to US$150 million aid money saved in Pakistan, thanks to our anti-fraud hotline.

US$17 million of medical supplies in Honduras purchased cleanly under our watch. The president invited us to monitor spending after we exposed systemic corruption at the country’s national health depot.
I couldn’t have survived without the support I received from Transparency International.

John Wilson (right), an Irish police officer who revealed systemic corruption in Irish traffic fines that was costing the public millions of dollars and putting lives at risk.

Together with fellow whistleblower Maurice McCabe (left), John was later vindicated and the two men won Ireland’s People of the Year award.
Information is power – but when we started more than 20 years ago, such power was concentrated in the hands of an elite few.

With grassroots campaigns and high-level advocacy, we’ve called on leaders around the world to prove they’ve got nothing to hide. Today, freedom of information is enshrined in the legal codes of more than 100 countries.

We want to ensure this trend continues. And where data is public, we’re finding new and better ways to make it useful. With innovative tools and trainings, we’re helping turn government information into citizen power.
11 countries had freedom of information laws

2015

104 countries have freedom of information laws

**SPOTLIGHT: MALDIVES**

- 5 years of sustained advocacy.
- 12 islands join our SMS campaign, sending their messages to politicians to voice support.
- 3 continents
  We bring leading experts from around the world to offer guidance on the new law.

- 67 of 68 parliamentarians approve the right to information bill we helped draft, one of the strongest public information laws in the world.
Corruption kills. No-one should have to face it alone. Offering free and confidential legal advice, our centres provide a lifeline to victims and witnesses of corruption.

Operating worldwide, we’ve helped parents secure urgent treatment for their children, worked with whistleblowers to expose crooked deals and stood alongside communities as they challenged corrupt leaders.

And we don’t stop at individual victories. Complaints provide powerful insight into the problems citizens are facing daily. Using this data, we advocate for strategic, systemic reform.
102 centres in operation in 2015.

62 countries worldwide now have a centre.

200,000 people have come forward to speak out on corruption.

US$2 billion saved in the Czech Republic alone after we helped a whistleblower speak out on massive overpricing in an environmental clean-up project.
Everyone can get involved in fighting corruption – and when people from across a community come together, the potential for action is huge.

Whether it’s inspecting facilities, monitoring cash flows or raising awareness of rights, we help people channel frustration at corruption into energy for change.

Their successes are many – from safer kindergartens to accountable leaders to better medical care, communities around the world are standing together, demanding justice from leaders and ensuring they and their families get the services they deserve.
MEXICO

34,000+ parents

have carried out safety inspections in 1,400 Mexican kindergartens. We started the initiative after reports revealed a fatal kindergarten fire could have been avoided if safety steps had been followed. The facility – run by the wives of local officials and an influential businessman – had been officially safety-approved.

BANGLADESH

5,500+ citizens

have joined our community action groups across Bangladesh.

LEBANON

900 young people

took part in our youth shadow council programme in Lebanon. Elected by their community, youth councils scrutinise municipal budgets to help ensure money is being well-spent.

KENYA

25 million people

The estimated reach of our Kenyan community radio broadcasts on corruption issues.
The international youth camp completely changed my outlook. It showed me tools we can use to fix our country, to take matters into our own hands.”

Preet Ayoub Shaikh, 21, participant at our international youth camp in Cambodia and co-founder of the Youth Movement for Transparency. A medical student in Pakistan, Preet recently finished a project in public hospitals to help patients and their attendants understand their rights.
Fight Corruption Because

I FIGHT INJUSTICE

— Preet
Our summer schools and global meet-ups bring together the brightest minds and freshest thinking in the fight against corruption. From Cambodia to Lithuania to Tunisia, we offer training and mentoring from anti-corruption experts, helping the future generation of leaders take a stand against corruption.

The events are only the first step – what’s important are the ideas they generate and the communities they help build.

Taking inspiration and expertise back to home countries around the world, these emerging anti-corruption leaders are now turning their ideas – from arts initiatives to online platforms – into reality.
700 young leaders from 90 countries have attended Transparency International’s summer school on integrity in Lithuania.

"Corruption is not a problem you can tackle in old, banal ways. You need something really fresh. You need something really original. There are a lot of such ideas here."

Julia, Ukraine, 2014 participant, summer school on integrity
With more than 20 years experience in fighting corruption around the world, we rely on partners like you to achieve much needed change. Find out more about what we do, how you can support our work, and what we can do together.

Contact us at resources@transparency.org
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 August 2015. Nevertheless, Transparency International cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of its use for other purposes or in other contexts.