

Initiative "one book in one snapshot"

Title of the book/paper:	Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2013
---------------------------------	--

Author:	Transparency International
----------------	-----------------------------------

Date of publication:	3/December/2013
-----------------------------	------------------------

Sectors/areas of interest:	Anti-corruption, statebuilding, fragility, good governance
-----------------------------------	---

Summary (maximum 2 pages):

TI's annual CPI is widely considered to be a key measurement of the level of public sector corruption present around the globe and has been released every year since 1995.

The 2013 CPI assigned corruption scores for 177 countries based on composite results from a combination of surveys and corruption assessments from various reputable institutions such as the African Development Bank, Bertelsmann Foundation, World Bank, Freedom House and the Economist Intelligence Unit. This methodology is used because hard empirical evidence on how much corruption actually exists in a country is hard to measure, given the underground nature of corrupt activities.

Countries are scored from 0 to 100 with 0 as the worst possible score and 100 as the best. More than two thirds of all countries score below 50. No country scores perfectly, with Denmark and New Zealand being the best performers in the index, each scoring 91. Eight countries in the top 20 are EU members.

The worst performers, with each scoring 8 points, are Afghanistan, North Korea and Somalia.

On a regional level, Eastern Europe & Central Asia fare the worst in the index, followed closely by sub-Saharan Africa. Also of particular note are developing countries that have either improved or declined significantly over the last year.

Results are also available broken down by region:

Americas: 66% of countries score below 50, with Canada as the best performer and Haiti as the worst performer.

Asia-Pacific: 64% of countries score below 50 with New Zealand as the best performer and North Korea and Afghanistan as the worst performers.

Eastern Europe & Central Asia: 95% of countries score below 50 with Turkey as the best performer and Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as the worst performers.

Middle East & North Africa: 84% of countries score below 50 with the United Arab Emirates as the best performer and Sudan as the worst performer.

Sub-Saharan Africa: 90% score below 50 with Botswana as the best performer and Somalia as the worst performer.

Big Improvers (note that countries can and do "tie" for spots)

Myanmar: Score of 21 in 2013 (157th place) – an improvement of 5 points and 15 places from 2012.

Nepal: Score of 31 in 2013 (116th place) – an improvement of 4 points and 23 places over 2012.

Laos: Score of 26 in 2013 (140th place) – an improvement of 5 points and 20 places from 2012.

Senegal: Score of 41 in 2013 (77th place) – an improvement of 5 points and 17 places over 2012 results.

Lesotho: Score of 49 in 2013 (55th place) – an improvement of 4 points and 15 places over 2012 results.

Big Decliners

Syria: Score of 17 in 2013 (168th place) – marking a decline of 9 points and 24 places from 2012 results.

Libya: Score of 15 in 2013 (172nd place) – a decline of 6 points and 12 places from 2012.

The Gambia: Score of 28 in 2013 (127th place) – down 6 points and 22 places from 2012.

Guinea-Bissau: Score of 19 in 2013 (163rd place) – down 6 points and 13 places from 2012.

Mali: Score of 28 in 2013 (127th place) – a 6-point and 22-place decline from 2012 scores.

Eritrea: Score of 20 in 2013 (160th place) – down 5 points and 10 spots from 2012.

Mauritius: Score of 52 in 2013 (52nd place) – down 5 points and 9 spots from 2012.

Yemen: Score of 18 in 2013 (167th place) – down 5 points and 11 places from 2012.

Guatemala: Score of 29 in 2013 (123rd place) – down 4 points and 10 places from 2012.

Madagascar: Score of 28 in 2013 (127th place) – down 4 points and 9 places from 2012.

Congo Republic: Score of 22 in 2013 (154th place) – down 4 points and 10 places from 2012.

Takeaway messages for DG DEVCO (maximum 1 page)

There are two main messages for DG DEVCO. The first is that according to the CPI, the majority of the world's countries, particularly in the developing world, are still quite corrupt. Corruption erodes public trust in government institutions and saps away crucial economic resources and growth, hindering development. However, none of this will be terribly new to many development professionals.

As such, I believe the real focus should be on the countries that have seen the greatest changes, for better or worse, since the 2012 CPI. Of particular note, 11 developing countries have had serious declines in the last year, compared to the five where there have been significant gains. Although it is perhaps not surprising to see Syria, Libya and Mali included on the list of significant decliners, due to severe conflicts, it is worth asking why some of these countries have seen such a marked decline in such a short period of time. Perhaps more importantly, it is also worth asking how the five big improvers have managed to see such significant gains in such a short period of time, and what lessons they might have that contribute to anti-corruption best practice.

Date:
Name of Trainee:

06/May/2014
Aaron Burnett