

## Corruption Perceptions Index 2009

### Regional Highlights: Middle East and North Africa

Countries/Territories included: 19

With only six countries scoring 5 or above (out of 10), and 13 countries scoring below 5, the perception of corruption remains a serious problem in the Middle East and North Africa.

The poor results of the *2009 Corruptions Perception Index* (CPI) reflect how conflict and political turmoil in the region seriously hamper the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts. The threat to political and institutional infrastructures partly explains the governance gap in the region while other factors such as lack of transparency, insecurity and oil wealth continue to fuel corruption.

Countries where the political and security environment is particularly volatile, such as **Yemen**, **Iran** and **Iraq** rank at the bottom of the list. These countries face the challenge of establishing solid and transparent public institutions, with appropriate mechanisms for accountability: the essential elements for preventing and fighting corruption. Where these are absent, any kind of success is very difficult.

Other countries, such as **Morocco**, **Egypt** and **Lebanon** are still perceived as highly corrupt despite the fact that corruption is openly addressed as a principal obstacle to development and the issue of enhancing integrity and accountability in the public and the private sectors is now being addressed. (This is also true for **Palestine**, although it is not included in the 2009 CPI.)

In **Qatar**, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, **Oman**, and **Jordan**, it remains to be seen whether an increased political will to fight corruption or the negative effects of corruption which are being masked by large surpluses – particularly in the oil and gas-rich Gulf states – and are fuelling rapid economic development are proving to be more influential. In the case of the **UAE**, there have been more high-profile cases reported in the past year as well as a strengthening of the country's Financial Audit Department.

The negative effects of the financial crisis have underscored the importance of improving governance across the region.

Rank	Regional Rank	Country / Territory	CPI 2009 Score	90% Confidence Interval		Surveys Used
				Lower bound	Upper bound	
22	1	Qatar	7.0	5.8	8.1	6
30	2	United Arab Emirates	6.5	5.5	7.5	5
32	3	Israel	6.1	5.4	6.7	6
39	4	Oman	5.5	4.4	6.5	5
46	5	Bahrain	5.1	4.2	5.8	5
49	6	Jordan	5.0	3.9	6.1	7
63	7	Saudi Arabia	4.3	3.1	5.3	5
65	8	Tunisia	4.2	3.0	5.5	6
66	9	Kuwait	4.1	3.2	5.1	5
89	10	Morocco	3.3	2.8	3.9	6
111	11	Algeria	2.8	2.5	3.1	6
111	11	Djibouti	2.8	2.3	3.2	4
111	11	Egypt	2.8	2.6	3.1	6
126	14	Syria	2.6	2.2	2.9	5
130	15	Lebanon	2.5	1.9	3.1	3
130	15	Libya	2.5	2.2	2.8	6
154	17	Yemen	2.1	1.6	2.5	4
168	18	Iran	1.8	1.7	1.9	3
176	19	Iraq	1.5	1.2	1.8	3