

Corruption Perceptions Index 2009

Regional Highlights: Sub-Saharan Africa

Countries/Territories included: 47

Of the 47 countries reviewed in the region (the same as in 2008), 31 scored less than 3 (out of 10) indicating that corruption is perceived as rampant, while 13 scored between 3 and 5, indicating that corruption is perceived as a serious challenge by country experts and businessmen. As in 2008, only three countries scored more than 5: **Botswana**, **Mauritius** and **Cape Verde**.

While some countries appear to improve their scores or ranking in comparison with others in Sub-Saharan Africa, these changes do not reflect substantial and sustainable improvements in local accountability. The overall picture remains one of serious corruption challenges across the region.

As in previous years, the CPI results show that corruption has a particularly stark and devastating effect on countries that face ongoing political instability and high levels of poverty. **Somalia**, once again, is at the bottom of the ranking with a score of 1.0 as continued conflict and corruption prevent it from embarking on reforms to overcome economic and political collapse.

Others scoring 2.0 or less include resource-rich countries such as **Angola**, the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, **Guinea**, **Chad** and **Sudan**. Despite their potential for generating huge revenues that could increase social development, these countries have not been able to translate their wealth into sustainable poverty-reduction programmes. Instead, high levels of corruption in the extractive industries consistently contribute to economic stagnation, inequality and conflict.

Countries that score 3.0 or above and are perceived as relatively less corrupt, still face enormous challenges in the fight against corruption. While legal frameworks have been increasingly strengthened across the sub-region, their enforcement remains inconsistent.

In **Liberia**, the post-conflict government has received international recognition for its efforts to stamp out corruption. However, recent scandals affecting government procurement and financial management, and the perception that too many government officials are political appointees, continue to undermine transparency, accountability and public trust in the political leadership.

High-profile anti-corruption cases and scandals continue to be regularly reported in countries including **South Africa**, **Ghana** and **Senegal** and risk undermining political stability as well as the governments' capacity to provide effective basic services in sectors such as education, health and water. In such a context, corruption levels can mean the difference between life and death.

In **Kenya**, **Guinea**, **Zimbabwe** and **Niger** political leaders have failed to address the vicious cycle that links corruption to poverty. Local anti-corruption activists and whistleblowers courageous enough to publicly expose weaknesses in accountability systems are increasingly at risk as government crackdowns limit democratic opposition and stifle civil society's ability to express the voice of the people.

Individual cases, such as reports of massive corruption within the Harare City Council in **Zimbabwe**, are proof that only the introduction of clear and robust accountability systems with independent oversight, risk-management and full disclosure of the use of public funds, can help build systems of accountability that can reduce perceptions of public sector corruption. In **Niger**, the president's decision to seize emergency powers and to dissolve both parliament and the constitutional court after it ruled that a referendum to allow him to seek a third consecutive term was unconstitutional, was a blatant disregard by the political leadership of the integrity of Niger's public institutions.

With government efforts to tackle corruption seen as ineffective across the region, it is clear that there must be renewed commitments to implement anti-corruption reforms and legislation and to introduce preventative measures, including education programmes. This will help to restore public trust and contribute to a reduction in the levels of corruption throughout the region.

Rank	Regional Rank	Country / Territory	CPI 2009 Score	90% Confidence Interval		Surveys Used
				Lower bound	Upper bound	
37	1	Botswana	5.6	5.1	6.1	6
42	2	Mauritius	5.4	5.0	5.9	6
46	3	Cape Verde	5.1	3.3	7.0	3
54	4	Seychelles	4.8	3.0	6.7	3
55	5	South Africa	4.7	4.3	4.9	8
56	6	Namibia	4.5	3.9	5.1	6
69	7	Ghana	3.9	3.2	4.6	7
79	8	Burkina Faso	3.6	2.8	4.4	7
79	8	Swaziland	3.6	3.0	4.7	3
89	10	Lesotho	3.3	2.8	3.8	6
89	10	Malawi	3.3	2.7	3.9	7
89	10	Rwanda	3.3	2.9	3.7	4
97	13	Liberia	3.1	1.9	3.8	3
99	14	Madagascar	3.0	2.8	3.2	7
99	14	Senegal	3.0	2.5	3.6	7
99	14	Zambia	3.0	2.8	3.2	7
106	17	Benin	2.9	2.3	3.4	6
106	17	Gabon	2.9	2.6	3.1	3
106	17	Gambia	2.9	1.6	4.0	5
106	17	Niger	2.9	2.7	3.0	5
111	21	Mali	2.8	2.4	3.2	6
111	21	Sao Tome and Principe	2.8	2.4	3.3	3
111	21	Togo	2.8	1.9	3.9	5
120	24	Ethiopia	2.7	2.4	2.9	7
126	25	Eritrea	2.6	1.6	3.8	4
126	25	Tanzania	2.6	2.4	2.9	7
130	27	Mauritania	2.5	2.0	3.3	7
130	27	Mozambique	2.5	2.3	2.8	7
130	27	Nigeria	2.5	2.2	2.7	7
130	27	Uganda	2.5	2.1	2.8	7
143	31	Comoros	2.3	1.6	3.3	3
146	32	Cameroon	2.2	1.9	2.6	7
146	32	Kenya	2.2	1.9	2.5	7
146	32	Sierra Leone	2.2	1.9	2.4	5
146	32	Zimbabwe	2.2	1.7	2.8	7
154	36	Côte d'Ivoire	2.1	1.8	2.4	7
158	37	Central African Republic	2.0	1.9	2.2	4
162	38	Angola	1.9	1.8	1.9	5
162	38	Democratic Republic of Congo	1.9	1.7	2.1	5
162	38	Congo-Brazzaville	1.9	1.6	2.1	5
162	38	Guinea-Bissau	1.9	1.8	2.0	3
168	42	Burundi	1.8	1.6	2.0	6
168	42	Equatorial Guinea	1.8	1.6	1.9	3
168	42	Guinea	1.8	1.7	1.8	5
175	45	Chad	1.6	1.5	1.7	6
176	46	Sudan	1.5	1.4	1.7	5
180	47	Somalia	1.1	0.9	1.4	3