

PRESS RELEASE

2020 CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI)

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The 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released today by Transparency International (TI) **scored** Ghana **43** out of a possible clean score of **100** and ranked the country **75** out of 180 countries/territories included in this year's index. **This CPI score indicates that Ghana gained 2 points compared to its 2019 score of 41.** Ghana's score also exceeds the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) average score of 32 and is equal to the global average score of 43.

The TI 2020 CPI scores and ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. The CPI draws upon 13 data sources which capture the assessment of experts and business executives on a number of corrupt behaviours in the public sector. It uses a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Global Highlights

In the 2020 CPI, **Denmark** and **New Zealand** topped with **88** points each. **Syria**, **Somalia** and **South Sudan** are at the bottom with **14**, **12** and **12** points respectively. The highest scoring region is **Western Europe** and the **European Union** with an average score of **66**, while the lowest scoring region is **Sub-Saharan Africa** with an average score of **32**.

Significant changes -

Since 2012, the earliest point of comparison in the current CPI methodology, twenty-six (26) countries have significantly improved their CPI scores, including **Ecuador** (39), **Greece** (50), **Guyana** (41), **Myanmar** (28) and **South Korea** (61). Twenty-two countries significantly decreased their scores, including **Bosnia & Herzegovina** (35), **Guatemala** (25), **Lebanon** (25), **Malawi** (30), **Malta** (53) and **Poland** (56).

Nearly half of countries have been stagnant on the index for almost a decade, indicating stalled government efforts to tackle the root causes of corruption. More than two-thirds of countries scored below 50.

Ghana's performance vis-a-vis other Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries

Ghana's score of 43 placed her 10th in SSA. Seychelles is ranked highest with 66 points followed by Botswana with 60, Cabo Verde with 58, Rwanda with 54 and Mauritius scored 53 as the top five countries in SSA. Ghana also performed better than **39** other SSA countries including Benin, Lesotho, Burkina Faso, and Ethiopia, etc.

Table 1: Extract of 2020 CPI Scores for SSA countries

COUNTRY	2020 CPI SCORE	WORLD 2020 CPI RANKING	SSA 2020 CPI RANK
Seychelles	66	27	1
Botswana	60	35	2
Cabo Verde	58	41	3
Rwanda	54	49	4
Mauritius	53	52	5
Namibia	51	57	6
Sao Tome and Principe	47	63	7
Senegal	45	67	8
South Africa	44	69	9
Ghana	43	75	10
Benin	41	83	11
Lesotho	41	83	11
Burkina Faso	40	86	13
Ethiopia	38	94	14
Tanzania	38	94	14
Gambia	37	102	16

Corruption and Emergency Responses

The 2020 CPI focuses on the relationship between corruption and emergency responses. Corruption poses a critical threat to citizens' lives and livelihoods, especially when combined with a public health emergency.

According to Transparency International, the 2020 CPI reveals that, persistent corruption is undermining health care systems and contributing to democratic backsliding amid the COVID-19 pandemic. TI says, countries that perform well on the index invest more in health care and are better able to provide universal health coverage and are less likely to violate democratic norms and institutions or the rule of law.

In a statement to launch the 2020 CPI, Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair of Transparency International intimated "COVID-19 is not just a health and economic crisis, it is a corruption crisis and one that we are currently failing to manage". She further stated that "the past year has tested governments like no other in memory, and those with higher levels of corruption have been less able to meet the challenge. But even those at the top of the CPI must urgently address their role in perpetuating corruption at home and abroad."

It is important to note that, eighty per cent (80%) of the countries that significantly have improved their CPI scores since 2012 also have the percentage of their health expenditure to GDP above five per cent (5%).

The above correlation applies in the case of Ghana as the World Bank's report on the average percentage of health expenditure to GDP¹ between 2000-2018 shows that, the nine (9) SSA countries that performed better than Ghana in the 2020 CPI also spend higher on health (between 9.5 - 4.0 percent of GDP) as compared to Ghana's 3.9 percent of GDP.

Though in Ghana, Government's measures at managing the pandemic and its related impact in 2020 was generally commendable, still outstanding is the issue of accountability. To reduce incidences of corruption and better respond to current and future crises, Ghana Integrity Initiative recommends that Government:

1. **Strengthens oversight institutions** to ensure resources reach those most in need. Anti-corruption authorities and oversight institutions must have sufficient funds, resources, and independence to perform their duties in real time to identify and prevent diversion of government support
2. **Enforces procurement rules to all contracts.** Government must stay within the Public Procurement (Amendment) Act 663 while preventing the abuse of single source procurement during emergencies like COVID-19
3. **Ensures open and transparent contracting** to combat wrongdoing, identify conflicts of interest and ensure fair pricing
4. **Publishes relevant data and guarantee access to information** to ensure the public receives easy, accessible, timely and meaningful information including - (i) *COVID-19 procurement contracts above a minimum value, (ii) names and beneficial ownership of companies awarded contracts, (iii) validating delivery of services and goods, and (iv) developing specific budget lines for COVID-19 reporting*
5. **Speeds up the digitisation** of the economy to facilitate more efficient and transparent delivery of key services in the pandemic period and also facilitates the ease of doing business and prevent artificial opacity
6. **Defends democracy and promote civic space and rights** to create the enabling conditions to hold governments accountable.

¹ https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.CHEX.GD.ZS?locations=ZG&most_recent_value_desc=true
<https://api.worldbank.org/v2/en/indicator/SH.XPD.CHEX.GD.ZS?downloadformat=excel>

Note to the Editors

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) is the local chapter of Transparency International (TI), the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption for the last 20 years.

About the Corruptions Perceptions Index

Since its inception in 1995, the [Corruption Perceptions Index](#), Transparency International's flagship research product, has become the leading global indicator of public sector corruption. The index offers an annual snapshot of the relative degree of corruption by ranking countries and territories from all over the globe. In 2012, Transparency International revised the methodology used to construct the index to allow for comparison of scores from one year to the next. For more information, visit www.transparency.org/cpi.

Data Sources

The CPI 2020 is calculated using 13 different data sources from 12 different institutions that capture perceptions of corruption within the past two years. Nine data sources were used for Ghana including the World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment, World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey, Global Insight Country Risk Ratings, Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index, African Development Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment, World Justice Project Rule of law Index Expert Survey, The Political Risk Service International Country Risk Guide, Varieties of Democracy Project (V-Dem) and Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Service.

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