

## ABOUT US

**FITCAM is an affiliate or local country chapter of IGI. IGI** was begun in the late 90s by Mr. Sakwa K. Buliba, then a student at the University of Nairobi. It emerged as a very personal solitary drive.....mostly targeting Bible believing Christians, but got transformed along the way into a larger commitment of making conditions of the ordinary people better by addressing those who are charged with overseeing public affairs and involving the people themselves at all levels in the struggle for social change.

As the idea continued to take root among African professionals and Christians in particular, the focus became more on public governance and accountability. This drew much attention and many people continued to enroll into membership across Africa and in some parts of Asia and Europe.

By close of 2006, IGI had spread its wings into over 30 countries, most of them from Sub-Saharan Africa. It is run by a Board of Trustees based in England and has its head office in Nairobi, Kenya.

IGI implements its activities in different countries through the Focal Integrity Teams, which are country chapters for the organization. The principles upon which IGI executes its mandate are anchored on traditional Biblical doctrines and values.

The rationale of reformed faith approach is to interpret the meaning and purpose of life and good governance of the people in the light of the teaching of God's holy word.

IGI's work ethic requires objectivity, neutrality and equality at all times. We encourage the building of an open society where both leaders and ordinary people are ready to say, uphold and defend the truth and abhor any form of fraudulent behavior.

We collaborate with civil society organizations having an impeccable record of performance in the building of integrity in public service.

We build partnerships with our government counterparts. Our purpose in all these networks is to cultivate personal and institutional integrity, not just among those holding office in public trust but even those in the civil society movement and the general public.

As a value-based movement we believe that holding onto integrity as the pillar of our engagements with governments and the poor populations, we shall be able to fulfill our purpose; social empowerment of the vulnerable people.

## Vision

To have, in the developing countries, a public sector that is transparent, inclusive, participatory and citizen centered, which is constantly cognizant of, responsive to and answerable for the needs and aspirations of the ordinary people.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Fraud is one of Cameroon's biggest problems in public life and government, costing billions of Francs CFA, stunting development and costing lives. FITCAM's mission is to contribute towards the building and strengthening of efforts of ordinary citizens in changing the culture of their communities, so as to make corruption unacceptable; influencing those seeking public office to exercise good governance and education of the people in participating and monitoring public accountability.

## Purpose

FITCAM believes that for the poor people to know how their governments are run is inherently empowering. Our role in enhancing this is always informative and impartial.

## 1. Public Access to Information

We believe to be a good practice that the government makes information of public interest available to the ordinary people. Due to the fact that most governments don't feel obliged to release such information into the public domain, the poor people must be made aware that this information exists. Besides knowing the existence of information, the people should know how to access this information. Likewise the information should be relevant and beneficial to the masses.

FITCAM guides the poor through this process of getting to know what the government is doing in their name. It may be possible that once the poor get access to information of public interest and have clear channels of communicating their views, that they may pressurize for certain actions and outcomes. At this point, they may start questioning what the government does in their name and feel the pleasure of having space of rewarding or sanctioning those who hold offices in public trust.

Our role in enhancing this is always informative and impartial; thus creating and strengthening communication mechanisms that enable ordinary citizens to raise their concerns and the governments to hear and provide feedback.

Public hearings, public meetings, formal and informal media, theatre, participatory planning, community forums, local leaders committees, round tables, focus groups, citizen advisory groups, citizen lobby groups and public surveys are some of the methods through which FITCAM enables citizens to access, understand, analyze and respond to public information.

## 2. Election Monitoring

It is FITCAM's position that all the indicators of good governance are anchored on proper, open, representative and inclusive elections. This is the spine of legitimate leadership. If a few power hungry people managed to push their way into public office, they will be accountable to nobody but themselves. They shall serve personal interests at the expense of the public good and issues of integrity and human rights will find no place in their operational structures.

Our Election Monitoring program aims at re-assuring the poor people of their civic responsibility to remain vigilant and actively participating in the political life of their country. We call this political accountability, where the people participate in a regular open, free and fair election where they exercise their free hand in rewarding or punishing those who hold office in public trust.

FITCAM principally monitors national elections, observing to see that the poor population civic views and desires are safeguarded. In pursuance of the same, we also offer training to polling clerks, electoral officials and parliamentary representatives to nurture a culture of practicing free and fair elections, in the interest of the people.

## 3. Public Service Training

We define good governance as constantly cultivating, inculcating and upholding personal and institutional integrity in the management of public affairs for the benefit of the public. Corruption limits opportunities, creates inefficiencies and forms additional barriers to the smooth delivery of public services. Crucially, from the perspective of the IGI, corruption cumulatively undermines the moral fabric of society and stifles any progress towards achieving open society and development goals. The object of the civil society public service training is to enable communities and ordinary citizens engage effectively in anti-corruption actions; facilitating a wider, faster and more impactful sharing of ideas and information. Thus strengthening a network community of knowledge and practice, one that can identify and easily engage in actionable measures that help poorly functioning, weakly coordinated, or insufficiently capacitated civil communities and citizens to work better and succeed in making their own communities and public institutions free of corruption.

FITCAM intends to take anti-corruption initiative to a more collective action level. We develop and provide access to training tools and codes relevant to various counties, as well as utilize our clout that comes with representing a broader and active segment of the society for maximum impact. We utilize our outreach skills and high level access to decision makers to be positive agents for reforms, linking with other state agencies. In line with the need for governments in the Central Africa sub region to engage in sustainable corruption prevention efforts FITCAM develop and provide specialized training programs devised to enhance the skills and competencies of investigators and prosecutors to analyze, investigate and prosecute complex corruption, financial crime and money laundering cases; thus strengthening the capacities of regulatory agencies in recovering stolen assets, with an emphasis on financial investigations and asset tracing techniques, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation in relation to corruption and money laundering cases. Such efforts are supported by vigorous empirical diagnostics and analysis. We maintain open approach that strengthens individual stakeholders' actions, but also recognize the potential value of collective action through bottom – up coalitions for reform.

#### 4. Expenditure Monitoring

FITCAM believes that it is not enough to assess the symptoms of corruption. We have to look for new tools that will help tackle the demand and supply. One of such innovation employed by our team is to engage civil society in monitoring the effectiveness and actual use of government spending. The poor use of public resources constitutes one of the core factors for increased poverty and poor infrastructure development in Cameroonian communities. In order to better hold community leaders and public officials accountable and to promote improvements in social sector public spending and service delivery;

FITCAM engages civil society in public investment budget tracking and monitoring. We work with our government counterparts, nongovernmental organizations and private sector entities helping them improve their capacity and policies to ensure effective public expenditure accountability. We concentrate in disclosing public investment budgets and program realization levels to ordinary Cameroonians and government regulatory agencies by providing a platform where ordinary citizens and beneficiaries of government development programs and projects can access information of interest and pressurize for certain accountability actions and outcomes.

FITCAM works in collaboration with the Cameroon National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC), the Ministry of Public Contracts (MINMAP) and the Agency for the Regulation of Public Contracts (ARMP).

#### 5. Research

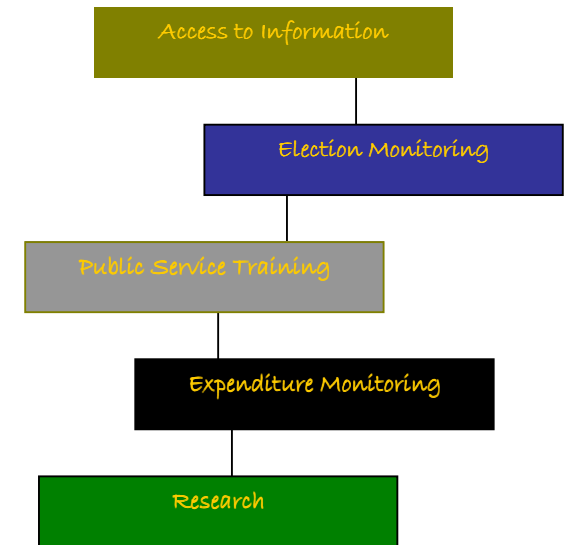
Our research program offers support to the other programs inquiring about problems in the significant areas of our coverage. This may include public finance systems, legislative processes, law reviews, corruption indices and it may also include public perceptions on various governance regimes and matrices. Research findings are shared among IGI peers and with primary stakeholders before being released to the public. Research is carried out to seek answers to various questions in public governance, to find explanations to certain recurring features of particular policy, to find out new ways of approaching certain governance problems and to seek baseline data to help resolve governance puzzles.

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*...building integrity in acquiring and exercising public duty*