



International Newsletter – April 2014

From the Trustees...

Transparency International publishes an index of corruption perceptions which is revised each year, based on research in 177 countries (<http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2013/results/>). Strikingly, the world map showing the countries from yellow (very clean) to red (very corrupt) is still overwhelmingly red. Only 54 of 177 countries score 50 points or above, out of a maximum of 100 points. Corruption remains a massive problem.

But it's encouraging that there seems to be a groundswell of public opinion against corruption. What was once seen as a way of life is no longer acceptable. This is, above all, a movement of ordinary people, and IGI is right in the middle of it - a Christian voice for integrity in more and more communities in Africa. IGI helps the poor to have a voice, and to ensure that resources go to essential human needs, not off-shore bank accounts.

You can be a partner in this movement by praying for, or otherwise supporting, IGI projects such as those below.

For more information, please see our website: www.igi-integrity.com, or visit our Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/114264381979403).



Rwanda - promoting integrity to the citizens of tomorrow

RIG (Rwanda Institute of Governance) have been busy over the last few months. Following participation in planning and delivering Rwanda's "Governance Month", they were involved in February and March in the launch of a civic education programme in schools and universities (seen above at a secondary school at Huye district in southern Rwanda).

This programme complements their work organizing associations of youth volunteers in Kigali.

Congo – will elections cement peace or make things worse?

DRC has announced a road map for a cycle of elections over the next three years, starting with local and municipal elections this year, and culminating in presidential elections in 2016. These will be the first local elections in DRC, and the first presidential election since 2011. Elections in DRC are noted for fraud and violence. So, local IGI members are very concerned about how they will be implemented and the effects.

Events planned over the coming months include:

14 June Seminar on local election process in DRC intended to guide civil society members on how to prevent fraud and corruption in those first local elections, and to encourage young leaders (especially women) to apply as candidates.

27 June Radio shows with youth from eastern DRC, Rwanda and Burundi to explore the impact of corruption in their universities, and how to fight it.

7 July Radio show on corruption in business.

These events are being funded by the members of IGI-DRC themselves; expanding this valuable work will depend on availability of additional funding.



Somalia – attacking corruption at all levels

Since the registration of IGI-Somalia, the FIT has organised consultations, including a launch workshop on the effects of corruption in the country, followed by a public training a workshop. The latter was held at Kuwait Hotel, to which young people, local elders, politicians, a group of Somali intellectuals and a member of the current Somali parliament were invited. This is thought to be the first training of its kind in Somalia. (See photos left and below.)

IGI Somalia has also started implementing anti-corruption awareness campaigns in schools in Mogadishu. These have taken place in four schools so far, with very good participation from pupils.

Such training and sensitization is sorely needed in view of the rampant corruption across Somali society. For example, Turkey slashed its substantial aid to Somalia at the end of 2013, following serious corruption scandals in Mogadishu. Somalia sits with Afghanistan and North Korea as the worst of 177 countries in Transparency International's 2013 table of global corruption perceptions.

IGI Somalia urgently needs funds to enable them to continue these activities and to raise project funding more widely.



Kenya

Community Taxpayers Associations continue to expand, with another three launched in 2014. CTAs mobilize grassroots organizations and local communities to promote of probity and accountability in the County administrations. They work to change the way local economies are managed, neighborhoods are policed, social services are delivered and increase public accountability and information flow in the community.

Cameroon

Building on FITCAM's experience of capacity-building in the education sector, UK-based Indigo Trust has agreed to support the creation of an IT platform to increase the access of stakeholders to information on government spending for each school. This will help them to hold government and contractors to account for their use of resources.

See also: www.fitcameroon.org

Points for Prayer

- Strength and support for Sakwa as he leads the growing network of Kenyan CTAs
- Continued protection and support for high-profile leaders in other established FITs, such as Stephen (Cameroon), Martin and Lorik (Congo), Hilaire (Rwanda), Yahya and Habiba (Somalia)
- The ceasefire to hold in South Sudan, and for wisdom as we try to develop collaboration with others working in that country
- Wisdom for UK Trustees seeking to increase support in UK
- Thank God for a safe and successful annual conference in Nairobi in December

Don't forget to tell us if you are changing your email address