



International Newsletter – September 2014

From the Trustees...

IGI has small groups separated by vast distances across Africa, thousands of miles from supporters in UK and funders in Europe and America. In some countries there are only a handful of members. How are they to keep in touch? Social media such as Facebook can be a very valuable tool, as shown by the article below. As usual, we also have updates from around Africa.



For more information, please see our website: www.igi-integrity.com, where you'll find extended versions of the reports below, or visit our Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/114264381979403).

Training the youth of Rwanda



RIG organized a training day for 30 youth in the city of Kigali on volunteers' engagement within their communities. Those trained worked with local leaders to set up a joint plan that will be implemented during the forthcoming year. As part of its programme of training in secondary schools in the city of Kigali and the Southern Province, RIG is preparing a training manual on integrity

Somalia

IGI Somalia has continued its programme of consultations and seminars on corruption issues, including an awareness campaign in Mogadishu University, participation in local FM radio discussions of corruption issues in Somalia. They have also held partnership discussions with educational institutions and local organisations, such as Juba Foundation, Kanava youth associations and Mogadishu university.

IGI Somalia plan to continue their anti-corruption forums at Mogadishu University, and the media awareness campaign, while developing wider projects with Kanava Youth Association (www.kanavary.fi) – a Finnish-based organisation serving Somalia.



Social media - building a global community

IGI has active members and supporters spread over Africa, as well as in Europe. Our vision is to be a partnership between Christians in many countries. But how can we keep touch with one another regularly and effectively? How are we to make contact with those who would support IGI, if only they knew about it? Digital technology answers both of these questions.

In addition to the website, emails and Skype, **social media** is a powerful tool – especially with the advent of smartphones. Studies suggest that people become involved and support charities with which they have a personal connection. Facebook and other online social networks provide an opportunity to link up with people we may never meet in person, and gain their trust and support for the work of IGI.

IGI has a Facebook group:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/114264381979403/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/114264381979403)

Currently there are 50 people on the Facebook group and you will probably not know most of these people. Facebook presents us with an opportunity informally to share the work of IGI so that supporters and potential supporters can start to pray and support IGI, and be pointed to more detailed sources of information (such as FIT reports, project reports, the IGI website).



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Congo (DRC)



IGI in DRC continued their public awareness programme with a stimulating series of radio debates on corruption and democracy. The first debate concerned youth, principally those from a universities club formed during IGI's first project. It was also an occasion to update their activities and show the public how they fight corruption in the universities, including monitoring methods.

The second and third debates were on democracy, ahead of elections at all levels. The debates involved members of civil society, journalists and IGI, in partnership with Radio Maendeleo. Questions included: What is the role of civil action in constitutional challenges? How to preserve peace in case of trouble? What influence has corruption in parliament? Why have there been no local elections since 2006?

IGI has also helped in a study funded by *Rain Forest Norway* on the livelihoods of indigenous Pygmy peoples in Idjwi Island (South Kivu).

Kenya

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

Points for Prayer

- Thank God for all the anti-corruption work reported above, and pray for the continuing projects
- Pray for the arrangements for the AGM in December, especially for Sakwa organizing it, for safe travel, interesting and productive discussions, renewed relationships
- Pray for strengthening of relationships and sharing between IGI groups in different countries
- Pray for more people to be involved in UK

[social media, cont'd...]

Facebook can also create a global discussion on critical issues of good governance and corruption, helping local workers to use the latest and best methods. They can also know that they are not alone in their work.

Looking further ahead, friendships and fellowship can be started over the internet using Facebook that may result in people wanting to visit and encourage IGI workers in Africa.

A word of caution: the Facebook page must **NOT** be used to promote views or ideologies that are not part of IGI's message, or may divide members, or to target people to get money. Any posts of this sort will be quickly removed.

Facebook **can provide** a vital two-way dialogue between us and other members and supporters, providing information and feedback. Because of its speed, we can quickly mobilise many to help or pray in a crisis. It can build the relationships that should be at the heart of all successful Christian service.

Why don't you...

- Upload photos of IGI work
- Provide 'blogs' of what a day working for IGI means for you
- Share why IGI matters to you.
- Share ideas for projects in your countries
- Ask for prayer or advice?

For more ideas, read Andrew Bennett's article at: <http://www.igi-integrity.com/Documents/SocialMedia.pdf> - or just contact him on Facebook!

Cameroon

As reported last time, UK-based Indigo Trust is supporting the creation of an IT platform to increase the access of stakeholders to information on government spending for each school. Implementation started in April, visiting selected pilot sites to collect information.

FITCAM also continued to expose corruption – for example, helping expose and bring to justice a public official who abused the tender process for construction contracts, awarding them to bidders not technically or financially qualified.

They now also have the corrupt **health sector** in their sights. Pervasive corruption in Cameroon's public health system has left millions of at-risk adults and children without access to basic health services. Often, doctors and nurses sell drugs for their own profit and prioritise paying private work over their public responsibilities.

There's lots more happening – so see also: www.fitcameroon.org