

International Governance Institute ...61

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

International Newsletter - May 2023



From the Trustees...

Now the newly elected Kenyan officials have settled in, IGI Kenya will be putting into operation its new plans to hold local elected officials to account. We are also just starting a new project in Cameroon, and have plans for the next stage of the DR Congo campaign, to be implemented when we can afford to fund it.



We hope you find the newsletter interesting, and we'd love to hear from you (paul@igi-integrity.com). (To unsubscribe, please use the same address.)

If you want to help our African friends clean up their communities, you can donate at: www.igi-integrity.com/support/, or by contacting us at accounts@igi-integrity.com.

Medical corruption in Cameroon

Following on from the successful work with local businesses and municipal officials, and the recent project in the agricultural sector, IGI Cameroon have now set their sights on the health sector.

In agriculture, IGI-C highlighted the bribes demanded for processing farmers' cooperative registration documents and other official services, as well as at the seedling and fertilizer distribution centres. In addition to providing training workshops, IGI-C helped establish a Corruption Risk Management and Integrity Monitoring System. The system is now being used to investigate, document and deal with corruption in funded projects and farmers' registration.



However, to quote Stephen, who leads IGI-C:

"The **public health sector** is another pain-point where anti-corruption activities are rare and corrupt conduct blossoms like wildfire."

Preventable deaths are reported daily in regional hospitals simply because of corrupt practices at the blood bank department where patients must offer a bribe before they are transfused blood that was donated to the hospital

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freely by blood donors. Hospital management are known to extort additional money from desperate patients for laboratory tests, drugs, hospital beds and surgery. Doctors have even been reported to demand money from patients, in their office, for reading histopathological slides. Currently less than 2% of target clients of the IGI health-sector initiative ae thought to have received any anti-corruption training.

The new project will deliver:

- Training tools and skills to fight fraud and corruption, delivered through capacity-building workshops;
- A toolbox / system for trainees (including some from the Anti-Corruption Units of the government health ministry) to identify and report corruption;
- A public healthcare users' link with IGI for reporting corruption in hospitals, other health care centres and public offices.

Holding public officers to account in Kenya

Over the last year-and-a-half, IGI Kenya has successively run multiple public forums for electoral candidates, and then contributed to several key aspects of trying to ensure that the 2022 general election was fairly run. It is now time to implement the third stage of this programme, and ensure that elected individuals actually deliver on that for which they were elected.

Key issues that concern Kenyans include:

- Nepotism and cronyism in appointments;
- Unfair distribution of tax resources;
- Corrupt procurement of public goods and services;
- Waste:
- · Lack of transparency for expenditure;
- Shoddy and late delivery of services;
- Impunity of fraudulent officials.



The project, has just been given the go-ahead. It will use the CTAs (Community Taxpayers' Associations) to arrange regular, impartially moderated public forums. Citizens will submit their concerns in advance and be given the opportunity to

quiz the relevant public officers at the forums. The outcomes will then be followed up

by members of IGI-K CTAs.

As Sakwa and Robert write, apart from the immediate impacts of the project, the long-term goals include "creating a vibrant political culture in which the local communities" active citizenry demand public accountability from public officials".

Congo campaign

Following the successful radio broadcasts last year, educating the populace in how to recognise and resist local corruption, a new project is planned to reinforce the messages by a long-term poster campaign. Posters are to



be located close to places of official transactions, or where corruption is known to take place, to remind people of the requirements of integrity and how to resist corruption. Phone lines will continue to be available for reporting instances of corruption.

However, this project currently remains on the shelf, due to lack of resources to fund it within IGI. External donors seem no longer available, due to the general security situation in eastern Congo.

Meanwhile, the security situation remains tense in North Kivu, and health problems unabated. Any real improvement is unlikely until after the general election scheduled for 20 December 2023. In fact, there are concerns that instability during and after the election period may only make things worse. Please continue to pray for this vast country, the size of Western Europe, and especially for its eastern provinces.

Prayer points

- Praise that we have been able to start two exciting new projects in the last couple of months.
- Prayer for the funds needed to develop the work, including in the short term ability to support a follow-up campaign in Congo DRC.
- For Congo DRC in the run-up to the December elections; safety for Martin.
- For safety for the Kenyan IGI staff and CTAs running the forums to hold elected officers to account and for effectiveness.
- For Hilaire: growth in the work of educating Rwandan children in integrity.
- For Stephen, as IGI-Cameroon move into the medical sector and a successful project.
- For the Trustees, as they try to increase the UK support of all kinds for IGI.