



International Newsletter – September 2023



From the Trustees...

IGI Kenya has progressed well with the forums to hold officials to account, despite bureaucratic challenges. See below for the next phase. We also report on the first stage of the Cameroon health sector anti-corruption campaign. But we are still awaiting funds for the next phase in DR Congo.

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.



Challenges to IGI-Kenya

The third stage of the IGI-K programme on the integrity of public officials has been going well. In some areas there were delays while officials newly-elected in August 2022 continued to work to budgets set by their predecessors (the Kenyan fiscal year runs from July). We have just completed the first round of forums, involving 22 public meetings in three areas (Nairobi, Nakuru and western Kenya). The meetings were successful, attracting good attendance and involvement on the part of the public. Most of the issues raised turned out to be about transportation and roads, public recruitment, public procurement and the distribution of funds.

Following review, the next stage is to build capacity in the CTAs (Community Taxpayers' Associations) to continue the work sustainably. This is vital for creating a relationship of accountability between the local people and the officials, which will allow the community to demand results, rather than just talk.

Maybe due to the success of this campaign, the authorities have turned their attention to IGI Kenya, claiming that further official registrations are required, This has involved the leaders in extra bureaucracy and cost. We should not be surprised in an environment of corruption, that those under scrutiny may fight back. We must pray for the safety of our people in Kenya, and that the work will not be stifled by officialdom.



Figure 1 - A simple, powerful tool for corrupt officials (courtesy, www.quotemaster.org)

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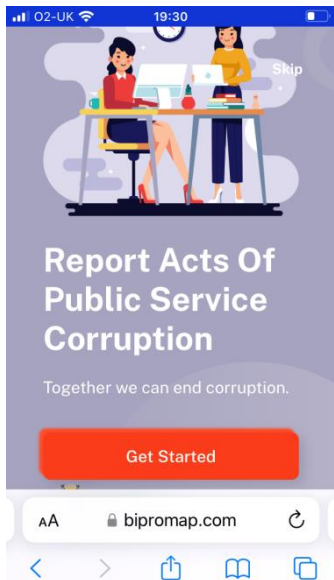


Figure 2 - Screen-shot of the new IGI-C app

Up-date on medical corruption project in Cameroon

As we reported in May, the new integrity project in Cameroon addresses the highly-corrupt medical sector, building on the workshops carried out in previous years for local business people and in the agricultural sector.

The first workshop in the medical staff and administrators took place in July. It was well-received by attendees and had favourable media coverage.

An additional feature of this campaign is the pilot of a new app for mobile phones and laptops enabling instant reporting of corruption incidents (screen-shot opposite).

The next phase will build on the workshop with more publicity and training, improve the app, develop follow-up, and extend the use of these tools.

Congo report

DRC faces a general election in December. The eastern part of the country remains very tense, as there continue to be clashes with M23 rebels, resulting in large numbers of internally displaced persons around North Kivu province and the north east. The government has placed the area under martial rule, and decided that conditions are not stable enough to hold the election in that part of the country. Please pray for peace generally, and particularly for safety for Martin who works in Goma (capital of North Kivu province).

Corruption remains a huge problem, both at the level of “grand corruption” and that of daily life. For instance, there are reports of extensive corruption relating to gold mining in eastern DRC, and that Qataris and Emiratis are involved. The problems of corruption will only really be dealt with by changes in culture, which need to take effect at grass-roots level. Then the people will demand change of their politicians. It is a huge task, but the work of IGI is a start. It makes a difference to local communities providing local people with tools to resist the pressure of corruption on their lives.

We still plan to follow up the radio campaign of last year using long-term poster hoardings, when we have funds (May edition of this newsletter).

Rwanda update

The new school term in Rwanda kicks off with a fresh round of school visits to teach about integrity and the dangers of corruption. Hilaire and his colleagues faithfully keep up this vital work of preparing the next generation of Rwandans for a better, cleaner community.

Rwanda performs better on integrity than many African countries, but corruption is still a problem. Rwanda Transport Development Agency (RTDA) has just been accused to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee of fraud relating to payments of 1.5 billion FRW (ca. 1m GBP) – alongside other public bodies for other cases.

Now IGI Rwanda has plans for using social media. So watch out for future reports!

Prayer points

- Praise for ongoing achievements in Cameroon and Kenya.
- Prayer for funds needed, including support for a follow-up campaign in Congo.
- For Congo DRC in the run-up to the December elections; safety for Martin in the current unrest.
- Safety and lack of obstruction for the Kenyan IGI staff and CTAs holding elected officers to account - and for sustainability.
- Hilaire, starting the new Rwandan school term.
- Trustees: to increase UK support and to build partnerships more widely.



Figure 3 - One of our Rwandan school sessions



Figure 4 - Rwandan Public Accounts Committee