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Dear friend of IGI,

It's great to be able to share our work with you again. Please particularly read what we say below about why fighting corruption is so important.

IGI needs to increase its support-base, so feel free to pass this newsletter on, or talk about it to your friends.

Please take a moment to reply to this email, to tell us whether it is helpful. Would other means be more useful - such as social media, or on-line conferencing? Is the frequency of communication right? Is the content what you need? Thank you again for your support!

Cameroon - new faces, but the same good work

Stephen, who has so ably led IGI Cameroon since its start over 15 years ago, has now been appointed to a period as a senior advisor with the Yaounde embassy of a major western country. So, he has had to step back from the leadership to avoid conflicts of interest. The work of IGI-C will now be led by Dr Tabenyang Alain and Rev. Sama Ndaghu. They have already made a good start, building relationships with networks within Cameroon and internationally, supporting the launch of the Civil Society Parallel Report on UNCAC (see May newsletter), and taking part in training.



Active democracy in Kenya...

Robert has continued his work of supporting the Community Taxpayers' Associations in holding local officials to account. The photos opposite show Robert addressing a church in Kajiado East about the role of ordinary citizens in maintaining public accountability, and CTA Members led by their Chair Evelyn, after a meeting at Emuhaya Market of Vihiga County

We're very thankful to report better health for Sakwa - thanks for your prayers!



Why does it all matter?

Talk about reducing corruption in Africa may sound abstract - a million miles from the hunger, ill-health, unemployment and war that blight the lives of millions. Why is it important?

Actually, behind those very human problems, lurks fraud and corruption. The UN (*UNCTAD Economic Development in Africa 2020 Report*), estimates **Africa loses more than US\$50 billion a year to illicit flows**. This huge sum of money could have been used for poverty reduction, improved welfare and investment. Furthermore, it is also impossible to capture the numerous local bribes and corrupt distortions which create an all-pervading culture of corruption, an atmosphere of disregard for law and ethics, that destabilises society and renders overseas inward investment unthinkable.

Corruption affects the poorest worst of all. At the bottom of the "food-chain", they are robbed of their rights, robbed of their cash, condemned to poverty and squalor. All the countries where IGI operates are in the **bottom 30% for human development** (UN HDI - a measure of longevity, education and personal income). Except for Rwanda, they are also all among the **worst third of countries for corruption perception** (Transparency Int.). Behind these statistics, lies real human tragedy.

Research by Mungui-Pippidi (*The Quest for Good Governance*, CUP, 2015) showed that successful endeavours to end corruption "were grass-roots, not donor-led and included voluntary work." That is exactly the formula that we have been following in IGI. The question is, who in our relatively rich countries really cares?



Rwanda

Hilaire and colleagues steadily continue the work of visiting schools. This year they have introduced printed training material to leave with the schools so that the Integrity Clubs can continue to grow between visits.

DR Congo

Earlier this year, the M23 Rebels, supported by Rwanda, violently took control of Goma and Bukavu, where IGI operates and Martin lives with his family. A supposed peace agreement negotiated in April with US support in Qatar has still not been implemented. Although there is a nominal ceasefire, the rebels remain in control of the area, with disturbing reports of killings and other human rights violations. Martin seems safe for now.



Prayer, please!

> Dr Alain and Rev Sama in their new roles in IGI-Cameroon.

> Safety for Martin and family in DRC, and implementation of a peace agreement between Rwanda/rebels and DRC.

> Continued efforts to develop the work of IGI, improving interest and support in UK and USA.

> The new material for schools and the ongoing visits in Rwanda, led by Hilaire.