

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2015

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**MORE THAN 6 BILLION PEOPLE LIVE IN COUNTRIES WITH A SERIOUS
CORRUPTION PROBLEM**



This nine-year-old girl is one of them.

She lives in Dhaka, Bangladesh – one of 114 countries that scores below 50 out of 100 in our 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index, indicating serious levels of public sector corruption.

Instead of going to school, she spends her days sorting bottles at a recycling factory. Officially child labour is illegal in Bangladesh. Unofficially a bribe paid to the right official can mean exceptions are made.

Like all exploitation, child labour remains a sad reality in environments where citizens are trapped in poverty and corrupt officials can be paid off.

It's just one example of the devastation fuelled by corruption. Others include human trafficking, child mortality, poor education standards, environmental destruction and terrorism.

Put simply – public sector corruption is about so much more than missing money. It's about people's lives, and it's a global problem.

Based on expert opinion, the Corruption Perceptions Index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption worldwide.

The scale of the issue is huge. Sixty-eight per cent of countries worldwide have a serious corruption problem. Half of the G20 are among them.

Not one single country, anywhere in the world, is corruption-free.

📷 © Giles Clarke. Three men live and work on a massive waste dump just miles outside the capital of Haiti – tied with Venezuela as the Americas' lowest scorer. Around 2,000 other people make up the 'dump community' who live in dirt and smoke 24 hours a day without running water. They all want to work elsewhere but can't find employment.



“ The 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index clearly shows that corruption remains a blight around the world. But 2015 was also a year when people again took to the streets to protest corruption. People across the globe sent a strong signal to those in power: it is time to tackle grand corruption.

José Ugaz,

Chair, Transparency International

WHICH COUNTRIES IMPROVED? WHICH GOT WORSE?

2015 showed that people working together can succeed in fighting corruption. Although corruption is still rife globally, more countries improved their scores in 2015 than declined.

Some countries have improved in recent years – Greece, Senegal and the UK are among those that have seen a significant increase in scores since 2012.

Others, including Australia, Brazil, Libya, Spain and Turkey, have deteriorated.

Dealing with many entrenched corruption issues, Brazil has been rocked by the Petrobras scandal, in which politicians are reported to have taken kickbacks in exchange for awarding public contracts. As the economy crunches, tens of thousands of ordinary Brazilians have lost their jobs already. They didn't make the decisions that led to the scandal. But they're the ones living with the consequences.

CORRUPTION AND CONFLICT GO HAND IN HAND

© Xinhua/Pan Chaoyue. In Syria, as in other countries, deep corruption has helped finance violent extremist groups and provide them with a powerful narrative for recruitment. Vast quantities of weapons have been sold in the region primarily by Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States often with little oversight.

LOWEST SCORERS CHARACTERISED BY BLOODY AND ENTRENCHED CONFLICT

Six of the 10 most corrupt countries also rank among the **10 least peaceful places in the world.** (http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2017/04/Global-Peace-Index-Report-2015_0.pdf)

In Afghanistan, millions of dollars that should have gone on reconstruction have been reportedly **wasted or stolen** (<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2015/06/perils-corruption-afghanistan-150623074926689.html>), seriously undermining efforts to sustain peace.

Even where there's not open conflict, the levels of inequality and poverty in these countries are devastating.

In Angola, **70 per cent** (<http://data.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/wdi-2014-book.pdf>) of the population live on US\$2 a day or less. One in six children die before the age of five – making it **the deadliest place in the world to be a child** (http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/19/opinion/nicholas-kristof-deadliest-country-for-kids.html?_r=0). More than 150,000 children die each year.

ARE HIGH SCORING COUNTRIES EXPORTING CORRUPTION OVERSEAS?

📷 © David Rengel. An activist in Cambodia stands on piles of wood that once formed the forest she grew up in. She says the government evicted her village to make way for foreign companies who want to use the area to grow sugarcane and rubber. She's now fighting to regain the land.

MANY “CLEAN” COUNTRIES HAVE DODGY RECORDS OVERSEAS

Northern Europe emerges well in the index – it's home to four of the top five countries.



But just because a country has a clean public sector at home, doesn't mean it isn't linked to corruption elsewhere.

Take Sweden for instance. It comes fourth in the index, yet the Swedish-Finnish firm TeliaSonera – 37 per cent owned by the Swedish state – **is facing allegations that it paid millions of dollars** (<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/846663e0-5d19-11e5-97e9-7f0bf5e7177b.html#axzz3xsGUolrj>) in bribes to secure business in Uzbekistan, which comes in at 153rd in the index.

The company is now pulling out of business in Central Asia, but Sweden isn't the only “clean” country to be linked to dodgy behaviour overseas. As our research shows, **half of all OECD countries** (http://www.transparency.org/exporting_corruption) are violating their international obligations to crack down on bribery by their companies abroad.

TABLE OF RESULTS: CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2015

A country or territory's score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). A country's rank indicates its position relative to the other countries in the index. This year's index includes 168 countries and territories. Click on the column headings to sort the results, or use the search to view the results for one country. Note that N/A means a country was not included in the index during a particular year. To learn more about the results and view the confidence intervals, please see our FAQs (http://files.transparency.org/content/download/1951/12816/file/2015_CPI_FAQsZIP.zip) and download an XLS (http://files.transparency.org/content/download/1956/12836/file/2015_CPI_data.xlsx) or JSON ([/assets/data/cpi2015/cpi-data.json](http://assets/data/cpi2015/cpi-data.json)) of the results.

Rank	Country/territory	2015 Score	2014 Score	2013 Score	2012 Score
1	Denmark	91	92	91	90
1	New Zealand	91	91	91	90
3	Finland	90	89	89	90
4	Sweden	89	87	89	88
5	Norway	88	86	86	85
6	Switzerland	86	86	85	86
7	Luxembourg	85	82	80	80

Rank	Country/territory	2015 Score	2014 Score	2013 Score	2012 Score
7	Singapore	85	84	86	87
9	Netherlands	84	83	83	84
10	Canada	83	81	81	84
11	Germany	81	79	78	79
11	United Kingdom	81	78	76	74
13	Australia	79	80	81	85
13	Iceland	79	79	78	82
15	Belgium	77	76	75	75
16	Austria	76	72	69	69
16	United States	76	74	73	73
18	Hong Kong	75	74	75	77
18	Ireland	75	74	72	69
18	Japan	75	76	74	74
21	Uruguay	74	73	73	72
22	Qatar	71	69	68	68
23	Chile	70	73	71	72
23	Estonia	70	69	68	64
23	France	70	69	71	71
23	United Arab Emirates	70	70	69	68
27	Bhutan	65	65	63	63
28	Portugal	64	63	62	63
29	Botswana	63	63	64	65
29	Poland	63	61	60	58
31	Taiwan	62	61	61	61

Rank	Country/territory	2015 Score	2014 Score	2013 Score	2012 Score
32	Cyprus	61	63	63	66
32	Israel	61	60	61	60
34	Malta	60	55	56	57
34	Slovenia	60	58	57	61
36	Lithuania	59	58	57	54
37	Spain	58	60	59	65
38	Czech Republic	56	51	48	49
38	Latvia	56	55	53	49
40	Cape Verde	55	57	58	60
40	Costa Rica	55	54	53	54
40	Seychelles	55	55	54	52
43	Korea (South)	54	55	55	56
43	Rwanda	54	49	53	53
45	Jordan	53	49	45	48
45	Mauritius	53	54	52	57
45	Namibia	53	49	48	48
48	Georgia	52	52	49	52
48	Saudi Arabia	52	49	46	44
50	Bahrain	51	49	48	51
50	Croatia	51	48	48	46
50	Hungary	51	54	54	55
50	Slovakia	51	50	47	46
54	Malaysia	50	52	50	49
55	Kuwait	49	44	43	44

Rank	Country/territory	2015 Score	2014 Score	2013 Score	2012 Score
56	Cuba	47	46	46	48
56	Ghana	47	48	46	45
58	Greece	46	43	40	36
58	Romania	46	43	43	44
60	Oman	45	45	47	47
61	Italy	44	43	43	42
61	Lesotho	44	49	49	45
61	Montenegro	44	42	44	41
61	Senegal	44	43	41	36
61	South Africa	44	44	42	43
66	Sao Tome and Principe	42	42	42	42
66	The FYR of Macedonia	42	45	44	43
66	Turkey	42	45	50	49
69	Bulgaria	41	43	41	41
69	Jamaica	41	38	38	38
71	Serbia	40	41	42	39
72	El Salvador	39	39	38	38
72	Mongolia	39	39	38	36
72	Panama	39	37	35	38
72	Trinidad and Tobago	39	38	38	39
76	Bosnia and Herzegovina	38	39	42	42
76	Brazil	38	43	42	43
76	Burkina Faso	38	38	38	38
76	India	38	38	36	36

Rank	Country/territory	2015 Score	2014 Score	2013 Score	2012 Score
76	Thailand	38	38	35	37
76	Tunisia	38	40	41	41
76	Zambia	38	38	38	37
83	Benin	37	39	36	36
83	China	37	36	40	39
83	Colombia	37	37	36	36
83	Liberia	37	37	38	41
83	Sri Lanka	37	38	37	40
88	Albania	36	33	31	33
88	Algeria	36	36	36	34
88	Egypt	36	37	32	32
88	Indonesia	36	34	32	32
88	Morocco	36	39	37	37
88	Peru	36	38	38	38
88	Suriname	36	36	36	37
95	Armenia	35	37	36	34
95	Mali	35	32	28	34
95	Philippines	35	38	36	34
98	Bolivia	34	35	34	34
98	Djibouti	34	34	36	36
98	Gabon	34	37	34	35
98	Niger	34	35	34	33
102	Dominican Republic	33	32	29	32
102	Ethiopia	33	33	33	33

Rank	Country/territory	2015 Score	2014 Score	2013 Score	2012 Score
102	Kosovo	33	33	33	34
102	Moldova	33	35	35	36
106	Argentina	32	34	34	35
106	Belarus	32	31	29	31
106	Cote d'Ivoire	32	32	27	29
106	Ecuador	32	33	35	32
106	Togo	32	29	29	30
111	Honduras	31	29	26	28
111	Malawi	31	33	37	37
111	Mauritania	31	30	30	31
111	Mexico	31	35	34	34
111	Mozambique	31	31	30	31
111	Vietnam	31	31	31	31
117	Pakistan	30	29	28	27
117	Tanzania	30	31	33	35
119	Azerbaijan	29	29	28	27
119	Guyana	29	30	27	28
119	Russia	29	27	28	28
119	Sierra Leone	29	31	30	31
123	Gambia	28	29	28	34
123	Guatemala	28	32	29	33
123	Kazakhstan	28	29	26	28
123	Kyrgyzstan	28	27	24	24
123	Lebanon	28	27	28	30

Rank	Country/territory	2015 Score	2014 Score	2013 Score	2012 Score
123	Madagascar	28	28	28	32
123	Timor-Leste	28	28	30	33
130	Cameroon	27	27	25	26
130	Iran	27	27	25	28
130	Nepal	27	29	31	27
130	Nicaragua	27	28	28	29
130	Paraguay	27	24	24	25
130	Ukraine	27	26	25	26
136	Comoros	26	26	28	28
136	Nigeria	26	27	25	27
136	Tajikistan	26	23	22	22
139	Bangladesh	25	25	27	26
139	Guinea	25	25	24	24
139	Kenya	25	25	27	27
139	Laos	25	25	26	21
139	Papua New Guinea	25	25	25	25
139	Uganda	25	26	26	29
145	Central African Republic	24	24	25	26
146	Congo Republic	23	23	22	26
147	Chad	22	22	19	19
147	Democratic Republic of the Congo	22	22	22	21
147	Myanmar	22	21	21	15
150	Burundi	21	20	21	19
150	Cambodia	21	21	20	22



“Corruption can be beaten if we work together. To stamp out the abuse of power, bribery and shed light on secret deals, citizens must together tell their governments they have had enough.

José Ugaz,

Chair, Transparency International

CORRUPTION BREAKDOWN BY REGION

By looking at the regions, certain trends emerge:

“We’ve witnessed two remarkable trends in the **Americas** (<http://wp.me/pxeWx-4pA>) in 2015: the uncovering of grand corruption networks and the mass mobilisation of citizens against corruption,” says Alejandro Salas, Transparency International Director for the Americas. “The Petrobras and La Línea scandals are testament to these trends in the two biggest regional decliners: Brazil and Guatemala. The challenge now is to tackle the underlying causes and reduce impunity for corruption.”

“Between Australia’s slipping scores and North Korea’s predictably disastrous performance, this year’s index shows no significant improvement,” notes Srirak Plipat, Director for **Asia Pacific** (<http://wp.me/pxeWx-4pQ>). “Has Asia Pacific stalled in its efforts to fight corruption? This year’s poor results demand that leaders revisit the genuineness of their efforts and propel the region forward with actionable



© Mauro Pimentel. Protesters attempt to set fire to the Rio de Janeiro's Legislative Assembly during the first night of 2013 corruption protests known as the "June Days". In 2015 the city saw more massive public demonstrations, as the Petrobras scandal unfolded into Brazil's largest ever corruption scandal.

measures.”

“While a handful of countries in **Europe and Central Asia** (<http://wp.me/pxeWx-4pV>) have improved, the general picture across this vast region is one of stagnation,” warns Anne Koch, Director for Europe and Central Asia. “Also very worrying is the marked deterioration in countries like Hungary, FYR of Macedonia, Spain and Turkey where we’re seeing corruption grow, while civil society space and democracy shrink. Corruption won’t be tackled until laws and regulations are put into action and civil society and the media are genuinely free.”

“Once again, 3 of the bottom 10 countries are from the **Middle East and North Africa** (<http://wp.me/pxeWx-4q1>) region – Iraq, Libya and Sudan. The ongoing devastating conflicts in these and other countries inevitably mean that any efforts to strengthen institutions and the state have taken a back seat. Yet security will only succeed long-term if governments make a genuine break with cronyism and build



© Mehman Huseynov. Police arrest a demonstrator at an opposition rally in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2012. It's one of many low-scoring countries in the region in which civil society and free speech continue to face a vicious crackdown.

trust with citizens,” says Ghada Zughayar, Director for Middle East and North Africa.

“From Ebola to terrorism, we’ve seen corruption exacerbate crises during 2015 in **Sub-Saharan Africa** (<http://wp.me/pxeWx-4q8>),” says Chantal Uwimana, Director for Sub-Saharan Africa. “Forty out of the region’s 46 countries show a serious corruption problem and there’s no improvement for continent powerhouses Nigeria and South Africa. If corruption and impunity are to 'be a thing of the past' as the African Union stated, governments need to take bold steps to ensure rule of law is the reality for everyone.”

ANALYSIS:

AMERICAS ([HTTP://WP.ME/PXEWX-4PA](http://wp.me/pxeWx-4PA))

ANALYSIS:

ASIA PACIFIC ([HTTP://WP.ME/PXEWX-4PQ](http://wp.me/pxeWx-4PQ))

ANALYSIS:

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA ([HTTP://WP.ME/PXEWX-4PV](http://WP.ME/PXEWX-4PV))

ANALYSIS:

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA ([HTTP://WP.ME/PXEWX-4Q1](http://WP.ME/PXEWX-4Q1))

ANALYSIS:

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA ([HTTP://WP.ME/PXEWX-4Q8](http://WP.ME/PXEWX-4Q8))

**CORRUPTION IS ROBBING BILLIONS OF PEOPLE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE. IT'S
TIME FOR JUSTICE**

📷 © Tony Maake. More than two decades after South Africa's transition to democracy, many communities still wait for taps and effective sewage systems to be built, raising questions as to where some of the funds are ending up.

The human cost of corruption is huge, yet all too often leaders with notoriously corrupt records continue to enjoy lives of luxury at the expense of people living in grinding poverty. It's time they faced the consequence of their actions.

“Corruption will stop only when we collectively fight against it,” says photographer AM Ahad of his sad portrait of the nine-year-old child worker in Bangladesh. “It is crucial that we change the common mentality of accepting corruption and treat the crime as the terrible thing that it is.”

DOWNLOADS

Correction (1 Feb 2016): The Arabic language Middle East & North Africa infographic was incorrectly titled. We apologise for this error, which has now been rectified.

PRESS ([HTTP://FILES.TRANSPARENCY.ORG/CONTENT/DOWNLOAD/1954/12828/FILE/2015_CPI_PRESSZIP.ZIP](http://files.transparency.org/content/download/1954/12828/file/2015_CPI_PressZIP.zip))

Download the press release in Arabic, English, French, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

([HTTP://FILES.TRANSPARENCY.ORG/CONTENT/DOWNLOAD/1950/12812/FILE/2015_CPI_DATAMETHODOLOGYZIP.ZIP](http://files.transparency.org/content/download/1950/12812/file/2015_CPI_DataMethodologyZIP.zip))

Access an Excel spreadsheet of the full results, notes on the methodology and a description of the index's sources.

FAQS ([HTTP://FILES.TRANSPARENCY.ORG/CONTENT/DOWNLOAD/1951/12816/FILE/2015_CPI_FAQSZIP.ZIP](http://files.transparency.org/content/download/1951/12816/file/2015_CPI_FAQSZIP.zip))

Have a question about the index? Here are the answers to the most popular ones in five languages.

ERRATA

An error in transferring raw data from the Bertelsmann Foundation SGI to the 2015 CPI computation files changed the scores of 11 countries. The incorrect scores affected the published ranks of 31 additional countries/territories by one position.

All scores and ranks have been corrected. All content referring to the countries in question has also been amended.

Breakdown of countries affected by a change in score:

Country	Original CPI 2015	Corrected CPI 2015
New Zealand	88	91
Norway	87	88
Luxembourg	81	85
Netherlands	87	84
Portugal	63	64
Poland	62	63
Malta	56	60
Lithuania	61	59
Latvia	55	56
Korea (South)	56	54
Mexico	35	31

The source description document has also been updated to clarify the underlying questions asked by the CPI sources and how this data is used in the CPI calculations.

See [here \(/news/pressrelease/2014 and 2015 corruption perceptions index tables corrected\)](#) for more information.

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