



Strengthening Institutions of Governance and Service Delivery to Entrench Transparency and Accountability

USAID/Kenya - M. Ferru



The Program:

Implementer: Transparency International – Kenya

USAID funding: US\$643,558

Period: October 2011 – October 2013

Geographical Coverage: National (focus on Nairobi, Coast, North Rift, and Western)

This program advocates for the implementation of anti-corruption reforms enumerated in the new Constitution in Kenya – pushing for laws and policies that will reduce corruption throughout the political, electoral, and governance systems in the country. It also strengthens institutions of governance and service delivery for greater transparency and accountability. Three key strategies are used to achieve these objectives: networking with like-minded organizations and state institutions, policy advocacy, and research and documentation. The program also provides regular information on pending corruption cases and encourages citizens to petition for the resolution of these cases, punitive action against the perpetrators, and the recovery public resources.

The Context:

In the 2011 Global Corruption Perceptions Index, Kenya ranked 154th out of 183 countries – tied with Zimbabwe and Côte d'Ivoire in the rankings, while falling below countries such as Nigeria and Belarus. Corruption continues to be an endemic problem in the country – hampering service delivery, causing the irrevocable loss of public funds, and undermining the legitimacy of government in the eyes of its citizens. Expectations that the new Constitution will help address corruption in Kenya have remained high since the document's adoption in 2010. However, the reality of passing legislation to undertake substantive reform has been difficult. The legislation forming the new Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission is being viewed by critics as a law stripped of its prosecutorial teeth and enforcement mechanisms. In this context, it is more important than ever to support local organizations demanding action and accountability.

Main Activities:

- Contribute to the formulation of national anti-corruption policy and legislation in Kenya.
- Conduct and disseminate the results of quarterly opinion polls on corruption and legislative reform.
- Conduct and disseminate the *East African Bribery Index* for 2011 and 2012, which documents citizens' experiences with corruption.
- Audit the implementation status of recommendations on political and electoral reforms outlined in the Krieglger Report.
- Make use of social media and grassroots advocacy to pressure the government to investigate corruption incidents and prosecute implicated individuals.

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Main Results

- Formation of a more effective policy and legal framework that promotes accountability and transparency.
- Development of a more informed civil society and citizenry able to demand greater transparency and accountability from government institutions.
- Advocacy efforts result in a more regulated, accountable, and transparent political and electoral system.
- Increased number of corruption cases investigated, individuals convicted, and public resources recovered.