

2008 Corruption Perceptions Index

Regional Highlights: Sub-Saharan Africa

Countries/Territories Ranked: 47

Although overall, corruption and lack of transparency clearly remain a serious challenge across the region, Transparency International's (TI) 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) shows that results in the fight against corruption are mixed. While **Benin, Mauritius** and **Nigeria** scored significantly higher this year, **Burundi** and **Somalia** saw a significant worsening in their perceived levels of corruption.

Out of the 47 countries reviewed, 30 scored below 3 indicating that corruption is perceived as rampant there and 14 scored between 3 and 5 indicating that corruption is perceived as a serious challenge by country experts and businessmen. Only three countries scored above the mid-point level of 5: **Botswana, Cape Verde** and **Mauritius**.

The fact that corruption is perceived to remain pervasive in many countries across the region indicates that it remains a serious threat for nations facing dire poverty stands to undermine chances of achieving any of the Millennium Development Goals. Increasing the risk that scarce funds earmarked for social spending are lost, misused or misallocated, corruption is a primary reason for the lack of progress in poverty reduction. Where transparency and accountability mechanisms are weak or lacking, public financial management and development outcomes suffer as a result. With the fight against corruption as a pre-condition to achieving greater aid effectiveness and reaching the goals of the 2005 Paris Declaration, which lays out the principles to make aid more effective, the CPI scores of most African countries indicate that progress in meeting the 2010 deadline for full implementation of the Declaration is lagging dangerously.

In addition to undermining the delivery of basic social services such as education and health, corruption, and the negative perceptions it generates, can fuel public distrust, while in cases such as **Somalia** the lowest CPI scores demonstrate a disturbing link to conflict, and economic and political collapse.

The threat of civil war returned to **Burundi** in 2007 after a breakdown of the Arusha peace process, and corruption became more acute across many sectors in the country. With no investigations into a growing number of allegations of high-level corruption, and little protection for whistle-blowers, corruption remained a serious impediment to the country's commercial and economic development.

Political corruption also has the power to alter the perceived level of corruption in a country. **Nigeria's** score of 2.7 in 2008, up from 2.2 in 2007, reflects increasingly positive domestic and international perceptions of the new government after elections in April 2007. Recent developments, however, show that Nigeria's reputation as seriously committed to transparency and accountability, is dependent on the resolve of political leaders to back anti-corruption pledges with concrete action, including ensuring the independence of anti-corruption agencies.

In **Mauritius**, reforms of the Mauritius Revenue Authority were carried out over the past two years with the aim of ensuring greater transparency and integrity in customs, which was previously considered to be one of the three most corrupt sectors in the country (along with law enforcement and the National Transport Authority). The Mauritian government's refusal, however, to allow an independent investigation into recent allegations of continued high-levels of corruption in the sector, does not bode well for the future fight against corruption in the country.

Country Rank	Regional Country Rank	Country /Territory	CPI Score 2008	Confidence Intervals	Surveys Used
36	1	Botswana	5.8	5.2 - 6.4	6
41	2	Mauritius	5.5	4.9 - 6.4	5
47	3	Cape Verde	5.1	3.4 - 5.6	3
54	4	South Africa	4.9	4.5 - 5.1	8
55	5	Seychelles	4.8	3.7 - 5.9	4
61	6	Namibia	4.5	3.8 - 5.1	6
67	7	Ghana	3.9	3.4 - 4.5	6
72	8	Swaziland	3.6	2.9 - 4.3	4
80	9	Burkina Faso	3.5	2.9 - 4.2	7
85	10	Madagascar	3.4	2.8 - 4.0	7
85	10	Senegal	3.4	2.9 - 4.0	7
92	12	Lesotho	3.2	2.3 - 3.8	5
96	13	Mali	3.1	2.8 - 3.3	6
96	13	Gabon	3.1	2.8 - 3.3	4
96	13	Benin	3.1	2.8 - 3.4	6
102	16	Tanzania	3.0	2.5 - 3.3	7
102	16	Rwanda	3.0	2.7 - 3.2	5
115	18	Zambia	2.8	2.5 - 3.0	7
115	18	Malawi	2.8	2.4 - 3.1	6
115	18	Niger	2.8	2.4 - 3.0	6
115	18	Mauritania	2.8	2.2 - 3.7	7
121	22	Sao Tome and Principe	2.7	2.1 - 3.1	3
121	22	Nigeria	2.7	2.3 - 3.0	7
121	22	Togo	2.7	1.9 - 3.7	6
126	25	Eritrea	2.6	1.7 - 3.6	5
126	25	Ethiopia	2.6	2.2 - 2.9	7
126	25	Mozambique	2.6	2.4 - 2.9	7
126	25	Uganda	2.6	2.2 - 3.0	7
134	29	Comoros	2.5	1.9 - 3.0	3
138	30	Liberia	2.4	1.8 - 2.8	4
141	31	Cameroon	2.3	2.0 - 2.7	7
147	32	Kenya	2.1	1.9 - 2.4	7
151	33	Côte d'Ivoire	2.0	1.7 - 2.5	6
151	33	Central African Republic	2.0	1.9 - 2.2	5
158	35	Gambia	1.9	1.5 - 2.4	5
158	35	Guinea-Bissau	1.9	1.8 - 2.0	3
158	35	Congo, Republic	1.9	1.8 - 2.0	6
158	35	Angola	1.9	1.5 - 2.2	6
158	35	Burundi	1.9	1.5 - 2.3	6
158	35	Sierra Leone	1.9	1.8 - 2.0	5
166	41	Zimbabwe	1.8	1.5 - 2.1	7
171	42	Congo, Democratic Republic	1.7	1.6 - 1.9	6
171	42	Equatorial Guinea	1.7	1.5 - 1.8	4
173	44	Chad	1.6	1.5 - 1.7	6
173	44	Sudan	1.6	1.5 - 1.7	6
173	44	Guinea	1.6	1.3 - 1.9	6
180	47	Somalia	1.0	0.5 - 1.4	4