

MEDIA BRIEF

GII Consortium launches report titled:

“CORRUPTION IS EATING US UP: A CALL TO ACTION”

The GII Consortium, comprising the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) and SEND-Ghana, has launched a report on actual corruption experiences in Ghana titled “CORRUPTION IS EATING US UP: A CALL TO ACTION”. The GII Consortium’s work is supported by USAID.

The report presents the findings of a study undertaken to assess citizens’ understanding of corruption, their perceptions and their actual experiences of corruption in Ghana. The study sampled the views of **17,996 Ghanaians across the ten regions of Ghana**. Data was collected between the period **April and May 2016**. Below are five key findings of the study and five key recommendations for stakeholders’ consideration and implementation.

5 KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

1. Majority of Ghanaians identify only bribery, embezzlement and fraud as forms of corruption. They are split on whether nepotism is an act of corruption. On the other hand the respondents do not consider conflict of interest, abuse of discretion and payment of facilitation fees as forms of corruption;
2. Nearly two-thirds of respondents believed that corruption was on the rise at the time of the survey;
3. Citizens **perceive** the Police Service, Political Parties, the Judiciary and DVLA as the most corrupt institutions in Ghana;
4. However, the topmost institutions, where citizens have had **actual experiences** of bribery in order of descent, are the Customs division of Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), Drivers Vehicle and Licensing (DVLA), Passport Office and the Police Service;
5. The top two reasons why citizens pay bribes are to speed up work and to avoid problems with the authorities

5 KEY ACTIONABLE AND TARGETED RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Central Government:** Provide adequate/appropriate financial resources to the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE) working in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to significantly scale up the level of public education/sensitization on the types of corruption, its impact and ways for citizens to engage in denouncing the canker;
2. **Ghana Education Service & Ministry of Education:** Given the positive correlation between higher levels of education and recognition of different types of wrongdoing as corruption, the Ministry of Education and Ghana Education Service must systematically incorporate anti-corruption education as well as ethical norms and standards that influence perceptions of wrongdoing in the curriculum at all levels of education;
3. **Ghana Revenue Authority, Driver Vehicle and Licensing Authority, Passport Office and Ghana Police Service:** Scale up significantly and increase visibility of all measures instituted to address corruption citizens encounter in their interaction with officials of their institutions;
4. **Development partners:** Support the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan and play a role in exerting reasonable pressure on policy makers and public institutions in general to ensure that legal gaps eg: *(anti-corruption legislation gaps identified by the GII Consortium)* that impede the fight against corruption are promptly addressed and that corruption offences – from petty bribery to grand corruption are duly investigated, prosecuted and sanctioned;
5. **Civil Society Organizations including Media and Religious bodies:** CSOs including media must play a fundamental role in holding public officers to account and informing and educating the greater public of the ways in which public resources are managed. CSO and media must become even more vigilant and outspoken in exposing corruption and showcasing impactful ways of resisting corruption. Religious bodies too must engage in large scale public education on the negative effects of corruption on society.

SIGNED

GII, GACC and SEND-GHANA

March 8, 2017

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ABOUT THE GII CONSORTIUM

The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) Consortium comprising GII, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) and SEND Ghana is implementing the **Accountable Democratic Institutions and Systems Strengthening (ADISS) Activity**. ADISS is a four-year activity funded by USAID over the period (September 2014 to September 2018). The goal of ADISS is to increase government accountability in Ghana. Specifically, ADISS's purpose is to renew and build upon on-going anti-corruption efforts and increase the capacities of anti-corruption Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to motivate citizens to apply pressure on policy makers and institutions with the aim of reducing corruption in Ghana. ADISS is being implemented in fifty (50) Districts across the ten regions of Ghana.



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