EMPOWERING CITIZENS, SECURING LASTING CHANGE: USING TECHNOLOGY FOR TRANSPARENCY
“With web and mobile technologies, people can connect and share at the click of a button. But these vehicles for change also need a driver – which is where we come in. Working in more than 100 countries, we’re combining technology with 20 years of anti-corruption expertise and a strong network on the ground to make sure that online activity leads to offline change in the real world.”

Ben Elers, Programmes Director,
Transparency International
Opening New Doors

Bribery. Extortion. Fraud. Underhand deals behind closed doors. Corruption thrives when those with power operate in secret with impunity. Web and mobile technologies have huge potential to change this culture of secrecy. They’ve blown open the doors of communication – changing the way we live, work and interact. They offer powerful new ways to demand transparency and accountability and share information.

One-third of the world’s population is online

Almost 6 billion mobile phones in use worldwide

45% of internet users are below the age of 25

62% of the world’s internet users are from developing countries
Working through the weekend at a Transparency International event in Lithuania. Corruption ruins lives. Technology can save them. We bring together programmers and activists to develop software applications that use technology to fight corruption.
Being Empowered

We’re developing new tools to reach more people than ever before – demonstrating that corruption is not inevitable, showing how others have spoken out and empowering people to do the same by connecting them to each other and our global network. People see that they are not suffering corruption alone and will not be fighting it alone.

“I wanted to speak out. I wanted change. But first, I needed to know I was not alone.”

Building Transparency

Knowledge is power. The first challenge to fighting corruption is finding out what’s going on. Our open data initiatives make hidden or inaccessible information available to all so that people can hold governments, business and public officials to account. Open knowledge equips people to see where change is needed most.

“The system was corrupt. And the information was all there to prove it. I just needed to untangle the data.”
Demanding Accountability

Our innovative web and mobile technologies give people the chance to act. They introduce powerful watchdog mechanisms in public life, giving ordinary people the chance to make their voices heard and the tools to demand accountability. From the parent who wants to see how much money is being spent on their local school to the politician who knows of underhand dealings worth millions, our tools give people a voice and make information available and meaningful to demand change.

“I had information, but the authorities wouldn’t listen. I needed another way to make my voice heard.”

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Guatemala

Our online reporting site for election violations in Guatemala. Acción Ciudadana receives reports ranging from vote-buying to threats for votes to falsified documents.

Ghana

The Ghana Integrity Initiative website where citizens can submit corruption complaints online, for free follow-up with legal advisors.
**OUR WORK IN PRACTICE**

We are working around the world on a host of different corruption issues, leveraging technology to solve local problems. These are a few examples of our tools and how they’re being used:

In **Georgia**, we are working to increase the responsiveness and accountability of local government through constructive citizen engagement. As citizens report problems in their neighbourhood online, a message is automatically triggered to the local authority. Reports are mapped to show where action is most needed, and are viewed, tracked and discussed by residents and government representatives. Within 72 hours of launching, the site received more than 30,000 page views, and to date, two out of every three problems reported have been fixed. The initiative in Tbilisi has been praised by the Mayor’s office, which now features a prominent link to the portal on its own website.

Where corruption is endemic, even convicted crimes are quickly forgotten and public officials continue to act with impunity. In **Indonesia**, our site publishes the details of those convicted of corruption in court, along with information on the case, such as the sentences received and the sums of money involved. By making this information public, the site aims to act as a ‘social deterrent’ to others, receiving more than two million views in its first week.

In **Slovakia**, our initiative won a World Bank innovation prize for procurement. To enhance the openness and accountability of public contracts, our platform monitors those government contracts that are kept private and unpublished. Using freedom of information requests, data is analysed, visualised and published online. The pressure this initiative has created caused a decrease in unpublished contracts and an increase in awareness and use of the country’s Freedom of Information Act.

In **Malaysia**, we developed an online forestry platform to demand integrity and good governance. Indigenous and marginalised communities often suffer most from a lack of access to their leaders. Rural communities are using our site to report on illegal logging and forestry activities in their area, building a picture of where enforcement on forestry laws is weakest.
Prominent bloggers from Egypt, Morocco, Palestine and Yemen strategise how they can work together for a common purpose. We work to increase the impact of anti-corruption work in the Arab world by bridging the divide between online activism, grassroots initiatives and the people power that marked the Arab uprisings.

In **Argentina**, voters are visualising the relationship between politics and money through our interactive database and wiki website - where all users can edit and add to the content. Specialised software ‘scrapes’ or collects data from many locations and compiles it in one place. By aggregating political finance data in real time from 23 provincial databases and more than 700 political parties, the site allows citizens to see where party funds are coming from and where they’re going.
In **Kenya**, our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres have partnered with a bribe reporting service to **connect online reporting with offline change**. Both sites link to the other service, so that victims and witnesses can report corruption publicly online, and access our free and confidential advice in person. The reporting site raises awareness on the prevalence and type of bribery in Kenya, and our advice centres help citizens with individual complaints and work for wider systemic change as a result of the complaints they receive.

With more than 80 Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres ***worldwide***, our case management software systematically records, collates and **analyses this unique data on how corruption is affecting real people**. The software collects detailed information about the victims, the mechanisms and the impact of corruption; this includes, among others, the gender, age and vulnerability of people seeking help, the sums involved, the type of corruption and the sector in which it occurred. Advice given, advocacy undertaken and any changes achieved as a result are also recorded.

These examples are just a snapshot of what we are doing, and what the possibilities are. We have many more plans to integrate and utilise technology to promote transparency and accountability across the world.

*Developers and activists working together to plan the functional requirements for a corruption reporting site.*
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

From safeguarding primary school supplies to overseeing construction contracts and environmental clean-ups, we are working against corruption at all levels and **scaling up our use of technology for transparency to inspire and equip millions more** people to take action. We are developing a range of cutting-edge tools and solutions to amplify people’s voices and hold governments and business to account. But we need your support.

Your donation would support a whole range of initiatives, and with a network operating in more than 100 countries worldwide, our new platforms and tools can be used on a mass scale, and connected to each other to fight corruption at a global level. We have been engaging constructively with governments and building partnerships with authorities and communities since 1993. Any new technologies would benefit from this strong, well developed network with local expertise and global reach.

No one should have to confront corruption alone. Please become a part of this global movement for change and help us bring new technology initiatives into the fight for a transparent and fair future.

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