CORRUPTION RISKS IN THE MALDIVES

External undue influence, lack of cooperation and absence of robust accountability mechanisms have made major institutions in the Maldives unequipped to combat corruption effectively.

KEY FINDINGS

No solidarity in the fight against corruption

Institutions are not working together to strategise on what action is needed to tackle and prevent corruption. The lack of cooperation threatens to stall corruption investigations and prosecutions, allowing the corrupt to go unpunished.

Vulnerability to external powers

Key institutions, such as the legislature, judiciary and media, lack independence. This partially stems from weak codes of conduct and penalties for non-compliance within these institutions.

Lack of public awareness on corruption

Less than 0.5 per cent of the population was reached with corruption awareness sessions, showing the deficiency in educating the public on the negative impact of corruption in society, how to prevent it and the avenues they can use to report incidences of corruption.

KEY FACTS: ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

- **2,280** corruption cases pending at the Anti-Corruption Commission as of December 2013.
- **507** cases closed by the Anti-Corruption Commission due to insufficient information and evidence.

Source: Transparency Maldives

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Percentage (%) of people in South Asian countries willing to report an incident of corruption

Source: Global Corruption Barometer 2013
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

National strategy to combat corruption

A clear, time-bound national plan to fight corruption needs to be formulated, with involvement of multiple actors and stakeholders.

Increased independence to increase capacity to combat corruption

Deeper evaluation of institutions’ vulnerability to undue influence needs to be carried out urgently. This would better advise on what concrete action should be taken to safeguard their independence.

Mechanisms to allow the corrupt to be brought to justice

More robust accountability mechanisms with easy-to-access reporting procedures need to be implemented on a priority basis to encourage the public to disclose information.

KEY FACTS: WHAT DO CITIZENS THINK ABOUT CORRUPTION?

97% perceive corruption to be a serious problem in the public sector.

96% of people in the Maldives believe government works for the interests of a few big entities.

78% believe parliament is corrupt or extremely corrupt.

Source: Global Corruption Barometer 2013

CONTACT US

Transparency Maldives is a national contact of Transparency International, a civil society organisation dedicated to curbing both international and national corruption. Our primary mission in the Maldives is to act as catalyst for reforms that improve transparency and accountability in all sectors, and raise public awareness of and initiate public discussion on corruption.

To find out more about our work and how you can help, get in touch:

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“...Despite legislative reforms, the Anti-Corruption Commission Act falls short of implementing an effective institutional mechanism to effectively conduct anti-corruption activities.”

Transparency Maldives
National Integrity System Assessment: Country Report 2014