CORRUPTION RISKS IN PAKISTAN

Vested interests in Pakistan’s public institutions are resulting in a government lacking in legitimacy and failing to meet the security needs of its citizens effectively.

KEY FINDINGS

Deficient systems of checks and balances

Non-existent education and lack of awareness on anti-corruption contribute to the low levels of integrity among civil servants.

The absence of whistleblower protection discourages honest officials and civil society from overseeing government activities.

Undemocratic political structures

Weak governance and lack of engagement in anti-corruption efforts have resulted in dynastical political parties with little credibility among the public.

True spirit of law not being implemented

Weak integrity mechanisms mean specialised watchdog bodies which should be strong pillars of society are not performing their anti-corruption role effectively. This hampers efforts to strengthen law enforcement.

KEY FACTS: CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2013

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What does this mean?
The Corruption Perceptions Index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption, scoring from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). A score of less than 50 indicates a serious corruption problem.

Governments failing to fight corruption

- Pakistan: 69%
- India: 68%
- Nepal: 67%
- South Asia: 56%
- Maldives: 56%
- Sri Lanka: 47%
- Bangladesh: 32%

Percentage of people in South Asian countries who thought their government’s efforts to fight corruption were ineffective.

Source: Global Corruption Barometer 2013
Pakistan's Anti-Corruption Agency, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), has powers to seize, freeze or transfer assets and places the burden of proof on the accused. It also has a retroactive remit dating back to 1985 and wide financial autonomy. While not entirely immune to attempts at government interference, the Bureau has attained important victories. Talking to media in 2012, the former Chairman of the NAB assessed daily corruption in Pakistan as over Rs 8 to 12 billion (US$143 to US$215 million).

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Strengthen laws to help citizens take action

Right to information and whistleblower protection laws are needed to help ordinary Pakistanis hold leaders and local officials to account.

Prioritise anti-corruption efforts

Public institutions must prioritise anti-corruption efforts and take concrete actions to address security risks of radicalisation and rebuild public trust.

Monitor the implementation of vital laws

The government must establish efficient monitoring and integrity mechanisms across sectors to bridge the gap between law and practice.

KEY FACTS: WHAT DO CITIZENS THINK ABOUT CORRUPTION?

72% of Pakistanis believe that corruption in the country has increased over the last two years.

92% of Pakistanis believe that corruption in the public sector is the biggest problem.

Police and political parties are perceived to be most affected by corruption, scoring 4.5 and 4.1 respectively, on a scale of 1 (not at all corrupt) to 5 (extremely corrupt).

Source: Global Corruption Barometer 2013

CONTACT US

Transparency International Pakistan is a national chapter of Transparency International, a civil society organisation dedicated to curbing both international and national corruption. Our chapter’s primary objective is to counter corruption in business dealings and to curb corruption on a national level.

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

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"...the fight against corruption is not being prioritised in Pakistan and is not receiving enough attention from those with the power to do something about it."

Transparency International Pakistan
National Integrity System Assessment:
Country Report 2014