



WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Transparency Watch

A Publication of the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity



It's my pleasure to share the February, and the first edition of Transparency Watch for the year. As we move further into the year, our commitment to enhancing accountability, good governance, and climate action remains stronger than ever.

January was a defining month for us, as we, alongside the UNCAC Coalition, engaged in high-level advocacy and policy discussions aimed at strengthening Nigeria's anti-corruption and governance framework. A major highlight was the presentation of the Civil Society Parallel Report on Nigeria's Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). This report, developed with input from key civil society organizations, provided an independent assessment of Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts, highlighting successes, gaps, and actionable recommendations to enhance compliance with UNCAC obligations.

In line with our expanding focus on climate governance, we also took a significant step with the presentation of the Climate Action Index (CAI) framework, developed in collaboration with the Center for Climate Action, Innovation, and Engagement (CCAIE). The CAI aims to measure and track climate action efforts at the subnational level, ensuring that Nigeria's states actively contribute to national and global climate commitments.

As we progress into the year, we remain committed to driving transparency, accountability, and climate resilience through data-driven advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and public sector reforms. Thank you for your continued support in advancing integrity and good governance in Nigeria.

Victor Agi

Head, Public Relations



Strengthening Nigeria's Fight Against Corruption: Insights from Center's UNCAC Parallel Report Presentation

On January 21, 2025, stakeholders gathered at the Federal Capital Territory Multipurpose Hall Area 11, Abuja for the dialogue on the country's anti-corruption efforts. The event was organized by the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) in collaboration with the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) to discuss the findings and recommendations of the recently published Civil Society Parallel Report on Nigeria's implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).



The report evaluates Nigeria's implementation of Chapters II (Preventive Measures) and V (Asset Recovery), two components of the Convention, and underscores both progress made and the persistent challenges in combating corruption. The report offered a nuanced view of Nigeria's anti-corruption journey. On the one hand, there have been remarkable successes; the establishment of the Proceeds of Crime Act (2022) and enhanced mechanisms for reporting suspicious financial transactions are notable examples.

However, the report does not shy away from highlighting persistent challenges. Preventive measures, which are essential for mitigating corruption before it occurs, remain a major concern. The report noted that whistleblower protections are inadequate, leaving individuals hesitant to report misconduct due to fears of retaliation. Transparency in public procurement processes is inconsistent, and only a handful of states have domesticated the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), severely limiting public access to government records. Political interference in anti-corruption bodies further undermines their independence and effectiveness, creating a cycle where progress is often stifled.

Center. Partners Unveil Climate Action Index Framework to Advance Climate Accountability in Subnational Levels

Today marked a significant step in our journey towards a more transparent and accountable climate governance system in Nigeria, as we presented the Climate Action Index (CAI) methodology framework to key stakeholders as part of the efforts to refine and strengthen the Index.

The Climate Action Index (CAI) is an innovative approach designed to evaluate, rank, and support subnational governments in Nigeria based on their climate action commitments, policy implementation, measurable outcomes, and alignment with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. By providing data-driven insights, the CAI ensures that climate ambitions at the state level translate into real impact, guiding governments toward evidence-based decision-making and sustainable climate investments.

Beyond ranking states, the CAI will shed light on implementation gaps, identify best practices, and promote a culture of accountability in climate governance. Through partnerships with government agencies, development organizations, and climate advocates, the Index will not only track progress but also support targeted interventions, ensuring that Nigeria remains on course toward a net-zero future.

As we continue to refine this framework with stakeholder input, we remain committed to developing actionable roadmaps that will empower subnational governments to meet their climate commitments effectively.

Importantly, we believe that the success of the CAI will be measured not just in scores and rankings, but in tangible improvements, cleaner air, greener cities, resilient communities, and a more sustainable future for all Nigerians.



Legislative Advocacy: Center Participates in Tax Reforms Bill Public Hearing



The Center, has, during its participation at the Senate's Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee's public hearing on Nigeria Tax Reform Bill 2024 called for fiscal transparency in order to maximize the gains of the reforms.

While we commend efforts to streamline and modernize Nigeria's tax system, we emphasize that fiscal transparency must go beyond revenue generation to include clear accountability in expenditure. Our recommendations focus on ensuring that tax revenues are not only collected efficiently but also allocated and spent transparently for public benefit.

Among others, we called on Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) at federal, state, and local levels to mandatorily and proactively disclose and publish detailed reports on how tax revenues are allocated and spent. This information should be easily accessible on official platforms to enhance public oversight.

We also recommended that there should be a standardized system where taxpayers receive personalized updates via email or SMS on the utilization of their tax contributions. This will enhance greater public confidence in government fiscal management.

To strengthen integrity in governance, we also recommended that public officers' tax returns are made publicly available. This measure will deter corruption, promote accountability, and rebuild public trust in leadership.

We strongly believe that integrating these transparency measures into Nigeria's tax reform will enhance public trust, accountability, and fiscal integrity. We remains committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure that Nigeria's tax policies serve the best interests of its citizens.

Scenes from CAI Methodology Framework Presentation



Corruption Perception Index 2024

On the 11th of February, the Center joined Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre for the presentation of the Corruption Perception Index 2024.

Interestingly, Nigeria, with a CPI score of 26 out of 100, a slight increase from 25 in 2023, improved its global ranking from 145th to 140th out of 180 countries ranked.

This year's CPI performance, although a marginal improvement, is a clarion call to stakeholders to join efforts in addressing systemic corruption problem in Nigeria, and sub-Saharan Africa at large, which holds the lowest average score of 33 out of 100 in this year's report.

Importantly, Nigeria's positive outlook in the fight against corruption depends also on its compliance with international instrument such as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). The recommendations of the civil society UNCAC parallel report recently published by the Center featured prominently in CPI 2024, and it's expected that stakeholders will take these recommendations seriously to further project Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts.



INFOGRAPHICS CORNER



TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY INDEX 2024 Local Government Areas (LGAs) Assessment Variables



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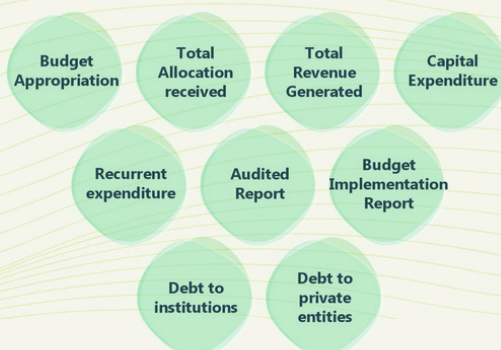
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TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY INDEX 2024 Local Government Areas (LGAs) Assessment Variables

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY SUB-VARIABLES



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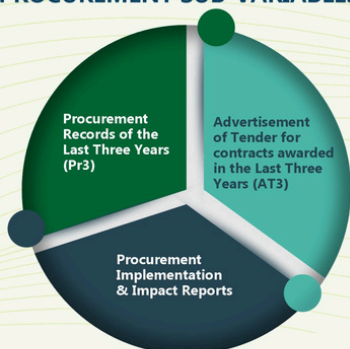
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TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY INDEX 2024 Local Government Areas (LGAs) Assessment Variables

PROCUREMENT SUB-VARIABLES



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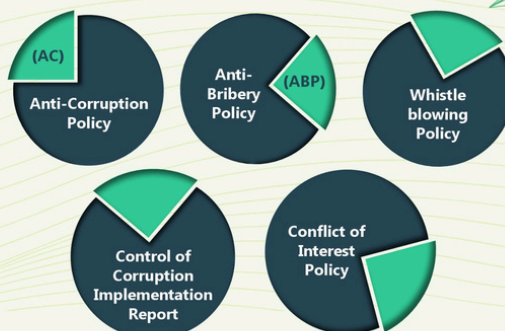
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TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY INDEX 2024 Local Government Areas (LGAs) Assessment Variables

CONTROL OF CORRUPTION SUB-VARIABLES



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TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY INDEX 2024 Local Government Areas (LGAs) Assessment Variables

HUMAN RESOURCE SUB-VARIABLES



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TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY INDEX 2024 Local Government Areas (LGAs) Assessment Variables

CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT SUB-VARIABLES



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Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Fight Corruption



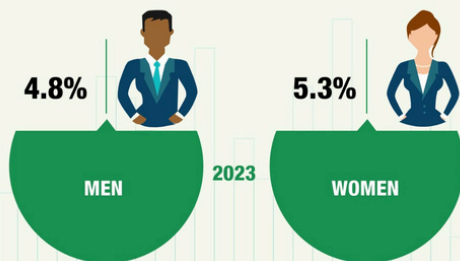
In our ongoing drive to leverage tech innovations to enhance governance, the Center was received by the Director-General of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms, Dr. Dasuki Arabi. The visit saw the presentations of youth-led solutions and explored their adoption by the government.

These solutions highlight the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in advancing transparency, strengthening accountability, and revolutionizing public service delivery, particularly in critical sectors such as procurement, health, and criminal justice.



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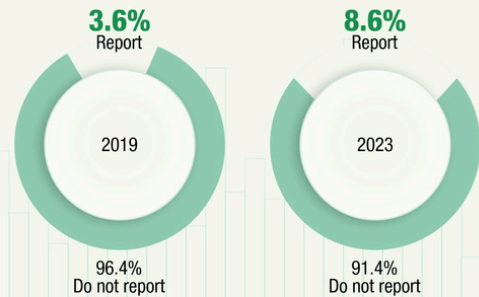
A slightly larger share of women interacting with public officials are asked for **SEXUAL FAVOURS**



Data Source: NBS/UNODC Anti-corruption Survey 2024 www.fiscaltransparency.org

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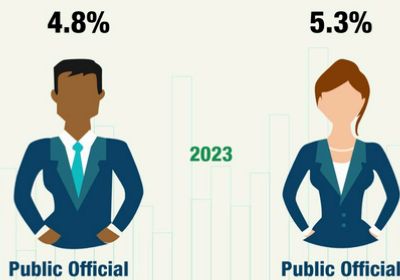
In 2023, **8.6 PER CENT** of people who paid a bribe actually reported it to official authorities



Data Source: NBS/UNODC Anti-corruption Survey 2024 www.fiscaltransparency.org

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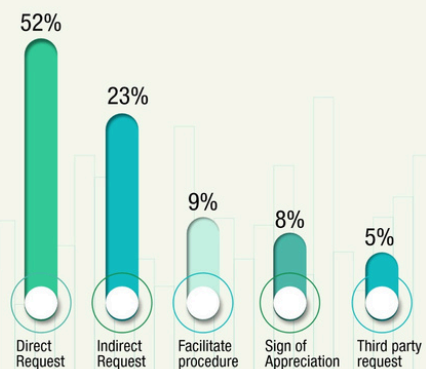
The share of male public officials who solicit or **TAKE A BRIBE** when interacting with the public is nearly twice that of female public officials



Data Source: NBS/UNODC Anti-corruption Survey 2024 www.fiscaltransparency.org

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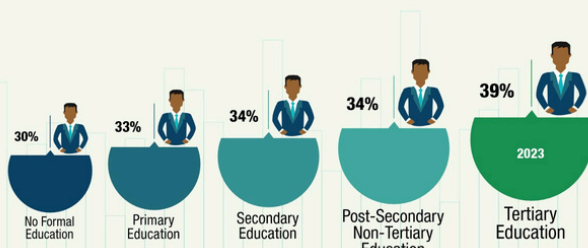
In 2023, more than a half of all **BRIBES PAID TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS** were requested directly by those officials



Data Source: NBS/UNODC Anti-corruption Survey 2024 www.fiscaltransparency.org

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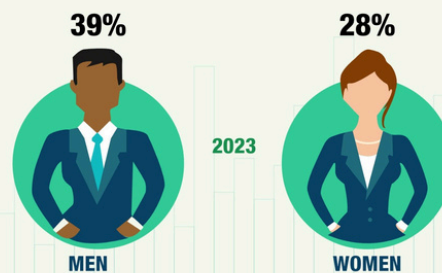
People with the highest level of education are **1.3 TIMES** more likely to pay bribes than people with no formal education



Data Source: NBS/UNODC Anti-corruption Survey 2024 www.fiscaltransparency.org

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Men are 1.4 times more likely than women to pay or asked to **PAY A BRIBE** when interacting with public officials



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