

# Transparency in Action: Analysing the CPI 2024 Report and Strategic Recommendations for Somalia.

## Introduction

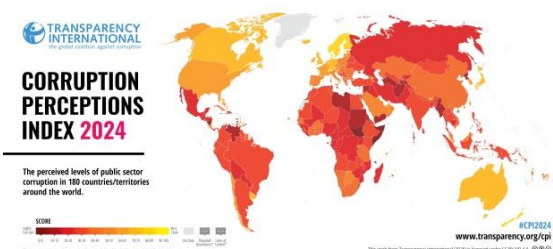
Transparency is the cornerstone of good governance and sustainable development. In a world where corruption undermines economic growth, erodes public trust, and exacerbates inequality, the need for transparency has never been more critical. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024 Report, published by Transparency International, sheds light on the state of corruption across the globe, offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by nations striving for integrity and accountability. For Somalia, a country grappling with decades of conflict, political instability, and systemic corruption, the CPI 2024 Report serves as both a mirror and a roadmap. This article delves into the findings of the CPI 2024 Report, analyses its implications for Somalia, and provides strategic recommendations for fostering transparency and combating corruption.

## Understanding the CPI 2024 Report: A Global Perspective

### What is the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)?

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), published annually by Transparency International, ranks countries and territories based on perceived levels of public sector corruption. Using a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), the CPI aggregates data from multiple sources, including expert assessments and surveys, to provide a comprehensive picture of corruption worldwide.

## Key Findings of the CPI 2024 Report



The CPI 2024 Report highlights several global trends. Despite increased awareness and initiatives, global progress in combating corruption has plateaued. Two-thirds of countries score below 50, indicating widespread corruption. Countries experiencing conflict or political instability consistently rank lower on the index, as corruption thrives in environments of weak governance and lawlessness. Nations with robust transparency mechanisms, such as open data policies and independent media, tend to perform better on the CPI.

For Somalia, which has consistently ranked among the lowest on the CPI, these findings underscore the urgent need for systemic reforms.

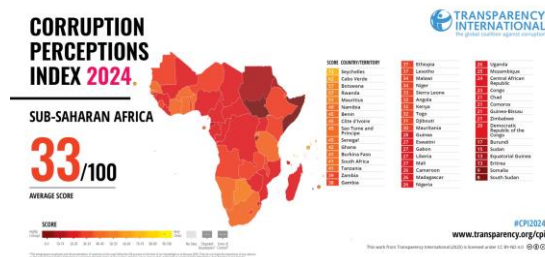
### Somalia's CPI 2024 Ranking: A Closer Look

#### Historical Context: Corruption in Somalia

Somalia's struggle with corruption is deeply rooted in its history. Decades of civil war, weak institutions, and fragmented governance have created an environment where corruption flourishes. From embezzlement of public funds to bribery and nepotism, corruption permeates all levels of society, hindering development and perpetuating poverty.

## Somalia's CPI 2024 Score and Ranking

In the CPI 2024 Report, Somalia scored 9 out of 100, placing it among the bottom five countries globally. This score reflects the pervasive nature of corruption in the country and the challenges faced in establishing accountable governance.



## Factors Contributing to Somalia's Low Score

Several factors contribute to Somalia's low CPI score. Weak institutions lack the capacity and independence to effectively combat corruption. Limited access to information and opaque decision-making processes hinder accountability. Ongoing conflict and political fragmentation create opportunities for corrupt practices. Additionally, the informal economy, including illegal trade fuels corruption.

## The Impact of Corruption on Somalia

### Economic Consequences

Corruption stifles economic growth by deterring investment, diverting public resources, and distorting markets. For Somalia, this means fewer opportunities for job creation, infrastructure development, and poverty alleviation.

### Social and Political Consequences

Corruption exacerbates inequality, undermines public trust in government, and fuels social unrest. In Somalia, where trust in institutions is already low, corruption further

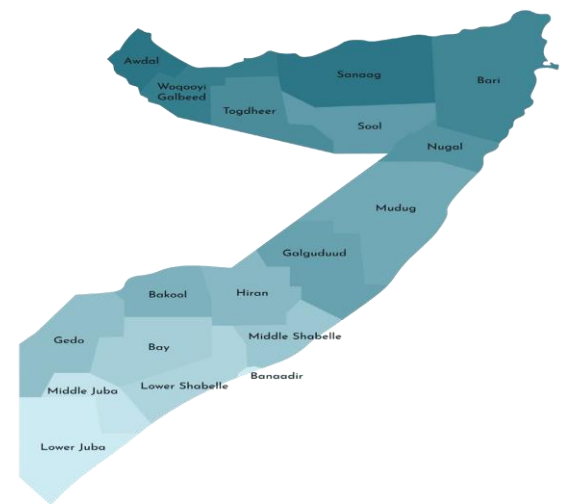
erodes the social contract between the state and its citizens.

## Implications for Development

Corruption undermines efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to poverty, education, health, and peace. For Somalia, addressing corruption is essential for building a stable and prosperous future.

## Strategic Recommendations for Somalia

### Strengthening Institutions



Somalia must invest in building the capacity and independence of its institutions, including the judiciary, anti-corruption agencies, and law enforcement. This requires providing adequate funding and resources, ensuring appointments are based on merit rather than political affiliation, and establishing mechanisms to protect institutions from political interference.

Accountability mechanisms, such as audits and oversight bodies, are critical for preventing and detecting corruption. Somalia should establish independent anti-corruption commissions with investigative and prosecutorial powers, implement robust

auditing systems to monitor public expenditures, and encourage whistleblowing by protecting whistleblowers from retaliation.

### **Promoting Transparency**

Transparency is a powerful tool for combating corruption. Somalia should enact and enforce access to information laws, publish government budgets, contracts, and procurement processes online, and use technology, such as block chain, to enhance transparency in financial transactions.

Civil society and media play a crucial role in holding governments accountable. Somalia should protect press freedom and ensure journalists can operate without fear of reprisal, support civil society organizations working on transparency and accountability, and promote civic education to empower citizens to demand accountability.

### **Addressing Political Instability**

Political stability is essential for combating corruption. Somalia should foster inclusive political processes that ensure representation of all segments of society, strengthen the rule of law and ensure equal enforcement of laws, and promote dialogue and reconciliation to address underlying causes of conflict.

Illicit financial flows, including money laundering and illegal trade, fuel corruption. Somalia should strengthen financial regulations to prevent money laundering, collaborate with international partners to track and recover stolen assets, and crack down on illegal trade and piracy through enhanced law enforcement.

### **Leveraging International Support**

Somalia can benefit from international initiatives aimed at combating corruption, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). By ratifying and

implementing such conventions, Somalia can access technical assistance and best practices. International partnerships are crucial for supporting Somalia's anti-corruption efforts. Somalia should work with regional organizations, such as the African Union, to promote transparency, seek support from donor countries and international organizations for capacity-building initiatives, and collaborate with neighbouring countries to address cross-border corruption.

### **Addressing Counterarguments and Challenges**

#### **The Complexity of Corruption**

Some may argue that corruption in Somalia is too deeply entrenched to be effectively addressed. While the challenges are significant, incremental progress is possible through sustained efforts and international support.

#### **The Role of Culture**

Cultural factors, such as clan-based patronage systems, are often cited as barriers to anti-corruption efforts. However, cultural norms can evolve, and initiatives that promote transparency and accountability can gradually shift societal attitudes.

#### **Resource Constraints**

Somalia's limited resources pose a challenge to implementing anti-corruption measures. However, investing in transparency and accountability can yield long-term economic benefits, making it a worthwhile endeavor.

### **Conclusion: A Call to Action**

The CPI 2024 Report serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for transparency and accountability in Somalia. While the challenges are immense, the potential for transformation is equally significant. By

strengthening institutions, promoting transparency, addressing political instability, and leveraging international support, Somalia can pave the way for a brighter future.

The fight against corruption is not just the responsibility of governments; it requires the collective effort of all stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, and citizens. As we reflect on the findings of the CPI 2024 Report, let us commit to taking concrete actions that will bring about meaningful change. Transparency is not just a goal; it is a journey—one that Somalia must embark on with determination and hope.

### Final Thoughts

The road to transparency and accountability is long and fraught with challenges, but it is a journey worth taking. For Somalia, the CPI 2024 Report is not just a measure of where the country stands but a call to action for all stakeholders to work together towards a

future defined by integrity, trust, and prosperity. The time to act is now.

### About The TSI

The Transparency Somalia Initiative (TSI) plays a pivotal role in this journey, promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance in Somalia. Through research, advocacy, and partnerships, it combats corruption and empowers communities for a brighter future. Together, with collective effort and unwavering commitment, Somalia can overcome the challenges of corruption and build a society rooted in integrity and trust.



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