



# INFORMATION BRIEF

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## An Analysis of Nigeria's Position in the 2024 Corruption Perception Index

Patrick Udefuna, Dr. Hassan Yerima, Livinus A. Nandi & Chidinma Charity Ezenwajiobi

### Executive Summary

Nigeria's performance in Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) reflects a modest improvement in the country's ongoing battle against corruption. The nation ranked 140th out of 180 countries, advancing five positions from its 2023 standing of 145th. This change corresponds to a slight increase in its score from 25 to 26 out of 100, indicating a marginal enhancement in perceived public sector integrity. Despite this progress, Nigeria's score remains significantly below the global average of 43 and the Sub-Saharan African average of 33. The country shares its 140th position with nations such as Uganda, Mexico, and Iraq, all scoring 26. This ranking underscores Nigeria's continued struggle with systemic corruption, despite efforts by anti-graft agencies like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC). Based on the foregoing, this brief recommends that:

- i. The National Assembly may enact a comprehensive whistle-blower protection legislation that would adequately protect whistleblowers from reprisals such as job loss, harassment, demotion, physical abuse and even murder;
- ii. The National Assembly may introduce legislative safeguards to insulate judicial appointments and budgetary allocations from executive interference. This could help in expediting high-profile corruption trials and rebuild judicial integrity; and
- iii. The National Assembly make intensify oversight on government agencies ensuring an enhanced transparency in public spending through the implementation of robust asset management policies to prevent the re-looting of recovered funds.

## 1. Introduction

The 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released worldwide on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 by Transparency International (TI) scored and ranked 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption.<sup>1</sup> The 2024 CPI draws on 13 surveys and expert assessments to measure public sector corruption, giving each country a score from zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).<sup>2</sup> Even while 32 nations have seen a considerable decrease in corruption since 2012, 148 countries have either

remained unchanged or have seen worsening corruption during the same time period. This indicates that much more work needs to be done.

Additionally, the global average of 43 has been stagnant for years, with more than two-thirds of nations scoring lower than 50. This situation therefore, poses serious risk for billions of people who reside in nations where human rights are violated and lives destroyed by corruption.<sup>3</sup>

The 2024 CPI score shows that Nigeria's performance improved to 26 points as

<sup>1</sup> Transparency International, (2025). Corruption Perceptions Index, 2024. Available @ [https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024?gad\\_source=1](https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024?gad_source=1)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Op cit. Corruption Perception Index, (2025)



against the 25 points out of 100 scored in 2023 (a figure lower than the average in the Sub-Saharan region). In the country comparison, Nigeria ranked 140<sup>th</sup> position out of 180 countries. Nigeria's latest placement indicates that the country has not made significant progress in its fight against corruption, despite serious attention by the Nigerian government.

This information brief suggests that, while Nigeria has made incremental efforts in combating corruption, its 2024 CPI performance indicates that substantial reforms are necessary to achieve meaningful progress and align with global anti-corruption standards.

## **2. Global Highlight and Nigeria's Performance**

In this year's index, Denmark and New Zealand maintained a top ranking at 90 and 88 points respectively. Somalia, South Sudan and Venezuela are at the bottom of the index, with 8, 9 and 10 points respectively. The Middle East and North Africa's rising average score is a reason for optimism, but this is the first increase in over a decade, and it is only by one point – to 39 out of 100. Sub-Saharan Africa holds the lowest score, with an average score of 32. It therefore shows that Nigeria's score is below the average.

As highlighted earlier, the 2024 CPI scored Nigeria 26 out of 100 and ranked the country

140<sup>th</sup> out of 183 countries/territories<sup>4</sup>. The 2024 CPI used nine (9) out of the thirteen (13) data sources of independent institutions with a high level of credibility to compute the score for Nigeria. The data sources include:

1. World Bank Country Policies and Institutional Assessment
2. World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey
3. Global Insight Country Risk Ratings
4. Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index
5. African Development Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment
6. World Justice Project Rule of law Index Expert Survey
7. The Political Risk Service International Country Risk Guide
8. Varieties of Democracy Project (V-Dem)
9. Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Service

Apart from the fact that the above-mentioned data sources are of independent institutions, all are also impartial, well-respected, statistically significant and evidence-based sources.<sup>5</sup> The 2024 CPI scores show that Nigeria's performance has improved from its 2023 score of 25 points to 26 points. Figure 1 below shows the trend in Nigeria's performance in the corruption index from 2015 to 2024.

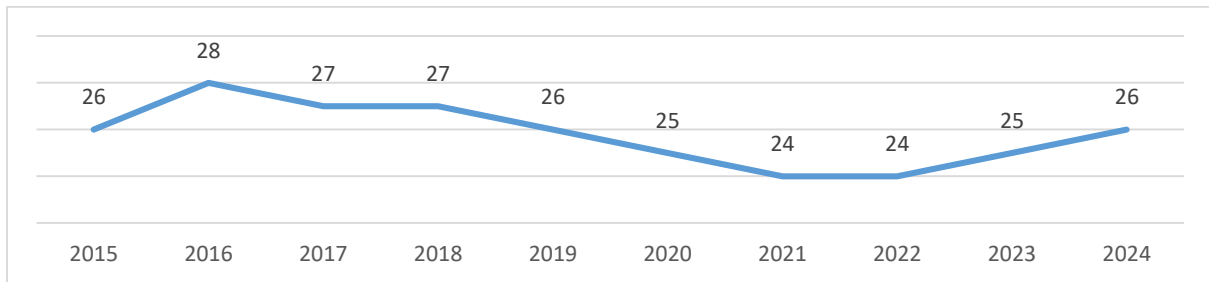
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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.



**Fig. 1: Nigeria's Corruption Perception Index from (2015-2025)**



Source: Transparency International (2025)

The aforementioned data makes it evident that, in spite of the Nigerian government's intense efforts to combat corruption, the nation has not made significant progress. This "below average performance" could have been caused by a number of things, such as ineffective policies and poorly coordinated initiatives that are very challenging to implement, a weak criminal justice system, impunity, and a lack of accountability by state institutions during the period in question. The poor quality of procedures used by overzealous anti-corruption agency officials in their efforts to purge the nation of corrupt activities is another factor contributing to this predicament.

### Nigeria's Performance Vis-a-vis Other Sub-Saharan African Countries

It is worthy of note that, although Nigeria performed better than 17 other Sub-Saharan African countries including Zimbabwe, 24; Democratic Republic of Congo, 18; Chad, 20; Angola, 26; etc., Nigeria nonetheless, performed below 16 others although the Table below captures only 11 of the countries that performed better than Nigeria. The Table 1 below presents Nigeria's performance among African countries:

**Table 1: 2024 CPI Score of Sub-Saharan African Countries**

Countries	2024 CPI Score	2024 World CPI Ranking	Remarks in Relation to (average score in sub-Saharan African, i.e. 32 )
Seychelles	72	18	Above average score
Botswana	57	43	Above average score
Rwanda	57	43	Above average score
Namibia	49	59	Above average score
São Tomé and Príncipe	45	69	Above average score
Benin	45	69	Above average score
Senegal	45	69	Above average score
South Africa	44	82	Above average score
Burkina Faso	41	82	Above average score
Ghana	42	80	Above average score
Lesotho	37	99	Above average score
<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>Below average score</b>
Angola	26	146	Below average score
Congo	19	165	Below average score
Zimbabwe	24	158	Below average score
DRC	18	168	Below average score



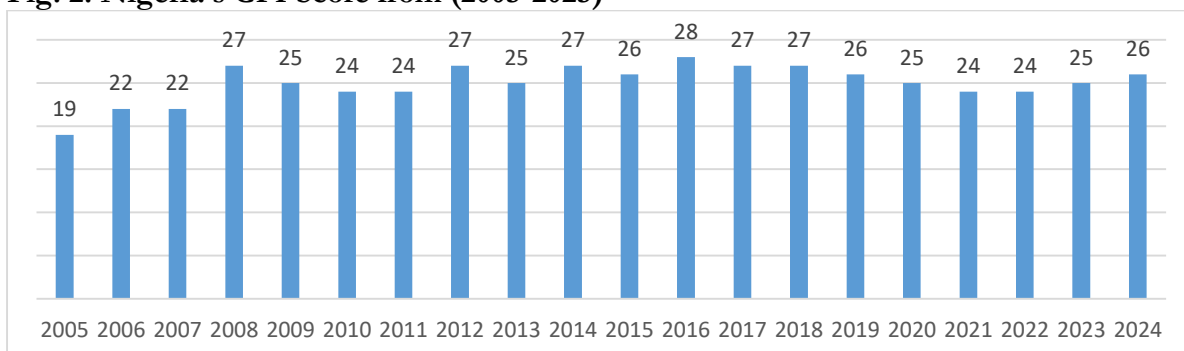
Chad	20	162	<b>Below average score</b>
Guinea Bissau	18	168	<b>Below average score</b>
Burundi	19	165	<b>Below average score</b>
Sudan	16	173	<b>Below average score</b>
Equatorial Guinea	16	173	<b>Below average score</b>
Somalia	9	180	<b>Below average score</b>
South Sudan	12	179	<b>Below average score</b>

Source: Transparency International, (2025)

In 2023 Nigeria ranked 145<sup>th</sup> with a score of 25 points, whereas in 2024 Nigeria's corruption performance improved to 140<sup>th</sup> with a total of 26 points. Despite this slight improvement, Nigeria's performance still falls short of the average score for Sub-Saharan African countries.

A 20-year check has further shown that the country has never achieved the Sub-Saharan African regional average, let alone gone beyond it (see Fig. 2).

**Fig. 2: Nigeria's CPI Score from (2005-2025)**



Source: Transparency International (2025)

In discussing the result of the 2024 survey, François Valérien, Chair of Transparency International, pointed out that corruption is a dynamic worldwide problem that contributes to instability, deteriorating democracy, and human rights abuses in addition to undermining growth. Addressing corruption must be a high and sustained priority for the international community and all countries. In order to resist authoritarianism and ensure a world that is free, peaceful, and sustainable, this is essential. The perilous patterns identified in this year's Corruption Perceptions Index

underscore the necessity of taking immediate, decisive action to combat global corruption.<sup>6</sup>

### 5. Areas for Legislative Intervention

To make real progress against corruption and to strengthen democracy in the country, Nigeria needs to do more in strengthening its checks and balances to protect citizens' rights. Based on the foregoing, we recommend as follows:

- i. The National Assembly may enact a comprehensive whistle-blower protection legislation that would adequately protect

<sup>6</sup> François, V. (2025). Corruption Perceptions Index 2024. Retrieved from: [https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024?gad\\_source](https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024?gad_source)



whistle-blowers from reprisals such as job loss, harassment, demotion, physical abuse and even murder;

- ii. The National Assembly may introduce legislative safeguards to insulate judicial appointments and budgetary allocations from executive interference. This could help in expediting high-profile corruption trials and rebuild judicial integrity; and
- iii. The National Assembly may intensify oversight on government agencies ensuring an enhanced transparency in public spending through the implementation of

robust asset management policies to prevent the re-looting of recovered funds.

## **6. Conclusion**

Nigeria's main score remained at 26 out of 100 points, but there was a modest improvement as the country's performance in the CPI which went from 145<sup>th</sup> to 140<sup>th</sup> in the most recent corruption perception index. However, this is still below average for Sub-Saharan African nations. It implies that if the recommendations outlined in the brief are carried out, the nation will see a considerable improvement.

## **Contact**

National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies

National Assembly

NILDS Permanent Site, No.2 Abubakar O. Sulaiman Avenue, Piwoyi District, off Umaru Musa Yar`adua Expressway, Airport Road, Abuja.

E-mail: [info@nils.gov.ng](mailto:info@nils.gov.ng)

Website: <http://nils.gov.ng>

NILDS Liaison Office

Suite 214 Senate Wing

National Assembly Complex

Mobile: +234 807 364 4822