



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
the global coalition against corruption

**GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER
PACIFIC 2021**

CITIZENS' VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES OF CORRUPTION



Transparency International is a global movement with one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption. With more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we are leading the fight against corruption to turn this vision into reality.

www.transparency.org

Author: Roberto Martinez B. Kukutschka

Survey management and research: Roberto Martinez B. Kukutschka and Jonathan Rougier

Contributors: Mariam Mathew and Katy Mackey

Designer: Sophie Everett / sophieeverett.com.au

Cover image: Channell Anivai / Shawk23 Design & Media

Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this report. All information was believed to be correct as of November 2021. Nevertheless, Transparency International cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of its use for other purposes or in other contexts.

Please note that the following corrections were made in November 2021 to the original report:

Pages 4 and 43: phrasing was changed to reflect that all interviews were conducted over the telephone, rather than face to face in one country as previously stated.

ISBN: 978-3-96076-190-7

2021 Transparency International. Except where otherwise noted, this work is licensed under CC BY-ND 4.0 DE. Quotation permitted. Please contact Transparency International – copyright@transparency.org – regarding derivatives requests.



GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER PACIFIC 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2-7

Executive summary

About the survey
Key findings
Recommendations

8-23

What do people think about corruption?

Corruption a significant problem in government
Corruption in business also a concern
Close ties between business and politics?
Corruption on the rise in public and private sectors
Support for government anti-corruption strategies
Do corrupt actors face consequences?
Heads of government's offices and members of parliament seen as most corrupt
Trust in institutions to do a good job and act fairly

24-32

How are citizens affected by corruption?

Nearly a third of respondents paid a bribe
Bribery rates are high across key public services...
...but reporting rates are low
Looking beyond bribery: the misuse of personal connections
Why do people rely on corruption to access public services?
The role of reciprocity

33-34

Sextortion

35-36

Corruption in electoral processes

37-41

Taking action

People reject corruption and see themselves as part of the solution
People do not feel heard by their governments

42

Conclusion

43-45

Methodology

Weighting
Margin of error
Regional averages

46-56

Country cards

57-62

Endnotes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite varying widely from single island states to archipelagos of hundreds of tropical atolls and islands, Pacific countries have much in common. Many share a reliance on natural resources, relatively small populations, a remoteness from major global markets and a vulnerability to external shocks.





photo: Kara Math / Shutterstock.com

Eight of the ten countries and territories* surveyed in this *Global Corruption Barometer – Pacific* are sovereign nations and young democracies, having achieved independence between the 1960s and the early 1980s. As a result, governance structures and political institutions are still relatively new and overlaid on traditional systems. Several countries also experience ongoing instability. These factors create a range of corruption risks.

Following decisive measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the first significant outbreaks only reached the region during 2021. However, critics are already warning that the crisis has been used by some governments to limit freedoms,¹ and allegations of corruption have been made in the procurement of emergency supplies and the disbursement of relief funds.²

Many citizens experience corruption directly, with our survey revealing high levels of

bribery, sexual extortion and vote-buying.

A majority of respondents feel corruption is a big problem in both the business sector and government, particularly among parliamentarians and officials in heads of government's offices. It also appears that authorities are failing to properly control resource extraction companies.

But change is possible. Most Pacific Islanders we spoke to support their government's anti-corruption measures and believe that ordinary people can help stop corruption. This aligns with the "Blue Pacific" narrative, which speaks of the collective potential of the region's shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean. Meaningfully involving citizens will be essential if the region is to successfully implement the wide range of transparency and good governance commitments made by its leaders.³

*For stylistic or space reasons, in some places this report refers to "countries" instead of "countries and territories".

The survey

When it comes to corruption, Pacific countries and territories have remained among the most under-studied in the world.⁴ This gap has not deterred those fighting for greater transparency and accountability, but it has made their work significantly more difficult.

The *Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) – Pacific*, published by Transparency International, presents the most extensive set of public opinion data on perceptions and experiences of corruption in the region. In many of these countries and territories, the survey constitutes the very first attempt to gather this type of data.

Based on fieldwork conducted between February and March

2021, the GCB surveyed more than 6,000 people in 10 Pacific countries: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The survey covered adult men and women of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds, using quota sampling based on national population parameters.

The results show that a majority of respondents think corruption is a problem in both the public and the private sectors, despite government efforts to control it.

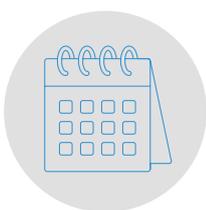
The GCB found that almost one in three respondents who accessed public services such as health care and education in the preceding year paid a bribe. Forty-six per cent called

in favours or used personal connections.

Our analysis shows that even though women tend to have more ongoing contact with services such as health care and education, it is men who are slightly more likely to rely on corruption when accessing public services.

Despite these findings, the results show reason for hope. A majority of the people interviewed believe that governments in the region are doing a good job tackling corruption. What is more, 71 per cent of people think that citizens can help stop corruption.

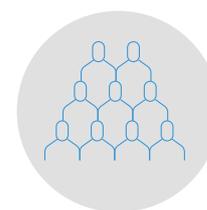
ABOUT THE SURVEY



CONDUCTED
FEBRUARY -
MARCH 2021



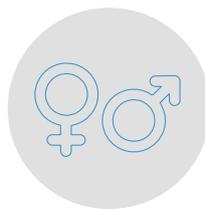
10
COUNTRIES
SURVEYED



6,000+
PEOPLE AGED
18+ TOOK PART



INTERVIEWS
BY PHONE IN 10
COUNTRIES



49% OF
RESPONDENTS
WERE WOMEN,
51% MEN



TEBUTT
RESEARCH
FIELDLED
THE SURVEY

See the Methodology section on page 43 for full information about the survey design.

KEY FINDINGS

01

Corruption is a problem in both government and business

According to 61 per cent of respondents, corruption in government is a significant problem, and 56 per cent think this is also true for business. Many think corruption increased in both in the past year.

02

Government-business relationships lack integrity

Over two thirds of respondents think that businesses use bribes and connections to obtain profitable government contracts. Almost half think there is little control over the companies and individuals who extract natural resources.

03

Corrupt officials often go unpunished

Around a third of people surveyed believe that most parliamentarians and officials in heads of government's offices are corrupt. Forty-three per cent think that corrupt officials never or rarely face consequences.

04

Corruption in public services is common

Almost a third of those who accessed public services paid a bribe in the previous year, but only 13 per cent of them reported the incident to the authorities. Nearly half used personal connections when dealing with public services.

05

Uneven access to public services drives corruption

Overcoming bureaucratic hurdles and speeding up processes were the most common reasons given for bribery. Thirty-seven per cent also feel that if a powerful person helps them, they should reciprocate through gifts or votes.

06

Political integrity is low, especially around elections

Around a quarter of respondents have been offered a bribe for their votes and 15 per cent received threats of retaliation if they did not vote in a specific way.

07

Sexual extortion – or “sextortion” – is a very concerning issue

Over 40 per cent of respondents believe sextortion happens at least occasionally. While country results vary greatly, 38 per cent across the region say they or someone they know has experienced sextortion in the last five years.

08

Governments' anti-corruption efforts have support

Against this backdrop, more than 60 per cent of people surveyed think their government is doing a good job at fighting corruption. Only 14 per cent feel their government regularly takes their views into account when making decisions.

09

Citizens can help stop corruption

Over 70 per cent of respondents think that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption.

Recommendations

High levels of corruption and low levels of trust in some key institutions point to an immediate and pressing need for reform. Although appropriate responses will vary by country, key measures that governments should consider include:

1. INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY OF POLITICAL DECISION-MAKERS

- + Strengthen requirements for officials to publicly disclose their income and assets, along with mechanisms to identify and monitor potential conflicts of interest.
- + Improve accountability in the use of discretionary public funds.
- + Ensure that law enforcement and the judiciary are equipped and empowered to sanction high-level corruption.

2. ENSURE INTEGRITY IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

- + Regulate business involvement in electoral campaigns and policymaking, to prevent regulatory and state capture.
- + Ensure that public contracting processes are fair, transparent and competitive from beginning to end.

3. IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES

- + Cut down opportunities for bribe-seeking, by streamlining processes.
- + Reduce misconceptions about the costs and timelines associated with accessing public services by providing clear information to all.
- + Ensure specifically that vulnerable groups can access public services with ease.

4. SAFEGUARD FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

- + Strengthen independent electoral commissions and anti-corruption agencies to prevent and sanction vote-buying.
- + Ensure that all citizens can exercise their right to vote without fear of retaliation.

5. GUARANTEE THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

- + Establish and effectively implement “right to information” laws to ensure that citizens, journalists and civil society have access to relevant public information.
- + Establish and effectively implement whistleblower legislation and mechanisms to protect those who expose corruption from censorship or retaliation.

6. ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITIES TO DRIVE REFORMS

- + Collaborate with the region’s gender equality movement to further investigate and address issues such as sextortion and other gendered forms of corruption.
- + Ensure community participation in policy, budget, and project development and implementation.
- + Support independent monitoring of public contracting projects by affected communities and civil society.



photo: JM Smith / Shutterstock.com

WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT CORRUPTION?

We asked people what they thought about the state of corruption in their country: how prevalent it is, whether it is rising or declining and whether their government is doing enough to control it. Here's what we found.

Corruption a significant problem in government

When asked whether corruption in government is a problem in their country, a majority of respondents (61 per cent) feel it is either a "fairly big" or a "very big" problem. Only around a third of respondents

in the region (34 per cent) feel otherwise. These views are shared by men and women at almost identical levels.

The results from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are particularly concerning. In these two countries, almost all respondents (over 95 per

cent) believe that corruption in government is a big problem. At the other end of the scale are French Polynesia and New Caledonia, where less than 20 per cent of respondents see corruption as a big problem in their governments.

61%

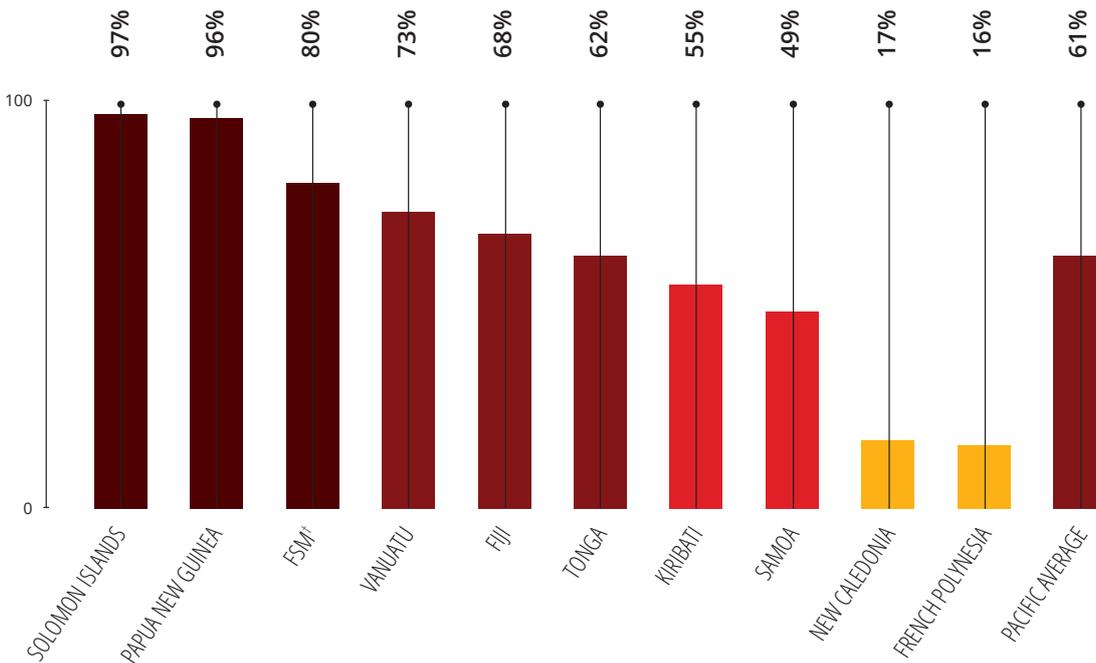
THINK GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION IS A **BIG PROBLEM**

34%

THINK GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION IS **NO PROBLEM OR A SMALL PROBLEM**

GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of people who think corruption in government is a big problem.⁵



Almost half of respondents in the region (49 per cent) think that public servants commonly influence a hiring decision in their departments to favour a friend or a family member. This is highest in French Polynesia (84 per cent), Solomon Islands (74 per cent) and Papua New Guinea (68 per cent).⁶ In Kiribati, Samoa and Fiji, the practice was

reported as least frequent, but even in these countries over a quarter of people interviewed thought nepotism was a frequent occurrence when hiring in the public sector.

⁵For space reasons, in this report the Federated States of Micronesia will often be referred to as FSM.

Corruption in business also a concern

Corruption is not just a public-sector issue in the region. Fifty-six per cent of respondents also see corruption as a big problem in their country's business sector.

Yet there are big differences between countries. Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands again show the highest perceptions of corruption in the business sector, with more than eight in ten respondents saying that corruption was a big or a very big problem. New Caledonia and French Polynesia

again show the lowest proportion of respondents thinking that corruption is a big problem in the private sector. However, the high number of people in these countries without an opinion on the issue could point to the need for further information and community-based dialogues.

56%

THINK CORRUPTION IS A **BIG PROBLEM** IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR

34%

THINK CORRUPTION IS **NO PROBLEM** OR A **SMALL PROBLEM** IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR



PRIVATE-SECTOR CORRUPTION, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of people who think corruption in the business sector is a big problem.⁷

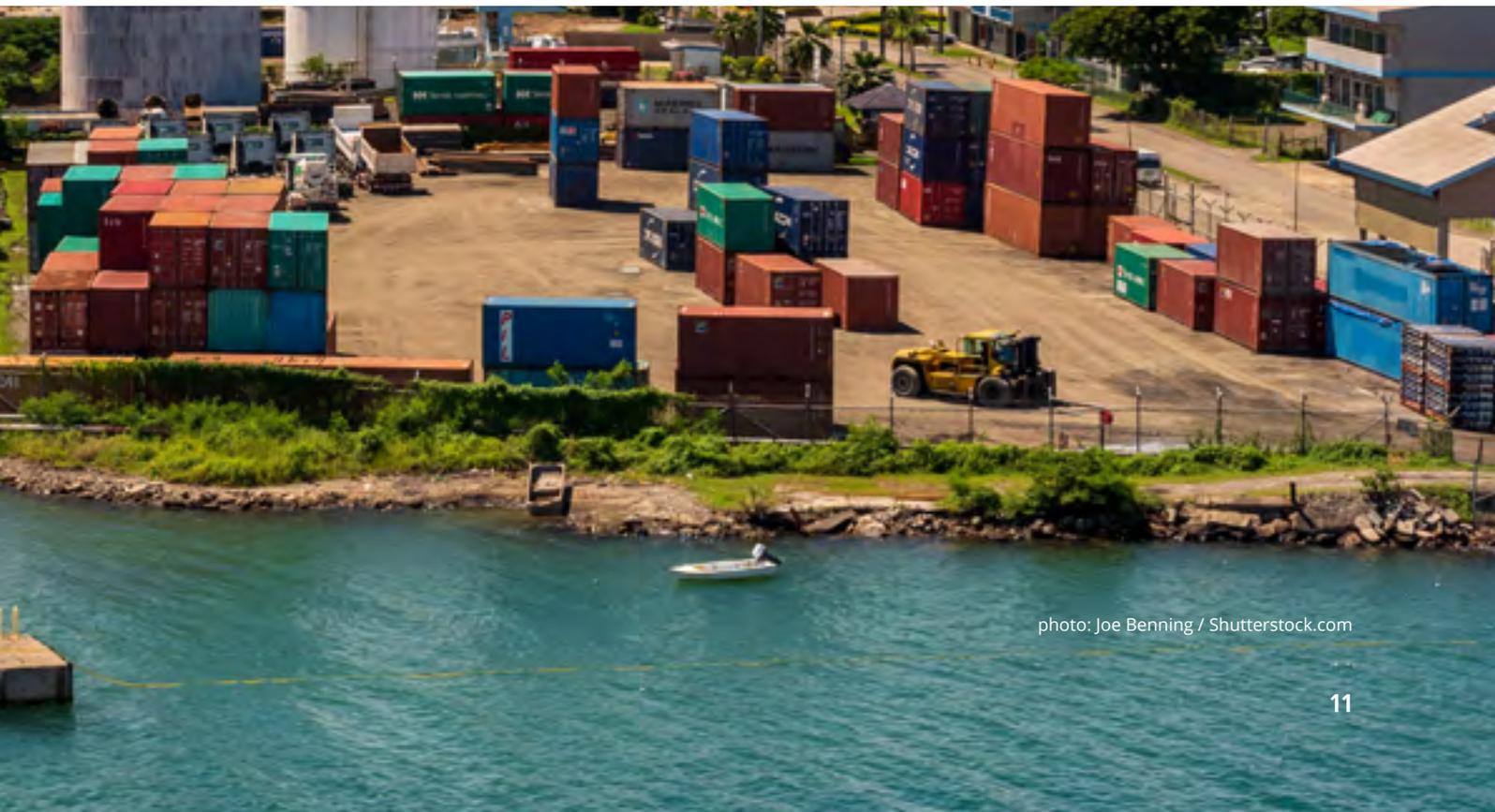
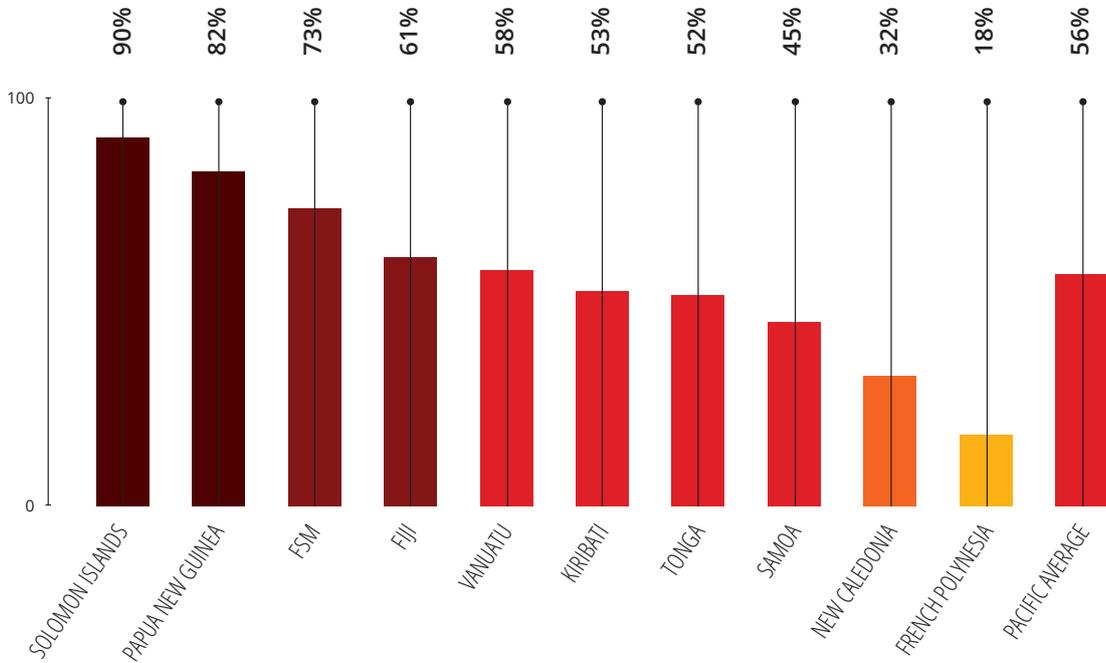


photo: Joe Benning / Shutterstock.com

Close ties between business and politics?

A country's public and private sectors do not operate in isolation. Businesses deliver goods and services for the government. Similarly, economic policies enacted by the government – including taxation, subsidies and sector-specific

regulations – have a direct impact on the business community. When the ties between the business community and the government are not transparent, the line separating public and private interests might become blurred and governments may favour the narrow interests of those groups with more economic power.

The survey results show that people in the region are concerned about the relationship between business and government.

68%

THINK THAT BUSINESSES RELY ON MONEY OR CONNECTIONS TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

40%

THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS OFTEN RUN BY A FEW BIG INTERESTS

Almost seven in ten respondents (68 per cent) think that businesses rely at least occasionally on bribes and connections to obtain profitable government contracts.⁸ The proportion of respondents voicing this opinion is particularly high in Solomon Islands (91 per cent), the Federated States of Micronesia (82 per cent), Papua New Guinea (76 per cent) and French Polynesia (75 per cent). Most respondents in all countries except Samoa and

New Caledonia think that bribery and connections are a common way for businesses to secure government contracts.

Given these results, it is not surprising that 40 per cent of respondents across the region think that the government is often controlled by a few big interests. This concern is especially widespread among respondents from French Polynesia (80 per cent) and Solomon Islands (63 per cent).⁹

Additionally, almost half the respondents in the region (47 per cent) say that there is little control and oversight of the people and companies extracting natural resources.¹⁰ This figure includes a majority of respondents in Kiribati (67 per cent), Fiji (60 per cent), Vanuatu (59 per cent), Papua New Guinea (50 per cent) and Solomon Islands (50 per cent).

47%

**THINK THERE IS LITTLE CONTROL
OVER THOSE WHO EXTRACT
NATURAL RESOURCES**

26%

**THINK THAT MOST OR ALL PEOPLE
WORKING FOR COMPANIES IN THE
EXTRACTIVE SECTOR ARE CORRUPT**

A sector ripe for exploitation: Solomon Islands in focus

Significant endowments of natural resources have made Pacific countries attractive to foreign-owned companies, particularly Chinese firms.¹¹ In some industries, it is estimated that Pacific communities receive less than 12 per cent of the final value of the resources extracted.¹²

Corruption risks in this sector are high. Across the region, transnational criminal groups use corruption to exploit natural resources such as forests, fish stocks, and gold and manganese deposits. Common tactics include bribery and capture of environmental law enforcement bodies,¹³ often involving high-level politicians, government officials and private-sector leaders and intermediaries, who may act with impunity.¹⁴

In Solomon Islands – one of the largest exporters of tropical wood globally – many senior government leaders have held direct interests in logging concessions. There has been collusion between political leaders, public officials and the timber industry, with recent cases implicating senior officials and politicians.¹⁵

This makes it unsurprising that a majority of respondents in the country think companies are corrupt (53 per cent) and use bribes or personal connections to secure profitable government contracts (60 per cent). Half of those surveyed (50 per cent) also believe there is limited oversight of extractive companies.

Positively, the government enacted the Anti-Corruption Act in 2018. A whistleblower protection act is also in place, but key oversight bodies remain poorly resourced,¹⁶ and filing and pursuing complaints is costly for ordinary people. These are challenges across several smaller Pacific countries with narrow economic bases.¹⁷

Transparency Solomon Islands has repeatedly voiced the need for adequate community consultation and due diligence before the government develops big projects or awards contracts and licences.¹⁸ This would help protect local communities from opaque deals, forced displacement and a loss of livelihoods. The government must also ensure that safe, effective and accessible channels are in place for communities to file complaints about abuses of power.

Corruption on the rise in the public and private sectors

As shown in the previous section, respondents in many countries across the region see corruption as a major problem, but they also see it as one that has worsened. A majority of respondents (56 per cent) think that levels of corruption increased in their country's government over the 12 months prior to the survey. Less than a fifth (17 per cent) think corruption decreased.

Two thirds of respondents (66 per cent) in Tonga and Solomon Islands think that levels of corruption in their governments had increased, followed by New Caledonia (62 per cent), Papua New Guinea (60 per cent) and the Federated States of Micronesia (60 per cent).

Unfortunately, there is no country in which a majority of people surveyed felt corruption in government had declined, but Samoa and Kiribati have the highest proportion of respondents with positive assessments (27 and 44 per cent respectively).

In terms of corruption trends in business, 45 per cent of respondents in the region think that corruption in the business sector increased over the 12 months prior to the survey. This view is shared by most people we talked to in Solomon Islands (63 per cent), the Federated States of Micronesia (59 per cent) and Tonga (55 per cent).





56%[▲]

OF PEOPLE THINK
CORRUPTION IN
GOVERNMENT
INCREASED IN THE
PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

17%[▼]

THINK CORRUPTION
IN GOVERNMENT
DECREASED

20%[▬]

THINK CORRUPTION
IN GOVERNMENT
STAYED THE SAME



45%[▲]

OF PEOPLE THINK
CORRUPTION IN THE
BUSINESS SECTOR
INCREASED IN THE
PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

17%[▼]

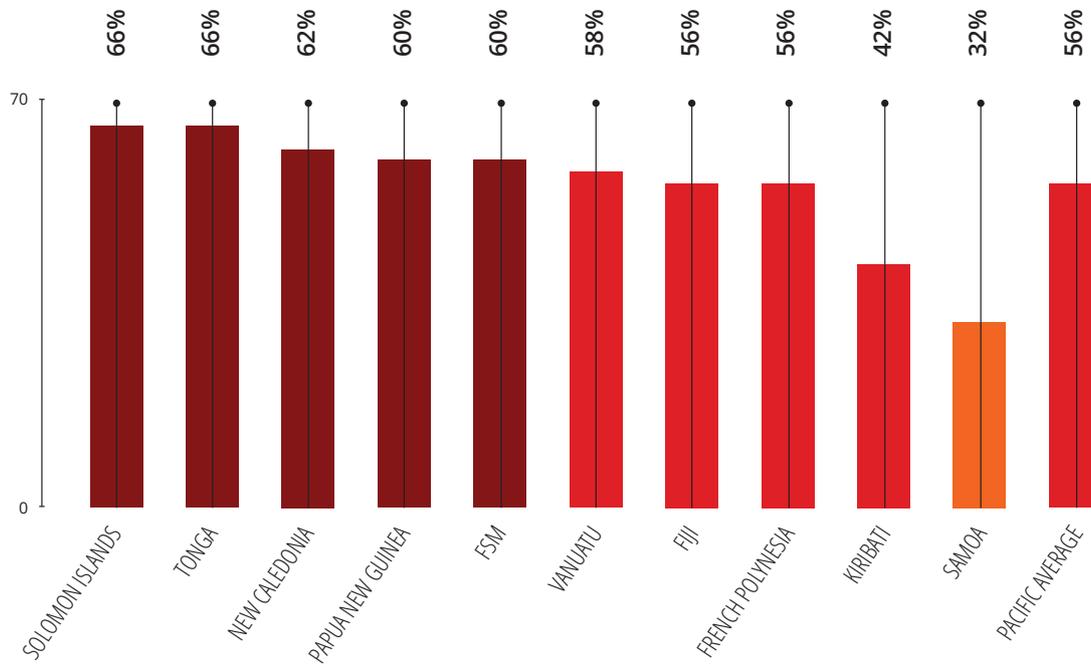
THINK CORRUPTION IN
THE BUSINESS SECTOR
DECREASED

26%[▬]

THINK CORRUPTION IN
THE BUSINESS SECTOR
STAYED THE SAME

GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION ON THE RISE, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of people who think corruption in government increased in the past 12 months.¹⁹



CORRUPTION IN BUSINESS ON THE RISE, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of people who think corruption in the business sector increased in the past 12 months.²⁰

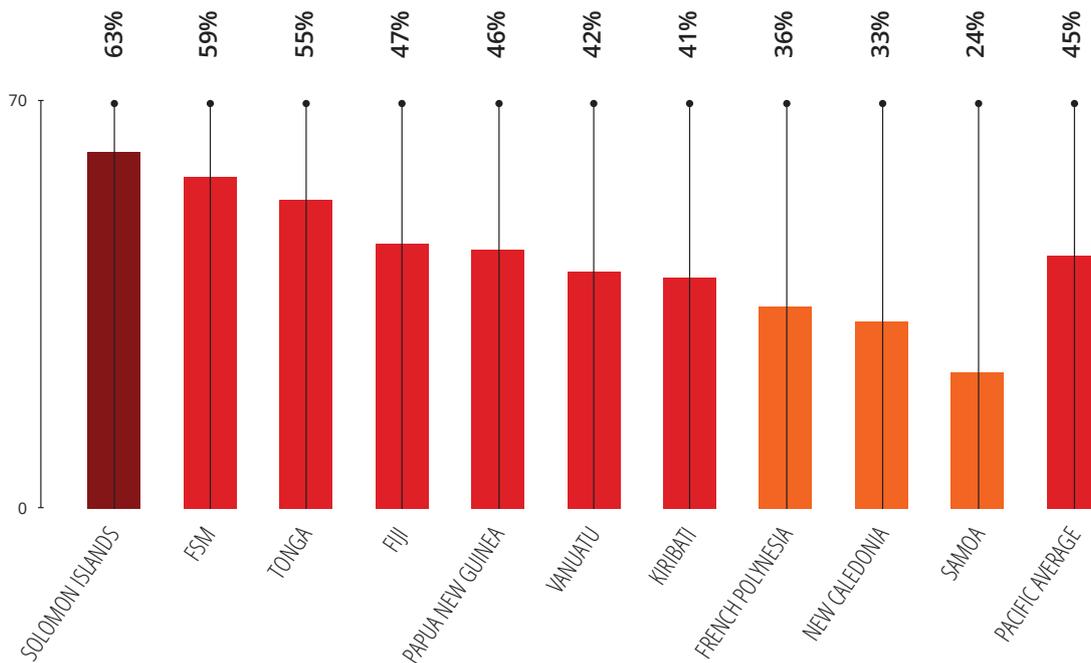




photo: Transparency International Papua New Guinea

Support for government anti-corruption strategies

We also asked people how they rate their government's efforts at tackling corruption.

The results show that despite high perceptions of corruption, people appear to welcome their government's strategies against it. More than six in ten respondents (62 per cent) throughout the region think their government is doing a good job at controlling corruption.



62%

THINK THEIR GOVERNMENT IS DOING WELL



32%

THINK THEIR GOVERNMENT IS DOING A BAD JOB AT TACKLING CORRUPTION

However, the differences between countries are significant. A majority of people in eight countries are satisfied with the government's response against corruption, but elsewhere dissatisfaction is more prevalent. Over half of respondents in Solomon Islands (52 per cent) and the Federated States of Micronesia (51 per cent) think that their government is doing a bad job at keeping corruption in check.

These results could be linked to measures some governments have implemented, including passing anti-corruption legislation, developing national strategies and establishing independent anti-corruption commissions.

However, if such efforts are to effectively reduce corruption then challenges such as funding and capacity constraints need to be

addressed. In Solomon Islands, the independent anti-corruption commission established in 2018 remains under-funded and under-staffed.²¹ A review of the Kiribati watchdog unit established in 2016 within the Public Service Office also found that staff lack adequate skills and knowledge to carry out investigations.²²

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of people who think their government is doing badly vs. well in tackling corruption.²³

● Badly ● Well ● Don't know



Do corrupt actors face consequences?

While most survey respondents approved of government efforts to fight corruption, most also do not think that the justice systems in their countries are effectively prosecuting corrupt officials. Only two in ten respondents (18 per cent) believe that officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences for their

actions. Furthermore, over four in ten (43 per cent) think that appropriate action against corrupt officials in their countries remains a rare phenomenon. This includes most respondents in Kiribati (50 per cent), Tonga (60 per cent) and French Polynesia (66 per cent), who say that corrupt officials never or only rarely face consequences for their actions.

CONSEQUENCES FOR CORRUPT OFFICIALS

Percentage of people who think public officials never or rarely face consequences for engaging in corruption.²⁴

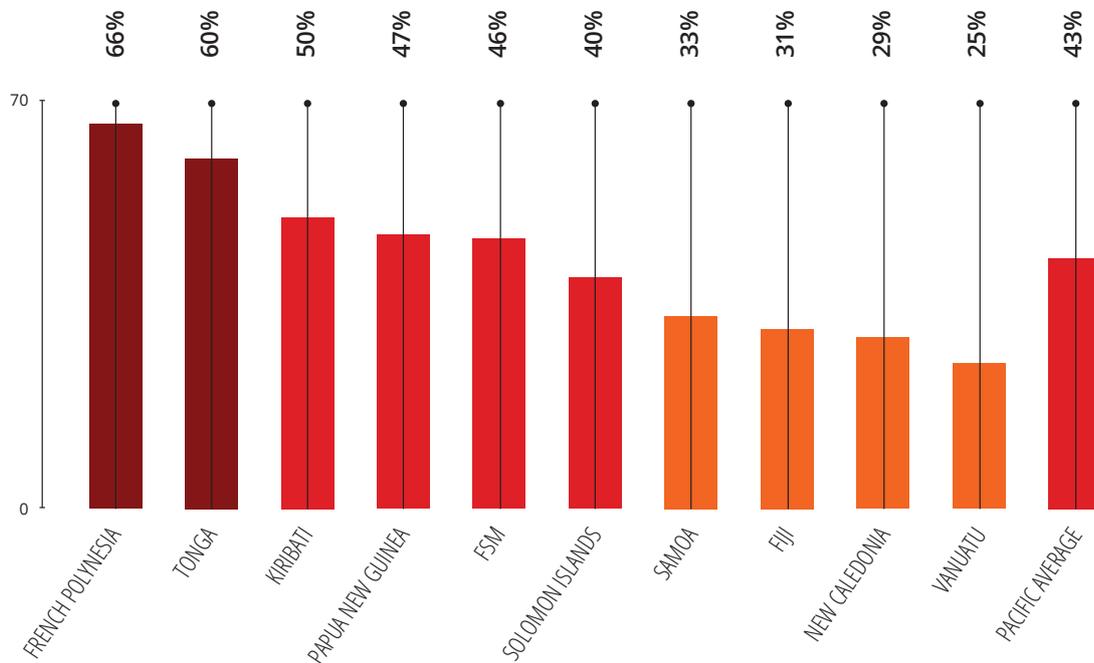




photo: maloff / Shutterstock.com

Fighting corruption begins at the top: Kiribati in focus

In 2017, Kiribati developed its first national anti-corruption strategy. The president declared it a milestone in the country's history which would make Kiribati a regional anti-corruption champion.²⁵ Another positive step was Kiribati hosting the first Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Conference in 2020, at which the "Teieniwa Vision" was developed – a set of collective anti-corruption aspirations from Pacific leaders, now officially adopted by the Pacific Islands Forum.²⁶

Respondents in Kiribati indicated some of the highest levels of trust towards key state and non-state institutions in the region, and there is strong satisfaction (83 per cent) with the government's steps to tackle corruption.

However, serious gaps remain. Bribery rates are the highest in the region (64 per cent) and there is widespread vote-buying (45 per cent).

Recommendations from reviews of Kiribati's progress under the United Nations Convention against Corruption need to be prioritised. These include strengthening key justice and oversight institutions, better protection for whistleblowers and raising awareness among communities about their rights and the responsibilities of duty bearers.²⁷

Like other small island countries with narrow economies, Kiribati has indicated that it lacks adequate financial and technical resources for reforms.²⁸ It needs support from regional organisations and development partners, but equally important will be Kiribati's government acting on its aspirations to fully implement and enforce an effective anti-corruption framework.

Heads of government’s offices and members of parliament seen as most corrupt

We also asked people how much corruption they think there is across 13 different sectors and institutions in their country. In general, individuals within the executive and legislative branches of government were considered the most corrupt. Around a third of respondents across the region think that most or all members of parliament (36 per cent) and staff in the president’s or prime minister’s office (32 per cent) are involved in corruption.²⁹

There are, however, big differences between countries. In Kiribati, for example, 65 per cent of respondents think that most or all officials in the office of the president are involved in corruption. Forty-four per cent of respondents in French Polynesia agree. In contrast, only 10 per cent of people surveyed in Samoa and 12 per cent in Fiji think that most officials in the prime minister’s office are involved in corruption.

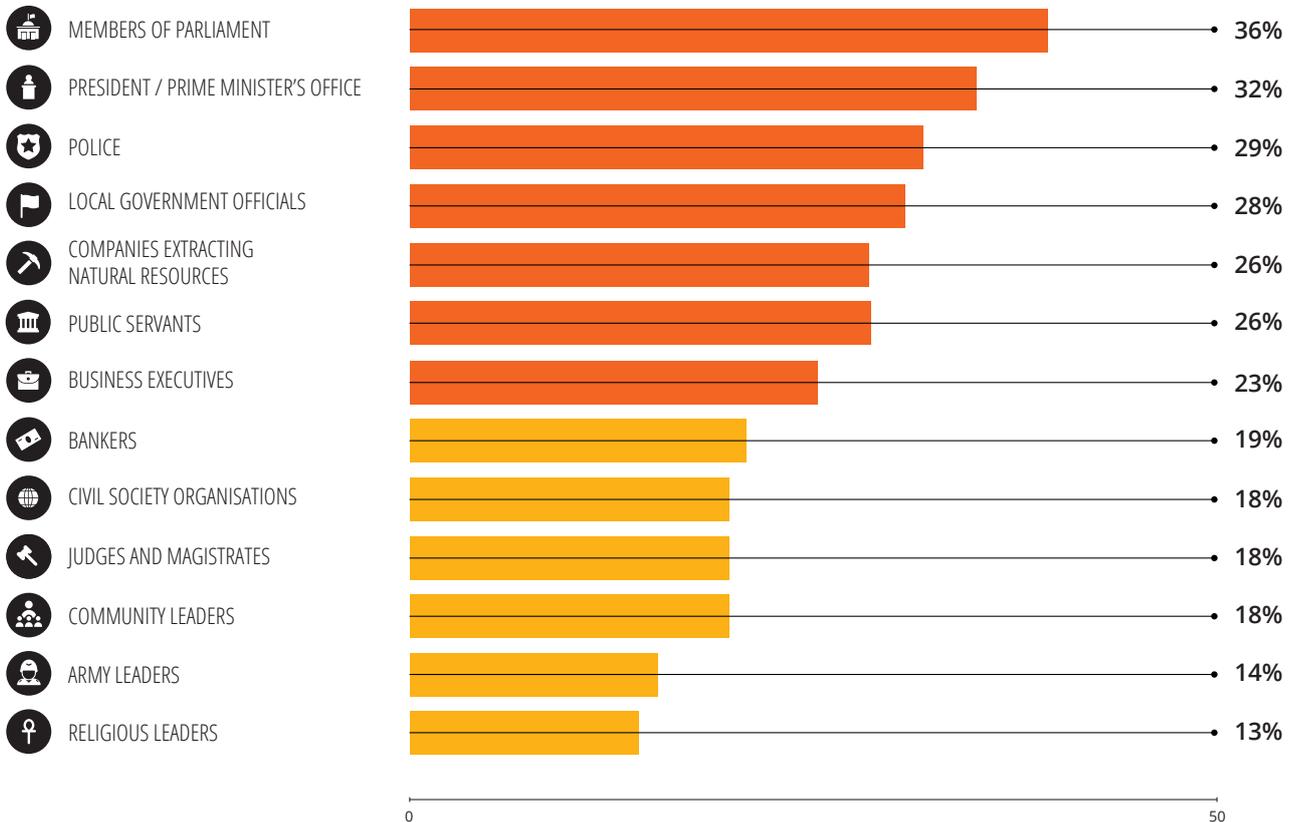
The three countries with the highest perceptions of corruption in the executive also top the list when it comes to the legislative branch. More than half of respondents in Kiribati (64

per cent), Papua New Guinea (58 per cent) and Solomon Islands (55 per cent) think that most or all members of parliament are involved in corruption. Samoa (12 per cent) and Fiji (17 per cent) again reported the lowest perceptions of corruption in the legislature.

The police are also seen as a corruption hotspot in the Pacific. Twenty-nine per cent of respondents in the region reported that most or all members of the police in their country are involved in corruption. The highest figures were in Kiribati (63 per cent) and Papua New Guinea (57 per cent).

CORRUPTION, BY INSTITUTION

Percentage of people who think that most or all people in these groups or institutions are involved in corruption.³⁰



Trust in institutions to do a good job and act fairly

Overall, a majority of respondents across the region (58 per cent) reported having a fair amount or a great deal of trust in government to do a good job and treat people fairly. However, people are divided on this issue, as 41 per cent have little or no trust in their government. These results establish the government, including politicians, public agencies and public servants, as the least-trusted institution in the region.

There are, however, big differences across countries. A significant majority of respondents in Fiji (73 per cent), Samoa (78 per cent) and Kiribati (88 per cent) have a fair amount or a great deal of trust in their governments. In contrast, only around a quarter of respondents in New Caledonia (23 per cent) and French Polynesia (28 per cent) trust that the government will do a good job and act in a fair manner.

The most trusted group is religious institutions. Eighty-six per cent of respondents report having a fair amount or

a great deal of trust in religious leaders, with this figure even exceeding 90 per cent in Kiribati, Tonga and Solomon Islands. In Vanuatu, where religious institutions played a critical role in the country's independence movement,³¹ 89 per cent of respondents say they trust such institutions. Groups like these may be well positioned to play an important role in anti-corruption awareness campaigns at community level.

COVID-19 and government transparency

A majority of respondents in the region (54 per cent) felt that their governments had handled the COVID-19 pandemic in a transparent manner. This is a positive reflection on the early measures taken in 2020 by Pacific leaders to protect borders and contain the pandemic. However, the first significant outbreaks of the virus only reached Pacific Island nations in 2021 after this survey was conducted.

Civil society groups have increasingly raised corruption concerns related to COVID-19. There have been allegations that funds to alleviate the pandemic's economic impact in Solomon Islands were misused³² and that emergency funds disbursed in Papua New Guinea throughout 2020 lacked proper oversight.³³ Some governments have been accused of adopting authoritarian approaches to managing the crisis, such as the significant powers granted to Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister under the 2020 Public Health Emergency Act.³⁴ Concerns have also been raised about some governments limiting media freedom³⁵ and freedom of expression, such as the Vanuatu government's order that media outlets may only publish stories about the pandemic if they secure official authorisation.³⁶

With COVID-19 outbreaks continuing to hit the region, there is an urgent need to strengthen transparency and accountability mechanisms and respect for civic and political rights – both to better respond to this pandemic and any future crises.

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS TO DO A GOOD JOB AND ACT FAIRLY

Percentage of respondents with a “fair amount” or a “great deal” of trust in the listed institutions.³⁷

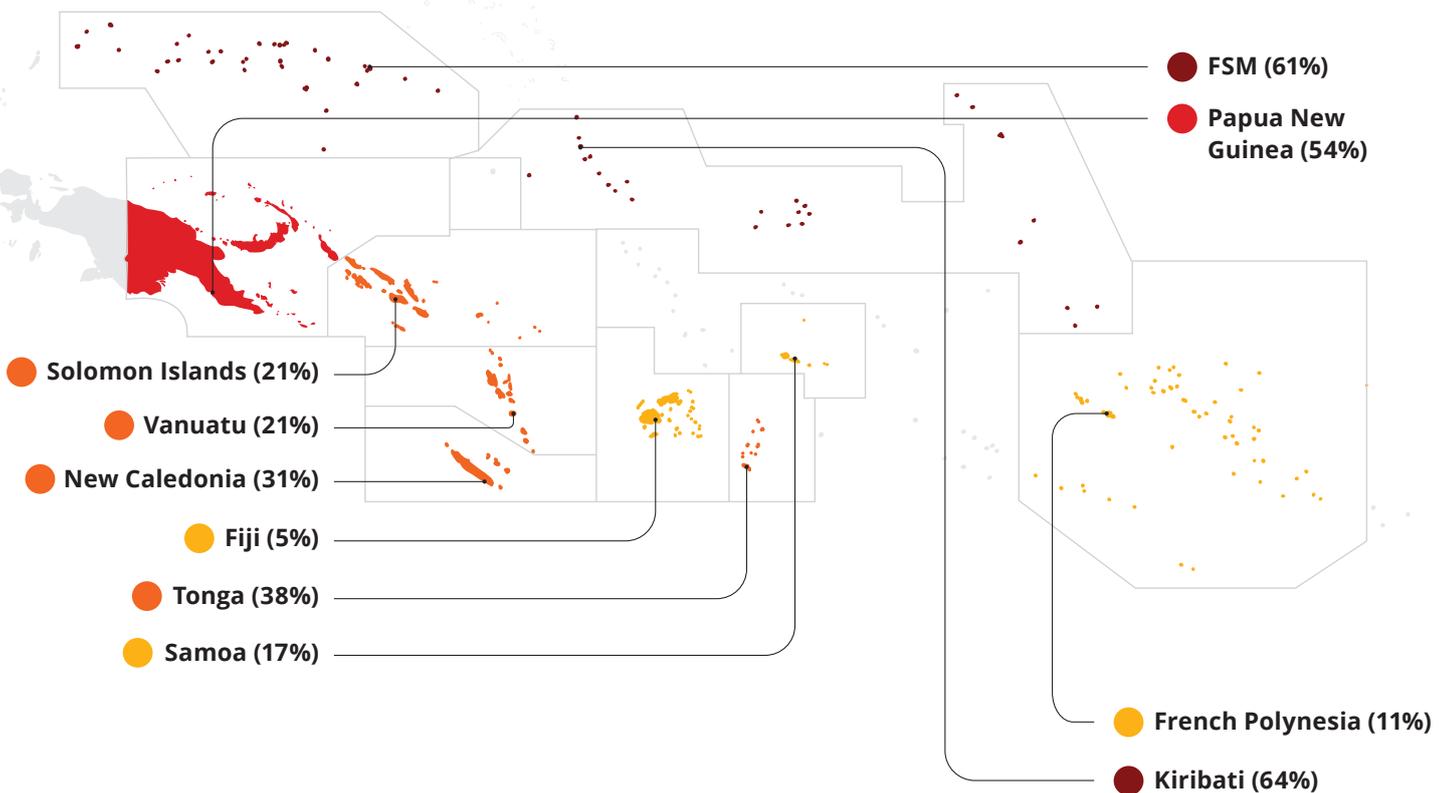


photo: ChameleonsEye / Shutterstock.com



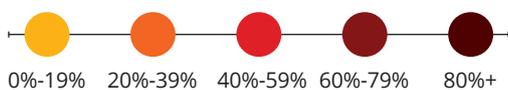
HOW ARE CITIZENS AFFECTED BY CORRUPTION?

We asked citizens in all countries about their personal experiences with corruption in accessing basic services, such as health care and education, to better understand what happens in people’s daily lives. We found that bribery and the use of personal connections are widespread in many parts of the region, and across many key services.



BRIBERY RATES, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of public service users who paid a bribe in the previous 12 months.



Nearly a third of respondents paid a bribe

People were asked whether they had contact with six key public services in their country in the previous 12 months: a public school, a public clinic or hospital, a government office issuing official documents, public providers of water, sanitation or electric services, the police and the courts.³⁸ We then asked whether they paid a bribe, gave a gift or did a favour in order to receive the services they needed.³⁹ Eighty per cent of all respondents had contact with at least one of these six public services over the 12 months preceding the survey. Of these, more than one in three people (32 per cent) paid a bribe for basic services, such as health care or education.

This makes the incidence of bribery documented across this region higher than found by the Global Corruption Barometer in other regions, including Africa (28 per cent), the Middle East and North Africa (22 per cent), Latin America (21 per cent), Asia (19 per cent) and the European Union (7 per cent).

But bribery rates differ significantly from country to country. More than half of respondents who used at least one of the public services assessed in the survey paid a bribe in Kiribati (64 per cent), the Federated States of Micronesia (61 per cent) and Papua New Guinea (54 per cent). In contrast, Fiji maintains the lowest overall bribery rate (5 per cent), followed by French Polynesia (11 per cent).

photo: corners74 / Shutterstock.com



Bribery rates are high across key public services...

We found that experiences with bribery do not show significant variation across key services.⁴⁰

The lowest bribery levels were documented in interactions with public schools and clinics, but even for these services almost

a quarter of respondents (24 per cent) resorted to bribery. Somewhat higher bribery rates were found among respondents interacting with the police (27 per cent) or trying to obtain documents from a government office (29 per cent).

The survey results revealed that women are more likely to interact with public schools,

clinics and hospitals, while men are more likely to engage with the police and public offices in charge of issuing documents. Despite these different contact patterns, men are slightly more likely than women to pay a bribe when interacting with a public school.

BRIBERY RATES, BY SERVICE

Percentage of people who used public services and paid a bribe in the previous 12 months.



...but reporting rates are low

Despite the high incidence of bribery across the region, only around a tenth of respondents (13 per cent) who paid a bribe reported this to

the authorities.⁴¹ This rises to around 30 per cent in Fiji and Kiribati. Reporting levels are almost negligible in French Polynesia (4 per cent) and Solomon Islands (2 per cent) – the lowest rates in the region.

13%

OF PEOPLE WHO PAID A BRIBE REPORTED THIS TO THE AUTHORITIES

Corruption in law enforcement: Papua New Guinea in focus

While the police across the Pacific enjoy a relatively high level of trust (71 per cent), almost three in ten respondents (29 per cent) think that most or all people working for the police forces are corrupt. Police integrity appears to be a particular concern in Papua New Guinea, where 57 per cent of respondents see most or all people working for the police forces as corrupt, and only 46 per cent trust them to act responsibly.

In addition, 58 per cent of respondents in Papua New Guinea who had interactions with police in the previous 12 months reported paying a bribe, giving a gift or doing a favour, and 63 per cent called in favours or drew on personal connections to get assistance or avoid a problem. These numbers are far higher than the regional averages of 27 and 54 per cent respectively.

In 2011, Papua New Guinea's police commissioner asked that citizens stop offering bribes to police⁴² to avoid contributing to a culture of bribery. But this survey indicates that high percentages of public officials in the country still demand bribes. Seventeen per cent of respondents who paid a bribe for any public service were asked to do so – the second highest rate in the region – while 20 per cent said they paid because they knew it was expected.

Amid allegations of politically motivated police brutality⁴³ and violence,⁴⁴ as well as corruption and gun running,⁴⁵ Minister for Justice Bryan Kramer and Police Commissioner David Manning have both committed to meaningful police reform.⁴⁶ Weeding out so-called “criminals in uniform”⁴⁷ is a crucial start, but the police force remains critically under-funded, under-staffed and under-resourced⁴⁸ – as well as competing with a booming private security industry. Reforms must therefore go further if they are to restore public trust.⁴⁹

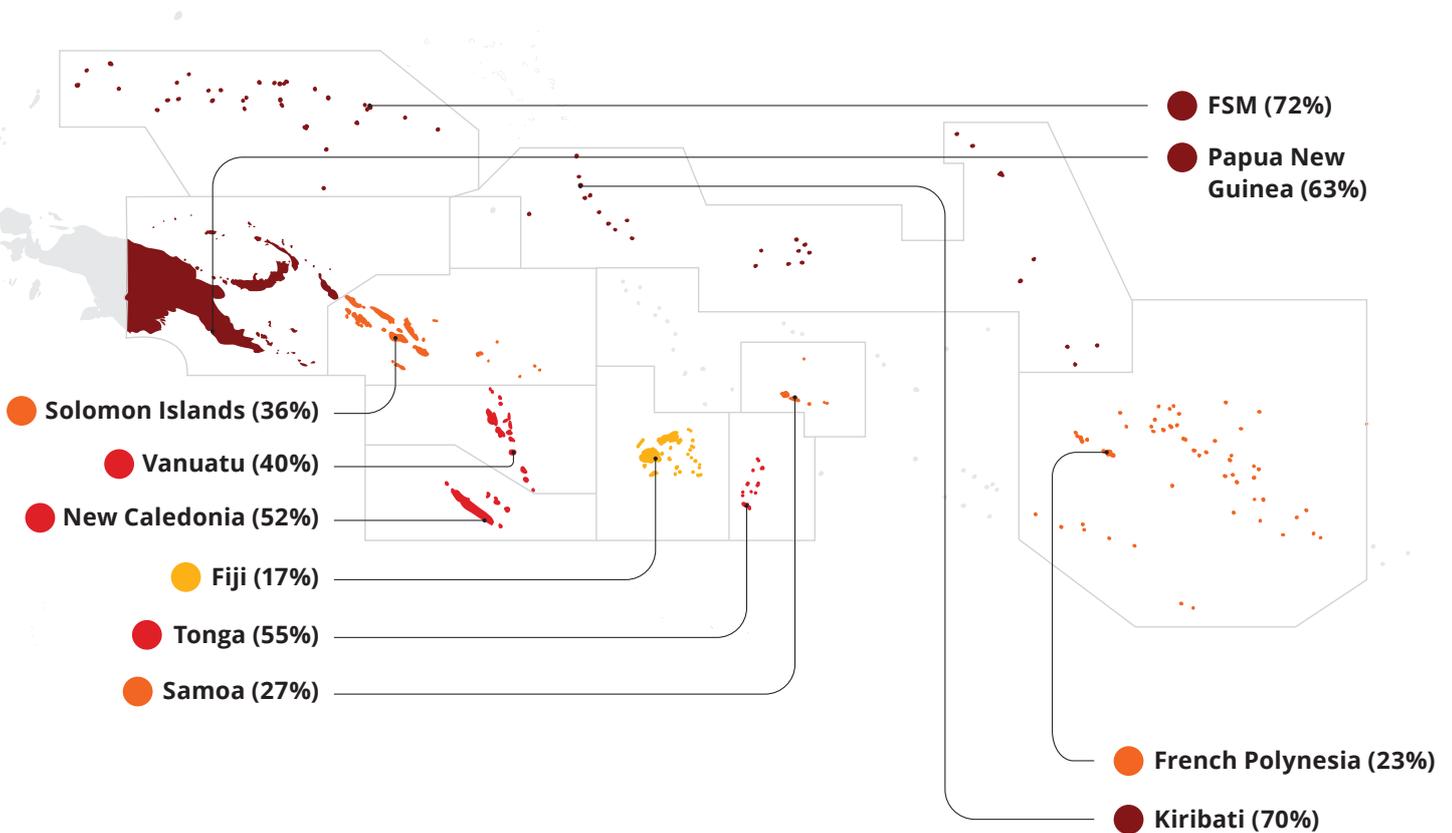
This involves building a culture of integrity, including aligning police conduct with provisions in the Police Act, as recommended in the 2021 National Integrity System Assessment,⁵⁰ and working with communities to improve the reporting of corruption. The authorities must also ensure that all reports are properly investigated and that meaningful sanctions are introduced and enforced.

Looking beyond bribery: the misuse of personal connections

Bribery is not the only form of corruption that people can experience when interacting with public services. Relying on personal connections is a form of favouritism that can introduce systematic biases in how public services operate and which groups are able to use them.

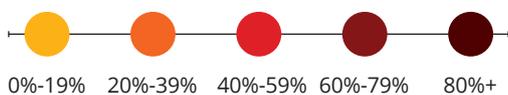
Given the small populations of many Pacific Island nations, ties to government officials and civil servants are relatively common. However, governments in the region must guarantee fair and equal access to public services to all citizens, regardless of who they are and who they know. For this reason, we asked people whether they relied on personal connections to access services from the government.

The results suggest that this form of favouritism is also widespread across the region. Almost half of respondents (46 per cent) who had contact with one of the six public services included in the survey relied on personal connections at least once to get what they needed.



PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of public service users who used personal connections or called in personal favours in the previous 12 months.⁵¹



However, there are big differences among the countries in the region. In five countries – New Caledonia (52 per cent), Tonga (55 per cent), Papua New Guinea (63 per cent), Kiribati (70 per cent) and the Federated States of Micronesia (72 per cent) – more than half of public service users relied on personal connections to get what they

needed. Yet in Fiji, fewer than two in ten (17 per cent) did so.

Mirroring the bribery rates, the use of personal connections appears widespread across all public services, with only marginal differences found. The highest use of personal connections was for interactions with the police and the issuing of government

documents (both 39 per cent). There was little difference between the rates at which men and women use personal connections when interacting with public services. As with the bribery findings, men were slightly more likely than women to report calling in favours when interacting with public schools.

USE OF PERSONAL CONNECTIONS, BY SERVICE

Percentage of people who used personal connections in the previous 12 months.



Why do people rely on corruption to access public services?

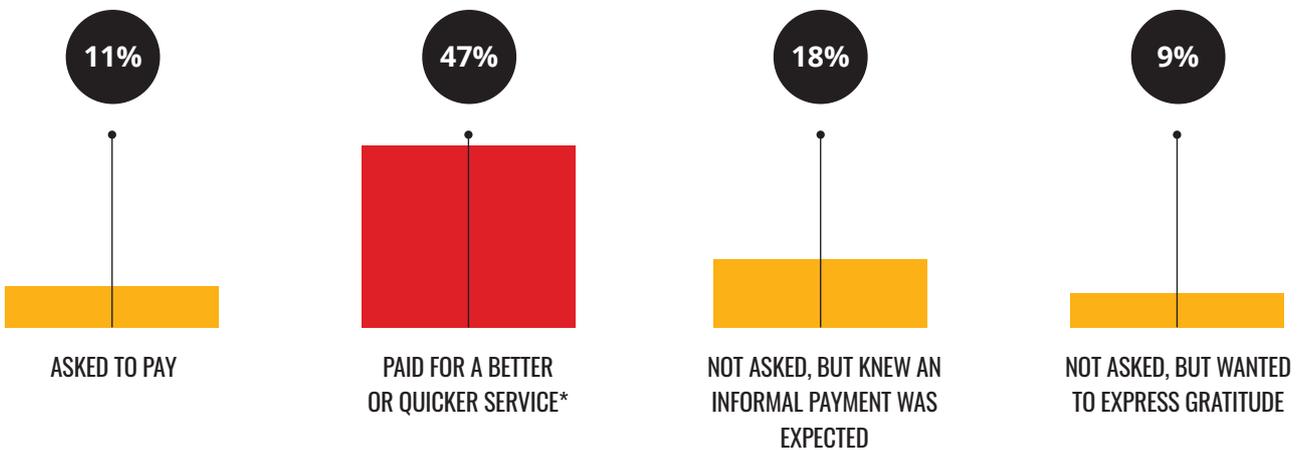
There are many reasons why corruption may occur when people seek public services. It is often assumed that public officials abuse their positions and opportunities to act in a discretionary manner to create situations that allow them to supplement their income by extorting bribes from public service users.

However, the data gathered in the Pacific region shows this is not necessarily the main driver of bribery among respondents. Less than a third (30 per cent) of public service users who paid a bribe confirm that they were either asked to pay to receive the service they needed (11 per cent), knew that a bribe was expected even if not explicitly requested (18 per cent), or feared negative consequences for not paying a bribe (1 per cent).⁵²

Instead, a majority of survey respondents who reported paying a bribe (56 per cent) say that they were not requested to do so, but wanted either to speed up the process (30 per cent), get a better service (18 per cent) or simply express gratitude (9 per cent). These results suggest that bribery in the region is mostly used as a tool to get around complex or time-consuming bureaucratic processes.

REASONS WHY PEOPLE PAY BRIBES TO RECEIVE PUBLIC SERVICES

Percentage of people who pay bribes, by reason.



**In total, 29.6 per cent paid a bribe for a quicker service and 17.6 per cent for a better service.*

When it comes to the use of personal connections, the survey results paint a similar picture. Almost two-thirds of respondents (63 per cent) say that they relied on connections either to get a better service than usually offered (22 per cent) or to get things done quicker (41 per cent). However, around a fifth of respondents who used a public service (19 per cent) say they would not have received what

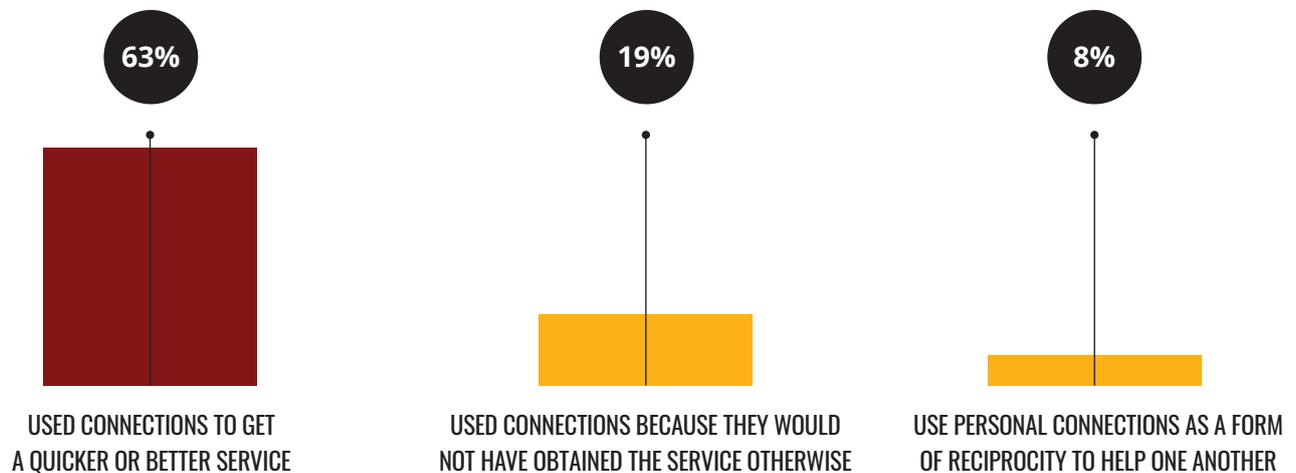
they needed without the help of their personal connections. Around a tenth of respondents (8 per cent) say that using personal connections was a way of showing reciprocity and helping one another.⁵³

These results suggest that rates for paying bribes and using personal connections could be reduced by simplifying the procedures for accessing

public services, and providing citizens with clear information about the costs and expected timelines involved.⁵⁴

REASONS WHY PEOPLE USE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC SERVICES

Percentage of people who use personal connections, by reason.



The role of reciprocity

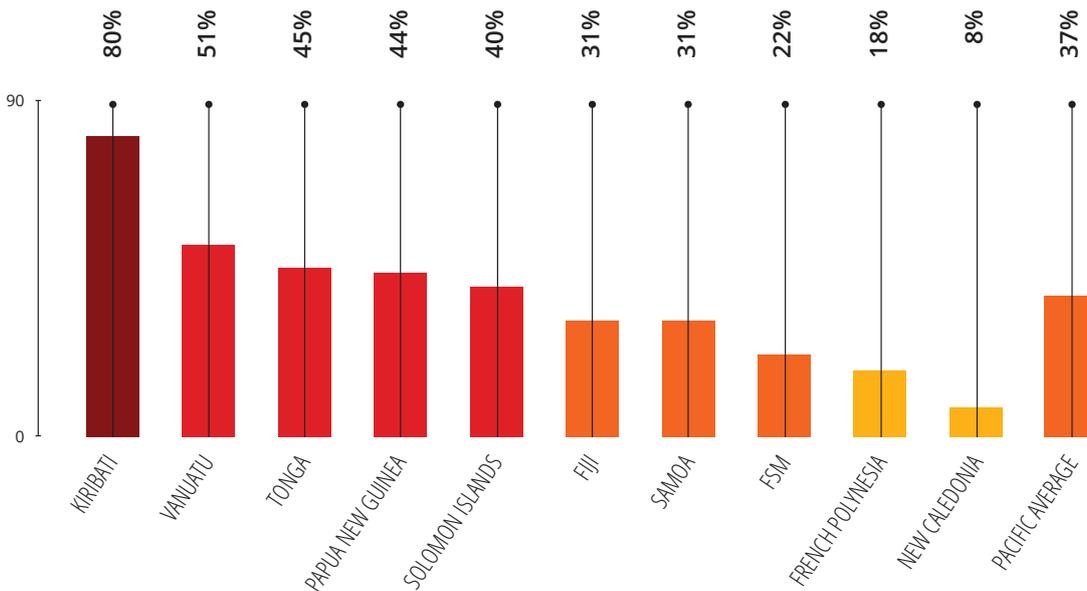
We asked people whether they feel they should give a gift or political support to people in positions of power who help them. The results show that respondents across the region are divided on this issue. While 37 per cent agree with the statement, 41 per cent disagree.

Attitudes also vary significantly by country, from just 8 per cent of respondents in New Caledonia feeling they should reciprocate when a person in a position of power does something to help them, to 51 per cent in Vanuatu and 80 per cent in Kiribati sharing the same view.

In six of the ten countries covered, more people think that gift-giving is not necessary in such situations than those who do. This includes most respondents in Solomon Islands (51 per cent), Fiji (55 per cent), French Polynesia (57 per cent), New Caledonia (60 per cent), and the Federated States of Micronesia (62 per cent).

ATTITUDES ON RECIPROCITY, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of people who agree that if someone in a position of responsibility helps them, they should show their appreciation through a gift or their political support.⁵⁵



Gift-giving and reciprocity are complex issues when viewed within the context of the Pacific public sector.⁵⁶ People with power can exploit close social ties and gift-giving traditions as a cover for bribery, including during elections. Key to determining when the line is crossed is often the degree of secrecy in

which these gifts or favours are exchanged, and the level of obligation they imply.⁵⁷

Campaigns that empower communities with knowledge about their rights and the obligations of public officials could prevent cultural practices and other socio-economic

vulnerabilities being exploited by corrupt public officials and others for personal gain. Clear election campaign rules, donation policies and gift registries, as well as increased accountability for discretionary funds, help improve oversight of these practices.



photo: Margaret Briggs / Shutterstock.com

SEXTORTION

This tenth edition of the *Global Corruption Barometer* has documented the issue of sexual extortion – or sextortion – across different regions of the world.*

In this specific manifestation of corruption, sex becomes the currency of the bribe and people are coerced into engaging in sexual acts in exchange for

essential services, including health care and education. Globally, girls and women are overwhelmingly targeted for sextortion.⁵⁸

38%

OF PEOPLE SURVEYED HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXTORTION OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS

42%

THINK THAT SEXTORTION HAPPENS AT LEAST OCCASIONALLY

*Though multiple editions of the *Global Corruption Barometer* have been conducted elsewhere, this report represents the first time it has been carried out in the Pacific

Our results show that almost four in ten respondents across the region (38 per cent) have received requests from public officials that are sexual in nature in exchange for government services or benefits at least once in the past five years, or know someone who has. The highest rate was reported in French Polynesia, where an alarming 92 per cent of respondents express having experienced this form of corruption themselves or knowing someone who has. Extremely high rates of sextortion were also reported in New Caledonia (76 per cent) and Papua New Guinea (51 per cent). Much lower rates were found

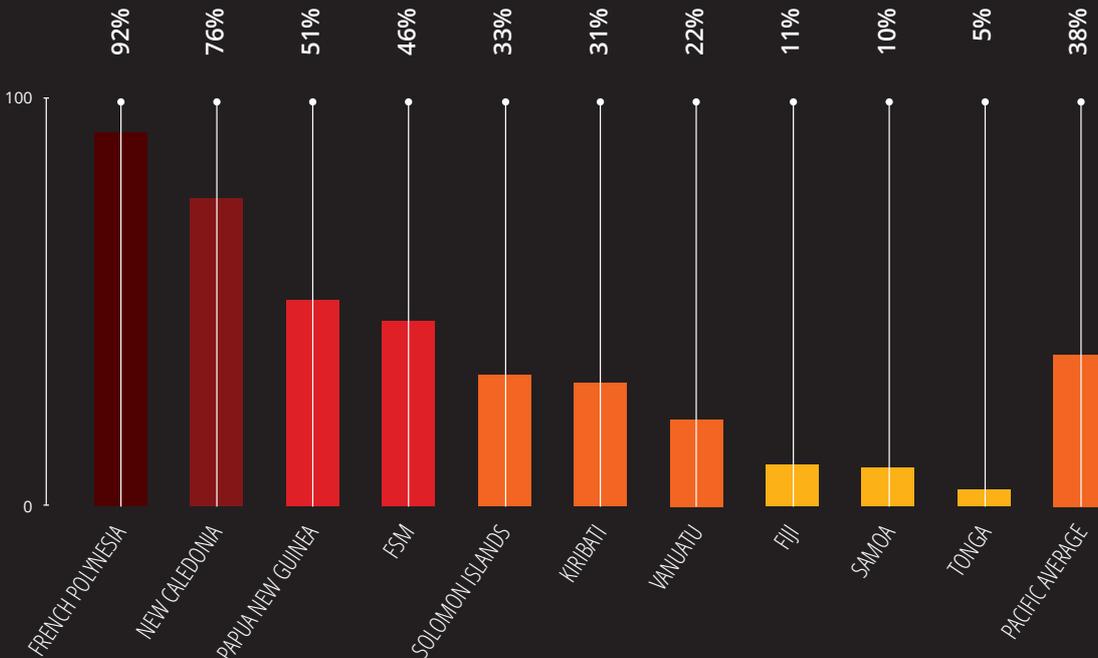
in Fiji (11 per cent), Samoa (10 per cent) and Tonga (5 per cent). The high regional average aligns with the high rates of sexual and gender-based violence recorded in the region,⁵⁹ which far exceed the global average.⁶⁰

Despite these findings, respondents across the Pacific appear to have difficulty assessing the extent of the problem. Only 21 per cent think that sextortion happens often, while 37 per cent think it happens rarely or occasionally and 24 per cent think it never happens.⁶¹

It is worth noting that around a fifth of respondents (17 per cent) say that they do not know how often sextortion occurs in their countries. These figures rise to half of all respondents in New Caledonia (50 per cent) and over 40 per cent in French Polynesia. While this contrasts with the high levels of direct and indirect sextortion reported in the survey, it could point to a need for further investigation and community dialogue to better understand and address this heinous form of corruption.

SEXTORTION RATES, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of people who experience sextortion or know someone who has.⁶²



CORRUPTION IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES COULD BE UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY

Elections can be a mechanism for citizens to hold power to account by voting out corrupt politicians. However, this can only happen if electoral processes are free and fair. Limiting forms of electoral corruption such as vote-buying is crucial, as is strengthening electoral commissions and the monitoring and enforcement of campaign rules.

Around a quarter of people surveyed across the region (26 per cent) reported being offered bribes in exchange for their votes in national, regional or local elections in the past five years. Almost three in ten respondents (29 per cent) mentioned that other members of their family or clan had a similar experience over the same period.⁶³ Vote-buying appears to be especially

widespread in Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia, where almost 60 per cent of respondents reported having been offered a bribe in exchange for their vote at least once. The lowest rates of vote-buying were reported by respondents in Tonga (3 per cent), Fiji (4 per cent) and New Caledonia (6 per cent).

26%

OF RESPONDENTS WERE OFFERED BRIBES IN EXCHANGE FOR VOTES AT LEAST ONCE IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

15%

OF RESPONDENTS WERE THREATENED WITH RETALIATION IF THEY DID NOT VOTE IN A PARTICULAR WAY

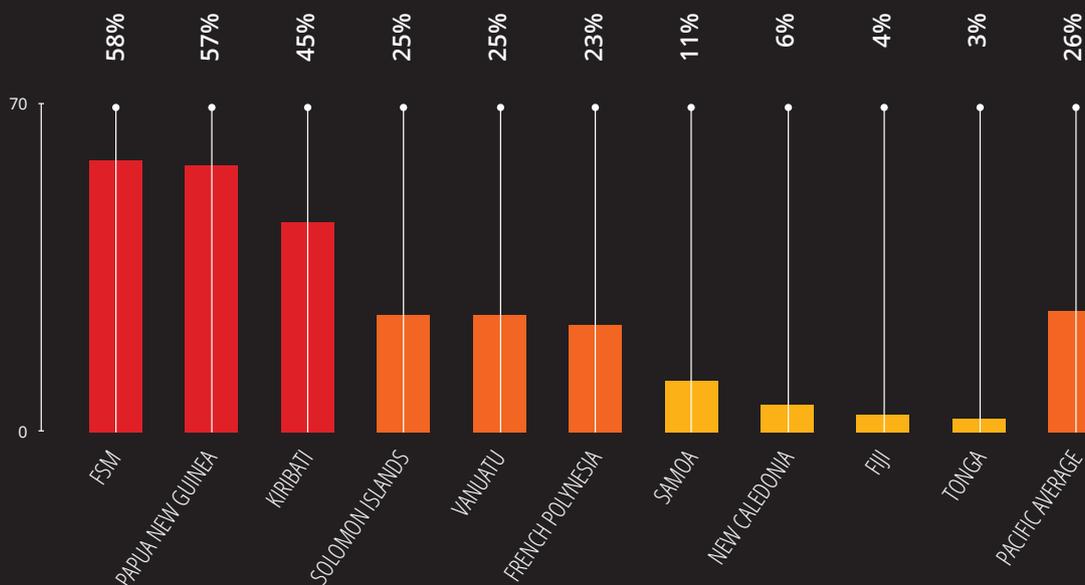
In some countries, people are also threatened with retaliation if they do not vote in a certain way. Around a fifth of survey respondents in Kiribati (23 per cent) and Solomon Islands (19 per cent) and almost four in ten (39

per cent) in Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia reported having been threatened to vote in a certain way at least once in the past five years.⁶⁴ This practice is least widespread in Fiji, New Caledonia,

Samoa and Tonga, where less than 5 per cent of respondents reported experiencing such threats. Fifteen per cent of respondents across the Pacific have been threatened so that they vote in a certain way.

VOTE-BUYING RATES, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of people offered bribes in exchange for votes in the past five years.⁶⁵



Topic in focus: Vote buying

Free and fair elections are an issue to watch across the region. Although regular elections take place in all the countries surveyed, they are marred in some countries by irregularities, fraud or violence.⁶⁶ Members of parliament and government officials in some Pacific countries have access to large discretionary funds for their constituencies, which can be abused in an attempt to buy votes. In Solomon Islands, two members of parliament lost their seats in 2020 after they were convicted by the high court for bribing voters during the 2019 national elections.⁶⁷ Despite being against the law, widespread vote-buying has been reported in Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands⁶⁸ – and confirmed by survey respondents in those countries.

With national elections recently concluded in some Pacific countries, and others scheduled to take place soon, the views and experiences expressed in this report provide these new governments with an opportunity to listen to their citizens and position themselves as anti-corruption champions from the outset.

Concrete steps that leaders could take to strengthen integrity and democracy in their countries include enforcing electoral laws, providing voter education, increasing transparency of election-related data and protecting press freedom. They should also ensure that national anti-corruption agencies have the resources and mandate to operate effectively. One positive initiative is the Resource Centre announced by the Fijian Electoral Office to provide public access to historic electoral information, along with a virtual voter education platform.⁶⁹

TAKING ACTION

Social demand for accountability and good governance is crucial for keeping corruption in check. Engaged and informed citizens can demand more from their governments and hold them to account, particularly in democratic settings. The results of the *Global Corruption Barometer – Pacific* reveal that while there is much room for improvement in the region when it comes to ensuring citizens’ participation and governments’ responsiveness to their needs, there is cause for hope.

ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Percentage of people who agree.⁷⁰

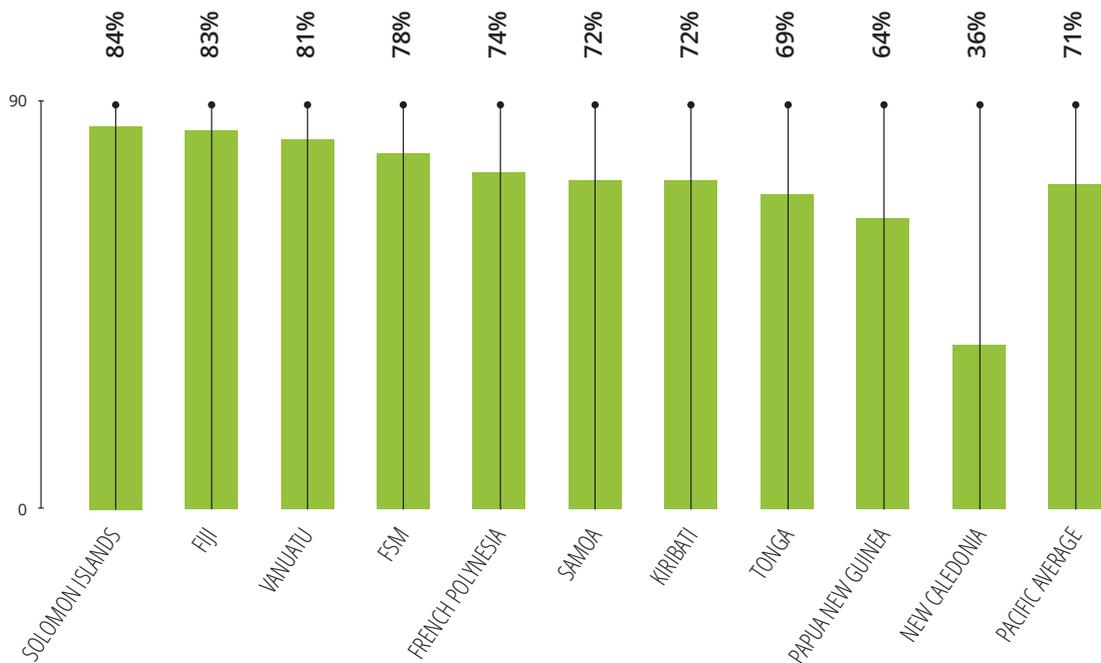




photo: Transparency International Papua New Guinea

People reject corruption and see themselves as part of the solution

The survey results show that a majority of respondents in the region (60 per cent) think that corruption by government officials is not acceptable under any circumstances.⁷¹ In French Polynesia and Tonga, this rose to around three quarters of respondents. Yet a sizeable minority (23 per cent) feel that government corruption can be justified if it delivers good results.

Positively, 71 per cent of respondents agree that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption. This opinion is particularly widespread among respondents from Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, where more than 80 per cent share the view that people are part of the solution to corruption.



71%

THINK ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



11%

THINK ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



People making a difference: Fiji in focus

Since 2018, Fiji has been one of the few Pacific countries with a specific right to information law.⁷² The Independent Commission against Corruption supports the reporting of corrupt acts and whistleblower protection⁷³ and the government publishes budget information and conducts extensive budget consultations.⁷⁴ Survey respondents in Fiji also reported the lowest levels of bribery in the region.

But there have been reports of increasing harassment, arrest and detention of critics. Laws provide the government with direct oversight of the media and the ability to levy heavy penalties against critics, fostering a climate of fear and self-censorship and limiting press freedom. There has been substantial interference with the right to peaceful assembly.⁷⁵ The government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has appeared to follow a similar trend. While 78 per cent of respondents thought that the government handled the pandemic in a transparent manner, this data was gathered before the first severe outbreak hit the country. Concerns have since been raised about an increasingly authoritarian response to the crisis.⁷⁶

The good news is that 83 per cent of respondents think ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption. These findings are in line with those from our previous survey in 2013, which showed that Fijians are highly engaged in anti-corruption work.⁷⁷

Both in Fiji and regionally, young people have proved particularly passionate about the fight for transparency and accountability.⁷⁸ Our partner Youth for Integrity – a programme led by young Fijians – runs digital campaigns against corruption. In 2021, it joined with other civil society organisations to successfully lobby for the postponement of a new bill granting police additional and potentially problematic powers, until proper public consultations are undertaken.⁷⁹

People do not feel heard by their governments

While the survey shows strong support for citizen action and government efforts to tackle corruption, only 14 per cent of respondents across the region feel that the government regularly takes their views into account when making decisions. Although almost a quarter of respondents in Papua New Guinea (23 per cent) and Samoa (24 per cent) feel that their government frequently takes them into account when making decisions, only 9 per cent in Solomon Islands and 7 per cent in French Polynesia agree.

The fact that more than three quarters of respondents feel their voices are not regularly being heard by those in power presents an important challenge for democracies in the region, particularly given the previously mentioned finding that 40 per cent think their governments are often controlled by narrow interest groups.

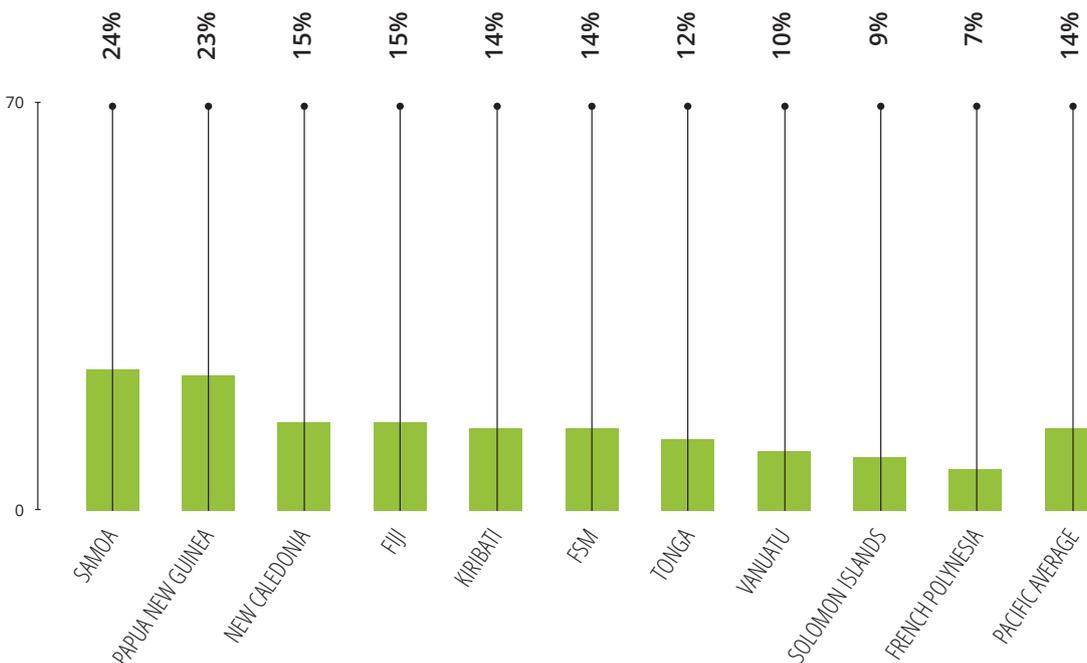
Other data from the region shows that women are particularly underrepresented in public decision-making. Pacific Island countries have the lowest level of female representation in politics in the world. Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Federated States

of Micronesia have no female politicians at all, making them three out of only four countries globally with such a lack of political representation.⁸⁰

However, there are ways for Pacific leaders to harness the hope and confidence expressed by ordinary people in this survey. These include providing opportunities for citizens to engage in public decisions, strengthening access to information and making the policymaking process more transparent, so people can see how government actions align with the public interest.

INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING, BY COUNTRY

Percentage of people who think their government frequently takes their views into account.⁸¹



The importance of engaging communities: Vanuatu in focus

Encompassing more than 80 islands, and home to a highly culturally and linguistically diverse population, Vanuatu faces several unique governance challenges. The country is also considered the most exposed to natural disasters in the world⁸² – a situation which will only be exacerbated by climate change.⁸³ Since independence, the political landscape has been marked by significant instability, including frequent scandals⁸⁴ and changes in government.⁸⁵

Empowering citizens to hold their government to account is crucial if the country is to face these challenges. However, only 11 per cent of our survey respondents feel that the government frequently takes their views into account, and Vanuatu is one of only a handful of countries without a single female member of parliament.⁸⁶ Despite a well-received right to information (RTI) law passed in 2016,⁸⁷ the RTI Unit is still without a commissioner, and key positions in other public offices apparently remain unfilled.⁸⁸ Critics also warn that provisions introduced in 2021 criminalising defamation will have a “chilling effect” on freedom of speech and media freedom.⁸⁹

Although 74 per cent of Ni-Vanuatu citizens live in rural areas,⁹⁰ the reach of the state remains relatively weak outside urban centres.⁹¹ The government could address this gap through stronger collaboration with civil society organisations which already engage regularly with communities across the country, both online and in person. Transparency Vanuatu, for example, conducts outreach trips to help citizens understand their rights and the duties of those in power, sometimes in partnership with the RTI Unit. The high proportion of respondents who report receiving their news via radio (42 per cent) and social media (33 per cent) offers an excellent opportunity for politicians to easily and affordably begin dialogues with their constituents.

CONCLUSION

The *Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) – Pacific* represents the first systematic attempt to gather data on the perceptions, attitudes and experiences of corruption among people in the region. Now, decisive actions are needed to advance anti-corruption efforts in the region. Support from governments, donors and other key stakeholders will be crucial to make this possible.

The results show that bribery affects almost one in three people, and that corruption in both government and the business sector is seen as a big problem. While levels of corruption vary widely between individual countries, the overall picture is very concerning. Additionally, the region shows some of the highest rates of sextortion documented so far by any GCB.

Corruption in the Pacific is not limited to the delivery of public services. In most countries we surveyed, over a fifth of respondents were targeted for vote-buying. Efforts to improve the integrity of elections are especially necessary in those countries where corruption in public service delivery also appears most widespread.

The high number of people who directly experience corruption in its many forms shows that institutions need to be strengthened. A whole-society approach to anti-corruption that ensures meaningful engagement by civil society is vital for achieving this goal. This will

require raising awareness of the damaging effects of corruption, informing citizens about their rights and the responsibilities of civil servants, and simplifying bureaucratic processes. It is also important to improve the quality and availability of reporting channels, and strengthen the prosecution of abuses of power.

People in the Pacific also appear to be very worried about the relationship between the business sector and their governments, with public contracting portrayed as a potential corruption hotspot across the region. Only a minority of respondents across all 10 countries covered in the survey think that corruption is a rare occurrence in the process of awarding public contracts. People surveyed were also more likely to think that their governments respond to the interests of a few powerful groups rather than the needs of ordinary citizens. A more transparent relationship between business and governments is therefore essential. Regulating business involvement in electoral

campaigns and policymaking, and introducing income, asset and interest disclosure for politicians, would be first steps in the right direction, strengthening citizens' ability to hold their leaders to account.

Achieving sustainable wins in the fight against corruption can be a slow and painstaking process. Fortunately, people are optimistic about the change they can effect, and many approve of their government's anti-corruption efforts. Leaders now have an opportunity to translate the views and experiences of Pacific Islanders captured in this report into stronger action on the commitments they have made – nationally, regionally and globally.

As regional leaders finalise the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific, they have an opportunity to prioritise strong governance, accountability and community engagement in order to ensure just, equitable and sustainable development across the region.

METHODOLOGY

The survey targeted the general population aged 18 and older in 10 countries across the Pacific. The researchers reached respondents via computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) using random digit dialling sample generation.

The samples for the countries covered with the CATI methodology were based on interlocked quotas by region, age and gender. Respondent selection was carried out on a random basis using the Kish grid methodology, taking into consideration all adults in the household who did not have a mobile phone of their own. This was done to ensure that all adults within the household had an equal opportunity to be interviewed. The Pacific region presents several challenges for primary data collection exercises. Geographic remoteness, security and transportation issues can make in-person interviews expensive and impractical.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic made travelling to and within the region virtually impossible at the time of the survey. These factors made it unrealistic to proceed with face-to-face interviews in most countries.

We therefore chose the CATI methodology, despite the relatively low phone penetration reported in some countries and the absence of reliable and updated statistics on phone penetration. Given anecdotal evidence that while individual mobile phone penetration might be low in some of these countries, many households have at least one mobile phone, the survey methodology was adapted to capture information about mobile phone penetration within households, and an additional stratum introduced to include representation from adults without a mobile phone.

Sample sizes

For the two countries with the largest populations in the region, Papua New Guinea and Fiji, the sample size was set at 1,000 respondents. While the target population were all adults, some regions or population groups could not be reached.

These include areas in Kiribati (Kanton, Kiritimati, Tabuaeran, Teeraina), New Caledonia (Belep) and specific sectors of the population in Fiji (women in the Rotuma group) and Tonga (the Ha'apai group and women in the Ongo Niua region). The size of the excluded groups ranges from 0.1 per cent of the total adult population in Fiji to 8 per cent of the population in Kiribati.

Weighting

The survey results were post-weighted to align them with national statistics and correct for some deviations found in the classification variables. A weighting factor was calculated on the basis of national census data for region, age and gender. A weighting matrix was assembled using the variables “region by gender” and “gender by age”. Ninety-three per cent of all cases have an individual weight factor between 0.7 and 1.3, and fewer than 0.5 per cent have a weight value above 2, with no cap for outliers. The overall weighting efficiency (entire sample of all countries) is 94.75, with a mean weight factor of 0.9999998.

Margin of error

The efficiency of the result is subject to the sample size and the observed percentage. The maximum margin of error due to sampling from the entire population for a result of 50 per cent, with a confidence interval of 95 per cent, varies from 3.1 per cent in countries with a sample of 1,000 respondents to 4.4 per cent in countries with a sample of 500 interviews. The following table summarises information related to the fieldwork execution, sample size, coverage and accuracy of the samples.

Regional averages

Unless otherwise stated, for reported multi-country averages, an additional weighting factor is applied so that the sample sizes for each country are equal. The overall results for the region are equivalent to an average of the 10 countries surveyed.

Country	Local partner	Fieldwork dates	Sample size
Federated States of Micronesia	Tebbutt Research	17/02/2021 - 24/03/2021	500
Fiji	Tebbutt Research	05/02/2021 - 03/03/2021	1000
French Polynesia	Tebbutt Research	02/03/2021 - 29/03/2021	500
Kiribati	Tebbutt Research	20/02/2021 - 16/03/2021	500
New Caledonia	Tebbutt Research	16/02/2021 - 19/03/2021	500
Papua New Guinea	Tebbutt Research	15/02/2021 - 14/03/2021	1000
Samoa	Tebbutt Research	17/02/2021 - 13/03/2021	500
Solomon Islands	Tebbutt Research	10/02/2021 - 02/03/2021	500
Tonga	Tebbutt Research	12/02/2021 - 17/03/2021	500
Vanuatu	Tebbutt Research	18/02/2021 - 18/03/2021	500

COUNTRY CARDS



FIJI



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government	68%
In the business sector	61%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	5%	17%
Public schools	3%	17%
Public clinic or hospital	2%	12%
Receiving government documents	2%	10%
Utilities	3%	16%
Police	4%	12%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely	39%
Occasionally	37%
Frequently or very frequently	15%
Don't know	8%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree	83%
Disagree	8%
Neither agree nor disagree	5%
Don't know	4%

5%

Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

11%

Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

4%

Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

27%

Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

20%

Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	12%
Members of Parliament	17%
Civil servants	11%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	12%
Police	17%
Judges and Magistrates	8%
Religious leaders	8%
Business executives	15%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	10%
Bankers	7%
Military leaders	10%
Companies extracting natural resources	11%
Community leaders	9%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good	56%
Bad	38%
Don't know	5%



FRENCH POLYNESIA



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government	16%
In the business sector	18%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	11%	23%
Public schools	7%	13%
Public clinic or hospital	6%	12%
Receiving government documents	9%	21%
Utilities	6%	11%
Police	2%	12%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely	80%
Occasionally	7%
Frequently or very frequently	7%
Don't know	5%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree	74%
Disagree	6%
Neither agree nor disagree	15%
Don't know	4%

11%

Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

92%

Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

23%

Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

68%

Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

10%

Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	44%
Members of Parliament	40%
Civil servants	25%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	34%
Police	8%
Judges and Magistrates	11%
Religious leaders	4%
Business executives	17%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	11%
Bankers	21%
Military leaders	9%
Companies extracting natural resources	23%
Community leaders	7%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good	73%
Bad	20%
Don't know	7%



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government	80%
In the business sector	73%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	61%	72%
Public schools	57%	63%
Public clinic or hospital	60%	72%
Receiving government documents	58%	65%
Utilities	56%	64%
Police	58%	66%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely	49%
Occasionally	33%
Frequently or very frequently	14%
Don't know	4%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree	78%
Disagree	8%
Neither agree nor disagree	13%
Don't know	1%

61%

Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

46%

Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

58%

Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

29%

Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

16%

Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	27%
Members of Parliament	32%
Civil servants	13%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	18%
Police	27%
Judges and Magistrates	15%
Religious leaders	2%
Business executives	13%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	12%
Bankers	3%
Military leaders	-
Companies extracting natural resources	13%
Community leaders	13%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good	42%
Bad	51%
Don't know	7%



KIRIBATI



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government 55%
 In the business sector 53%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	64%	70%
Public schools	45%	53%
Public clinic or hospital	46%	52%
Receiving government documents	34%	45%
Utilities	30%	40%
Police	27%	39%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely 38%
 Occasionally 43%
 Frequently or very frequently 14%
 Don't know 5%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree 72%
 Disagree 19%
 Neither agree nor disagree 5%
 Don't know 3%

64% Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

31% Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

45% Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

14% Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

14% Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	65%
Members of Parliament	64%
Civil servants	62%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	60%
Police	63%
Judges and Magistrates	65%
Religious leaders	60%
Business executives	60%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	60%
Bankers	64%
Military leaders	-
Companies extracting natural resources	62%
Community leaders	60%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good 83%
 Bad 11%
 Don't know 6%



NEW CALEDONIA



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government	17%
In the business sector	32%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	31%	52%
Public schools	13%	29%
Public clinic or hospital	19%	39%
Receiving government documents	28%	51%
Utilities	19%	33%
Police	19%	33%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely	58%
Occasionally	6%
Frequently or very frequently	15%
Don't know	20%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree	36%
Disagree	12%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%
Don't know	36%

31%

Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

76%

Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

6%

Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

28%

Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

23%

Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	25%
Members of Parliament	25%
Civil servants	23%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	39%
Police	23%
Judges and Magistrates	16%
Religious leaders	12%
Business executives	21%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	15%
Bankers	20%
Military leaders	14%
Companies extracting natural resources	24%
Community leaders	18%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good	72%
Bad	12%
Don't know	16%



PAPUA NEW GUINEA



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government 96%
In the business sector 82%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	54%	63%
Public schools	42%	49%
Public clinic or hospital	42%	52%
Receiving government documents	53%	55%
Utilities	49%	53%
Police	58%	63%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely 59%
Occasionally 13%
Frequently or very frequently 23%
Don't know 5%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree 64%
Disagree 20%
Neither agree nor disagree 16%
Don't know 0%

54% Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

51% Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

57% Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

59% Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

28% Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	43%
Members of Parliament	58%
Civil servants	51%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	37%
Police	57%
Judges and Magistrates	26%
Religious leaders	19%
Business executives	35%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	28%
Bankers	29%
Military leaders	27%
Companies extracting natural resources	35%
Community leaders	31%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good 70%
Bad 28%
Don't know 2%



SAMOA



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government	49%
In the business sector	45%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	17%	27%
Public schools	9%	20%
Public clinic or hospital	10%	21%
Receiving government documents	14%	19%
Utilities	16%	21%
Police	12%	26%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely	35%
Occasionally	34%
Frequently or very frequently	24%
Don't know	7%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree	72%
Disagree	11%
Neither agree nor disagree	13%
Don't know	4%

17%

Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

10%

Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

11%

Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

17%

Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

23%

Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	10%
Members of Parliament	12%
Civil servants	12%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	-
Police	13%
Judges and Magistrates	7%
Religious leaders	4%
Business executives	9%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	10%
Bankers	6%
Military leaders	-
Companies extracting natural resources	6%
Community leaders	8%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good	63%
Bad	27%
Don't know	10%



SOLOMON ISLANDS



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government	97%
In the business sector	90%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	21%	36%
Public schools	13%	25%
Public clinic or hospital	10%	25%
Receiving government documents	22%	27%
Utilities	13%	21%
Police	17%	30%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely	58%
Occasionally	31%
Frequently or very frequently	9%
Don't know	2%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree	84%
Disagree	10%
Neither agree nor disagree	6%
Don't know	0%

21% Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

33% Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

25% Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

60% Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

18% Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	45%
Members of Parliament	55%
Civil servants	27%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	-
Police	27%
Judges and Magistrates	14%
Religious leaders	7%
Business executives	28%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	12%
Bankers	13%
Military leaders	-
Companies extracting natural resources	53%
Community leaders	13%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good	46%
Bad	52%
Don't know	2%



TONGA



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government	62%
In the business sector	52%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	38%	55%
Public schools	38%	47%
Public clinic or hospital	35%	55%
Receiving government documents	49%	62%
Utilities	41%	50%
Police	55%	67%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely	63%
Occasionally	23%
Frequently or very frequently	12%
Don't know	1%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree	69%
Disagree	4%
Neither agree nor disagree	25%
Don't know	1%

38%

Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

5%

Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

3%

Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

18%

Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

10%

Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	32%
Members of Parliament	32%
Civil servants	17%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	13%
Police	36%
Judges and Magistrates	13%
Religious leaders	11%
Business executives	17%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	14%
Bankers	14%
Military leaders	14%
Companies extracting natural resources	21%
Community leaders	13%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good	50%
Bad	45%
Don't know	5%



VANUATU



CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM

In government 73%
 In the business sector 58%



BRIBERY AND PERSONAL CONNECTION RATES*

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.

	BRIBERY	PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
Overall rate	21%	40%
Public schools	14%	35%
Public clinic or hospital	14%	33%
Receiving government documents	18%	34%
Utilities	19%	36%
Police	16%	38%



DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT?

Never or rarely 42%
 Occasionally 42%
 Frequently or very frequently 10%
 Don't know 5%



CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

Agree 81%
 Disagree 12%
 Neither agree nor disagree 6%
 Don't know 1%

21% Paid a bribe for public services in the previous 12 months*

22% Have experienced sextortion or know someone who has

25% Were offered bribes in exchange for votes

27% Think companies frequently use money or connections to secure government contracts

18% Think officials who engage in corruption frequently face consequences

*Based on people who used these public services in the previous 12 months.



CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

*Percentage who think that most or all people in these institutions are corrupt.

President / Prime Minister	17%
Members of Parliament	25%
Civil servants	16%
Local government representatives (incl. mayors)	14%
Police	17%
Judges and Magistrates	8%
Religious leaders	7%
Business executives	14%
Workers in civil society organisations/NGOs	11%
Bankers	10%
Military leaders	11%
Companies extracting natural resources	12%
Community leaders	10%



IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING A GOOD OR BAD JOB OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION?

Good 65%
 Bad 31%
 Don't know 4%

ENDNOTES

1 ABC (2020). ‘Concerns about press freedom as Pacific governments try to tackle coronavirus misinformation.’ Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificbeat/press-freedomconcern-as-pac-govs-tackle-covidmisinformation/12105174>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

2 Transparency International Papua New Guinea (2020). ‘New Public Health Emergency Act Weakens Governance and Threatens Democracy in PNG’. Available at: <http://www.transparencypng.org.pg/new-public-health-emergency-act-weakens-governance-and-threatens-democracy-in-png/>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

3 All countries covered in this report are party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and have also made several collective agreements to strengthen governance in the Framework of Pacific Regionalism, the Blue Pacific Narrative, the Boe Declaration on regional security, and the Teieniwa Vision on anti-corruption.

4 Duri, J. & Rahman, K. (2020). ‘Pacific Island countries: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption’. U4 Helpdesk. Available at: <https://www.u4.no/publications/pacific-island-countries-overview-of-corruption-and-anti-corruption.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

5 Question: How much of a problem, if at all, is corruption in the government in this country? Response options: “No problem at all”, “Fairly small”, “Fairly big” or “A very big problem”. Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The

results shown combine the response options “Fairly big” and “A very big problem”.

6 Question: How often do you think the following situations happen in this country: A public servant influencing a hiring decision in their department to favour a friend or a family member. Response options: “Never”, “Rarely”, “Occasionally”, “Frequently”, “Very Frequently”. Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options “Frequently” and “Very frequently”.

7 Question: How much of a problem, if at all, is corruption in the business sector in this country? Response options: “No problem at all”, “Fairly small”, “Fairly big” or “A very big problem”. Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options “Fairly big” and “A very big problem”.

8 Question: How often do you think the following situations happen in this country: Companies using money or connections to secure profitable government contracts. Response options: “Never”, “Rarely”, “Occasionally”, “Frequently”, “Very Frequently”. Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options “Occasionally”, “Frequently” and “Very Frequently”.

9 Question: How often do you think the following situations happen in this country: The government in (this country) is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves. Response options: “Never”, “Rarely”, “Occasionally”,

“Frequently”, “Very Frequently”. Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options “Frequently” and “Very frequently”.

10 Question: Please tell me whether you strongly disagree, tend to disagree, neither agree nor disagree, tend to agree or strongly agree with the following statement: There is little control over those who exploit our natural resources. Response options: “Strongly disagree”, “Tend to disagree”, “Neither agree nor disagree”, “Tend to agree” or “Strongly agree”. Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options “Tend to agree” and “Strongly agree”.

11 The Guardian (2021). ‘Pacific Plunder. The extraction of valuable resources from across the Pacific has made companies billions but comes at a sometimes catastrophic cost’. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2021/may/31/pacific-plunder-this-is-who-profits-from-the-mass-extraction-of-the-regions-natural-resources-interactive>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

12 Ibid.

13 Duri, J. & Rahman, K. (2020). ‘Pacific Island countries: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption’. U4 Helpdesk. Available at: <https://www.u4.no/publications/pacific-island-countries-overview-of-corruption-and-anti-corruption>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

14 Ibid.

15 Ibid.

16 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2018). 'Review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption'. Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/ImplementationReviewGroup/ExecutiveSummaries2/V1800890e.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

17 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2020). 'Kiribati Inputs to Intersessional Meeting of the UNCAC on Preparation for Special Session of General Assembly Against Corruption (UNGASS)'. Available at: https://ungass2021.unodc.org/uploads/ungass2021/documents/session1/contributions/Kiribati_EN.pdf. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

18 Transparency International Australia (2021). 'Australia's doors are wide open to money laundering and corrupt conduct'. Available at: <https://transparency.org.au/australia-open-to-money-laundering/>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

19 Question: Over the past year, in your opinion, has the level of corruption in government in the country decreased a lot, somewhat decreased, stayed the same, somewhat increased or increased a lot? Response options: "Decreased a lot", "Somewhat decreased", "Stayed the same", "Somewhat increased" and "Increased a lot". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Somewhat increased" and "Increased a lot" into a single category.

20 Question: Over the past year, in your opinion, has the level of corruption in the business sector in the country decreased a lot, somewhat decreased, stayed the same, somewhat increased or increased a lot? Response options: "Decreased a lot", "Somewhat

decreased", "Stayed the same", "Somewhat increased" and "Increased a lot". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Somewhat increased" and "Increased a lot" into a single category.

21 Transparency Solomon Islands (2020). 'Recommendations to the Government of the Solomon Islands'. Available at: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/solomon_islands/session_38_-_may_2021/t-s-i_upr38_slb_e_main.pdf. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

22 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2020). 'Kiribati Inputs to Intersessional Meeting of the UNCAC on Preparation for Special Session of General Assembly Against Corruption (UNGASS)'. Available at: https://ungass2021.unodc.org/uploads/ungass2021/documents/session1/contributions/Kiribati_EN.pdf. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

23 Question: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the task of fighting corruption. Would you say it's handling it...? Response options: "Very badly", "Fairly badly", "Fairly well" and "Very well". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Very badly" and "Fairly badly" into a single category. The same applies to the categories "Fairly well" and "Very well".

24 Question: How often do you think the following situations happen in your country: Officials who engage in corruption face appropriate action against them. Response options: "Never", "Rarely", "Occasionally", "Frequently", or "Very frequently". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Never" and "Rarely" into a single category.

25 RNZ (2017). 'Kiribati launches anti-corruption strategy'. Available at: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/339729/kiribati-launches-anti-corruption-strategy>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

26 Pacific Islands Forum (2021). 'Focus on the Teieniwa Vision-Forum SG Puna keynote to PINA Media Leaders, 2021 PINA 2nd CEO Media Summit on Integrity, Anti-Corruption'. Available at: <https://www.forumsec.org/2021/09/15/focus-on-the-teieniwa-vision-forum-sg-puna-keynote-to-pina-media-leaders-2021-pina-2nd-ceo-media-summit-on-integrity-anti-corruption/>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

27 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2015). 'Review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption'. Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/ImplementationReviewGroup/ExecutiveSummaries/V1502140e.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

28 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2020). 'Kiribati Inputs to Intersessional Meeting of the UNCAC on Preparation for Special Session of General Assembly Against Corruption (UNGASS)'. Available at: https://ungass2021.unodc.org/uploads/ungass2021/documents/session1/contributions/Kiribati_EN.pdf. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

29 The president's office was considered the Head of Government in French Polynesia, the Federal States of Micronesia, Kiribati and New Caledonia. For all other countries, the question reflects the results for the prime minister's office.

30 Question: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption or haven't you heard enough about them to say: 1)

The president / prime minister and officials in his/her office 2) Members of parliament 3) Public servants 4) Local government including mayors 5) The police 6) Judges and magistrates 7) Religious leaders 8) Business executives 9) Civil society organisations 10) Bankers 11) Army leaders 12) Companies extracting natural resources 13) Community leaders. Response options: “None”, “Some of them”, “Most of them”, “All of them”. The question on army leaders was only asked in countries with military forces. Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options “Most of them” and “All of them” into a single category.

31 Brown, T.M. (2009). ‘The Anglican Church and the Vanuatu Independence Movement: Solidarity and Ambiguity’. Available at: http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/brown_deakin2010.pdf. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

32 RNZ (2020). ‘Transparency Solomons calls on govt to audit economic stimulus funds’. Available at: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/430071/transparency-solomons-calls-on-govt-to-audit-economic-stimulus-funds>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

33 Transparency International (2020). ‘Past scandals haunt Papua New Guinea’s coronavirus response’. Available at: <https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/past-scandals-haunt-papua-new-guineas-coronavirus-response>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

34 Transparency International Papua New Guinea (2020). ‘New Public Health Emergency Act Weakens Governance and Threatens Democracy in PNG’. Available at: <https://www.transparencypng.org.pg/new-public-health-emergency-act-weakens-governance-and-threatens-democracy->

[in-png/](#). Last accessed on 21.10.21.

35 ABC (2020). ‘Concerns about press freedom as Pacific governments try to tackle coronavirus misinformation’. Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificbeat/press-freedom-concern-as-pac-govs-tackle-covid-misinformation/12105174>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

36 Ibid.

37 Question: We would like to know how much trust and confidence you have in the following institutions to do a good job in the country and act in a fair manner whilst carrying out their responsibilities: 1) The government (including politicians, public servants or any kind of government agency) 2) The courts 3) The police 4) Business that provides services for the government 5) The army 6) The banks 7) Religious institutions 8) Civil society organisations 9) Kastom / Whanau / Family / Wider family. Response options: “No trust at all”, “Not very much trust”, “A fair amount of trust”, “A great deal of trust”. The question on trust in the army was only asked in countries with a military. Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options “A great deal of trust” and “A fair amount of trust” into a single category.

38 Question: Can you tell me if in the last 12 months you had any contact with: 1) A public school 2) A public clinic or hospital 3) A government office to get a document you needed 4) Government service providers to get water, sanitation or electric services 5) The police 6) The courts. Response options: “Yes”, “No”. Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers.

39 Question: Taking into consideration the public services that you have contacted in the last 12

months, how often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift or do a favour in order to get the assistance or services you needed from: 1) a public school 2) a public clinic or hospital 3) a government office to get the document you needed 4) government service providers to get water, sanitation or electric services 5) the police 6) the courts? Response options: “Never”, “Once or twice”, “A few times”, “Often”. Base: All respondents who had contact with the relevant public services. The bribery rates consider all respondents with contact who paid a bribe at least once.

40 Due to low contact rates with the court system, the bribery rates obtained for this sector were not deemed representative and are thus not reported separately. These experiences were considered for the calculation of the overall bribery rates.

41 Question: Thinking about the last time that you paid a bribe, gave a gift, or did a favour to get a public service, did you report the incident to the relevant authorities? Response options: “Yes”, “No”. Base: Respondents who had contact with the relevant public service who also reported paying a bribe at least once.

42 ABC (2011). ‘PNG top cop says not to bribe police’. Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-18/png-bribery-police/2799424>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

43 Development Policy Centre (2021). ‘Political interference with the PNG police’. Available at: <https://devpolicy.org/political-interference-with-the-png-police-20210507/>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

44 Transparency International Papua New Guinea (2021). ‘The Public need to Trust the Police.’ Available at: <http://www.transparencypng.org.pg/the-public-need-to-trust-the-police/>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

45 The Guardian (2020). 'Papua New Guinea police accused of gun running and drug smuggling by own minister'. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/18/papua-new-guinea-police-accused-of-gun-running-and-drug-smuggling-by-own-minister>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

46 Australian National University (2021). 'Public-private policing partnerships'. Available at: <https://crawford.anu.edu.au/news-events/news/18756/public-private-policing-partnerships>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

47 Papua New Guinea Post-Courier (2020). 'Manning to rid constabulary of "criminals in uniform"'. Available at: <https://postcourier.com.pg/manning-to-rid-constabulary-of-criminals-in-uniform/>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

48 The Guardian (2020). 'Papua New Guinea police accused of gun running and drug smuggling by own minister'. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/18/papua-new-guinea-police-accused-of-gun-running-and-drug-smuggling-by-own-minister>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

49 Transparency International Papua New Guinea (2021). 'The Public Need to Trust the Police.' Available at: <http://www.transparencypng.org.pg/the-public-need-to-trust-the-police/>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

50 Transparency International Papua New Guinea (2021). '2021 National Integrity Systems Assessment Report'. Available at: http://www.transparencypng.org.pg/sdm_downloads/2021-national-integrity-systems-assessment-report/. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

51 Question: Taking into

consideration the public services that you have contacted in the last 12 months, how often, if ever, did you have to use personal connections or call in favours to get the services you needed from: 1) a public school 2) a public clinic or hospital 3) a government office to get the document you needed 4) government service providers to get water, sanitation or electric services 5) the police 6) the courts? Response options: "Never", "Once or twice", "A few times", "Often". Base: All respondents who had contact with the relevant public services. The overall use of personal connections is calculated by taking into consideration respondents who relied on this practice at least once.

52 Question: Thinking about the most recent time that you paid a bribe, gave a gift, or did a favour to get a public service, what was your main reason for doing this? Response options: "You were asked to pay", "You were not asked to pay, but knew it was expected", "You offered to pay to get things done quicker", "You offered to pay to get things done better", "You were not asked to pay, but wanted to express your gratitude" (not read out to respondents), "You were afraid that if you did not pay, there would be retaliation" (not read out to respondents). Base: Respondents who had contact with at least one public service who also reported paying a bribe.

53 Question: Thinking about the most recent time that you had to use your personal connections to get a public service, what was your main reason for doing this? Response options: "You would have not received the service without your personal connection", "You wanted to get a quicker service than what is usually offered", "You wanted to get a better service than what is usually offered", "It was a way to help each other"

(not read out to respondents). Base: Respondents who had contact with at least one public service who also reported using personal connections.

54 Albisu Ardigó, I. (2017). 'Corruption in the Service Delivery: Topic Guide.' Transparency International. Available at: <https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/product/topic-guide-on-corruption-in-service-delivery>. Last accessed on 05.11.21.

55 Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: If someone in a position of responsibility helps me, then I feel I should give them a gift or political support to acknowledge this. Response options: "Strongly disagree", "Tend to disagree", "Neither agree nor disagree", "Tend to agree", "Strongly agree". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Tend to agree" and "Strongly agree".

56 Walton, G. & Jackson, D. (2020). 'Informal systems of reciprocity, service delivery and corruption'. Chr. Michelsen Institute. Available at: <https://www.cmi.no/publications/7251-informal-systems-of-reciprocity-service-delivery-and-corruption>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

57 Larmour, P. (2012). 'Interpreting Corruption: Culture and Politics in the Pacific Islands'. Available at: https://repository.usp.ac.fj/4953/1/Interpreting_Corruption.pdf. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

58 Feigenblatt, H. (2020). 'Breaking the Silence around Sextortion: The Links Between Power, Sex and Corruption'. Transparency international. Available at: <https://www.transparency.org/en/publications/breaking-the-silence-around-sextortion>. Last accessed on

21.10.21.

59 United Nations Population Fund (2019). 'Women who experience intimate partner violence, 2000-2019'. Available at: <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/kNOwVAWdata%20regional%20VAW%20map%20April%2013%202019.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

60 Pacific Women (2020). 'Ending Violence against Women'. Available at: <https://pacificwomen.org/our-work/focus-areas/ending-violence-against-women/>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

61 Question: Some people experience situations in which public officials make requests of a sexual nature in exchange for a government service or benefits. How often do you think this happens in this country? Response options: "Never", "Rarely", "Occasionally", "Frequently", "Very Frequently". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Occasionally", "Frequently" and "Very frequently".

62 Question: And thinking about your own experience in the last five years, has it ever happened to you or someone that you know that an official in this country made requests of a sexual nature in exchange for a government service or benefits? Response options: "Never", "Once or twice", "A few times", "Often". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results show the aggregated results of answer options "Once or twice", "A few times" and "Often".

63 Question: In the past five years, has anyone offered a gift or special favour to other members of your family or clan to vote for a particular candidate at a national, regional or local election? Has that

happened to you? Response options: "Never", "Once or twice", "A few times", "Often". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Once or twice", "A few times" and "Often".

64 Question: And in the past five years, how many times, if at all, has anyone threatened you with some sort of retaliation if you did not vote in a particular way at a national, regional or local election? Has that happened to you? Response options: "Never", "Once or twice", "A few times", "Often". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Once or twice", "A few times" and "Often".

65 Question: In the past five years, how many times, if at all, has anyone tried to offer you a bribe or special favour to vote in a particular way at a national, regional or local election? Response options: "Never", "Once or twice", "A few times", "Often". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Once or twice", "A few times" and "Often".

66 National Democratic Institute (2021). 'Promoting Election Integrity in the Pacific Island Countries'. Available at: <https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/OEDI%20Key%20Findings%20and%20Recommendations.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

67 Duri, J. & Rahman, K. (2020). 'Pacific Island countries: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption'. U4 Helpdesk. Available at: <https://www.u4.no/publications/pacific-island-countries-overview-of-corruption-and-anti-corruption>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

68 National Democratic

Institute (2021). 'Promoting Election Integrity in the Pacific Island Countries'. Available at: <https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/OEDI%20Key%20Findings%20and%20Recommendations.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

69 Ibid.

70 Question: Please tell me whether you strongly disagree, tend to disagree, neither agree nor disagree, tend to agree or strongly agree: Ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption. Response options: "Strongly disagree", "Tend to disagree", "Neither agree nor disagree", "Tend to agree", "Strongly agree". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Tend to agree" and "Strongly agree".

71 Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: It is acceptable for the government to engage in a bit of corruption as long as it delivers good results. Response options: "Strongly disagree", "Tend to disagree", "Neither agree nor disagree", "Tend to agree", "Strongly agree". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Tend to disagree" and "Strongly disagree".

72 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2020). 'Status of the Right to Information in Pacific Island Countries'. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/southeastasiaandpacific/pacific/2020/UN-PRAC_Paper_-_Status_of_Right_to_Information_in_Pacific_Island_Countries.pdf. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

73 Fiji Independent Commission against Corruption.

'Frequently asked questions'. Available at: <https://ficac.org.fj/faq.php>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

74 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2021). 'State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption'. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/ImplementationReviewGroup/ExecutiveSummaries2/V2007450_E.pdf. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

75 CIVICUS Monitor. 'Fiji'. Available at: <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/fiji/>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

76 Transparency International (2021). 'What Fiji's Covid-19 Response Tells Us About Integrity in Emergencies'. Available at: <https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/fiji-government-response-covid-19-integrity-emergencies>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

77 Duri, J. & Rahman, K. (2020). 'Pacific Island countries: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption'. U4 Helpdesk. Available at: <https://www.u4.no/publications/pacific-island-countries-overview-of-corruption-and-anti-corruption>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

78 Wilson, C. (2020). 'Demanding the future: navigating the Pacific's youth bulge'. Lowy Institute. Available at: <https://www.loyyinstitute.org/publications/demanding-future-navigating-pacific-youth-bulge>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

79 Fijivillage (2021). 'Youth for Integrity welcomes PM's comments that Draft Police Bill will not go in its current form to Parliament'. Available at: <https://www.fijivillage.com/feature/Youth-for-Integrity-welcomes-PMs-comments-that-Draft-Police-Bill->

will-not-go-in-its-current-form-to-Parliament-4rf5x8/'. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

80 Australian National University (2020). 'The Pacific has the lowest rate of women in parliament. Dr Kerryn Baker is trying to change that'. Available at: <https://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/news-events/all-stories/pacific-has-lowest-rate-women-parliament-dr-kerryn-baker-trying-change>. Last accessed on 21.10.21; Pacific Women in Politics. 'Women MPs'. Available at: <https://www.pacwip.org/women-mps/national-women-mps>. Last accessed on 05.11.21.

81 Question: The government in this country takes the views of people like me into account when making decisions. Response options: "Never", "Rarely", "Occasionally", "Frequently", "Very Frequently". Base: All respondents, excluding missing answers. The results shown combine the response options "Frequently" and "Very Frequently."

82 Aleksandrova, M. et al. (2021). 'World Risk Report 2021'. Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2021-world-risk-report.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

83 Asian Development Bank (2017). 'Civil Society Briefs – Vanuatu'. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/233661/csb-vanuatu.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

84 RNZ (2021). 'Vanuatu president pardons three former PMs'. Available at: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/450671/vanuatu-president-pardons-three-former-pms>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

85 Asian Development Bank

(2017). 'Civil Society Briefs – Vanuatu'. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/233661/csb-vanuatu.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

86 IPU Parline. 'Monthly ranking of women in national parliaments'. Available at: <https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking?month=9&year=2021>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

87 RNZ (2019). 'Vanuatu's right to information law proving effective'. Available at: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/392426/vanuatu-s-right-to-information-law-proving-effective>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

88 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2020). 'Status of the Right to Information in Pacific Island Countries'. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/southeastasiaandpacific//pacific/2020/UN-PRAC_Paper_-_Status_of_Right_to_Information_in_Pacific_Island_Countries.pdf. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

89 The Guardian (2021). "'Chilling": Vanuatu libel bill prompts fears for free speech'. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/29/chilling-vanuatu-libel-bill-prompts-fears-for-free-speech>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

90 World Bank (2018). 'Open Data'. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS?locations=VU>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

91 Asian Development Bank (2017). 'Civil Society Briefs – Vanuatu'. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/233661/csb-vanuatu.pdf>. Last accessed on 21.10.21.

CREATE CHANGE WITH US

ENGAGE

Follow us, share your views and discuss corruption with people from around the world on social media.

**facebook.com/TransparencyInternational/
twitter.com/anticorruption/
linkedin.com/company/transparency-international/
instagram.com/Transparency_International/
youtube.com/user/TransparencyIntl/**

LEARN

Visit our website to learn more about our work in more than 100 countries and sign up for the latest news in the fight against corruption.

transparency.org

DONATE

Your donation will help us provide support to thousands of victims of corruption, develop new tools and research, and hold governments and businesses to their promises. We want to build a fairer, more just world. With your help, we can.

transparency.org/donate



Transparency International
International Secretariat
Alt-Moabit 96, 10559 Berlin, Germany

Phone: +49 30 34 38 200

Fax: +49 30 34 70 39 12

ti@transparency.org
www.transparency.org

Blog: transparency.org/en/blog
Facebook: /transparencyinternational
Twitter: @anticorruption