



#### 2023 Transparency and Integrity Index





September 2023 Edition

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# INTRODUCTION

#### Dear Readers,

e are delighted to extend our warm welcome to each one of you that have been part of our efforts to promote transparency and accountability in the nation's public sector. Your continued support and passion for our shared mission make each newsletter a testament to the strength of our collective commitment to positive change.

As we raise our flags for nation's 63rd Independence anniversary, let's also raise our commitment to building institutions that stand the test of time, ensuring a transparent and prosperous future for all. Together, let's uphold the value that makes Nigeria shine.

For us at the Center, we are committed to promoting ideas that will strengthens our institutions. The presentation of the 2023 Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) demonstrates our unwavering devotion to working with public institutions to enhance the transparency through access to information and the principles of proactive disclosure. Our effort in this regard has seen the highest ranked organization moving from 33.4% in 2021 to 58.7% in 2022 and now 73.2% in just released Index. We are building on this success to mainstream the TII as a tool for measuring public sector transparency and compliance with access to information laws; and we glad to announce that the first edition of the TII Africa was launched on the 28th of September by the Liberia Civil Society Anti-Corruption Coalition (LCACC to mark this year's international Day for Universal Access to Information.

In this edition, we are excited to share other stories of impact, highlight the incredible efforts of our dedicated volunteers, and provide updates on the projects that are shaping the lives of those we serve. Together, we are making strides towards a brighter, more transparent future.

As we delve into the articles and updates, let's remember that it is through the combined efforts of individuals like you that we can overcome challenges and create lasting change. Your involvement, whether through volunteerism, advocacy, or simply spreading awareness, plays a crucial role in amplifying our impact.

We encourage you to explore the contents of this newsletter, share your thoughts, and join us in celebrating the triumphs and milestones that embody the spirit of the Center. Together, we are not just an organization; we are a force for good governance.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community. Your dedication fuels our determination to make a difference, one step at a time.

Wishing you an inspiring read and a month filled with purpose and positivity.

Victor Agi Public Relations Lead 2023 Transparency and Integrity Index: In 3 years, Highest Ranked Organization Score Moves from 'Very Poor' (33.4%) to 'Excellent' (73.2%)





ssessment of state government also indicated that Ekiti emerged top with Kaduna and Ondo states coming second and third, scoring 61.3%, 59.7% and 53.7% respectively. Out of the 774 local government areas assessed, only seven had functional websites with all scoring 31.25%.

These were the outcomes of the presentation of the 2023 TII by Umar Yakubu, the Executive Director of the Center; who stated that the selection of the variables for assessment follows a conscientious review of international instruments and conventions, and other local laws and policies that guide the activities of public institutions in Nigeria.

Yakubu noted that the required information on public institutions, states and local government areas' websites revolves around fiscal transparency, budget implementation, open procurement and contracting, website integrity, and citizens engagement which are the six variables the Index assessed.

Speaking at the unveiling of the Index, the Center's Board of Trustees Chairman, Amb. Angela Nworgu said that the Index was developed in 2021 as part of the activities to mark the United Nations Universal Access to Information which is celebrated every 28th of September; and has since become an annual assessment that measures public institutions' compliance with national laws and international conventions that promote transparency, accountability and minimize corruption.

She further noted that Index was conceived to also build a well-informed citizenry that holds the government accountable at all levels of governance; adding that the year's assessment was extended to cover "not just the federal and state governments but also assessing, independently, the various local governments across the country.

"This is given the critical role they play in delivering services and governance to our citizens and a clear reflection of our commitment to ensuring that transparency and integrity permeate every level of government, from the national to the grassroots," she said.

While enjoining stakeholders to engage with the report, she stated that the Center is committed to improving the assessment and mainstreaming the Index as tool for measuring public sector compliance with laws on open governance, transparency and accountability in the continent at large.

Read more here: https://www.fiscaltransparency.org/2023transparency-and-integrity-index-in-3-years-highest-rankedorganization-scores-moves-from-very-poor-33-4-to-excellent-73-2/





#### 2023 International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI2023), Center, LCACC Presents Transparency and Integrity Index Africa

n this auspicious day of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), we are pleased to announce the birth of Transparency and Integrity Index (Africa) with the presentation of TII Liberia, led by the Liberia CSOs Anti-Corruption Coalition

The TII Liberia which is modeled after the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch's (CeFTIW) TII is a product of our commitment to expand and mainstream the Index as a tool for measuring public sector compliance with laws on open governance, transparency and accountability in the continent at large.

The Center's vision is predicated on the fact that proactive disclosure and access to information are important ingredients of transparency, which has the capacity to prevent corruption and enhance governance. The success of the Liberia Index has therefore emboldened our resolve to pursue the digitization of public institutions for greater efficiency.

As the world celebrates the 2023 UNUAI, we cannot overemphasize the importance of the online space for access to information. The United

Nations 2030 Agenda which is "universal, transformative and rights-based" cannot be actualized if rights to information are not inclusive and universal. Indeed, Irene Khan, the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, is apt when she declared that "without universal and meaningful connectivity for all, the right to information is an empty promise for billions of people around the world."

This year's celebration therefore presents an opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on efforts and expedite actions towards bridging the digital divide, focusing on regions with low digital awareness and connectivity. For instance, as a fallout of the Center's 2023 TII, only seven out of 774 local government areas (LGAs) in Nigeria have functional websites.

We strongly believe that governments and stakeholders must work to improve citizens' access to information (online and offline), as transparency and accountability can only be possible when citizens, media and civil society actors have access to information.



MONTHLY TRANSPARENCY WATCH

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#### Center to Partner Nigeria Governors' Forum to Deepen Fiscal Transparency at Subnational Levels

o deepen fiscal transparency and improve governance at subnational levels, the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CeFTIW) has partnered with the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) in areas of fiscal transparency and accountability.

As a strategic institution, the NGF exists to promote collaborative development and ensure excellence in governance at sub-national levels; hence the courtesy call was inspired to seek ways both organizations can work together to improve governance at state and local government levels.

In his remarks, the Executive Director of the Center, Umar Yakubu commended NGF's efforts in forging collaboration that promotes good governance among state governments through its activities.

Given the shared vision of both organizations and the Center's current drive to promote transparency and accountability at subnational levels, Umar said that partnering with the NGF would be critical in awakening citizens' consciousness of the need to hold leaders accountable. Citing the performance of Local Government Areas (LGA) from the preliminary reports of the Center's Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) due for presentation, Umar noted that advocacy should be intensified to mobilize citizens to ask relevant questions about how resources are utilized.

Umar also sought collaboration with the Forum to promote conversations and advocacies to counter organized crime in society. He said that the Center's Countering Organized Crime Program explores and adopts effective strategies in tackling organized crime, a menace that continues to threaten global stability, security and the rule of law.

Welcoming the Center to the Forum, the Director General of the NGF, Asishana Okauru, Esq, commended the Center for developing what he described as a "robust database" on measures to promote transparency and fight corruption in the public sector.

Okauru said the NGF looked forward to structuring its partnership with the Center towards improving governance at subnational levels.

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### Sights and Scenes from TII 2023 Presentation



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## More Sights and Scenes from TII 2023 Presentation





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#### Countering Organized Crime Project Center Visits INTERPOL, Seeks Collaboration to Stem Tide



A head of its Symposium to counter organized crime being planned in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC Nigeria), the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CeFTIW) has visited the Vice President, International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol Africa), AIG Garba Umar (Rtd.) to seek collaboration in the fight against organized crime in the region.

In its strategic position, Interpol Africa works to "ensure that the law enforcement voice is heard at the African Union so as to strengthen security in Africa."

Leading the team, the Center's Board of Trustees (BoT) Chairman, Amb. Angela Nworgu said that the Center is interested in working with stakeholders to counter transnational organized crime in Africa which continues to disrupts and endanger lives and livelihood.

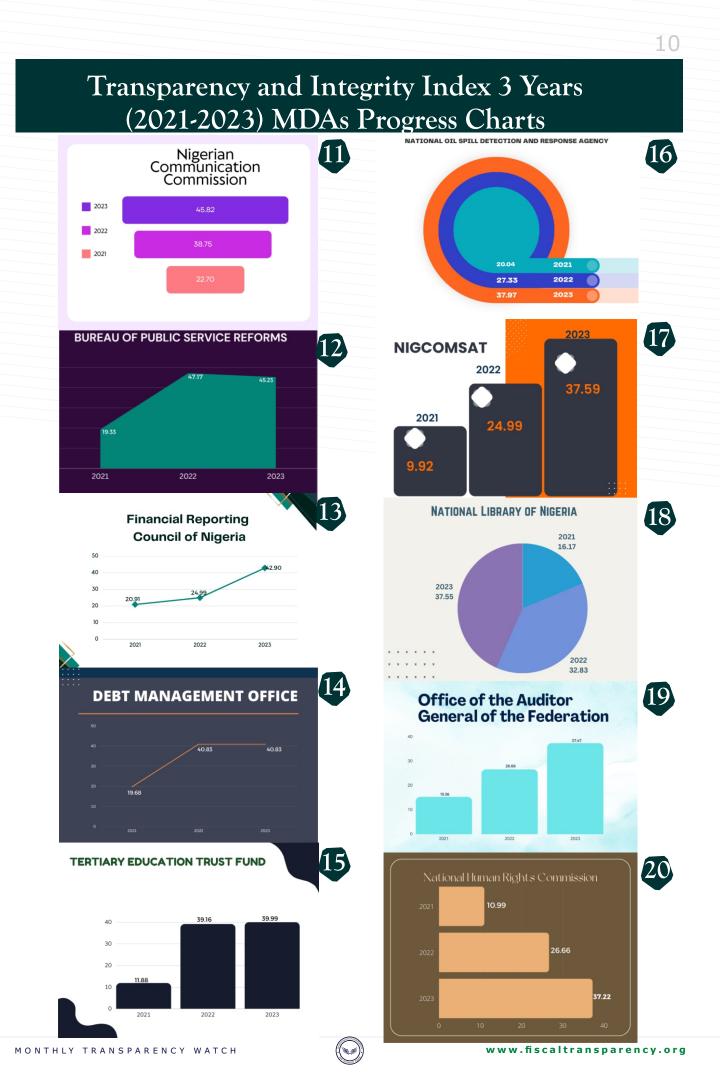
She added that the fight against organized crime

requires coordinated efforts of stakeholders including governments, law enforcement agencies, international organizations, and local communities in order to create a safer environment for the people of Africa.

Receiving the team, AIG Umar (Rtd.) pledged to work with the Center in the fight against organized crime, by providing necessary tools for sharing information, intelligence, and resources that will enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts, improve border security, strengthen legal frameworks, and promote socio-economic development.

The Symposium on Countering Organized Crime in Africa is scheduled to hold between 24th and 25th of October, 2023 and planned to serve as a unique platform that bring together key stakeholder to review collective efforts in the fight against organized crimes. The symposium will focus on discussing workable solutions to the rising threats of organized crime on the continent, and shed light on the multifaceted nature of organized crime, explore innovative strategies for combatting its global impact, and foster international collaboration to create a safer future.





#### **September Infographics Corner**





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