



# DAILY LIVES AND CORRUPTION: PUBLIC OPINION IN THE MALDIVES

**Transparency International is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 90 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we raise awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and work with partners in government, business and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.**

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ISBN: 978-3-935711-94-4

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# 1. Overview

Public views on corruption are of critical importance. They offer significant insight into how corruption affects lives around the world. Transparency International believes it is crucial to present the public's perspective on corruption – for it is they who suffer its direct and indirect consequences. At the same time, Transparency International encourages the public to play an active role in stopping corruption and improving governance. To this end, this survey also probes public willingness to engage with the fight against corruption.

1,001 people were surveyed in the Maldives between 23 April and 29 April 2011 by Gallup Pakistan through Gallup International. The data were weighted by gender, age, education and social group to represent the population of 395,128 Maldivians.

## 2. Public perceptions of corruption

The public in the Maldives were asked about their perceptions of corruption in their home country. The survey captures views on whether people feel that overall corruption levels have increased or decreased in recent years. People were also asked to rate the extent of corruption in different institutions, enabling the key institutions where corruption was perceived to be greatest to be identified.

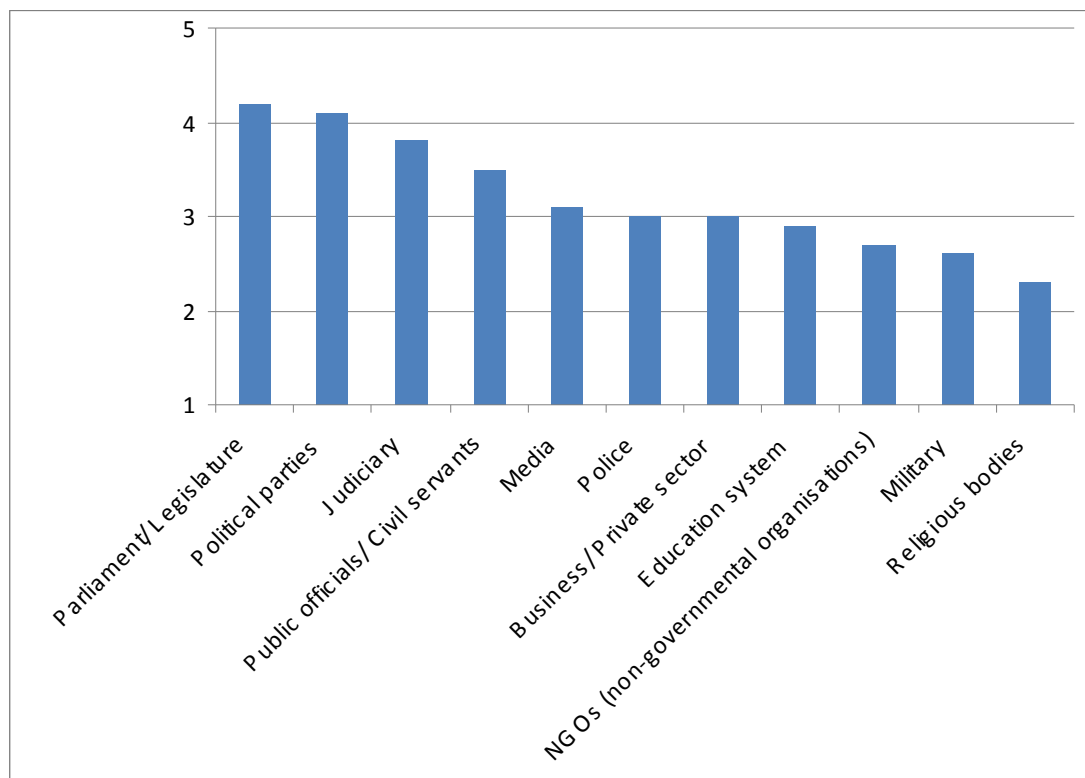
### How has the level of corruption changed in the last three years?

**FIGURE 1:** % of people asked, in the past three years, how has the level of corruption in this country changed?

Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased
56%	34%	10%

### Corruption, by institution

**FIGURE 2:** On a scale of 1–5, where 1 means not at all corrupt and 5 means extremely corrupt, to what extent do you perceive the following institutions to be corrupt?



### 3. Personal experiences of bribery

The survey asked people if they had come into contact with one of nine services in the Maldives. For each of these services they were then asked if they had paid a bribe. These results were broken down by gender, income and age to better understand where the bribes are paid and who is paying them. Those that had paid a bribe were then asked why they had paid the bribe, and the amount of money spent on bribes over the past 12 months.

**6%** of people have paid a bribe to one of nine service providers on the Maldives

#### Bribe payers, by gender, income and age

**FIGURE 3:** % of respondents who have paid a bribe to one of nine service providers, by gender, income and age

Men	Women
8%	3%

Highest income quintile	Lowest income quintile
0%	6%

Under 30	Over 30
4%	7%

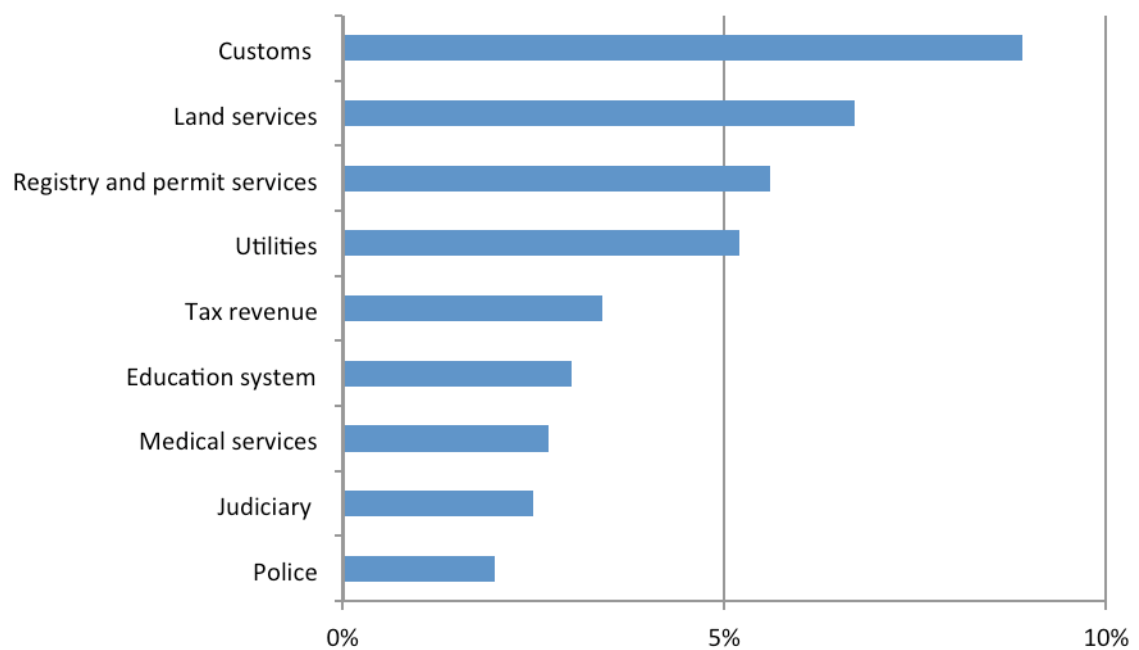
## Bribe payers, by service

**FIGURE 4:** % of respondents who have paid a bribe to one of nine service providers

Note: The answers are conditional upon having had contact with the service provider and are thus based on the following two questions:

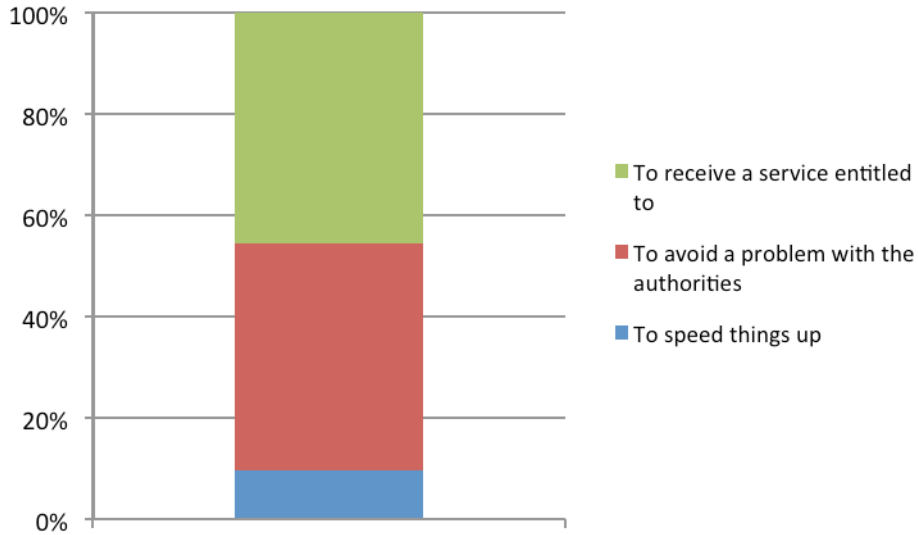
A – In the past 12 months have you or anyone living in your household had contact with the following institution/organisation?

B – In the past 12 months have you or anyone in your household paid a bribe in any form to each of the following institutions/ organisation?



## Why was the last bribe paid?

**FIGURE 5:** Respondents asked for the reason they paid the last bribe



## What was the average total amount paid?

**FIGURE 6:** Respondents that did pay a bribe in the past 12 months were asked for the average total amount of money paid overall in bribes by the household over that period

Under US\$ 30	US \$ 30–99	US\$ 100–499	US\$ 500–999	More than US\$ 1000
10%	48%	23%	-	19%

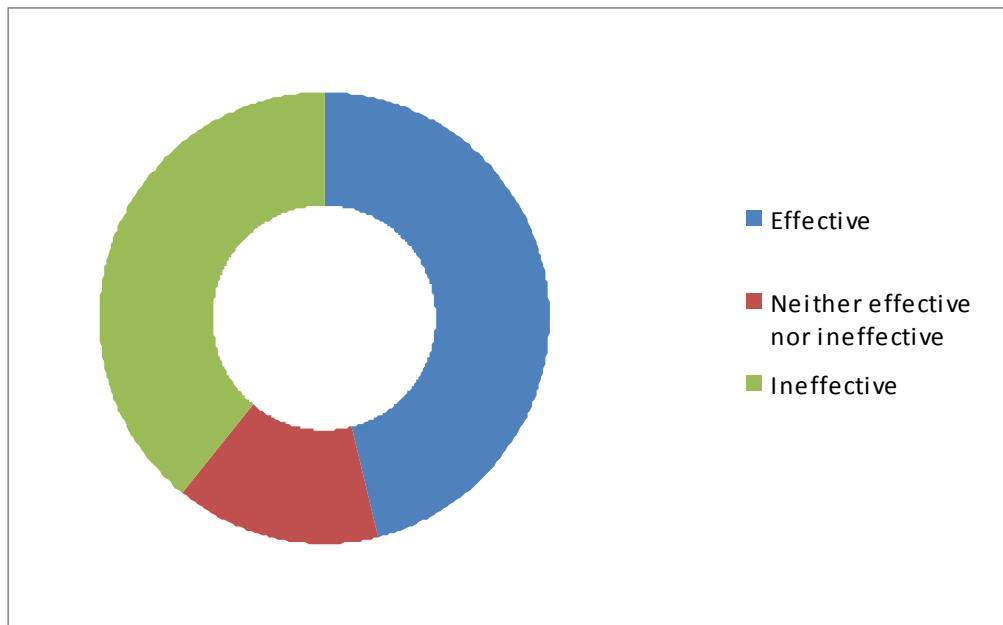


## 4. Views on the fight against corruption

People in the Maldives were asked for their views on the effectiveness of the current government in the fight against corruption. These results were then disaggregated by respondents that had or had not paid a bribe in order to understand how experiences of bribery affected perceptions of government effectiveness. People were also asked from a list of five institutions which they trusted most to fight corruption.

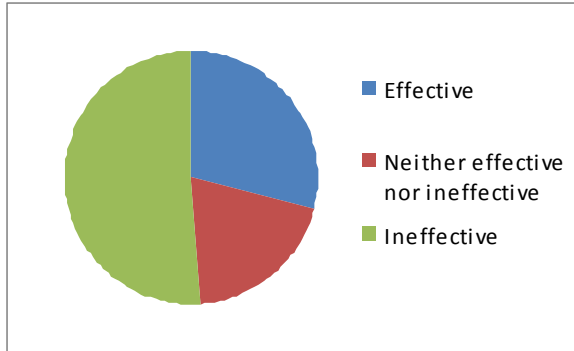
### Government effectiveness at fighting corruption

**FIGURE 7:** How effective is the government in the fight against corruption?

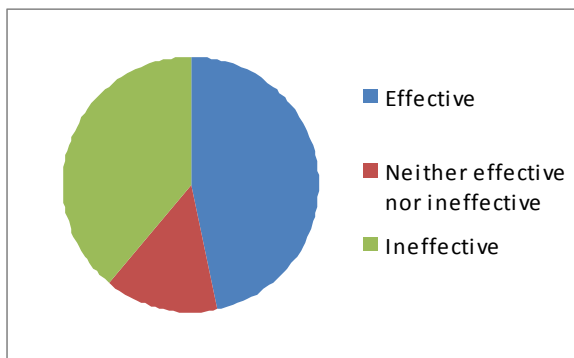


## Views on government effectiveness, by those who have and have not paid a bribe in the last 12 months

**FIGURE 8:** How effective is the government in the fight against corruption? (bribe payers)

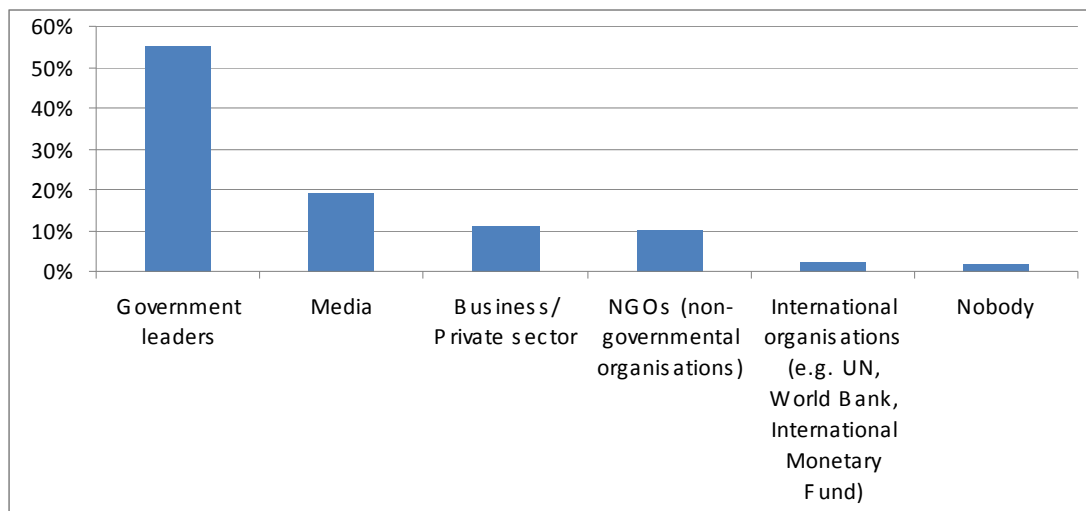


**FIGURE 9:** How effective is the government in the fight against corruption? (non-bribe payers)



## Who can fight corruption most effectively?

**FIGURE 10:** Which organisation/ institution can fight corruption most effectively



## 5. Getting involved

People were asked about their willingness to get involved in the fight against corruption in the Maldives. Respondents were first asked if they believed that ordinary people in the Maldives can make a difference in the fight against corruption. They were then asked if they would get involved themselves, by supporting a colleague or friend. Finally people were asked if they would be proactive in the fight against corruption. Two questions were asked in this respect, one from a theoretical point of view – if they could imagine themselves getting involved – and the other using a more specific example – if they would report an incident of corruption.

**90%** of people think that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption

**FIGURE 11:** % of respondents who think that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption, by age

Under 30	Over 30
94%	87%

**FIGURE 12:** % of respondents who think that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption, by gender

Men	Women
87%	93%

**84%** of people would support their colleagues or friends if they fought against corruption

**91%** of people can imagine themselves getting involved in fighting corruption

**FIGURE 13:** % of respondents who can imagine themselves getting involved in fighting corruption, by age

Under 30	Over 30
89%	92%

# 93% of people would report an incident of corruption

## Appendix: Full results for the Maldives\*

### A.1

In the past three years, how has the level of corruption in this country changed?					
Increased a lot	Increased a little	Stayed the same	Decreased a little	Decreased a lot	Don't know/ No answer
34.6%	17.8%	32.1%	6.5%	2.9%	6.1%

### A.2

How would you assess your current government's actions in the fight against corruption?					
The government is very effective	The government is somewhat effective	The government is neither effective nor ineffective	The government is somewhat ineffective	The government is very ineffective	Don't know/ No answer
19.3%	24.8%	14.1%	16.8%	20.8%	4.2%

### A.3

In your opinion who can fight corruption most effectively?						
Government leaders	Business/ Private Sector	NGOs	Media	International organisations	Nobody	Don't know
53.7%	10.6%	10.1%	18.6%	2.2%	2.0%	2.7%

### A.4

To what extent do you perceive the following institutions to be corrupt?						
Sectors	1 – Not at all corrupt	2	3	4	5 – Extremely corrupt	Don't know/ No answer
Political parties	5.8%	6.6%	16.0%	14.2%	55.5%	2.0%
Parliament/Legislature	3.7%	5.2%	16.1%	16.6%	55.9%	2.5%
Police	18.7%	14.4%	25.2%	24.0%	14.1%	3.6%
Business/ Private sector	16.5%	14.8%	28.9%	21.0%	14.9%	3.9%
Media	14.5%	16.5%	29.1%	15.2%	22.3%	2.5%
Public officials/Civil servants	8.3%	12.0%	24.8%	22.2%	29.8%	2.9%
Judiciary	6.1%	9.8%	20.6%	21.2%	39.7%	2.5%
NGOs (non-governmental organisations)	19.6%	24.0%	24.8%	13.6%	12.5%	5.6%
Religious bodies	40.9%	18.7%	17.3%	7.4%	12.7%	3.1%
Military	25.1%	22.9%	25.5%	8.6%	13.6%	4.3%
Education system	16.6%	26.7%	22.7%	9.0%	21.7%	3.3%

### A.5

	Have you had contact with the following institution/ organisation?				Of those who have had contact, have you paid a bribe in any form?			
	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused to answer	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused to answer
Education system	25.0%	74.7%	0.1%	0.1%	3.0%	96.1%	-	0.9%

\* **Note:** The full results in this appendix include 'Don't know' and 'No answer' responses. The results reported in the main body of the report (pages 3-9) exclude these non-responses from the reported results. Consequently there will be some variation in the % results reported between the two sections of this report.

Judiciary	11.8%	88.0%	0.2%	-	2.5%	97.5%	-	-
Medical services	38.1%	61.6%	-	0.3%	2.7%	95.7%	-	1.6%
Police	18.9%	81.0%		0.1%	1.9%	96.2%	-	1.9%
Registry and permit services (civil registry for births, marriage, licenses, permits, land and property ownership and transfer of ownership)	21.8%	77.8%	0.2%	0.2%	5.5%	92.7%	-	1.8%
Utilities (telephone, electricity, water, etc.)	21.4%	78.2%	0.2%	0.1%	5.1%	93.6%	-	1.3%
Tax revenue	7.8%	91.8%	-	0.5%	3.2%	91.9%	-	5.0%
Land services (buying, selling, inheriting, renting)	6.8%	92.5%	0.5%	0.1%	6.2%	86.9%	-	6.9%
Customs	15.6%	83.8%	0.3%	0.2%	8.6%	87.7%	-	3.7%

**A.6**

What was the approximate total amount of money paid overall in bribes by your household in the past 12 months?	
Under US\$ 30	3.6%
US\$ 30–99	17.7%
US\$ 100–499	8.7%
US\$ 500–999	-
More than US\$ 1000	7.2%
Refused	62.7%
Don't know	-

**A.8**

**A.7**

How would you estimate this in terms of percentage of the household income?	
None	96.2%
Less than 1% of annual income	0.3%
1–10%	0.6%
11–20%	0.3%
More than 20%	0.2%
Refused	2.4%
Don't know	-

If you paid a bribe in the last 12 months, which of the following applied to the last bribe paid?				
The bribe was paid to speed things up	The bribe was paid to avoid a problem with the authorities	The bribe was paid to receive a service entitled to	Cannot remember	Don't know/ Refused
3.6%	16.6%	17.0%	-	62.7%

**A.9**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Ordinary people make a difference in the fight against corruption	4.4%	5.7%	29.1%	60.8%
I would support my colleague or friend, if they fought against corruption	6.7%	9.1%	26.3%	57.9%
I could imagine getting involved in fighting corruption	4.9%	4.3%	19.8%	70.9%
I would report an incident of corruption	3.7%	3.5%	23.5%	69.3%

**A.10: Demographics of survey sample**  
**Results are weighted to be representative of the population**

Rural/Urban	Rural	46.20%
	Urban	53.80%
Gender	Male	52.90%
	Female	47.10%
Age	Under 30	38.60%
	30–50	42.00%
	51–65	10.80%
	65+	8.60%
Income level	Low	23.30%
	Medium low	33.00%
	Medium	18.60%
	Medium high	11.70%
	High	0.20%
	Refused/Don't know/No answer	13.30%
Education level	No education/only basic	38.70%
	Secondary school	43.20%
	High level education	16.70%
	Don't know/No answer	1.30%

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