



MAIN REPORT

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# THE IEA CORRUPTION SURVEY

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The Institute of Economic Affairs  
A Public Policy Institute



# **THE IEA CORRUPTION SURVEY**



## **MAIN REPORT**

**NOVEMBER, 2016**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## PREFACE

Public opinion on critical national issues remains crucial in the efforts towards effective policy design and implementation.

In this regard, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in November 2015 undertook a survey to unearth the root causes of corruption in Ghana. The Survey sought the opinion of 1,500 respondents across all ten (10) regions of Ghana on a variety of corruption related issues. The report presents comprehensive information on individuals' perception on the following; (i) factors causing corruption in Ghana; (ii) the nature of corruption in Ghana; (iii) the most common forms of corruption in Ghana; (iv) corruption levels in Ghana; and (v) the most corrupt institutions in Ghana.

The report provides policy makers with concrete recommendations and information on how to tackle and address the issue of corruption in the Ghanaian setting.

It is worth pointing out that the survey was conducted in line with a rigorous methodology and adequate quality control measures. The survey followed the sampling procedure recommended by the United Nations (2005) and also relied on the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) for the random selection of Enumeration Areas (EAs).

We hope you find this report useful and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Thank you.

Mrs. Jean Mensa

Executive Director

The Institute of Economic Affairs



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

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|           |                                                         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| “A” Level | Advanced Level                                          |
| AFRC      | Armed Forces Revolutionary Council                      |
| CHRAJ     | Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice   |
| DCE       | District Chief Executive                                |
| EA        | Enumeration Area                                        |
| EOCO      | Economic and Organised Crime Office                     |
| IEA       | Institute of Economic Affairs                           |
| JHS       | Junior High School                                      |
| JSS       | Junior Secondary School                                 |
| MMDCEs    | Metropolitan, Municipal, District Chief Executives      |
| MSLC      | Middle School Leaving Certificate                       |
| NDC       | National Democratic Congress                            |
| NGOs      | Non-governmental Organizations                          |
| NPP       | New Patriotic Party                                     |
| “O” Level | General Certificate of Examination (GCE) Ordinary Level |
| PNDC      | Provisional National Defence Council                    |
| PPS       | Probability Proportional to the Size                    |
| PSUs      | Primary Sampling Units                                  |
| SEGS      | Socio-economic and Governance Survey                    |
| SFO       | Serious Fraud Office                                    |
| SHS       | Senior High School                                      |
| SSSCE     | Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination         |



# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## Background

Corruption has become a household word and discussed everyday by politicians, journalists, government officials and the citizenry, on radio and television stations and the print media.

In Ghana the perception of corruption among the people is very high to the extent that the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) government which assumed the reins of power on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1981, established institutions such as the Citizens Vetting Committees and Public Tribunals to fight relentlessly, individuals and organisations perceived to have engaged in corrupt activities.

With the return to constitutional rule in January 1993, successive governments have tried in one way or the other to fight corruption. Institutions like the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Serious Fraud Office (SFO), now called the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) and National Procurement Authority (NPA) have been established by Parliament to help combat the menace of corruption.

The New Patriotic Party (NPP) government under the leadership of President J. A. Kufuor came up with the maxim, “Zero Tolerance” for corruption.

In spite of these efforts, corruption practices seem to be on the ascendancy in Ghana. For this reason, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in November/December 2015 undertook a Corruption Survey to unearth the nature, level, causes, and motives behind corruption in Ghana. .

This report presents the findings of the 2015 Corruption Survey which examined in detail (i) the nature of corruption;(ii) the most common forms of corruption in Ghana;(iii) corruption levels in Ghana;(iv) factors causing corruption in Ghana; and (v) the most corrupt institutions in Ghana.

## Methodology

A representative sample of 1,500 individuals aged 18 years and above were selected in three (3) stages from across the 10 regions of the country. The background characteristics of the respondents like age, sex, educational level, marital status, occupation and living conditions were measured.

## 2. Key Findings

The study has critically examined the nature, form, causes and motives for the corrupt practices in Ghana. The levels of corruption, respondents' personal experience in corrupt practices, and the willingness to fight for its reduction have also been discussed. Bribery (taking/receiving money from people before helping them/for a favour) was identified as the most common form of corruption in Ghana.

### *Corruption levels in Ghana are seen to be very high*

The survey results revealed that corruption levels in Ghana in 2015 were considered to be very high by 72.1% of the respondents. About 50% of the respondents stated that their source of information about the corruption levels in Ghana was the media (TV, radio, newspapers and internet). The second most important source of information on corruption levels was personal experience where about 21.3% stated they had had to provide cash, gifts or favour.

Forty percent (40%) of the respondents asserted that in their opinion corruption is about taking/receiving money or sex from people before helping them/for a favour while 13% indicated that corruption is about embezzlement/misappropriation of public funds or diverting the nation's resources for personal gain. Indeed, 96.7% of the public identified cash payments (money) as the most common form of corruption in Ghana.

### *Greed/selfishness, get-rich-quick attitude and low salaries/income levels are the main causes of corruption in Ghana*

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of all respondents observed that greed and selfishness were the main cause of corruption in Ghana. In addition, get-rich-quick attitude especially among the youth (26.3%) and low salaries/income levels (22.7%) were mentioned as the next major causes of corruption in Ghana.

Among the motivating factors driving corrupt practices in Ghana, 24.2% of respondents regardless of background were of the view that to get things done in Ghana one must engage in corrupt practices. One in five thought that to avoid punishment/sanctions one had to be corrupt while 19.3% stated that the only way to speed up processes or procedures was to be corrupt and finally, 12.2% said people view corruption as alternative source of income.

### *The police, judiciary, Office of the President, tax officials and immigration officials are deemed to be the most corrupt institutions in Ghana*

According to the results 28.6% of the people were of the opinion that all police officials were corrupt up from 23% reported in 2014. Only 4.4% of them were deemed not to be corrupt. The judiciary was considered the second most corrupt institution in 2015 (18.4%). Other institutions considered corrupt were tax officials (14%), Office of the President (12.9%) and immigration officials (12.8%). The army remained the least corrupt institution with only 7% of the respondents reporting them to be corrupt.



***One in five people and a third of respondents respectively, were prepared to take and offer a bribe in Ghana***

One in five of the respondents were prepared to take a bribe. Those with tertiary background (24.7%), private sector employees (29.2%), the unemployed (27.0%) and those with very bad living conditions declared that if they were offered a bribe, they would take it. Comparably, one in three persons was prepared to give a bribe in Ghana. 39.5% Primary school leavers, 35.2% JSS/MSLC/JHS holders, 36% civil/public servants, 34.1% private sector employees, 38.2% of the unemployed and those with very bad (34.6%) or bad (32.6%) living conditions were more prepared to give a bribe.

The need for money was considered by 63.2% of respondents to be the main reason why people would want to take a bribe. However, 44.7% of tertiary holders, 35.3% of civil/public servants, 34.6% of private sector employees, and 39.1% of those with good living conditions believed that everybody takes bribe that is why they also would want to take a bribe.

In like manner, 60% of all the respondents who declared that they would give a bribe said that they would give a bribe because there was no other way they could obtain the service for which they were looking.

Seven in ten people who would not take a bribe said they would not because they found the practice unacceptable. Just 5% refused to take a bribe because they wanted to fight corruption.

Two-thirds of people who would not give a bribe said it is because they found it unacceptable. More females (15.4%) than males (10.8%) would not give.

The payment of a bribe is supposed to be between the giver and the receiver. The results, however, show that in the past 12 months preceding the November/December 2015, 18.55% of the respondents reported people including relatives, friends, acquaintances or neighbours paying bribes to obtain a public service in Ghana. More males (20.7%) than females (17%) were more likely to hear about people paying a bribe in Ghana.

***Fighting corruption is a shared responsibility between the government, law enforcement institutions, the judiciary, the media as well as the citizenry***

It is the view of 54.8% of respondents that, citizens could help reduce corruption if they abstain from paying bribes to public officials. However, one in ten believed that there is nothing an individual could do to reduce corruption in Ghana.

Two-thirds of Ghanaians were prepared to report a corrupt act but 35% would not report a close friend or relative engaged in corruption.

Despite the fact that the police was found to be the most corrupt institution in Ghana, 63.8% of the respondents reported that the institution they would contact to report any public official caught in corrupt practices is the police.

### *The outlook for the fight against corruption at the individual level in Ghana is gloomy*

The fight against corruption in Ghana is a daunting task. While only 4.8% respondents were hopeful that corruption can be eradicated completely in Ghana, a quarter of them were of the opinion that corruption cannot be reduced at all in Ghana. Again, whereas only 19.9% of the respondents thought that corruption can be reduced substantially, 45% said it can only be reduced to a limited degree.

Indeed, the fight against corruption from the individuals' viewpoint is not going to be that easy. A tenth of Ghanaians are not prepared to desist from paying bribes for public services and a fifth would not refuse to make favours to officials or to their relatives connected with their jobs. Besides, 41% were not willing to file a lawsuit against any corrupt official. Again, 27.8% and 25.8% of the respondents maintained that they would not report corrupt public officials to anti-corruption non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and competent authorities respectively.

### **Recommendations**

From the foregoing findings, it is clear that corruption levels in Ghana are deemed to be very high and that renewed efforts must be undertaken by the government, all law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and the citizenry. On the basis of this, the following are recommended:

1. Strengthen the punitive/deterrent sanctions already in place as well as clear rules and laws even though they were not considered as the main factors causing corruption;
2. Effective checks and controls must be put in place in the public services and bureaucratic red-tapeism especially in the tax administration and immigration be reduced drastically;
3. The issue of low salaries/income levels must be looked into critically for a long-lasting solution acceptable to both employers and employees;
4. The notion that bribery is a norm and that everyone takes or offers a bribe in order to get things done is unacceptable and must be condemned and discouraged by all and sundry;
5. Fighting corruption is a shared responsibility between the government, the law enforcement institutions, the judiciary, the media as well as the citizenry. Therefore, citizens must be honest and prepared to expose any official found to have engaged in corrupt practices regardless of whether or not the culprit is a friend, a relative or non-relative;
6. The exposure of corrupt practices in the country cannot be complete without the role of the media. Therefore, once an individual or organisation has been exposed to have indulged in corrupt practices, the media should follow through to the logical conclusion of the case;
7. The police on their part should be more professional in the pursuit of their work while high government officials should not interfere with the justice system or shield corrupt officials; and
8. The anti-corruption bodies such as the CHRAJ and EOCO and the Judiciary should dispense expeditiously and impartially, all cases of corruption brought to their attention.





### 3. INTRODUCTION

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#### 3.1 Background

Corruption has become a household word and discussed everyday by politicians, journalists, government officials and the citizenry, on radio and television stations and the print media. In 1979, three former heads of state and six military senior officers were executed for their alleged corruption. Even some businessmen were prosecuted for corruption. “Numerous business entrepreneurs were also targeted and unlawfully had their assets confiscated by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) government including J. K. Siaw”<sup>1</sup>

Bribery, (taking/receiving money from people before helping them/for a favour) which is a form of corruption, affects the moral and economic fabric of the country in diverse ways. In Ghana the perception of bribery among the people is very high. Benefiting from basic services (like getting a document or a permit; getting water or sanitation services; electricity connection; getting treatment at a local health clinic or hospital; avoiding a problem with the police, like passing a check point or avoiding a fine or arrest; avoid a problem with the local tax officer; getting a place in a primary school for a child; getting a place in a government senior high school for a child; and getting a place in a government tertiary institution for a child) is deemed to be a herculean task in many instances. It is alleged that one has to pay a bribe, give a gift or do a favour before he/she could obtain any of the aforementioned services<sup>2</sup>.

The Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) government which assumed the reins of power on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1981, established institutions such as the Citizens Vetting Committees and Public Tribunals to fight relentlessly individuals and organisations perceived to have engaged in corrupt activities.

With the return to constitutional rule in January 1993, successive governments have tried in one way or the other to continue the fight against corruption. Institutions like the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Serious Fraud Office (SFO) now called Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), National Procurement Authority (NPA) have been established by Parliament to help combat the menace of corruption.

The New Patriotic Party (NPP) government under the leadership of President J. A. Kufuor came up with the maxim, “Zero Tolerance” for corruption.

Despite these efforts, corruption practices seem to be on the ascendancy in Ghana. For this reason, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in November/December 2015 undertook a Corruption Survey to unearth the nature, level, causes, and motives behind corruption in Ghana.

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1 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armed\\_Forces\\_Revolutionary\\_Council,\\_Ghana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armed_Forces_Revolutionary_Council,_Ghana), accessed 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

2 IEA (2016): Socio-Economic and Governance Survey of Ghana: November – December, 2015 Main Report



### 3.2 Objectives of the Survey

The overall objective of the survey was to get the public's views on the extent to which corruption has eroded the economic and social fabric of Ghana. Specifically, the survey paid particular attention to:

- The public's conception of what constitutes corruption;
- Assessment of corruption levels in Ghana;
- Sources of corruption practices;
- Factors causing corruption in Ghana;
- Most common forms of corruption in Ghana;
- Motives behind corruption practices;
- Public reaction to paying or receiving bribe;
- What respondents could do to curb corruption; and
- Which state institutions are perceived to be corrupt in Ghana.





## 4. Survey Methodology

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The methodology described here pertains to the strategy adopted for the 2015 IEA Corruption Survey.

### 4.1 Sample Design

The survey provides a regionally disaggregated representative data for the 10 regions of Ghana. The survey used a probability sample design whereby each person aged 18 years and above in Ghana has a known non-zero chance of being included in the sample.

### 4.2 Sample Size and Allocation

A total of 1,500 individuals aged 18 years and above were selected in three (3) stages from across the 10 regions of the country. In the first stage, 100 primary sampling units (PSUs) also called enumeration areas (EAs) obtained from the Ghana Statistical Service were selected with probability proportional to size (PPS). Fifteen (15) households were then systematically selected as the target sample (secondary sampling units) in each selected PSU. At the third stage, the Kish Grid was applied to the selected households in each of the selected PSU visited from among all household members aged 18 years and above for the selection of the eligible respondents.

The selection of households and individuals within the PSUs and households respectively, followed the strict sampling procedures recommended by the United Nations (2005).

The background characteristics of respondents like age, sex, educational level, marital status, occupation and living conditions were measured.

This report examines in detail the outcome of the Corruption Survey conducted in November/December 2015.

## 5. Background Characteristics of Respondents

Many factors such as region, sex, locality of residence, age, educational level, marital status, occupation and living conditions of respondents determine one's perception of corruption. For this reason, these background characteristics of the respondents were solicited.

### 5.1 Regional Distribution of Respondents

The regional distribution of respondents is depicted in Table 1. The region with the highest proportion of respondents is Ashanti (18.0%) and Upper East and Upper West regions have the least of 7% each.

**Table 1: Regional Distribution of Respondents (18 years+)**

| Region        | IEA Survey*  |              |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|               | Number       | Percent      |
| Western       | 135          | 9.0          |
| Central       | 120          | 8.0          |
| Greater Accra | 225          | 15.0         |
| Volta         | 120          | 8.0          |
| Eastern       | 150          | 10.0         |
| Ashanti       | 270          | 18.0         |
| Brong Ahafo   | 135          | 9.0          |
| Northern      | 135          | 9.0          |
| Upper East    | 105          | 7.0          |
| Upper West    | 105          | 7.0          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1,500</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

\*Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 5.3: Percent Distribution of Respondents by Sex, Locality, Age Group, Educational Level, Occupation, and Marital Status

Table 2 shows the background characteristics of the respondents. Of the 1,500 persons interviewed, six out of ten were females while four out of ten were males. Urban respondents constituted 48.1% while 51.9% resided in the rural areas. The youth (18-24 years) constituted 24.6% of the respondents and the aged (60 years and older) were 13%. Those without any formal education were 17.6% while Primary/JSS/MSLC/JHS leavers were 48.3%. Tertiary respondents were 10%.

Three out of every five respondents were self-employed (59.8%), 6.1% were Civil/Public Servants, 5.9% were Private Sector Employees and 16.3% were unemployed.

More than half (54.9%) of the respondents were married (includes living together or cohabitation) and those who had never married were 29.5%.

**Table 2: Percent Distribution of Respondents by Sex, Locality, Age Group, Educational Level, Occupation, and Marital Status.**

| Characteristics                                            | Percent      | Number      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Sex</b>                                                 |              |             |
| Male                                                       | 39.9         | 599         |
| Female                                                     | 60.1         | 901         |
| <b>Locality</b>                                            |              |             |
| Urban                                                      | 48.1         | 721         |
| Rural                                                      | 51.9         | 779         |
| <b>Age Group</b>                                           |              |             |
| 18-24                                                      | 24.6         | 369         |
| 25-59                                                      | 62.4         | 936         |
| 60+                                                        | 13.0         | 195         |
| <b>Educational Level</b>                                   |              |             |
| None                                                       | 17.6         | 264         |
| Primary                                                    | 12.6         | 189         |
| JSS/MSLC/JHS                                               | 35.7         | 536         |
| Secondary/SHS/'O'-Level/'A'-Level                          | 19.5         | 293         |
| Vocational/Commercial/Technical/Cert.A/Post Sec/Nursing    | 4.3          | 64          |
| Tertiary(any formal education after SHS or SSSCE)          | 10.0         | 150         |
| Others(Specify)                                            | 0.3          | 4           |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                          |              |             |
| Civil/Public Servant                                       | 6.1          | 91          |
| Private sector employee                                    | 5.9          | 89          |
| Self-employed                                              | 59.8         | 897         |
| Unemployed                                                 | 16.3         | 244         |
| Other (specify) e.g. full time student, retired/aged, etc. | 11.9         | 179         |
| <b>Marital Status</b>                                      |              |             |
| Never Married                                              | 29.5         | 442         |
| Married (includes Living Together or Cohabitation)         | 54.9         | 824         |
| Separated/ Divorced                                        | 7.6          | 114         |
| Widowed                                                    | 8.0          | 120         |
| <b>Total</b>                                               | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1500</b> |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 6.1 Understanding Corruption

*40% of the public perceive corruption to be “Taking/receiving money or sex from people before helping them/for a favour”.*

Forty percent (40%) of the respondents averred that in their opinion corruption is about “Taking/receiving money or sex from people before helping them/for a favour.” Thirteen percent (13%) indicated that corruption is about “Embezzlement/misappropriation of public funds or diverting nation’s resources for personal gain” while close to 12% said corruption is about “stealing”.

However, only 6.9% of the respondents viewed “hiding the truth/subversion of justice/covering up wrong doing” as corruption (Table 3).

**Table 3: Respondents understanding of corruption**

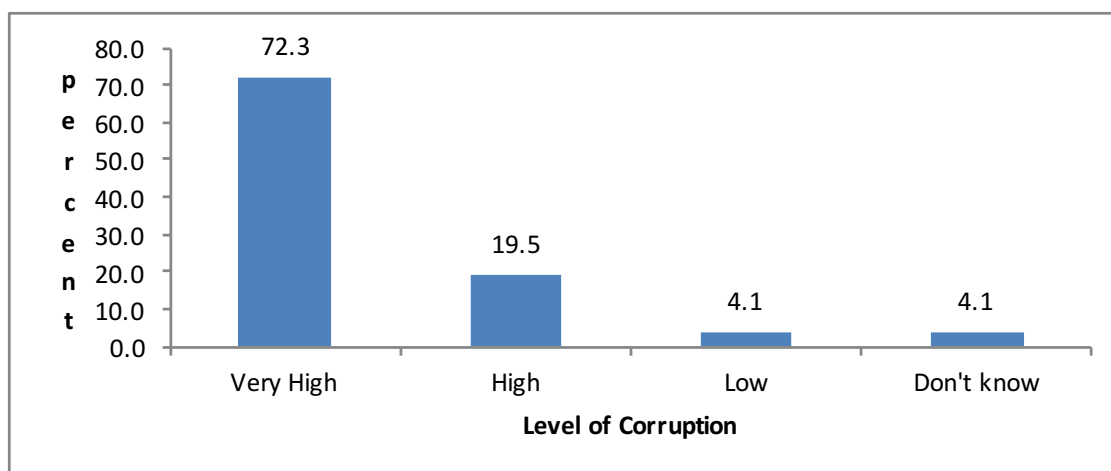
| Nature of Corruption                                                                        | Percent %    | Number      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Stealing                                                                                    | 11.9         | 179         |
| Embezzlement/misappropriation of public funds/diverting nations resources for personal gain | 13.4         | 201         |
| Taking/receiving money/sex from people before Helping them/for a favour                     | 39.5         | 593         |
| Illegal act by the government and individual/abuse of power/ Denying Someone’s Rights       | 8.8          | 132         |
| Hiding the truth/subversion of justice/covering up wrong doing                              | 6.9          | 104         |
| People go round duping/fraud/cheating                                                       | 9.8          | 147         |
| Don’t know                                                                                  | 8.6          | 129         |
| Other                                                                                       | 1.0          | 15          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1500</b> |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 6.2 Respondents’ Assessment of the level of Corruption in Ghana

### *Corruption levels considered very high in Ghana*

The level of corruption was considered to be very high in 2015 by 72.1% of the respondents. In fact, only 4.1% of the respondents thought corruption levels were low (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Respondents' Assessment of Corruption in Ghana**

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 6.3 Source of Respondents' Information

*The media was the main source of the public's assessment of corruption levels in Ghana. One in five respondents had had to provide cash, gifts or favour.*

Half of the respondents stated that their source of information about the corruption levels in Ghana was the media (TV, radio, newspapers and internet). The second most important source of information on corruption levels was personal experience where about 21.3% stated they had had to provide cash, gifts or favour. A sizable proportion (14.9%) of respondents obtained information on corruption levels from relatives or family members (Table 4).

A greater proportion of males got their information from the media (52.9%) and personal experiences (24.5%), but 16.5% and 11.3% females respectively relied on relatives/family and friends/acquaintances for information.

**Table 4: Source of respondents' information**

| Source of Respondents' Information                                      | Male         | Female       | Total        | Number      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Personal experience (you have had to provide cash, gifts or favour)     | 24.5         | 19.1         | 21.3         | 307         |
| Talk with relatives or family                                           | 12.5         | 16.5         | 14.9         | 215         |
| Talk with friends and acquaintances                                     | 7.0          | 11.3         | 9.6          | 138         |
| Information about corruption given by NGOs(corruption awareness)        | 1.5          | 2.6          | 2.1          | 31          |
| Information provided by the media(TV, radio, newspapers, internet,etc.) | 52.9         | 49.5         | 50.9         | 735         |
| Other please specify(Record answer as said)                             | 1.4          | 0.9          | 1.1          | 16          |
| Don't know                                                              | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 2           |
| <b>Total</b>                                                            | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1444</b> |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 6.4 Most Common forms of Corruption in Ghana

### *Most common form of corruption in Ghana is cash payments (money)*

Almost all the respondents (96.7%) identified cash payments (money) as the most common form of corruption in Ghana. Only 1% mentioned that corruption takes the form of material things like cars, houses etc. (Table 5).

**Table 5: The most common forms of corruption in Ghana**

| Forms of Corruption            | Percent    | Number      |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Money                          | 96.7       | 1295        |
| Material...(cars, houses, etc) | 1.0        | 14          |
| Favours                        | 0.5        | 7           |
| Others(specify)                | 1.7        | 23          |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>100</b> | <b>1339</b> |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 6.5 Factors causing Corruption in Ghana

### *Greed/selfishness get rich-quick attitude and low salaries/income levels main causes of corruption in Ghana*

Respondents expressed their views on probable causes of corruption in Ghana. Similar views were expressed by both male and female respondents. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of all respondents observed that greed and selfishness were the main cause of corruption in Ghana. This was followed by get-rich-quick attitude (23%) and low salaries/income levels (22.7%) (Table 6).

However, respondents did not think that lack of punitive and deterrent sanctions (5.1%), lack of clear rules and laws (4.0%), abuse or mal-use of power in the public sector (3.4%) and excessive bureaucracy (1.8%) were major factors.

Age disaggregation of the results clearly shows that the elderly (those of 60 years and above) felt that greed/selfishness (29.5%) and low salaries/income levels (25.9%) were the main cause of corruption. The youth, on the other hand, identified get-rich-quick attitude (26.3%) of some Ghanaians as the major cause of corruption.

**Table 6: Causes of Corruption**

| Causes                                         | Sex  |        | Broad Age Group |       |      | Total Number |     |
|------------------------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------|-------|------|--------------|-----|
|                                                | Male | Female | 18-24           | 25-59 | 60+  |              |     |
| Low salaries and income levels                 | 22.9 | 22.6   | 23.6            | 21.7  | 25.9 | 22.7         | 339 |
| Lack of ethics or morale                       | 6.2  | 5.2    | 5.4             | 6.0   | 4.1  | 5.6          | 84  |
| Get rich quick attitude                        | 21.0 | 24.4   | 26.3            | 22.9  | 17.6 | 23.0         | 344 |
| Socio-cultural demands                         | 1.9  | 1.3    | 1.1             | 2.0   | 0.0  | 1.5          | 23  |
| Lack of clear rules and laws                   | 4.7  | 3.4    | 4.3             | 4.0   | 3.1  | 4.0          | 59  |
| Lack of punitive and deterrent sanctions       | 5.9  | 4.6    | 4.3             | 4.9   | 7.3  | 5.1          | 76  |
| Abuse or mal-use of power in the public sector | 3.9  | 3.1    | 4.6             | 3.2   | 2.1  | 3.4          | 51  |
| Excessive bureaucracy                          | 2.0  | 1.7    | 1.4             | 2.0   | 1.6  | 1.8          | 27  |
| Greed and selfishness                          | 26.8 | 27.3   | 23.6            | 27.9  | 29.5 | 27.1         | 404 |

| Causes         | Sex   |        | Broad Age Group |       |       | Total Number |      |
|----------------|-------|--------|-----------------|-------|-------|--------------|------|
|                | Male  | Female | 18-24           | 25-59 | 60+   |              |      |
| Other(specify) | 2.5   | 2.2    | 1.9             | 2.3   | 3.6   | 2.3          | 35   |
| Don't know     | 2.2   | 4.2    | 3.5             | 3.0   | 5.2   | 3.4          | 51   |
| Total          | 100.0 | 100.0  | 100.0           | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0        | 1493 |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 6.6 Motives behind Corrupt Practices

*The key factors driving corrupt practices in Ghana are: “to get things done; to avoid punishment/sanctions; to speed up processes and as alternative source of income. For the youth (18-24 years), the motivating force is to have alternative source of income.”*

Table 7 indicates that respondents identified four main motives which drive Ghanaians to involve themselves in corrupt practices. About a quarter (24.2%) of respondents regardless of their background were of the view that to get things done in Ghana, one must engage in corrupt practices. One in five thought that to avoid punishment/sanctions, one had to be corrupt while 19.3% stated that the only way to speed up processes or procedures was to be corrupt and, finally, 12.2% said people viewed corruption as alternative source of income.

Of the age groups, 14.2% of the youth (18-24 years) said the motivating force is to have alternative source of income. Interestingly, 13.8% of civil/public servants also cite alternative source of income.



**Table 7: Motives behind corrupt practices by sex, age group, education, occupation and living conditions**

| Background characteristics                                | Motives                                  |                                |                                   |                                         |                                      |                                           |                                      |                                                                |                | Total |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|
|                                                           | There is no other way to get things done | To avoid punishment/ sanctions | To avoid higher official payments | To speed up the processes or procedures | To be treated (served) appropriately | To get preferential treatment/ privileges | To have alternative source of income | The practice of obligatory (illegal) “payments” to supervisors | Other, specify |       |
| Sex                                                       |                                          |                                |                                   |                                         |                                      |                                           |                                      |                                                                |                |       |
| Male                                                      | 23.4                                     | 19.4                           | 7.7                               | 19.4                                    | 5.2                                  | 7.2                                       | 12.9                                 | 2.4                                                            | 2.4            | 100   |
| Female                                                    | 24.7                                     | 22.4                           | 6.3                               | 19.1                                    | 4.7                                  | 6                                         | 11.8                                 | 2.8                                                            | 2.2            | 100   |
| Age Group                                                 |                                          |                                |                                   |                                         |                                      |                                           |                                      |                                                                |                |       |
| 18-24                                                     | 25.3                                     | 22.5                           | 5.3                               | 17.8                                    | 3.3                                  | 7.8                                       | 14.2                                 | 2.5                                                            | 1.4            | 100   |
| 25-59                                                     | 23                                       | 21.2                           | 7.7                               | 19.8                                    | 5.4                                  | 5.9                                       | 12                                   | 2.5                                                            | 2.4            | 100   |
| 60+                                                       | 27.7                                     | 18.5                           | 6                                 | 19.6                                    | 5.4                                  | 7.1                                       | 9.2                                  | 3.3                                                            | 3.3            | 100   |
| Education                                                 |                                          |                                |                                   |                                         |                                      |                                           |                                      |                                                                |                |       |
| None                                                      | 23.9                                     | 20.1                           | 9.4                               | 20.1                                    | 3.0                                  | 6.0                                       | 13.2                                 | 1.7                                                            | 2.6            | 100.0 |
| Primary                                                   | 22.4                                     | 19.7                           | 5.5                               | 20.2                                    | 4.4                                  | 8.2                                       | 13.7                                 | 1.6                                                            | 4.4            | 100.0 |
| JSS/MSLC/JHS                                              | 26.3                                     | 23.5                           | 6.9                               | 16.4                                    | 4.0                                  | 6.5                                       | 11.6                                 | 3.2                                                            | 1.5            | 100.0 |
| Secondary/ SHS/”O’Level/”A’Level                          | 24.2                                     | 17.3                           | 7.6                               | 21.5                                    | 6.6                                  | 5.5                                       | 11.4                                 | 3.8                                                            | 2.1            | 100.0 |
| Vocational/Commercial/ Technical/CertA/Post Sec/Nursing   | 25.4                                     | 25.4                           | 1.6                               | 15.9                                    | 4.8                                  | 6.3                                       | 15.9                                 | 1.6                                                            | 3.2            | 100.0 |
| Tertiary(any formal education after SHS or SSSCE)         | 19.3                                     | 22.7                           | 5.3                               | 22.7                                    | 8.7                                  | 7.3                                       | 10.7                                 | 1.3                                                            | 2.0            | 100.0 |
| Others(Specify)                                           | 0.0                                      | 0.0                            | 0.0                               | 75.0                                    | 0.0                                  | 0.0                                       | 25.0                                 | 0.0                                                            | 0.0            | 100.0 |
| Occupation                                                |                                          |                                |                                   |                                         |                                      |                                           |                                      |                                                                |                |       |
| Civil/Public Servant                                      | 16.3                                     | 27.5                           | 6.3                               | 21.3                                    | 5.0                                  | 7.5                                       | 13.8                                 | 1.3                                                            | 1.3            | 100.0 |
| Private sector employee                                   | 21.2                                     | 29.4                           | 8.2                               | 12.9                                    | 7.1                                  | 4.7                                       | 12.9                                 | 0.0                                                            | 3.5            | 100.0 |
| Self-employed                                             | 25.1                                     | 20.5                           | 7.3                               | 19.1                                    | 5.1                                  | 6.1                                       | 11.4                                 | 3.2                                                            | 2.1            | 100.0 |
| Unemployed                                                | 26.5                                     | 18.1                           | 5.9                               | 20.6                                    | 4.2                                  | 9.7                                       | 10.5                                 | 1.3                                                            | 3.4            | 100.0 |
| Other (specify) e.g full time student, retired/ aged, etc | 22.5                                     | 22.5                           | 5.2                               | 18.5                                    | 4.0                                  | 4.6                                       | 17.3                                 | 3.5                                                            | 1.7            | 100.0 |

| Background characteristics | Motives                                  |                                |                                   |                                         |                                      |                                           |                                      |                                                                |                |       |       |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|-------|
|                            | There is no other way to get things done | To avoid punishment/ sanctions | To avoid higher official payments | To speed up the processes or procedures | To be treated (served) appropriately | To get preferential treatment/ privileges | To have alternative source of income | The practice of obligatory (illegal) “payments” to supervisors | Other, specify | Total |       |
|                            | Living Conditions                        |                                |                                   |                                         |                                      |                                           |                                      |                                                                |                |       |       |
|                            | Very Bad                                 | 27.3                           | 21.0                              | 6.8                                     | 17.4                                 | 6.1                                       | 5.8                                  | 11.4                                                           | 1.8            | 2.5   | 100.0 |
|                            | Bad                                      | 24.3                           | 21.5                              | 6.4                                     | 20.9                                 | 4.5                                       | 7.0                                  | 10.5                                                           | 2.4            | 2.4   | 100.0 |
|                            | Neither Good nor Bad                     | 21.3                           | 19.8                              | 9.6                                     | 18.8                                 | 3.0                                       | 6.1                                  | 15.2                                                           | 5.1            | 1.0   | 100.0 |
|                            | Good                                     | 23.1                           | 21.4                              | 5.7                                     | 18.4                                 | 5.0                                       | 7.0                                  | 14.4                                                           | 2.7            | 2.3   | 100.0 |
|                            | Very Good                                | 7.7                            | 26.9                              | 11.5                                    | 26.9                                 | 7.7                                       | 3.8                                  | 11.5                                                           | 0.0            | 3.8   | 100.0 |
|                            | Total                                    | 24.2                           | 21.2                              | 6.9                                     | 19.3                                 | 4.9                                       | 6.5                                  | 12.2                                                           | 2.6            | 2.3   | 100.0 |
|                            | Number                                   | 350                            | 307                               | 100                                     | 279                                  | 71                                        | 94                                   | 177                                                            | 38             | 33    | 1449  |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 6.7 Corruption in State Institutions

*The Police, Judges/magistrates, Tax officials and the Office of the President regarded as the most corrupt institutions.*

Respondents' views on corruption of 10 state institutions were solicited in the 2015 Corruption Survey and compared with the results of the previous survey in 2014. According to the results 28.6% of the people were of the opinion that all police officials were corrupt up from 23% reported in 2014. Only 4.4% of them were deemed not to be corrupt (Table 8).

The Judiciary moved from the 7<sup>th</sup> spot in 2014 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2015 while the Office of the President dropped to the 4<sup>th</sup> position. Other institutions considered to be corrupt are tax officials (14%) and immigration officers (12.8%).

The army remained the least corrupt institution with only 7% of the respondents reporting them to be corrupt<sup>3</sup>.

3 IEA (2016): Socio-Economic and Governance Survey of Ghana: November – December, 2015 Main Report

**Table 8: Perception of Corruption in State Institutions**

| 2015 |                                     |      |              |              |             |      |       |        |
|------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------|-------|--------|
| No.  | Institution                         | None | Some of them | Most of them | All of them | DK   | Total | Number |
| 1    | Police                              | 2.8  | 30.3         | 34           | 28.6        | 4.2  | 100   | 1492   |
| 2    | Judges and Magistrates              | 2.4  | 39.3         | 34.5         | 18.4        | 5.4  | 100   | 1481   |
| 3    | Tax Officials (GRA- CEPS, IRS, VAT) | 3.5  | 42.7         | 31.2         | 14          | 8.7  | 100   | 1491   |
| 4    | Office of the President             | 7.4  | 46.3         | 22.8         | 12.9        | 10.6 | 100   | 1493   |
| 5    | Immigration                         | 4.5  | 42.9         | 28.3         | 12.8        | 11.5 | 100   | 1482   |
| 6    | Government officials                | 3.2  | 47.9         | 31.3         | 11.4        | 6.2  | 100   | 1491   |
| 7    | Members of Parliament               | 4.3  | 49.4         | 25.9         | 11.4        | 9.1  | 100   | 1497   |
| 8    | District Chief Executives           | 5    | 51.3         | 24.1         | 10.3        | 9.3  | 100   | 1490   |
| 9    | Assemblymen and women               | 10.1 | 53.8         | 19.7         | 8.4         | 7.9  | 100   | 1489   |
| 10   | Army                                | 30.6 | 41.1         | 10.4         | 7.0         | 11   | 100   | 1487   |

| 2014 |                                       |      |              |              |             |      |       |        |
|------|---------------------------------------|------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------|-------|--------|
| No.  | Institution                           | None | Some of them | Most of them | All of them | DK   | Total | Number |
| 1    | Police                                | 4.4  | 37.2         | 29.7         | 23          | 5.7  | 100   | 1199   |
| 2    | President and officials in his office | 7.3  | 42.3         | 22.3         | 19.2        | 8.9  | 100   | 1199   |
| 3    | Tax officials                         | 4.4  | 41.2         | 28.2         | 15.4        | 10.8 | 100   | 1199   |
| 4    | Members of parliament                 | 5.8  | 44.7         | 26           | 15          | 8.5  | 100   | 1199   |
| 5    | Government officials                  | 3.9  | 46           | 28.9         | 13.9        | 7.3  | 100   | 1199   |
| 6    | District chief executives             | 5.2  | 49           | 25.5         | 13.3        | 7.1  | 100   | 1198   |
| 7    | Judges and magistrates                | 6.3  | 43           | 25.6         | 13.1        | 12   | 100   | 1194   |
| 8    | Assemblymen and women                 | 9.9  | 51           | 19.9         | 11.9        | 7.2  | 100   | 1197   |
| 9    | Immigration                           | 7.6  | 45.9         | 22.5         | 10.4        | 13.7 | 100   | 1197   |
| 10   | Army                                  | 24.7 | 46.9         | 12.6         | 7.2         | 8.6  | 100   | 1198   |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 6.8 Respondents Attitude towards Corruption

### 6.8.1 Respondents Willingness to take a Bribe by Sex and Age Group

#### *More youth are more likely to take a bribe*

It is said that the one who gives a bribe and the one who takes are both guilty of the offence. About a fifth (19.3%) of persons in Ghana are prepared to take a bribe. More than two thirds of the people (male 77.6%) and (female 77.1%), say they will not take a bribe. For persons 60 years and above 80.4% say they will not take a bribe. Strangely, about one in five of the youth (21.4%) reported that they were prepared to take a bribe and this does not portray a good future for the country (Table9). The plausible explanation might be that the youth is in a hurry to get rich (see Sections 6.5 and 6.6).

**Table 9: Attitude Towards Taking a Bribe by sex and age group**

| Background Characteristics | I would take | I would not take it | Other (Specify) | Don't know | Refused | Total | Number |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|--------|
| <b>Sex</b>                 |              |                     |                 |            |         |       |        |
| Male                       | 19.1         | 77.6                | 0.8             | 2.0        | 0.5     | 100.0 | 598    |
| Female                     | 19.4         | 77.1                | 0.1             | 3.1        | 0.2     | 100.0 | 901    |
| <b>Age group</b>           |              |                     |                 |            |         |       |        |
| 18-24                      | 21.4         | 76.4                | 0.3             | 1.9        | 0.0     | 100.0 | 369    |
| 25-59                      | 19.4         | 77.0                | 0.4             | 2.7        | 0.4     | 100.0 | 936    |
| 60+                        | 14.4         | 80.4                | 0.5             | 4.1        | 0.5     | 100.0 | 194    |
| Total                      | 19.3         | 77.3                | 0.4             | 2.7        | 0.3     | 100.0 | 1499   |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 6.8.2 Respondents Willingness to take a Bribe by Education, Occupation and Living Conditions

*One in five of the respondents were prepared to take a bribe. Tertiary degree holders, Private sector employees, the Unemployed and those with very bad living conditions are likely to take a bribe*

The educational, occupational and living conditions of respondents in relation to the willingness of taking a bribe at any time are depicted in Table 10. Those with tertiary education (24.7%), private sector employees (29.2%), the unemployed (27.0%) and those with very bad living condition declared that if they were offered a bribe, they would take it.

**Table 10: Willingness to take a bribe by education, occupation and living conditions**

| Background Characteristics                               | I would take | I would not take it | Other (Specify) | Don't know | Refused    | Total        | Number      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Educational Level</b>                                 |              |                     |                 |            |            |              |             |
| None                                                     | 17.6         | 74.0                | 0.4             | 7.6        | 0.4        | 100.0        | 262         |
| Primary                                                  | 20.1         | 77.8                | 0.0             | 1.6        | 0.5        | 100.0        | 189         |
| JSS/MSLC/JHS                                             | 18.5         | 79.3                | 0.4             | 1.5        | 0.4        | 100.0        | 535         |
| Secondary/SHS/O'Level/A'Level                            | 20.5         | 76.1                | 0.7             | 2.4        | 0.3        | 100.0        | 293         |
| Vocational/Commercial/Technical/CertA/Post Sec/Nursing   | 12.5         | 87.5                | 0.0             | 0.0        | 0.0        | 100.0        | 64          |
| Tertiary(any formal education after SHS or SSSCE)        | 24.7         | 73.3                | 0.7             | 1.3        | 0.0        | 100.0        | 150         |
| Others(Specify)                                          | 25.0         | 75.0                | 0.0             | 0.0        | 0.0        | 100.0        | 4           |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                        |              |                     |                 |            |            |              |             |
| Civil/Public Servant                                     | 20.0         | 76.3                | 1.3             | 1.3        | 1.3        | 100.0        | 80          |
| Private sector employee                                  | 29.2         | 68.5                | 1.1             | 1.1        | 0.0        | 100.0        | 89          |
| Self-employed                                            | 17.7         | 79.1                | 0.2             | 2.6        | 0.3        | 100.0        | 896         |
| Unemployed                                               | 27.0         | 69.3                | 0.4             | 3.3        | 0.0        | 100.0        | 244         |
| Other (specify) e.g full time student, retired/aged, etc | 11.7         | 83.2                | 0.6             | 3.9        | 0.6        | 100.0        | 179         |
| <b>Living Conditions</b>                                 |              |                     |                 |            |            |              |             |
| Very Bad                                                 | 23.8         | 72.2                | 0.2             | 3.4        | 0.2        | 100.0        | 407         |
| Bad                                                      | 16.5         | 79.7                | 0.5             | 3.3        | 0.0        | 100.0        | 551         |
| Neither Good nor Bad                                     | 18.2         | 80.8                | 1.0             | 0.0        | 0.0        | 100.0        | 203         |
| Good                                                     | 20.6         | 75.6                | 0.0             | 2.6        | 1.3        | 100.0        | 311         |
| Very Good                                                | 0.0          | 100.0               | 0.0             | 0.0        | 0.0        | 100.0        | 27          |
| <b>Total</b>                                             | <b>19.3</b>  | <b>77.3</b>         | <b>0.4</b>      | <b>2.7</b> | <b>0.3</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1499</b> |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 6.8.3 Reasons a Bribe would be taken

*The need for money is the main reason why people would want to take a bribe. However, Tertiary holders, Civil/Public Servants, Private sector employees, and those with good living conditions all believe that everybody takes a bribe that is why they also would take a bribe.*

On average, over 60% of all the respondents except the males, the 60 plus year group, tertiary (42.1%), the civil/public servants (47.1%), private sector employees (53.8%), and those with good living conditions (50%) who declared that they would take a bribe if offered, said that they would take the bribe because they need money.

However, for the Tertiary holders (44.7%), Civil/Public Servants (35.3%), Private sector employees (34.6%), and those with good living conditions (39.1%) they would take a bribe because they believed that everybody takes a bribe (Table 11).

**Table 11: Reasons why bribe would be taken by sex, age group, education, occupation and living conditions**

| Background Characteristics                               | Because everybody takes it | Because I need money | Because I need gifts | Because I have to "share" it with my supervisor | Other. specify | Refused | Total | Number |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------|--------|
| <b>Sex</b>                                               |                            |                      |                      |                                                 |                |         |       |        |
| Male                                                     | 26.9                       | 58.0                 | 6.7                  | 0.8                                             | 2.5            | 3.4     | 1.7   | 100.0  |
| Female                                                   | 25.7                       | 64.6                 | 1.1                  | 0.6                                             | 1.1            | 4.6     | 2.3   | 100.0  |
| <b>Age Group</b>                                         |                            |                      |                      |                                                 |                |         |       |        |
| 18-24                                                    | 25.0                       | 65.0                 | 2.5                  | 1.3                                             | 0.0            | 3.8     | 2.5   | 100.0  |
| 25-59                                                    | 27.0                       | 61.6                 | 3.2                  | 0.5                                             | 1.6            | 3.8     | 2.2   | 100.0  |
| 60+                                                      | 24.1                       | 55.2                 | 6.9                  | 0.0                                             | 6.9            | 6.9     | 0.0   | 100.0  |
| <b>Education Level</b>                                   |                            |                      |                      |                                                 |                |         |       |        |
| None                                                     | 27.9                       | 62.8                 | 2.3                  | 0.0                                             | 4.7            | 2.3     | 100.0 | 43     |
| Primary                                                  | 21.6                       | 67.6                 | 5.4                  | 0.0                                             | 0.0            | 5.4     | 100.0 | 37     |
| JSS/MSLC/JHS                                             | 25.0                       | 66.0                 | 3.0                  | 2.0                                             | 2.0            | 2.0     | 100.0 | 100    |
| Secondary/SHS/"O" Level/"A" Level                        | 19.7                       | 68.9                 | 4.9                  | 0.0                                             | 1.6            | 4.9     | 100.0 | 61     |
| Vocational/Commercial/Technical/CertA/Post Sec/Nursing   | 25.0                       | 75.0                 | 0.0                  | 0.0                                             | 0.0            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 8      |
| Tertiary(any formal education after SHS or SSSCE)        | 44.7                       | 42.1                 | 2.6                  | 0.0                                             | 0.0            | 10.5    | 100.0 | 38     |
| Others(Specify)                                          | 100.0                      | 0.0                  | 0.0                  | 0.0                                             | 0.0            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 1      |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                        |                            |                      |                      |                                                 |                |         |       |        |
| Civil/Public Servant                                     | 35.3                       | 47.1                 | 11.8                 | 0.0                                             | 0.0            | 5.9     | 100.0 | 17     |
| Private sector employee                                  | 34.6                       | 53.8                 | 0.0                  | 0.0                                             | 0.0            | 11.5    | 100.0 | 26     |
| Self-employed                                            | 24.7                       | 63.9                 | 3.8                  | 0.6                                             | 3.2            | 3.8     | 100.0 | 158    |
| Unemployed                                               | 26.2                       | 72.3                 | 0.0                  | 0.0                                             | 0.0            | 1.5     | 100.0 | 65     |
| Other (specify) e.g full time student, retired/aged, etc | 28.6                       | 52.4                 | 9.5                  | 4.8                                             | 0.0            | 4.8     | 100.0 | 21     |
| <b>Living Conditions</b>                                 |                            |                      |                      |                                                 |                |         |       |        |

| Background Characteristics | Because everybody takes it | Because I need money | Because I need gifts | Because I have to “share” it with my supervisor | Other. specify | Refused | Total | Number |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------|--------|
| Very Bad                   | 21.1                       | 69.5                 | 2.1                  | 2.1                                             | 2.1            | 3.2     | 100.0 | 95     |
| Bad                        | 23.9                       | 68.5                 | 1.1                  | 0.0                                             | 1.1            | 5.4     | 100.0 | 92     |
| Neither Good nor Bad       | 27.0                       | 56.8                 | 13.5                 | 0.0                                             | 0.0            | 2.7     | 100.0 | 37     |
| Good                       | 39.1                       | 50.0                 | 3.1                  | 0.0                                             | 3.1            | 4.7     | 100.0 | 64     |
| Very Good                  | 0.0                        | 0.0                  | 0.0                  | 0.0                                             | 0.0            | 0.0     | 0.0   | 0      |
| Total                      | 26.8                       | 63.2                 | 3.5                  | 0.7                                             | 1.7            | 4.2     | 100.0 | 288    |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

#### 6.8.4 Reason why respondent will not take a Bribe

*Seven in ten people who would not take a bribe hold that view because they find the practice unacceptable. Just 5% refuse to take a bribe because they want to fight corruption*

Not everyone in Ghana, given the chance would take a bribe as is shown in Table 12. The fight against corruption as a shared responsibility between the government, law enforcement agencies and the populace is not fully recognized or appreciated by the public as only 5.4% of respondents said they would not take a bribe because they want to reduce/eliminate corruption. Similarly, just about 14.9% of the respondents cited the risk of being punished as a deterrent to fighting corruption.

However, the main reason why some people are not willing to take bribe is that they find the practice unacceptable. This view is expressed by 74.1% of the respondents.

**Table 12: Reasons why a bribe would not be taken by sex, age group, education, occupation and living conditions**

| Background Characteristics | Because there is a high risk to be punished | Because it is unacceptable for me | Because I will try to resolve the issue through legal means | To reduce/eliminate corruption | Other (specify) | Total | Number |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|
| <b>Sex</b>                 |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |                 |       |        |
| Male                       | 14.9                                        | 73.4                              | 2.4                                                         | 5.6                            | 3.7             | 100.0 | 462    |
| Female                     | 14.9                                        | 74.6                              | 1.7                                                         | 5.2                            | 3.5             | 100.0 | 686    |

| Background Characteristics                                     | Because there is a high risk to be punished | Because it is unacceptable for me | Because I will try to resolve the issue through legal means | To reduce/eliminate corruption | Other (specify) | Total | Number |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|
| <b>Age Group</b>                                               |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |                 |       |        |
| 18-24                                                          | 13.7                                        | 73.3                              | 1.1                                                         | 7.2                            | 4.7             | 100.0 | 277    |
| 25-59                                                          | 15.7                                        | 74.2                              | 2.1                                                         | 4.9                            | 3.1             | 100.0 | 714    |
| 60+                                                            | 13.4                                        | 75.2                              | 3.2                                                         | 4.5                            | 3.8             | 100.0 | 157    |
| <b>Education Level</b>                                         |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |                 |       |        |
| None                                                           | 15.1                                        | 76.6                              | 1.0                                                         | 4.7                            | 2.6             | 100.0 | 192    |
| Primary                                                        | 17.4                                        | 68.1                              | 1.4                                                         | 9.0                            | 4.2             | 100.0 | 144    |
| JSS/MSLC/JHS                                                   | 12.1                                        | 77.7                              | 1.7                                                         | 4.7                            | 3.8             | 100.0 | 422    |
| Secondary/<br>SHS/"O"Level/"A"Level                            | 15.2                                        | 71.7                              | 2.2                                                         | 6.3                            | 4.5             | 100.0 | 223    |
| Vocational/Commercial/<br>Technical/CertA/Post Sec/<br>Nursing | 15.1                                        | 73.6                              | 7.5                                                         | 3.8                            | 0.0             | 100.0 | 53     |
| Tertiary(any formal<br>education after SHS or<br>SSSCE)        | 21.1                                        | 68.8                              | 2.8                                                         | 3.7                            | 3.7             | 100.0 | 109    |
| Others(Specify)                                                | 33.3                                        | 66.7                              | 0.0                                                         | 0.0                            | 0.0             | 100.0 | 3      |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                              |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |                 |       |        |
| Civil/Public Servant                                           | 14.8                                        | 73.8                              | 6.6                                                         | 4.9                            | 0.0             | 100.0 | 61     |
| Private sector employee                                        | 11.7                                        | 75.0                              | 1.7                                                         | 5.0                            | 6.7             | 100.0 | 60     |
| Self-employed                                                  | 14.1                                        | 75.5                              | 2.0                                                         | 5.3                            | 3.1             | 100.0 | 703    |
| Unemployed                                                     | 19.3                                        | 71.1                              | 0.6                                                         | 5.4                            | 3.6             | 100.0 | 166    |
| Other (specify) e.g full<br>time student, retired/aged,<br>etc | 14.9                                        | 70.9                              | 2.0                                                         | 6.8                            | 5.4             | 100.0 | 148    |
| <b>Living Conditions</b>                                       |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |                 |       |        |
| Very Bad                                                       | 15.3                                        | 72.9                              | 3.1                                                         | 5.9                            | 2.8             | 100.0 | 288    |
| Bad                                                            | 15.0                                        | 72.7                              | 2.5                                                         | 6.6                            | 3.2             | 100.0 | 439    |
| Neither Good nor Bad                                           | 17.2                                        | 74.8                              | 0.6                                                         | 3.1                            | 4.3             | 100.0 | 163    |
| Good                                                           | 12.4                                        | 78.2                              | 0.9                                                         | 4.7                            | 3.8             | 100.0 | 234    |
| Very Good                                                      | 16.7                                        | 70.8                              | 0.0                                                         | 0.0                            | 12.5            | 100.0 | 24     |
| <b>Total</b>                                                   | 14.9                                        | 74.1                              | 2.0                                                         | 5.4                            | 3.6             | 100.0 | 1148   |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey



## 6.9 Respondents' Reaction to Giving a Bribe

### 6.9.1 Respondents' Reaction to Giving a Bribe by Sex and Age Group

*One in three persons are prepared to give a bribe in Ghana. Primary/JSS/MSLC/JHS holders, Civil/public servants, private sector employees, the unemployed and those with very bad or bad living conditions are more prepared to give a bribe.*

One in three persons in Ghana is prepared to take a bribe. At the educational level, 39.9% and 35.2% of respondents with primary school and JSS/MSLC/JHS qualifications respectively, said if they were offered bribes, they would take them.

Another observation is that, civil/public servants (36%), private sector employees (34.1%), the unemployed (38.2%) and those with very bad living conditions (34.6%) would take a bribe (Table 13).

**Table 13: Attitude towards giving bribe by sex, age group, education, occupation and living conditions**

| Background Characteristics                                 | I would give it | I would not give it | Total | Number |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------|--------|
| <b>Sex</b>                                                 |                 |                     |       |        |
| Male                                                       | 32.5            | 67.5                | 100.0 | 572    |
| Female                                                     | 32.0            | 68.0                | 100.0 | 854    |
| <b>Age group</b>                                           |                 |                     |       |        |
| 18-24                                                      | 31.1            | 68.9                | 100.0 | 360    |
| 25-59                                                      | 33.3            | 66.7                | 100.0 | 887    |
| 60+                                                        | 29.1            | 70.9                | 100.0 | 179    |
| <b>Education Level</b>                                     |                 |                     |       |        |
| None                                                       | 28.9            | 71.1                | 100.0 | 235    |
| Primary                                                    | 39.5            | 60.5                | 100.0 | 185    |
| JSS/MSLC/JHS                                               | 35.2            | 64.8                | 100.0 | 514    |
| Secondary/SHS/"O'Level/"A'Level                            | 28.8            | 71.2                | 100.0 | 281    |
| Vocational/Commercial/Technical/CertA/Post Sec/<br>Nursing | 22.2            | 77.8                | 100.0 | 63     |
| Tertiary(any formal education after SHS or SSSCE)          | 29.6            | 70.4                | 100.0 | 142    |
| Others(Specify)                                            | 0.0             | 100.0               | 100.0 | 4      |

| Background Characteristics                               | I would give it | I would not give it | Total        | Number      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Occupation</b>                                        |                 |                     |              |             |
| Civil/Public Servant                                     | 36.0            | 64.0                | 100.0        | 75          |
| Private sector employee                                  | 34.1            | 65.9                | 100.0        | 82          |
| Self-employed                                            | 32.3            | 67.7                | 100.0        | 854         |
| Unemployed                                               | 38.2            | 61.8                | 100.0        | 233         |
| Other (specify) e.g full time student, retired/aged, etc | 21.1            | 78.9                | 100.0        | 171         |
| <b>Living Conditions</b>                                 |                 |                     |              |             |
| Very Bad                                                 | 34.6            | 65.4                | 100.0        | 381         |
| Bad                                                      | 32.6            | 67.4                | 100.0        | 527         |
| Neither Good nor Bad                                     | 27.5            | 72.5                | 100.0        | 193         |
| Good                                                     | 33.2            | 66.8                | 100.0        | 298         |
| Very Good                                                | 11.1            | 88.9                | 100.0        | 27          |
| <b>Total</b>                                             | <b>32.2</b>     | <b>67.8</b>         | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1426</b> |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 6.9.2 Reasons why respondent would give bribe by sex, age group, Education, Occupation and Living Conditions

*The main reason why people would want to give a bribe lies in the fact that they believe there is no other way one could obtain a service.*

Just as was observed about those who were likely to give a bribe, the same proportion that is on average, 60% of all the respondents who declared that they would give a bribe said that they would give a bribe because there was no other way they could obtain the service they were looking for (Table 14).

**Table 14: Reasons why respondent would give a bribe by Education, occupation and living conditions**

| Background Characteristics | Because everyone gives | Because there's no other way I can obtain the service | I would be able to negotiate a lower price | To speed up the process | To be sure I get what I need | Total | Number |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--------|
| <b>Sex</b>                 |                        |                                                       |                                            |                         |                              |       |        |
| Male                       | 10.8                   | 66.5                                                  | 1.6                                        | 10.3                    | 10.8                         | 100.0 | 185    |
| Female                     | 15.4                   | 55.7                                                  | 2.2                                        | 13.6                    | 13.2                         | 100.0 | 273    |

| Background Characteristics                               | Because everyone gives | Because there's no other way I can obtain the service | I would be able to negotiate a lower price | To speed up the process | To be sure I get what I need | Total | Number |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--------|
| <b>Age Group</b>                                         |                        |                                                       |                                            |                         |                              |       |        |
| 18-24                                                    | 12.6                   | 63.1                                                  | 2.7                                        | 10.8                    | 10.8                         | 100.0 | 111    |
| 25-59                                                    | 13.9                   | 59.3                                                  | 1.7                                        | 12.9                    | 12.2                         | 100.0 | 295    |
| 60+                                                      | 13.5                   | 57.7                                                  | 1.9                                        | 11.5                    | 15.4                         | 100.0 | 52     |
| <b>Education level</b>                                   |                        |                                                       |                                            |                         |                              |       |        |
| None                                                     | 16.7                   | 57.6                                                  | 0.0                                        | 13.6                    | 12.1                         | 100.0 | 66     |
| Primary                                                  | 5.7                    | 61.4                                                  | 4.3                                        | 14.3                    | 14.3                         | 100.0 | 70     |
| JSS/MSLC/JHS                                             | 13.0                   | 63.6                                                  | 1.6                                        | 10.9                    | 10.9                         | 100.0 | 184    |
| Secondary/SHS/O'Level/A'Level                            | 17.1                   | 56.1                                                  | 1.2                                        | 8.5                     | 17.1                         | 100.0 | 82     |
| Vocational/Commercial/Technical/CertA/Post Sec/Nursing   | 25.0                   | 33.3                                                  | 0.0                                        | 41.7                    | 0.0                          | 100.0 | 12     |
| Tertiary(any formal education after SHS or SSSCE)        | 13.6                   | 61.4                                                  | 4.5                                        | 11.4                    | 9.1                          | 100.0 | 44     |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                        |                        |                                                       |                                            |                         |                              |       |        |
| Civil/Public Servant                                     | 10.7                   | 64.3                                                  | 0.0                                        | 17.9                    | 7.1                          | 100.0 | 28     |
| Private sector employee                                  | 12.9                   | 74.2                                                  | 0.0                                        | 9.7                     | 3.2                          | 100.0 | 31     |
| Self-employed                                            | 14.7                   | 56.8                                                  | 2.2                                        | 12.8                    | 13.6                         | 100.0 | 273    |
| Unemployed                                               | 12.4                   | 61.8                                                  | 3.4                                        | 11.2                    | 11.2                         | 100.0 | 89     |
| Other (specify) e.g full time student, retired/aged, etc | 11.8                   | 64.7                                                  | 0.0                                        | 8.8                     | 14.7                         | 100.0 | 34     |
| <b>Living Conditions</b>                                 |                        |                                                       |                                            |                         |                              |       |        |
| Very Bad                                                 | 16.7                   | 55.3                                                  | 3.0                                        | 10.6                    | 14.4                         | 100.0 | 132    |
| Bad                                                      | 13.4                   | 62.8                                                  | 0.6                                        | 10.5                    | 12.8                         | 100.0 | 172    |
| Neither Good nor Bad                                     | 11.1                   | 51.9                                                  | 3.7                                        | 11.1                    | 22.2                         | 100.0 | 54     |
| Good                                                     | 11.2                   | 65.3                                                  | 2.0                                        | 18.4                    | 3.1                          | 100.0 | 98     |
| Very Good                                                | 0.0                    | 100.0                                                 | 0.0                                        | 0.0                     | 0.0                          | 100.0 | 2      |
| Total                                                    | 13.5                   | 60.0                                                  | 2.0                                        | 12.2                    | 12.2                         | 100.0 | 458    |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 6.9.3 Reasons why respondent will not give a Bribe by Education, Occupation and Living Conditions

*Two-thirds of people who will not give a bribe do so because they find it unacceptable. More females (15.4%) than males (10.8%) would not give.*

Some individuals in the country are so determined in fighting corruption that they are not prepared to offer a bribe under any circumstance. On the whole, 67.2% of those who stated that they would not give a bribe said they will not give because they considered it unacceptable. The high risk of being punished if caught was another reason why 12.1% of respondents were not prepared to give a bribe.

More females (15.4%) than males (10.8%) would not give a bribe (Table 15).

**Table 15: Reasons why respondent will not give a bribe by Education, occupation and living conditions**

| Background Characteristics                             | Because there is a high risk to be punished | Because it is unacceptable for me | Because I will try to resolve the issue through legal means | Because I have no money/ means | Other | Total | Number |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| <b>Sex</b>                                             |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |       |       |        |
| Male                                                   | 10.8                                        | 66.5                              | 1.6                                                         | 10.3                           | 10.8  | 100.0 | 185    |
| Female                                                 | 15.4                                        | 55.7                              | 2.2                                                         | 13.6                           | 13.2  | 100.0 | 273    |
| <b>Age group</b>                                       |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |       |       |        |
| 18-24                                                  | 12.6                                        | 63.1                              | 2.7                                                         | 10.8                           | 10.8  | 100.0 | 111    |
| 25-59                                                  | 13.9                                        | 59.3                              | 1.7                                                         | 12.9                           | 12.2  | 100.0 | 295    |
| 60+                                                    | 13.5                                        | 57.7                              | 1.9                                                         | 11.5                           | 15.4  | 100.0 | 52     |
| <b>Education Level</b>                                 |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |       |       |        |
| None                                                   | 12.7                                        | 74.5                              | 4.2                                                         | 7.9                            | 0.6   | 100.0 | 165    |
| Primary                                                | 16.5                                        | 57.8                              | 10.1                                                        | 13.8                           | 1.8   | 100.0 | 109    |
| JSS/MSLC/JHS                                           | 8.4                                         | 68.7                              | 5.7                                                         | 14.2                           | 3.0   | 100.0 | 332    |
| Secondary/SHS/O'Level/A'Level                          | 13.4                                        | 63.2                              | 9.0                                                         | 9.0                            | 5.5   | 100.0 | 201    |
| Vocational/Commercial/Technical/CertA/Post Sec/Nursing | 20.4                                        | 71.4                              | 8.2                                                         | 0.0                            | 0.0   | 100.0 | 49     |
| Tertiary(any formal education after SHS or SSSCE)      | 11.1                                        | 68.7                              | 8.1                                                         | 9.1                            | 3.0   | 100.0 | 99     |
| Others(Specify)                                        | 25.0                                        | 0.0                               | 25.0                                                        | 50.0                           | 0.0   | 100.0 | 4      |

| Background Characteristics                               | Because there is a high risk to be punished | Because it is unacceptable for me | Because I will try to resolve the issue through legal means | Because I have no money/ means | Other | Total | Number |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| <b>Occupation</b>                                        |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |       |       |        |
| Civil/Public Servant                                     | 8.3                                         | 70.8                              | 14.6                                                        | 6.3                            | 0.0   | 100.0 | 48     |
| Private sector employee                                  | 7.4                                         | 59.3                              | 13.0                                                        | 14.8                           | 5.6   | 100.0 | 54     |
| Self-employed                                            | 12.7                                        | 68.1                              | 7.1                                                         | 9.9                            | 2.1   | 100.0 | 574    |
| Unemployed                                               | 14.6                                        | 61.8                              | 5.6                                                         | 16.0                           | 2.1   | 100.0 | 144    |
| Other (specify) e.g full time student, retired/aged, etc | 9.0                                         | 71.4                              | 3.8                                                         | 9.8                            | 6.0   | 100.0 | 133    |
| <b>Living Conditions</b>                                 |                                             |                                   |                                                             |                                |       |       |        |
| Very Bad                                                 | 12.2                                        | 61.6                              | 7.3                                                         | 16.3                           | 2.4   | 100.0 | 245    |
| Bad                                                      | 11.5                                        | 68.6                              | 7.6                                                         | 10.4                           | 2.0   | 100.0 | 357    |
| Neither Good nor Bad                                     | 18.7                                        | 71.9                              | 3.6                                                         | 4.3                            | 1.4   | 100.0 | 139    |
| Good                                                     | 7.6                                         | 68.5                              | 8.1                                                         | 10.7                           | 5.1   | 100.0 | 197    |
| Very Good                                                | 17.4                                        | 65.2                              | 8.7                                                         | 0.0                            | 8.7   | 100.0 | 23     |
| Total                                                    | 12.1                                        | 67.2                              | 7.1                                                         | 10.8                           | 2.8   | 100.0 | 961    |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 6.10 Fighting Corruption

Citizens play a crucial role in ensuring that corruption is reduced to the barest minimum if not completely eradicated.

### 6.10.1 Respondent knows relatives, friends, acquaintances or neighbours paying a bribe

#### *Males more likely to hear about people paying bribe to obtain a public service in Ghana*

In the past 12 months preceding the survey, 18.5% of the respondents reported that they heard about people including relatives, friends, acquaintances or neighbours paying bribes to obtain a public service in Ghana. A greater proportion of males (20.7%) than females (17%) had heard about someone paying bribes to obtain a public service (Table 16).

**Table 16: Respondent heard of anyone paying bribes to obtain a public service in Ghana in past 12 months**

| Background Characteristics | Yes  | No   | Refused | Don't know | Total | Number |
|----------------------------|------|------|---------|------------|-------|--------|
| <b>Sex</b>                 |      |      |         |            |       |        |
| Male                       | 20.7 | 75.6 | 0.2     | 3.5        | 100.0 | 599    |
| Female                     | 17.0 | 78.7 | 0.0     | 4.3        | 100.0 | 892    |
| <b>Age Group</b>           |      |      |         |            |       |        |
| 18-24                      | 19.6 | 76.6 | 0.3     | 3.5        | 100.0 | 367    |
| 25-59                      | 19.6 | 76.8 | 0.0     | 3.7        | 100.0 | 930    |
| 60+                        | 11.3 | 82.5 | 0.0     | 6.2        | 100.0 | 194    |
| Total                      | 18.5 | 77.5 | 0.1     | 4.0        | 100.0 | 1491   |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 6.10.2 What respondent can do to reduce Corruption

*A little over half of respondents believed they could help fight corruption by abstaining from paying a bribe to public officials. One in ten believed that there is nothing an individual could do to reduce corruption in Ghana*

Table 17 depicts that 54.8% of the respondents stated that citizens could help reduce corruption if they abstain from paying bribes to public officials. Another 16.7% of them said they could report corruption in the press, while 9.5% believe citizens could participate and support an anticorruption educational campaign. Unfortunately, 11.9% have resigned and accepted the fact that as an individual, there is nothing they can do to reduce corruption in Ghana.

**Table 17: What respondent can do to reduce corruption**

| Action                                                            | Percent | Number |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Abstain from paying bribes for public                             | 54.8    | 23     |
| Report corruption in the press                                    | 16.7    | 7      |
| Refuse corruption to make favours to officials                    | 2.4     | 1      |
| Report corrupt officials behaviour to competent                   | 2.4     | 1      |
| Participate in awareness campaigns against corruption             | 2.4     | 1      |
| Participate and supporting an anticorruption educational campaign | 9.5     | 4      |
| There is nothing I can do                                         | 11.9    | 5      |
| Total                                                             | 100.0   | 42     |

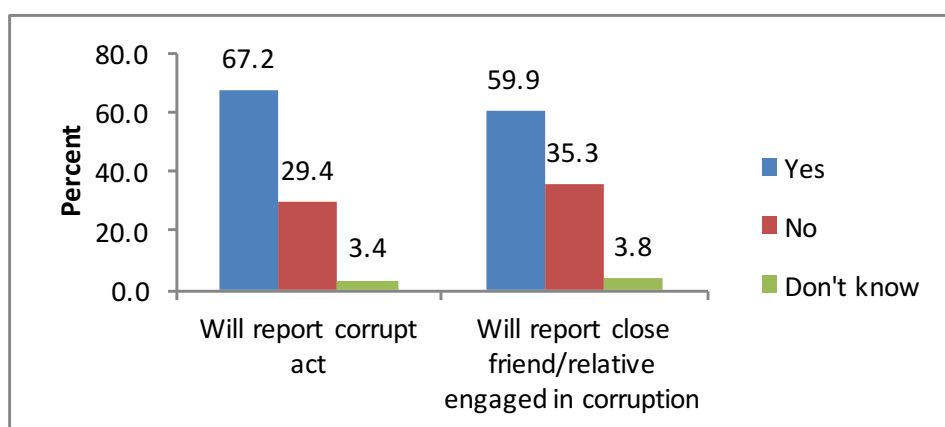
Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 6.10.3 Will respondent report a Corrupt act

*Two-thirds of Ghanaians are prepared to report a corrupt act but 35% will not report a close friend or relative engaged in corruption*

Two-thirds of respondents declared that they will report any corrupt act but 29.4% said they will not report. Paradoxically, while 59.9% said they will report their close friends or relatives, 35.3% said they will not (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Respondents' reaction towards fighting corruption**



Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 6.10.4 Institutions where respondents would report a corrupt public official

*The police remain the single most important institution where majority of people will report corrupt act by a public official*

Despite the fact that the police was found to be the most corrupt institution in Ghana (Section 6.7), the fight against corruption cannot be complete without their full cooperation. In fact, 63.8% of the respondents reported that the institution they would contact to report any public official caught in corrupt practices is the police. A little over a quarter (26.8%) said they will inform their community leader. Just 5% said they will contact the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) (Table 18).

**Table 18: Respondents know Institutions to report corrupt practices by a public official**

| Institution                                                                      | Percent | Number |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Community Leaders                                                                | 26.8    | 297    |
| MMDCEs                                                                           | 5.0     | 55     |
| Police                                                                           | 63.8    | 707    |
| EOCO                                                                             | 1.1     | 12     |
| Attorney General                                                                 | 0.1     | 1      |
| Courts                                                                           | 0.6     | 7      |
| CHRAJ                                                                            | 0.5     | 5      |
| Independent NGO working on anticorruption (e.g. Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition) | 0.3     | 3      |
| Would not contact any institution                                                | 0.1     | 1      |
| Other                                                                            | 1.4     | 15     |
| Don't know                                                                       | 0.5     | 6      |
| Total                                                                            | 100.0   | 1109   |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 6.10.5 Actions Respondents are willing to take to combat Corruption in the future

***A tenth of Ghanaians not prepared to desist from paying bribes for Public Services and a fifth will not refuse to make favours to officials or to their relatives connected with their jobs***

The fight against corruption is a collective effort and should not be left in the hands of only the government and law enforcement agencies. The active role of the public in this endeavour is also very crucial. To this end, the survey asked respondents to indicate the actions they would be willing to undertake to help combat corruption in Ghana.

The results captured in Table 19 show that 41% were not willing to file a lawsuit against any corrupt official. Again, 27.8% and 25.8% of the respondents maintained that they would not report corrupt public officials to anti-corruption NGOs and competent authorities respectively.

Moreover, 11.4% of them said they will not abstain from paying bribes for public services while 21.9% stated that they will not refuse to make favours to officials or to their relatives in connection with their jobs.



**Table 19: Actions respondents are willing to undertake to fight corruption in the future**

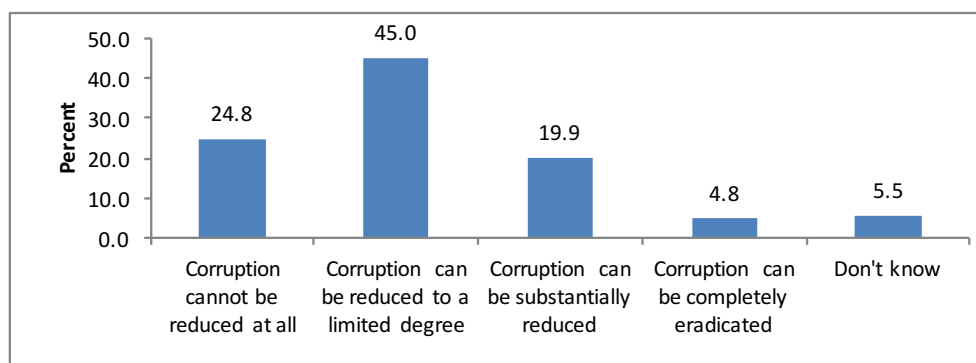
| Action                                                                                                   | Yes  | No   | Refused | DK   | Total | Number |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|---------|------|-------|--------|
| Abstain from paying bribes for Public Services                                                           | 82.0 | 11.4 | 0.9     | 5.7  | 100.0 | 1479   |
| Refuse to make favours to officials or to their relatives related with my job                            | 67.1 | 21.9 | 1.2     | 9.8  | 100.0 | 1463   |
| Report corrupt behaviour of public officials to anticorruption NGO(e.g. Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition) | 56.8 | 27.8 | 1.3     | 14.1 | 100.0 | 1466   |
| Report corrupt officials behaviour to competent authorities                                              | 63.8 | 25.8 | 1.3     | 9.2  | 100.0 | 1474   |
| File a lawsuit against the corrupt official                                                              | 43.1 | 41.0 | 1.2     | 14.7 | 100.0 | 1465   |
| Participate in awareness campaigns against corruption                                                    | 65.9 | 25.2 | 0.8     | 8.1  | 100.0 | 1482   |
| Participate and support an anticorruption educational campaign                                           | 65.5 | 25.0 | 0.9     | 8.6  | 100.0 | 1477   |

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

### 6.10.6 Extent to which Corruption can be reduced in Ghana

#### *The outlook for the fight against corruption in Ghana is gloomy*

The fight against corruption in Ghana is a daunting task. While only 4.8% respondents were hopeful that corruption can be eradicated completely in Ghana, a quarter of them were of the opinion that corruption cannot be reduced at all in Ghana. Again, whereas only 19.9% of the respondents thought that corruption can be reduced substantially, 45% said it can only be reduced to a limited degree (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Reducing Corruption**

Source: 2015 IEA Corruption Survey

## 7. Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

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### Summary of results

The study has critically examined the nature, form, causes and motives for the corrupt practices in Ghana. The levels of corruption, respondents' personal experience in corrupt practices, and the willingness to fight for its reduction have also been discussed.

#### *Levels of corruption are seen to be very high*

The survey results revealed that corruption levels in Ghana in 2015 were considered to be very high by 72.1% of the respondents. About 50% of the respondents stated that their source of information about the corruption levels in Ghana was the media (TV, radio, newspapers and internet). The second most important source of information on corruption levels was personal experience where about 21.3% stated they had had to provide cash, gifts or favour.

Forty percent (40%) of the respondents asserted that in their opinion corruption is about taking/receiving money or sex from people before helping them/for a favour while 13% indicated that corruption is about embezzlement/misappropriation of public funds or diverting the nation's resources for personal gain. In fact, 96.7% of the public identified cash payments (money) as the most common form of corruption in Ghana.

#### *Greed/selfishness, get-rich-quick attitude and low salaries/income levels main causes of corruption in Ghana*

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of all respondents observed that greed and selfishness were the main cause of corruption in Ghana. In addition, get-rich-quick attitude especially among the youth (26.3%) and low salaries/income levels (22.7%) were mentioned as the next major causes of corruption in Ghana.

Though lack of punitive and deterrent sanctions (5.1%), lack of clear rules and laws (4.0%), abuse or mal-use of power in the public sector (3.4%) and excessive bureaucracy (1.8%) were not major factors, they are still causative factors.

Among the motivating factors driving corrupt practices in Ghana, 24.2% of respondents regardless of background were of the view that to get things done in Ghana one must engage in corrupt practices. One in five thought that to avoid punishment/sanctions one had to be corrupt while 19.3% stated that the only way to speed up processes or procedures was to be corrupt and, finally, 12.2% said that people viewed corruption as alternative source of income.

#### *The police, judiciary, Office of the President, tax officials and immigration officials deemed the most corrupt institutions in Ghana*

According to the results 28.6% of the people were of the opinion that all police officials were corrupt up from 23% reported in 2014. Only 4.4% of them were deemed not to be corrupt. The judiciary was



considered the second most corrupt institution in 2015 (18.4%). Other institutions considered corrupt were tax officials (14%), Office of the President (12.9%) and immigration officials (12.8%). The army remained the least corrupt institution with only 7% of the respondents reporting them to be corrupt.

***One in five people and a third of respondents prepared to take and offer a bribe respectively in Ghana***

One in five of the respondents were prepared to take a bribe. Those with tertiary background (24.7%), private sector employees (29.2%), the unemployed (27.0%) and those with very bad living condition declared that if they were offered a bribe, they would take it. Comparably, one in three persons was prepared to give a bribe in Ghana. Close to 40% (39.5%) Primary school leavers, 35.2% JSS/MSLC/JHS school leavers, 36% civil/public servants, 34.1% private sector employees, 38.2% of the unemployed and those with very bad (34.6%) or bad (32.6%) living conditions were more prepared to give a bribe.

The need for money was considered by 63.2% of respondents to be the main reason why people would want to take bribe. However, 44.7% of tertiary holders, 35.3% of civil/public servants, 34.6% of private sector employees, and 39.1% of those with good living conditions believe that everybody takes bribe that is why they also would want to take bribe.

In like manner, 60% of all the respondents who declared that they would give bribe said that they would do so because there was no other way they could obtain the service they were looking for.

Seven in ten people who would not take a bribe said they held that view because they found the practice unacceptable. Only 5% of respondents refused to take bribe because they wanted to fight corruption.

Two-thirds of people who will not give a bribe do so because they found it unacceptable. More females (15.4%) than males (10.8%) would not give a bribe.

The payment of a bribe is supposed to be between the giver and receiver. The results, however, show that in the past 12 months preceding November/December 2015, 18.55% of the respondents reported people including relatives, friends, acquaintances or neighbours paying bribes to obtain a public service in Ghana. More males (20.7%) than females (17%) were more likely to hear about people paying a bribe in Ghana.

***Fighting corruption is a shared responsibility between the government, law enforcement institutions, the judiciary, the media as well as the citizenry***

It is the view of 54.8% of respondents that, citizens could help reduce corruption if they abstain from paying bribes to public officials. However, one in ten believed that there is nothing an individual could do to reduce corruption in Ghana.

Two-thirds of Ghanaians were prepared to report a corrupt act but 35% would not report a close friend or relative engaged in corruption.

Despite the fact that the police was found to be the most corrupt institution in Ghana, 63.8% of the respondents reported that the institution they would contact to report any public official caught in corrupt practices is the police.

*The outlook for the fight against corruption at the individual level in Ghana is gloomy*

The fight against corruption in Ghana is a daunting task. While only 4.8% of respondents were hopeful that corruption can be eradicated completely in Ghana, a quarter of them were of the opinion that corruption cannot be reduced at all in Ghana. Again, whereas only 19.9% of the respondents thought that corruption can be reduced substantially, 45% said it can only be reduced to a limited degree.

Indeed, the fight against corruption from the individuals' viewpoint is not going to be that easy. A tenth of Ghanaians are not prepared to desist from paying bribes for public services and a fifth will not refuse to make favours to officials or to their relatives connected with their jobs. Besides, 41% were not willing to file a lawsuit against any corrupt official. Again, 27.8% and 25.8% of the respondents maintained that they would not report corrupt public officials to anti-corruption NGOs and competent authorities respectively.



## Recommendations

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From the foregoing analysis, corruption levels in Ghana is deemed to be very high and that renewed efforts must be undertaken by the government, all law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and the citizenry. On the basis of this, the following are recommended:

1. Strengthen the punitive/deterrent sanctions already in place as well as clear rules and laws even though they were not considered the main factors causing corruption;
2. Effective checks and controls must be put in place in the public services and bureaucratic red-tapeism especially in the tax administration and immigration be reduced drastically;
3. The issue of low salaries/income levels must be looked into critically for a long-lasting solution acceptable to both employers and employees;
4. The notion that bribery is a norm and that everyone takes or offers a bribe in order to get things done is unacceptable and must be condemned and discouraged by all and sundry;
5. Fighting corruption is a shared responsibility between the government, the law enforcement institutions, the judiciary, the media as well as the citizenry. Therefore, citizens must be honest and prepared to expose any official found to have engaged in corrupt practices regardless of whether or not the culprit is a friend, a relative or non-relative;
6. The exposure of corrupt practices in the country cannot be complete without the role of the media. Therefore, once an individual or organisation has been exposed to have indulged in corrupt practices, the media should follow through to the logical conclusion of the case;
7. The police on their part should be more professional in the pursuit of their work while high government officials should not interfere with the justice system or shield corrupt officials; and
8. The anti-corruption bodies such as the CHRAJ, EOCO and the Judiciary should dispense expeditiously and impartially, all cases of corruption brought to their attention.

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