

## **Fourth Annual Report Web Update**

### **GTF085 Transparency International**

The Anti-Corruption: Delivering Change (AC:DC) programme aims to increase standards of governance and transparency. It is empowering citizens and Transparency International's (TI) national chapters in 23 countries to address corruption through research, evidence-based advocacy and the pursuit of corruption related complaints through Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres (ALACs).

ALACs empower individuals to address their grievances by providing advice and assistance, and advocate for positive change in political, economic and social systems, using their evidence-base of real cases to support their campaigns. Information management has been reinforced by the introduction of an improved database, to document cases, demonstrate impact and analyse trends in corruption complaints.

The 15 AC:DC ALACs have received more than 21,000 complaints, an increase of 107 per cent since last year. They have also reached out to more citizens (more than 15,000 this year), and engaged local and vulnerable communities in learning about their role in the fight against corruption. In Argentina, the TI chapter has worked with indigenous people in the Formosa province to help them secure their rights as citizens and hold their institutions to account.

At the systemic level, ALACs in several countries have contributed to substantial improvements in anti-corruption strategies and institutions, and have expanded their partnerships to achieve greater impact. In the case of Palestine, a coalition led by the TI chapter registered several milestones in just a year: the authorities are now publishing a more transparent budget for citizens, and have integrated some of the coalition's recommendations into their financial planning.

Research has proven a strong lever for change. In Georgia, the authorities have already taken on some of the recommendations made by the National Integrity System report. In Nicaragua, research conducted by the TI chapter showed that some citizens had been denied the right to vote. This was one of the messages conveyed by the 'loudspeaker' advocacy campaign that was set up all over the capital in the two months preceding the 2011 elections.

The AC:DC has also saved taxpayers' money: in Montenegro, by protesting against salary raises of EUR 900 per month for MPs, in a country where the average salary is EUR 400; and in Palestine, by taking on a case of tax evasion, saving more than USD 60,000 in just one of their 88 ALAC cases.

The number of systemic changes recorded by the programme has increased by 45 per cent since last year, and will remain a priority in year five. Other major priorities will include supporting women to report corruption and address their grievances, and reaching out to vulnerable populations. Some chapters have made significant headway in this regard (Argentina and Rwanda), and these best practices will be communicated widely, adapted and replicated in other country contexts. Technology and social media has been an invaluable ally in the AC:DC chapters' work and will be further promoted. These tools and approaches will help us to consolidate the impact the AC:DC programme has had to date.

<p>The AC:DC Annual Report 2012 can be downloaded at the following web page: <a href="http://www.transparency.org/whowere/accountability/who_supports_us/1/">http://www.transparency.org/whowere/accountability/who_supports_us/1/</a></p>
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Roadshow in Epworth conducted by the ALAC Zimbabwe