

2010 Armenia Corruption Survey of Households

Short Description and Goals of the Survey

Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC)-Armenia under the program of USAID Mobilizing Action Against Corruption (MAAC) activity has conducted three corruption surveys of households in Armenia, aiming to measure corruption related perceptions of the population and to assess anti-corruption efforts. The first survey was conducted in 2008 among 1549 randomly selected adults (18 years and older) from all Marzes (regions of Armenia). The second survey was conducted in 2009 with 1515 respondents. The third survey was conducted in 2010 with 1528 respondents.

The intention of the surveys is to develop empirical information that can be discussed, analyzed, and used to help Government, civil society and the private sector as well as the MAAC Activity to formulate and implement policies and programs to improve governance and thereby reduce corrupt practice.

Survey Instrument and Methodology

The questionnaire included about 80 questions on general corruption perceptions, personal experience, corruption related individual behavioral patterns, perceptions of governmental and nongovernmental anticorruption activities, and other issues.

Sampling: the surveys have been implemented using multistage cluster sampling with preliminary stratification by urban/rural areas and by Marz. The database of Armenian households' electricity users was used as a frame to sample households. Upcoming birthday method was used to randomly select respondents within households.

Method of empirical data collection: face-to-face interviews were conducted in household dwellings.

Some Findings

2010 survey results show that a very high percentage (over 80%) of Armenia's citizens continues to believe that corruption is a serious problem. Moreover, compared to 2009, in 2010 the number of Armenians reporting that levels of corruption increased in the last 12 months grew by ten percentage points.

Most Armenians are dissatisfied with the overall situation in the country (81%) and with the economic situation (59%). The percentage of those who are dissatisfied increased by 20 and 16 percentage points from 2008 to 2010. According to the respondents, the major problems facing Armenia involve the economy; unemployment, inflation, poverty, general economic problems and low incomes/salaries remain key issues of concern. The problem of inflation is more important in 2010 compared to 2009 and 2008 (43%, 20% and 33% respectively). Corruption rank 6th on the list of problems facing the country in 2010. The prosecution and Central Electoral Commission are viewed as the most corrupt institutions; healthcare, electoral system and education are viewed as the most corrupt sectors.

Respondents say they usually engage in corrupt activities in Armenia because it is the only way to get things done and because it helps to speed up processes. They do not report instances of corruption to authorities because they do not believe that something will be done after reporting, and because reporting corruption is perceived as socially undesirable.

Anti-corruption efforts of the Government and of NGOs are known to 19% and 7% of respondents respectively.

Data access

The survey instruments and outputs (the questionnaire, the survey database in SPSS format, short analytical reports, presentation files) as well as other relevant materials are publicly available from www.crrc.am. The mentioned package is also recorded on CDs for offline usage.

About CRRC

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) is a network of resource and training centers established in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of strengthening social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus. A partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, and Yerevan State University, the CRRC-Armenia offers scholars and practitioners stable opportunities for integrated research, training and collaboration in the region.

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About MAAC

The Mobilizing Action Against Corruption (MAAC) Activity is a component of the U.S. development assistance program to the Republic of Armenia, aimed at reducing corruption in Armenia by the following means: 1) providing Armenians with opportunities that would enable them to help combat corrupt practices that they encounter, 2) changing social attitudes and behavior among youth and adults to help them become attuned to the consequences of corruption and more likely to oppose or confront corruption, and 3) enabling systems-level changes to prevent or reduce corruption.

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