

2009 Armenia Corruption Surveys of Households and Enterprises

Background and goal

Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC)-Armenia under the program of USAID Mobilizing Action Against Corruption (MAAC) activity has conducted three corruption surveys in Armenia aiming to measure perceptions and victimization relating to corruption and the provision of public services. The first Household survey was conducted in October 2008 among 1549 randomly selected adults (18 years and older) from all over Armenia. The second Household survey was conducted in October 2009 with 1515 respondents. The Enterprises Survey conducted in December 2009 and January 2010 included 400 private entities from all regions.

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

Questionnaires: the Household surveys' main instrument - the questionnaire included about 80 questions on general corruption perceptions, personal experience, corruption related individual behavioral patterns, perceptions of government's anticorruption actions, and other issues. The Enterprise survey questionnaire suggested by MAAC was significantly modified by CRRC to reflect Armenian realities and best international practice of similar surveys enabling some comparisons with other countries, as well as with the survey among general public. Along with the questions on general corruption perceptions, it included series of specific questions on business environment, additional operational costs of bureaucracy, public bids, judicial system, etc.

Sampling: the Household 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. For Enterprise survey the databases of Armenian taxpayer organizations and "Spyur" business directory were used as a sampling frame. Simple random sampling method was used to select 400 private enterprises.

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

Some Findings

A vast majority of the 2009 Household survey respondents (84%) considers corruption to be a major problem facing Armenia. The enterprise survey respondents are even more concerned about corruption than the general public, with fully 90% naming corruption as either a "somewhat" or a "very" serious problem. Moreover, corruption in Armenia is considered as "a fact of life" by about 60% of the 2009 household survey respondents and 73% of the enterprise survey respondents.

A clear majority of the respondents think that corruption can be reduced only to a certain degree or not at all. They do not see themselves as contributors to anti-corruption efforts, as many (60% and 49% of the household and enterprise survey respondents, respectively) say there is nothing they can do to reduce corruption in Armenia.

In both surveys, the majority of respondents said that they would pay a bribe if asked to do so. The main reason for paying the bribe, according to the respondents, is that there is no other way to obtain the service required or to "get things done". However, if offered a bribe, most respondents (72% for both the household and enterprise surveys) claim they would not take it because the idea is "unacceptable" to them, which inspiring a hope that anti-corruption potential in Armenia is strong enough to fight it in the future if proper measures are undertaken.

Data access

The survey instruments and outputs (the questionnaire, show cards, the survey database in SPSS format, the report on main findings, presentation files, as well as some analytical papers by Armenian scholars based on 2008 Survey findings) 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.

CRRC-Armenia: 52 Abovyan Str.,
Rooms 305, 307, 309, 312,
Yerevan 0025, Armenia,
Phone: +374 10 58 13 30
Fax: +374 10 58 14 50
E-mail: crrc@crrc.am
URL: www.crrc.am

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.

MAAC: 105/1 Teryan Str., Suite 804
Yerevan, Armenia, 0009
Phone: +374 10 514 834
Fax: + 374 10 514836
E-mail: maac@casals.com
URL: www.maac.am

For more information, please contact:
CRRC-Armenia Office, Yevgenya Paturyan, at crrc@crrc.am and jenny.paturyan@crrccenters.org