The Role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Protecting Integrity, Fighting Corruption, and Promoting Transparency

Eng. Abdullah Al-Anizi, EMBA, CIA, CFE, CISA, CRMA
Saafah.org

Feb, 2014
Introduction.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

How CSO’s can contribute to anti-corruption, and promoting transparency (Saafah’s experience).

Obstacles that CSO’s face when working to fight corruption (Saafah’s experience).

Conclusion.
Introduction

- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in supporting anti-corruption, and promoting transparency.
- They can provide an effective efforts in enhancing transparency, accountability and fighting corruption.
- It is necessary to improve the capacities of CSOs to engage in these critical issues.
Saudi Arabia is ranked 63th among all countries in terms of perceived corruption

Corruption Perception Index (CPI) ranking (2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Perceived to be least corrupt</th>
<th>Perceived to be most corrupt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>173</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>174</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>North Korea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Saudi Arabia is ranked even below some less developed countries

Source: Transparency International
Corruption is described as the illegitimate use of public power to benefit a private interest. It occurs through means that are illegitimate, immoral, or incompatible with ethical standards. It often results from patronage and is associated with bribery.
Common forms of corruption

- A business or individual pays a bribe to a government official in order to be given a government contract.
- The use of government-owned resources, such as motor vehicles, for private purposes.
- A government official takes advantage of his or her position to favor a family member or business associate for a job or tender contract.
- A police officer solicits a bribe or a member of the public offers one in order to escape lawful punishment.
Fighting Corruption

- Whistle-blowers
- Financial controls
- Civil Society Org.
- Free access to information
- Judicial System
- Maintain Law and order
- Public Supervision
- Political/Economic Reform
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Civil Society is the aggregate of non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations and institutions that manifest the interests and will of citizens.
The Role of CSOs in Contributing to Anti-corruption, and Promoting Transparency

CSOs have a key role to play in fighting corruption and promoting transparency by raising awareness of all economic and political actors.
Obstacles that CSOs face when working to combat corruption

- Funding constraints.
- Human resource constraints.
- Laws and regulations constraints.
- Information constraints.
- Other constraints.
How to support CSOs

- Government support in enabling CSOs to enhance transparency, accountability and anti-corruption.
- Financial and non-financial support.
- Raising awareness about the importance of CSOs in society.
- Encouragement in establishing civil society organizations.
- CSOs have to be aware of their role, and make use of their potential leverage.
Saafah Foundation

Saafah Foundation is a Civil Society institution which aims to promote the key values of transparency and integrity in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia based on the teachings of our faith, customs and culture. It is working in accordance with the national strategy to protect integrity and transparency, and to combat corruption. It also provides the role of civil society by working to raise awareness and educate individuals and institutions in these values, and to achieve the strategy's purposes, objectives and mechanisms.
Saafah Foundation Services

- Transparency Award.
- Organizing and holding training, workshops and seminars.
- Translation of research published by authorities and experts on anti-corruption, transparency and integrity and making material accessible to all who will benefit in Saudi.
- Creating a database aimed to become the main source on integrity, transparency and anti-corruption for researchers in Saudi Arabia.
Saafah Foundation Initiatives

- Holding meetings lead by prominent figures of different specialties to target companies and to focus on the importance of transparency and its impact on the eradication of corruption.

- Holding workshops for a select group of academicians, religious scholars, the media, intellectuals, and influential personalities in the community through which the issues of transparency and anti-corruption will be addressed.
Saafah Foundation Initiatives

- Creating a database of various studies, research, and regulations related to promote transparency and combat corruption.

- Creating a database of specialized agencies and stakeholders that support efforts to promote transparency and combat corruption (local, regional, and international). And to develop a formula for cooperation with each of them.

- Translating research and studies issued by international and regional authorities and making them available to various agencies in Saudi Arabia.
Saafah Foundation Initiatives

- Launching an extensive study to review the aspects of financial and administrative corruption in the Kingdom (its indicators, scope, and causes - as well as its effects on the society, enterprises and the national economy - and the most suitable means to address them).

- Coordinating with educational authorities to include in their curricula the concepts that contribute to consolidating and promoting the values of transparency, integrity, ethical behavior and justice in the field of business.
Conclusion

CSOs can provide effective efforts in enhancing transparency, accountability and combating corruption. Government, private sector, and private citizens should support CSOs with all means to enable them carry out their role in society successfully.
Thank you

saafah.org
/saafahorg
@saafah_
011 4400557