



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**



Rwanda

RWANDA BRIBERY INDEX 2024



Norwegian People's Aid

**RWANDA BRIBERY
INDEX 2024**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Rwanda Bribery Index (RBI) is an annual publication conducted by Transparency International Rwanda (TI-RW) since 2010, with financial support from the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) through the PPIMA Project. This initiative aims to assess experiences and perceptions of bribery in Rwanda, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 16, specifically Target 16.5: "Substantially reduce corruption and bribery."

RBI findings serve as a benchmark for TI-RW's advocacy efforts, driving systemic change in the fight against corruption and promoting good governance in Rwanda. We take pride in the significant progress and commendable efforts made by the Government of Rwanda in combating corruption. This progress is reflected not only in the RBI findings but also in various corruption analyses and surveys, such as Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and the East Africa Bribery Index (EABI).

On behalf of TI-RW, I extend heartfelt gratitude to all those who made this critical study possible. I especially thank the citizens across the 11 districts where the 2024 study was conducted. Despite their busy schedules, they actively participated in the research, sharing their opinions and experiences of bribery through the administered questionnaires.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the TI-RW research team, led by Albert Rwego Kavatiri, TI-RW's Programme Manager, whose expertise and dedication were instrumental to the success of this research.

Last but not least, my sincere appreciation goes to TI-Rwanda's Executive Director, Mr. Apollinaire Mupiganyi, for his encouragement, guidance, and meticulous quality control throughout the research process.



Marie Immaculée Ingabire

Chairperson of Transparency International Rwanda

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2010, Transparency International Rwanda (TI-RW) has annually published the Rwanda Bribery Index (RBI) to analyze Rwandans' experiences and perceptions regarding bribery. The 2024 edition, the 15th report, examines the prevalence of bribery in Rwanda, identifies vulnerable institutions, and assesses bribery's impact on service delivery. It also quantifies the size and frequency of bribes paid by citizens to access specific services.

The survey covered all four provinces and the City of Kigali, targeting 11 quasi-randomly selected districts with a sample size of 2,396 respondents. Both random and purposive techniques were employed, with the purposive technique allowing urban districts to be included in the sample, given their higher likelihood of providing more services than rural areas, hence posing a higher risk of corruption. Data collection was entirely quantitative, utilizing structured questionnaires administered to respondents.

The 2024 RBI findings indicate that 59.20% of respondents (up from 50.84% in 2023) perceive corruption in Rwanda as low, with 23.60% and 17.20% perceiving it as medium and high, respectively. Most Rwandans commend the government's anti-corruption efforts, with the perception of effectiveness rising from 79.35% in 2023 to 80.50% in 2024.

Over the last year, 18.50% of Rwandans reported being directly or indirectly involved in bribery, a 3.50% decrease from 22% in 2023. This reflects a consistent downward trend in bribery encounters.

The private sector and the Rwanda National Police (RNP) recorded the highest likelihood of bribery, at 13% and 9.40%, respectively. Notably, in the private sector, the likelihood significantly decreased from 21.20% in 2022 to 15.60% in 2023 and further to 13% in 2024. Similarly, for the RNP, the likelihood declined by 1.62%, dropping from 11.02% in 2023 to 9.40% in 2024.

National bribery prevalence decreased to 2.10% in 2024 from 2.60% in 2023. However, the Rwanda Energy Group (REG) and Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) reported the highest bribery prevalence at 6.60% and 5.90%, respectively.

Services most prone to corruption include illegal construction disallowed by the master plan (39.10%), obtaining driving licenses (36.60%), and acquiring construction permits (33.50%). These practices jeopardize safety, fairness, and urban planning. Additionally, bribery in utilities like water (15.50%) and electricity (16%) creates unequal access, delays essential services, and exacerbates social inequality.

Regarding bribery occurrences within the business community (SDG 16.5.1 and SDG 16.5.2), the study indicates that at least 7.2% of business people were demanded to pay bribes in 2023, and 3.4% of them ended up paying. Among those who paid, 32.6% did so for business purposes.

Low reporting of bribery remains a challenge, with 92% of respondents failing to report corruption cases in 2024 (down from 94.2% in 2023). Reasons for non-reporting include fear of self-incrimination (24.7%), “it did not occur to me that I should report” (19.2%), belief that no action would be taken (17.8%), lack of knowledge on where to report (16%), and fear of intimidation (11.50%).

The report recommends intensifying efforts to combat corruption in the private sector, utilities like water and electricity, and local government services, particularly construction permits. It also urges measures to address judicial corruption, bribery in obtaining driving licenses, and strengthening public awareness campaigns to encourage reporting corruption cases.

1. BACKGROUND

Corruption, bribery, and money laundering represent some of the most pervasive and damaging global issues facing societies today. Corrupt and illicit activities erode trust, integrity and fairness in both public and private institutions, hinder economic growth, and fuel organized crime. Corrupt practices and illicit activities have far-reaching consequences, including hindering economic development, undermining democratic institutions to function effectively, and creating a breeding ground for organized crime (Magakwe, 2024).

Poor people are more likely than the better off to pay bribes because they lack the capacity to resist public officials demanding money. According to Rose and Peiffer (2018), the theory of the powerless poor characterizes individuals in poverty as being an 'easy target' for extracting bribes because they have less understanding and knowledge of their rights to receive services, less status and money to demand their rights and less political influence to see that they are delivered. This perspective emphasizes that poverty is a proxy for a lack of power. When confronted by demands for a bribe from public officials, the poor are less capable of resisting.

Empirical studies suggest that the most indicative factors of whether or not individuals are corruption-prone include the moral conviction they have to refrain from corruption; perceptions of whether their colleagues approve of and engage in corruption; and difficulties experienced in complying with the rules on corruption (Gorsira, 2018). Hence, to fight corruption more effectively, there is a need to improve comprehension of its different manifestations and to make regular, scientifically-based efforts to measure its occurrence. The development of evidence-based policies to prevent and counter corruption helps inform the public about trends and patterns of corruption and increases the accountability of Governments.

It is against this perspective that the Rwanda Bribery Index is used to examine the extent of bribes among public and Private institutions, which service are most prone to corruption and impact of corruption on the citizens' livelihoods. Rwanda Bribery Index is an evidence-based advocacy tool used by Transparency International Rwanda in the fight against corruption which bring together public, private, Civil society and media to obtain and assess information about areas susceptible to corruption and the opportunity to exert influence against corruption where it is found. It also contributes to establish fora aimed to detecting and publicly-identifying corruption, create political pressures against it and

other sources which can assess the problem of corruption, assist in developing countermeasures, and provide recommendations to curb corruption in Rwanda.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY

The overall objective of the study was to establish the experiences and perceptions of Rwandans with regard to service delivery and corruption in the county.

The specific objectives of the survey include:

- ❖ Determine the prevalence (evidence and perception) of corruption on Rwanda as reported by Rwandan Households;
- ❖ Identify Rwandan Institutions and Organizations particularly vulnerable to corruption;
- ❖ Assess the impact of corruption on service delivery in Rwanda;
- ❖ Gather concrete information on the size of bribes paid by Rwandan citizens while seeking to access a specific service.

3. OVERVIEW OF CORRUPTION EFFECT ON SERVICE DELIVERY

Increased cost: Corruption leads to increase in project costs due to bribery and kickbacks. This forces the tax payers to pay extra money for contracts, which reduces the budget available for public services and limits the government's funding for other critical services which restricts community development and effectiveness of the overall public service (Mabeba, 2021).

Resource Misallocation: Diversion of public resources from essential services to personal interests can be led by corruption. When officials misuse or embezzle funds that are meant for education, infrastructure and health, all the intended benefits that the community would have gained are compromised. This leads to inadequate facilities, poorly constructed or maintained public infrastructures and medical supplies are insufficient,

which definitely leads to poor quality of life for the citizens (Spyromitros & Panagiotidis, 2022).

Inefficiency: According to Gupta et al., (2001), corruption presents inefficiencies within public service delivery where by it promotes unqualified contractors and mishandle of resources. Many projects tend to suffer from interruptions as practices that are corrupt often create bureaucratic difficulties (Mabeba, 2021).

Inequitable Access: Several barriers to access essential services is mostly created by corruption, as it is only available to those who can be able to pay the bribes receive those special treatments. This bilateral system unjustifiably affects underserved populations, denying them all the necessary basic services such as education, healthcare, which also leads to social inequalities and enhances displeasure within the communities (Locatelli et al., 2016).

Substandard Quality: Corruption tends to compromise the quality of services given, where it allows the use of poor, inadequate materials and practices. This is where in projects of construction, officials may approve of wretched materials in exchange for bribes. This results in poor infrastructure, which also leads to costly replacements and repairs in the long run which becomes a burden to the public finances (Mabeba, 2021).

Health Implications: Corruption in the healthcare systems not only results in misallocation of resources but also leads to inadequate medical care as well as poor health consequences. Funds that are meant for all the critical health services may be ripped off, which leaves hospitals unqualified to take care of patient needs. This distresses the underserved population, which causes an increase in illness and deathrates from diseases that are avoidable (Askly, 2024).

Community Trust Failure: Corruption tends to wear down the public trust in both government institutes and bureaucrats. When people detect that their officials prioritize their personal gains over the public well-being, they become disconnected and discouraged from all public responsibilities. The failure to gain trust from the community can lead to disobedience with laws and regulations, which further worsen corruption and undermines governance (Smith and Cruickshank, 2017).

Infrastructure: According to Locatelli et al., (2016) corruption leads to a failure of important infrastructure projects, as funds are embezzled or underutilized. This can result in the roads collapsing, insufficient utilities and unreliable transportation, which can highly

hinder economic activities and access to all the essential services, therefore affecting the overall community development.

Education Inequality: Corruption in education displays as bribery for favoritism and recognition in resource allocation, which hinders unbiased access to quality schooling. Scholars from less wealthy backgrounds might find themselves locked out of opportunities, prolonging cycles of limited social mobility and poverty (Whang, 2023).

Increased poverty: Corruption can hinder economic growth by resource misallocation which can limit to fair access to all opportunities available. Public services have become less effective, people with low incomes face extra barriers to employment and education (Gupta et al., 2001).

Reduced Foreign Investment: High levels of corruption can limit foreign investors as they prefer environments that are more constant with transparent governance so when corruption is widespread this raises a lot of concern on the safety of contracts and the possibility for unexpected costs, which can limit economic growth (Shamsuddin, 2023).

Stunted Innovation: According to Mupandanyama (2023), corruption often suppress innovation within public services. When decisions are grounded on bribery rather than value, there is little motivation for creativity and improvement and hinders the development of innovative solutions to the problems in the society.

Long-term institutional damages: As time goes by, corruption can seriously cause damages to institutions, as corrupt practices become established, they diminish principles of liability and transparency which makes it highly difficult to carry out reforms to restore public trust in the government (Whang, 2023).

Agriculture: According to Peixoto et al., (2022), corruption in agriculture can misrepresent how resources and fundings are distributed. Whenever officials offer subsidies built on bribes or string-pulling, the farmers that are more deserving might not receive the essential inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and water. This creates competition which is unfair, as the ones without connections that are corrupt struggle to prosper. As a consequence, food production can suffer, which can lead to increase in prices for customers or even shortages.

Energy: In the energy sector, corruption often covers bribery in regulations and contracts. This leads to illicit extraction of resources, which affects the overall effectiveness of energy distribution. This results in customers facing unreliable supplies of energy and higher prices. Corruption can also affect investments in renewable energy solutions and keeping

the country reliant on on outdated and contaminating energy sources (Matthias, 2002, p. 2-4).

Land Management: Corruption in land supervision leads to illegal land seizures, and mainly affects vulnerable individuals, particularly the poorest by denying them the rights to their own land and disrupting their ways of living. Powerful people take lands from the rightful owners using fraudulent means. This can be in the mishandling of public lands, where they allow only wealthy people to exploit these properties. These acts can create a biased system of land distribution, which can force vulnerable people out of their homes and increase conflicts over lands and social disparity (Zúñiga, 2018).

Environment Management: Corruption can have a severe effect on conservational management, where illegal activities like pollution and logging can thrive when implementation of regulations is weak. Officials may take bribes to overlook the violations, which can lead to overutilization of natural resources. This can harm the environment which can also threaten biodiversity and pose health risks to communities, which impacts future generations (UNODC et al., n.d., p.14).

Judiciary: Corruption within the judiciary has significant consequences. It weakens the regulations of law, eroding the belief that all individuals are equal before the law. This shows that justice is not served and when individuals see that their system is corrupt, they tend to lose trust in it. As this discourages them from seeking any assistance when they come across any legal problems, which can lead to high levels of crime in the society (Buscaglia and Dakolias, 1999).

Corruption not only affect public sectors but also impacts private sectors in the following ways;

Telecommunications: Corruption in telecommunications can twist the licensing process which limits market access. When officials accept bribes to grant licenses, only the ones who can afford to pay the bribes to gain access to the market. This causes less competition and increase in prices with low service quality for the customers (Wickberg & Transparency International, 2014).

Tourism: In tourism, corruption discourages investments and harms the visitors' experiences. This leads to investors into being hesitant to put their money somewhere corruption is still high, as it creates a dangerous business environment. This can undermine economic growth and job creation in the tourism sector. When the tourists are charged exaggerated prices for hotels, services or tours due to corruption, this can result

in bad reviews and less people wanting to visit the country. Additionally, unexpected charges and services that are inconsistent can ruin the experience for the tourists (Elias, 2024).

Banking and Finance: Corruption leads to fraudulent practices such as embezzlement and money laundering. When bank officials accept bribes by prioritizing their personal gain over the interests of the customers, this can lead to financial losses, corrupt loans, which can cause customers to lose trust in banks. While in finance, insider favoritism and trading can misrepresent market operations, which discourages innovations. Corruption can lead to increase in costs for customers, as banks inflate payments to pay off bribes or cover losses (Asterioua et al., n.d., p.4-6).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Approach

This survey used exclusively a quantitative approach and seek to establish the extent of bribe in Rwanda by seeking information from ordinary citizens while interacting with public officials. Furthermore, the survey used both random and purposive technique. The purposive technique enabled urban districts to be included in the sample as they are more likely to provide more services than rural areas hence, higher risk of corruption. The questionnaire was the only instrument to capture data on bribery incidences. The latter has been introduced into tablets with the kobo tool box application and it was used by well trained and skilled interviewers to collect data from Rwandan citizens aged 18 years and above.

4.2. Sampling frame and sample size

Rwanda Bribery Index 2024 like the previous ones, is a nationwide survey. The sample size was computed on the basis of various parameters such as the desired degree of precision, target population size, timing and budget. The study population was taken from the 2022 census. The choice was due to the fact that this survey is measuring people's experience of bribery in the last 12 months. The sample is calculated using the formula below.

$$n = (N(zs/e)^2)/(N-1+(zs/e)^2)$$

Where:

z= 1.96 for 95% level of confidence

s = p(1-p) where p = estimated proportion

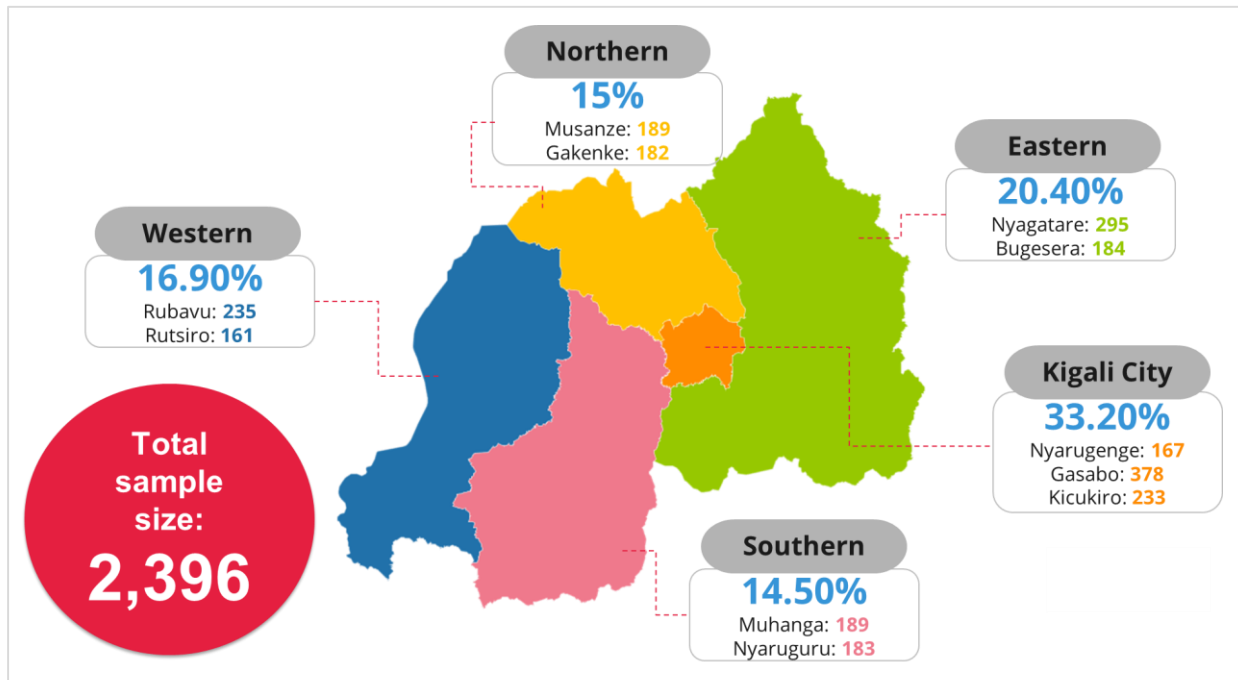
e = desired margin of error

N = population size

In this estimation the significance level is taken as 95% with a margin of error of 2%. Such a sample size provides a base for meaningful comparison to undertake statistically valid sub stratifications that fall within acceptable confidence level. The minimum sample size is calculated on the basis of the Rao soft sample size calculator.

The sample size for the RBI 2024 survey is rounded to 2,396 respondents. The population is spread across several districts, with Gasabo having the highest representation at 15.8%, followed by Nyagatare at 12.3%, and Kicukiro at 9.7%.

Figure 1: District sample allocation



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

4.3. Data collection

The data collection was performed by skilled enumerators and team leaders recruited and trained to this end. The training covered issues such as survey methods, questionnaire structure and content, enumerator's/supervisors' responsibilities, survey ethics and the use of tablets for data collection. The questionnaire was administered to sampled respondents aged 18 years and above. For the sake of efficiency and data quality assurance, the questionnaire was tablet-based and relied on CsPro software. Similarly, for efficiency purpose, enumerators were requested to meet respondents in their respective households for the data collection purpose. Respondents were selected randomly based on the list availed by the head of villages included in the survey sample.

Before starting the data collection process, a "pilot survey" was organized in a sector other than those which were covered by the actual survey. The pilot survey allowed testing the research tools with regard to the clarity, wording, coherence and consistency of the questions. It also served as an opportunity for enumerators and supervisors to get used to the tools they have to use during the actual survey (especially getting used to CsPro and the use of tablets).

4.4. Quality control

In a bid to ensure data quality, the data collection activity was implemented by enumerators while team leaders and supervisors were responsible for supervision and coordination. Supervisors include TI-RW's researchers while team leaders were recruited based on their experience in carrying out such exercise. For data quality control purposes, the following measures were taken:

- Assessment and approval of the RBI tools and methodology by the NISR;
- Recruitment of skilled interviewers and supervisors
- Training of interviewers and supervisors
- Setting the questionnaire in Kobo Toolbox and introducing it into tablets
- Testing of the questionnaires
- Supervision of data collection activity
- Overall coordination of the field work
- Use of SPSS software for data analysis
- Data cleaning prior to analysis

4.5. Data analysis

As it has been highlighted above, quantitative data were collected using a questionnaire already set in CsPro and installed on the tablets to avoid the use of papers and the need to conduct data entry later. Data introduced in the tablets were exported in SPSS, cleaned and analyzed by the statistician using SPSS software. In the framework of controlling all the information generated in this survey, all data were entered in the tablets as they are collected and then submitted to the national supervisor on a daily basis. This allowed monitoring the progress of the research, ensure quality and safety of data collected. The Rwanda Bribery Index is analyzed through Eight indicators with five indicators measuring the victimization of corruption and 3 perception- based indicators as follows:

1. **Likelihood** =
$$\frac{\text{\# of bribe demand situation for organization x}}{\text{\# of interactions for organization x}}$$
2. **Prevalence** =
$$\frac{\text{\# of bribe payers for organization x}}{\text{\# of interactions for organization x}}$$

3. **Impact** = $\frac{\text{\# of service deliveries as a result of bribe paying for organization x}}{\text{\# of interactions for organization x}}$
4. **Share** = $\frac{\text{Total amount of bribes paid in organization x}}{\text{Total amount of bribes paid in all organizations}}$
5. **Average size** = $\frac{\text{Total amount of bribes paid in organization x}}{\text{Individuals who paid a bribe in organization x.}}$
6. **Perceived current level of corruption**
7. **Level of government's commitment to fight corruption**
8. **Perceived causes of corruption**

5. PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS

5.1. DEMOGRAPHICS

Analyzing the demographic features of survey respondents is key for understanding the framework of the research findings. This analysis includes essential variables; location, education level, gender, age, occupation, and monthly income which each of them contributes unique insights into the respondents' experiences and backgrounds. The provided data offers a detailed look at various demographic aspects of the survey's sample from different provinces in Rwanda. This analysis interprets the data through the lens of corruption, considering how different demographics might influence or be influenced by corruption.

Figure 2: Type of residence

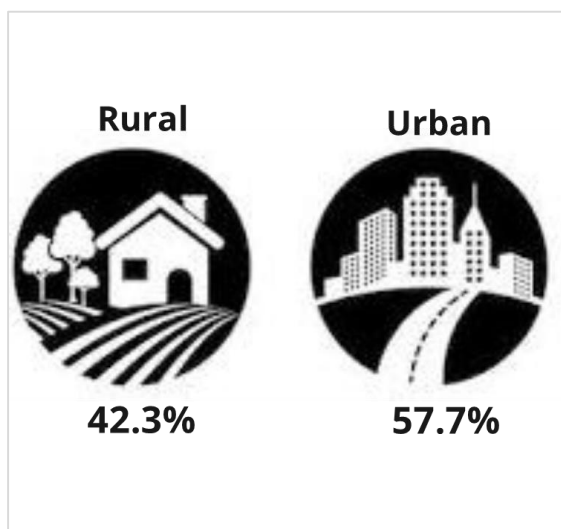
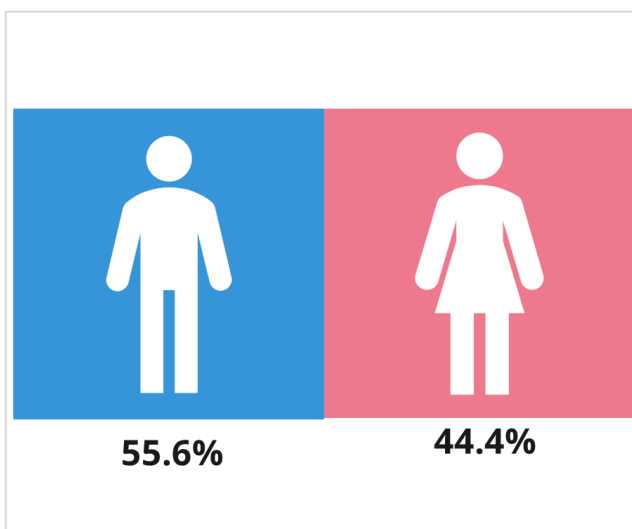


Figure 3: Gender of respondents

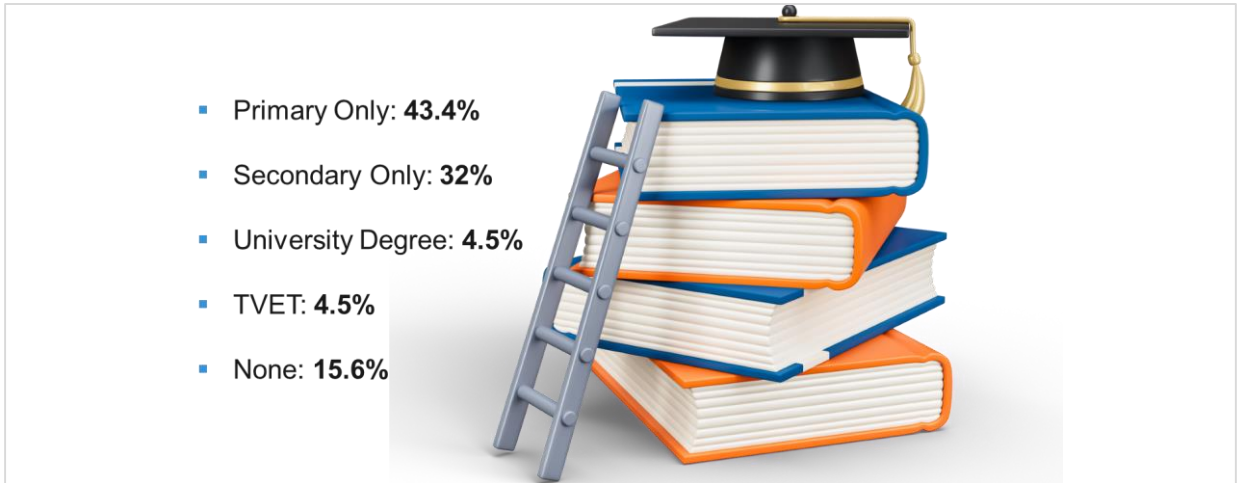


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

The urban-rural split shows that 42.3% of the population resides in urban areas, while a larger portion, 57.7%, lives in rural areas. Urban areas might experience different types of corruption compared to rural areas, such as more complex bureaucratic corruption in cities versus petty corruption in rural areas.

The gender distribution reveals a slight male majority, with males constituting 55.6% of the population and females making up 44.4%. Gender dynamics can play a significant role in corruption, with women often being more vulnerable to certain types of corruption, such as sexual extortion.

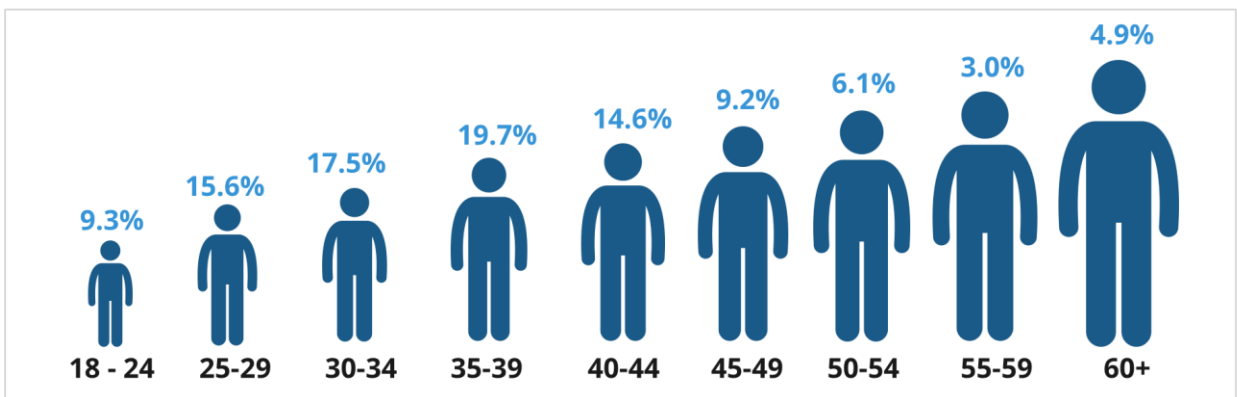
Figure 4: Level of Education



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

Education levels vary significantly within the population. The majority have only completed primary education (43.4%), followed by those with secondary education (32.0%). A smaller percentage have attained a university degree (4.5%) or vocational training (4.5%). Notably, 15.6% of the population has not received any formal education. Lower education levels can correlate with higher susceptibility to corruption, as less educated individuals might be less aware of their rights and more easily exploited.

Figure 5: Age Groups

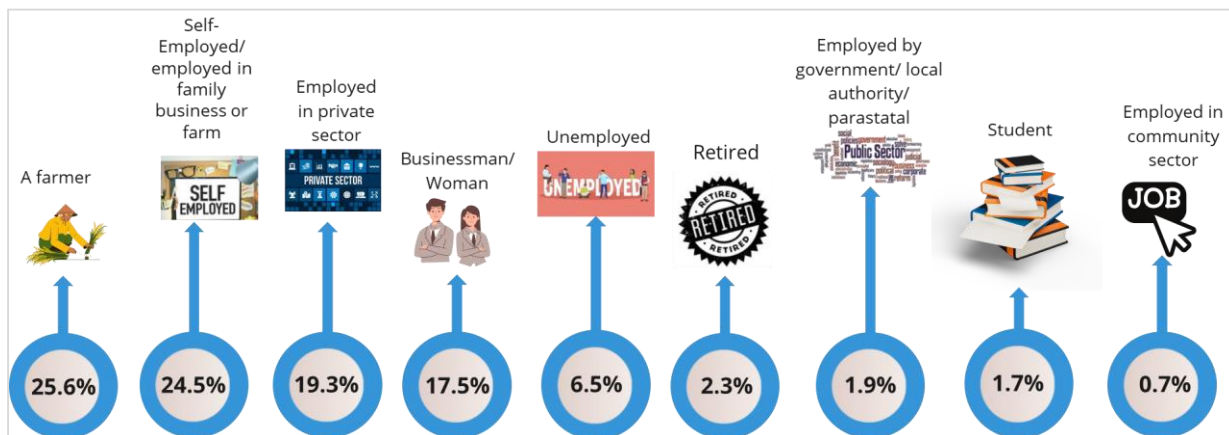


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

The age distribution shows a diverse range of age groups, with the largest segments being 35-39 years (19.7%) and 30-34 years (17.5%). Younger age groups (18-29 years) make up 24.9% of the population, indicating a relatively young demographic. Younger individuals

might be more idealistic and less tolerant of corruption, potentially driving anti-corruption efforts.

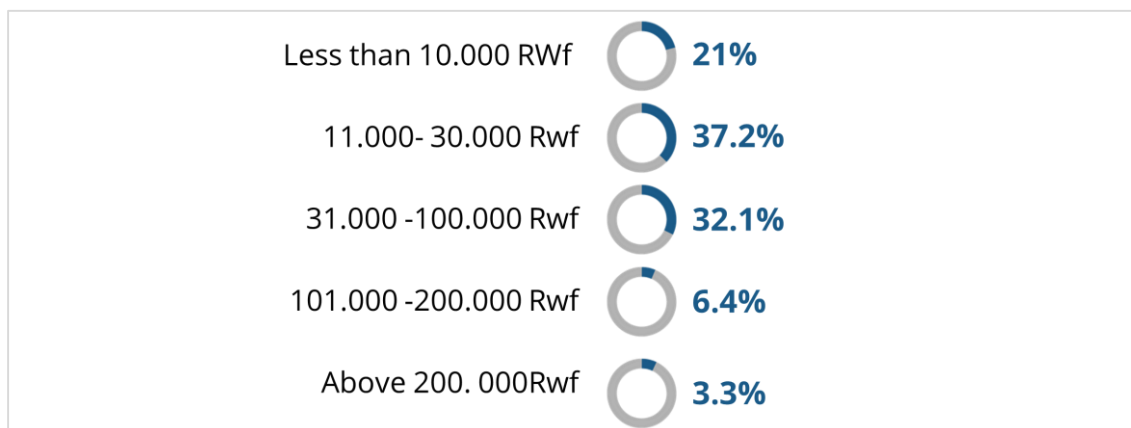
Figure 6: Occupation



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

Occupational data highlights that a significant portion of the population is self-employed or involved in family businesses or farming (24.5%), and a substantial number are engaged in agriculture (25.6%). Employment in the private sector accounts for 19.3%, while government and community sector employment are relatively low at 1.9% and 0.7%, respectively. Unemployment stands at 6.5%, and students make up a small fraction at 1.7%. Different occupations face different corruption risks, with government employees potentially encountering more opportunities for corruption due to their roles in public administration.

Figure 7: Family Monthly Income



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

The data above shows that most families, 37.2%, earn between 11,000 and 30,000 Rwf per month, followed by 32.1% earning between 31,000 and 100,000 Rwf. A significant portion, 21%, earn less than 10,000 Rwf monthly. Families with monthly incomes between 101,000 and 200,000 Rwf make up 6.4%, and those earning above 200,000 Rwf constitute 3.3%.

Understanding this income distribution is crucial for analyzing how corruption impacts different income groups. Lower-income families may be more vulnerable to bribery demands and may struggle more with the financial burden of corruption. Higher-income families, though fewer, might have more resources to navigate corruption but still face its challenges. This data is essential for tailoring anti-corruption strategies to different economic segments and ensuring fair access to services and justice across all income levels.

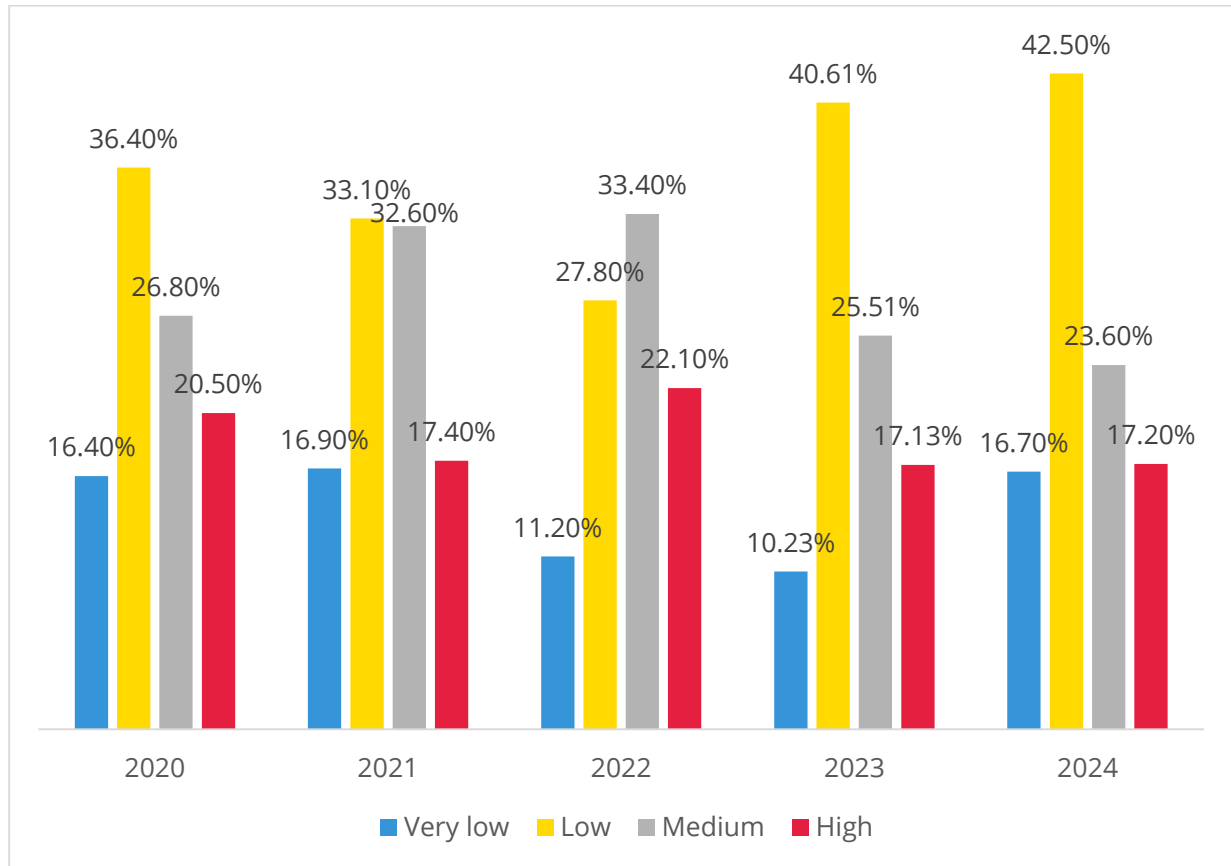
5.2. Perception on the current state of corruption in Rwanda (2024)

The 2024 findings indicate that corruption in Rwanda is perceived in various ways by the population. A significant portion of respondents (42.50%) view corruption as low, while 23.60% consider it to be at a medium level. Meanwhile, 17.20% of respondents believe that corruption is high, and 16.70% think it is very low.

When comparing these results to previous years, notable trends emerge among those who regard corruption as low. In 2023, perceptions of corruption were slightly more favorable compared to 2022, with a higher percentage of respondents rating it as very low or low. Moreover, in 2024, the majority of respondents (59.20%, up from 50.84% in 2023) consider corruption to be low when combining the "very low" and "low" categories.

Despite a sharp increase in 2021 and 2022, the medium perception category has remained relatively stable over the years, reflecting consistent views among a significant portion of the population. However, the high perception category has shown a slight increase compared to 2023. This suggests that while many people continue to view corruption as low or medium, there is a growing concern among some respondents about higher levels of corruption.

Figure 8: Perception on the state of corruption in Rwanda – Trend analysis from 2020 to 2024



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

Comparing the trend analysis from 2020 to 2024 with the specific year 2023 reveals interesting insights. In the “very low” category, the percentage in 2023 was around 10.23%, which increased to an estimated 16.70% in 2024. This significant rise suggests improvement in this category and reflects ongoing efforts in the fight against corruption.

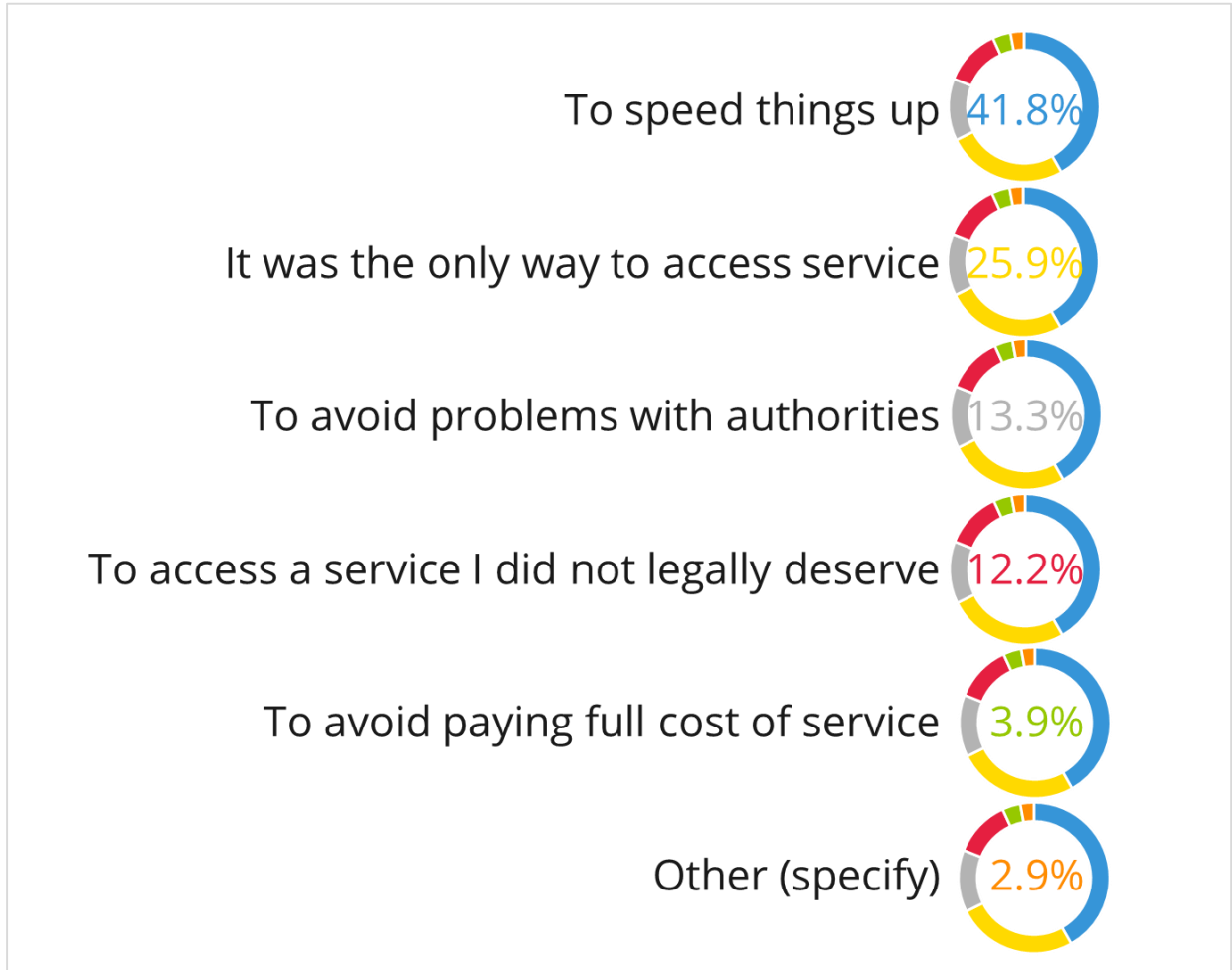
For the “Low” category, the percentage in 2023 was approximately 40.61%, which remains consistent in the estimated data for 2024 (with an increase of 1.89%, to make it 42.50% in 2024). This stability indicates that there has been no significant change in this category between these two years, reflecting a steady perception over time.

In the “medium” category, the percentage in 2023 was about 25.51%, which is very close to the estimated 23.60% in 2024. This slight decrease reflects overall stability in this category, with minimal variation. Generally, the findings highlight steady perception of corruption, with improvements in the “very low” and “low” categories.

5.3. Perceived reasons for paying bribe 2024

Most people, 41.8%, paid bribes to speed up services. This shows that many services are slow, and people feel they need to pay to get things done faster. Another 25.9% paid bribes because they thought it was the only way to get the service they needed. Smaller groups paid bribes to avoid problems with authorities, which accounted for 13.3%, or to avoid paying the full cost of services, which was 3.9%. Some, 12.2%, paid bribes to get services they were not entitled to.

Figure 9: Perceived reasons for paying bribe 2024

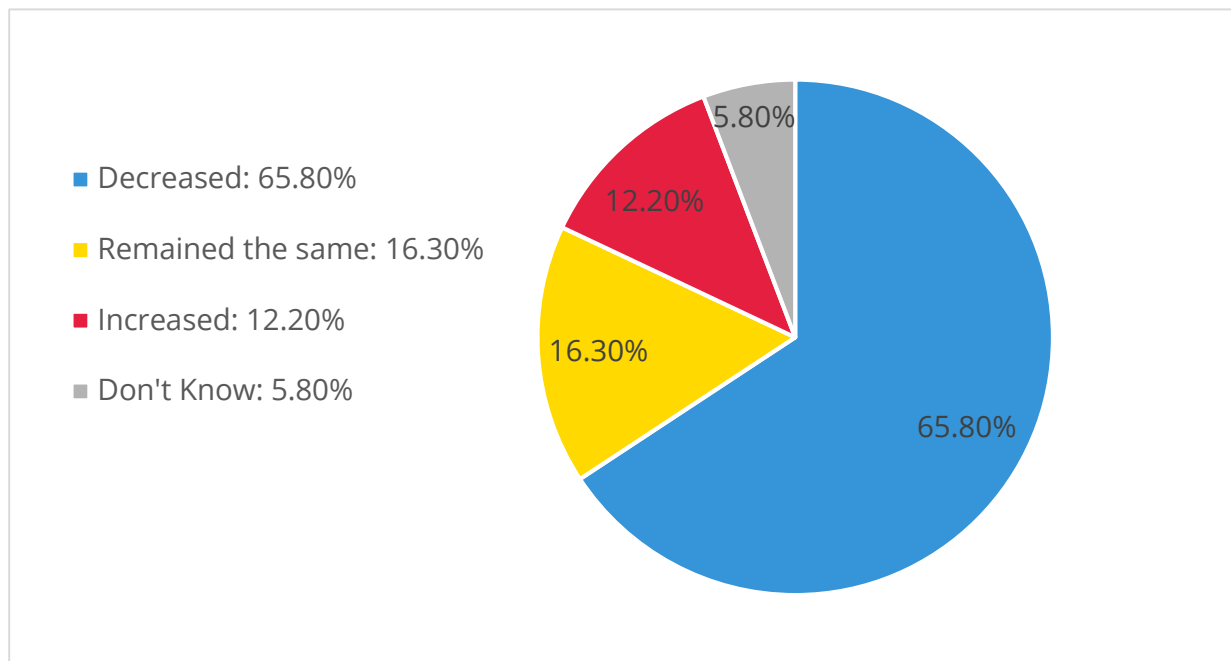


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

5.4. Perception on whether corruption has decreased in Rwanda (2024)

Most respondents, 65.8%, believe that corruption has decreased over the past year. Specifically, 56.7% think it has decreased somewhat, and 9.1% believe it has decreased a lot. This indicates that the government's anti-corruption measures are having a positive impact. However, 12.2% of respondents feel that corruption has increased, with 3.5% saying it has increased a lot and 8.7% saying it has increased somewhat. Additionally, 16.3% believe the level of corruption has remained the same, and 5.8% are unsure. This mixed perception suggests that while there is significant progress, there are still areas that need attention.

Figure 10: Perception on whether corruption has decreased in Rwanda (2024)

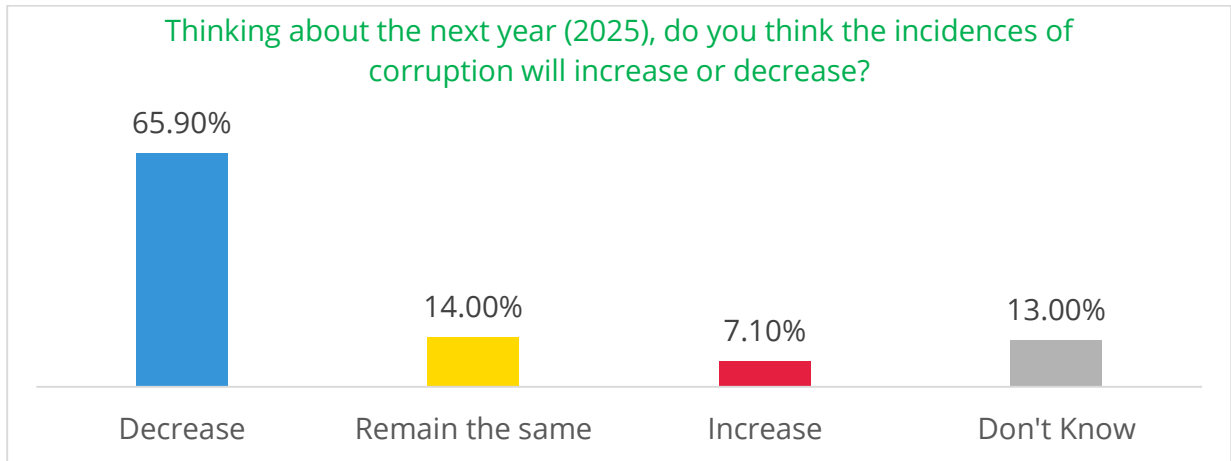


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

5.5. Expectations for corruption in 2025

Looking ahead to 2025, a significant majority of respondents (65.9%) expect that incidences of corruption will decrease, which aligns with the positive perception of recent trends. However, 14.0% believe that corruption levels will remain the same, and 7.1% expect an increase. The 13.0% who are unsure about future trends may indicate uncertainty about the effectiveness of ongoing anti-corruption efforts or a lack of confidence in future improvements.

Figure 11: Expectations for corruption in 2025

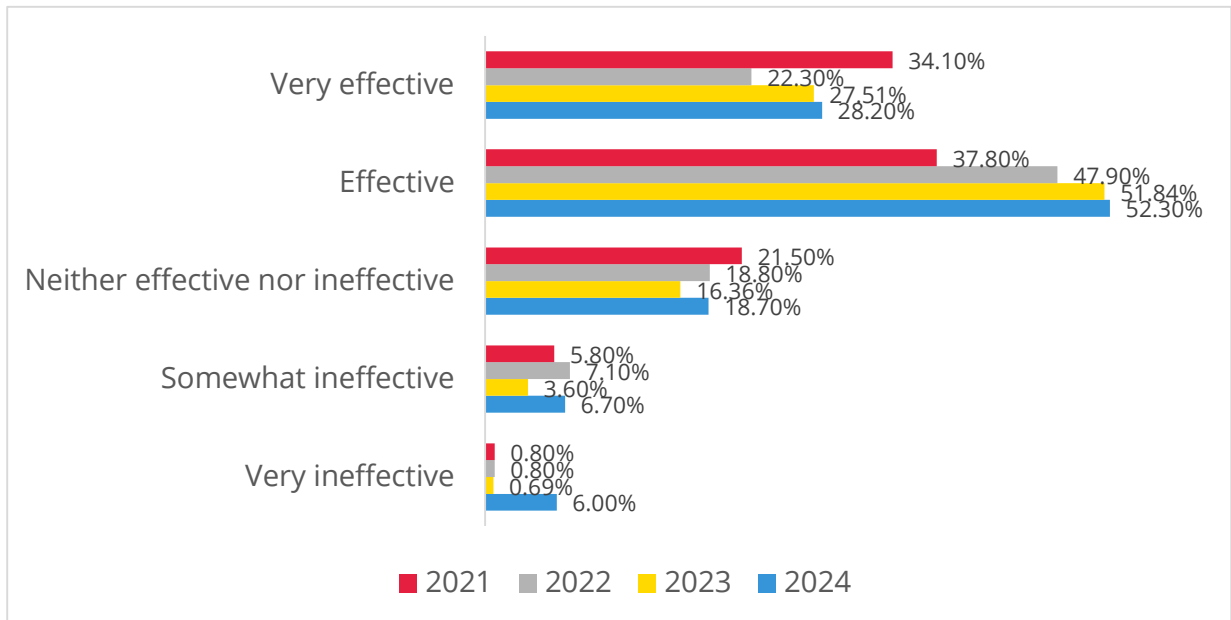


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

5.6. Respondents' views on government efforts against corruption

The majority of respondents, 80.50% in total, view the government's efforts as effective, which is a positive sign. However, the presence of neutral and negative responses highlights the need for continued and enhanced efforts to combat corruption. Improving communication about anti-corruption measures and their impacts could help increase public confidence and reduce the percentage of neutral and negative perceptions.

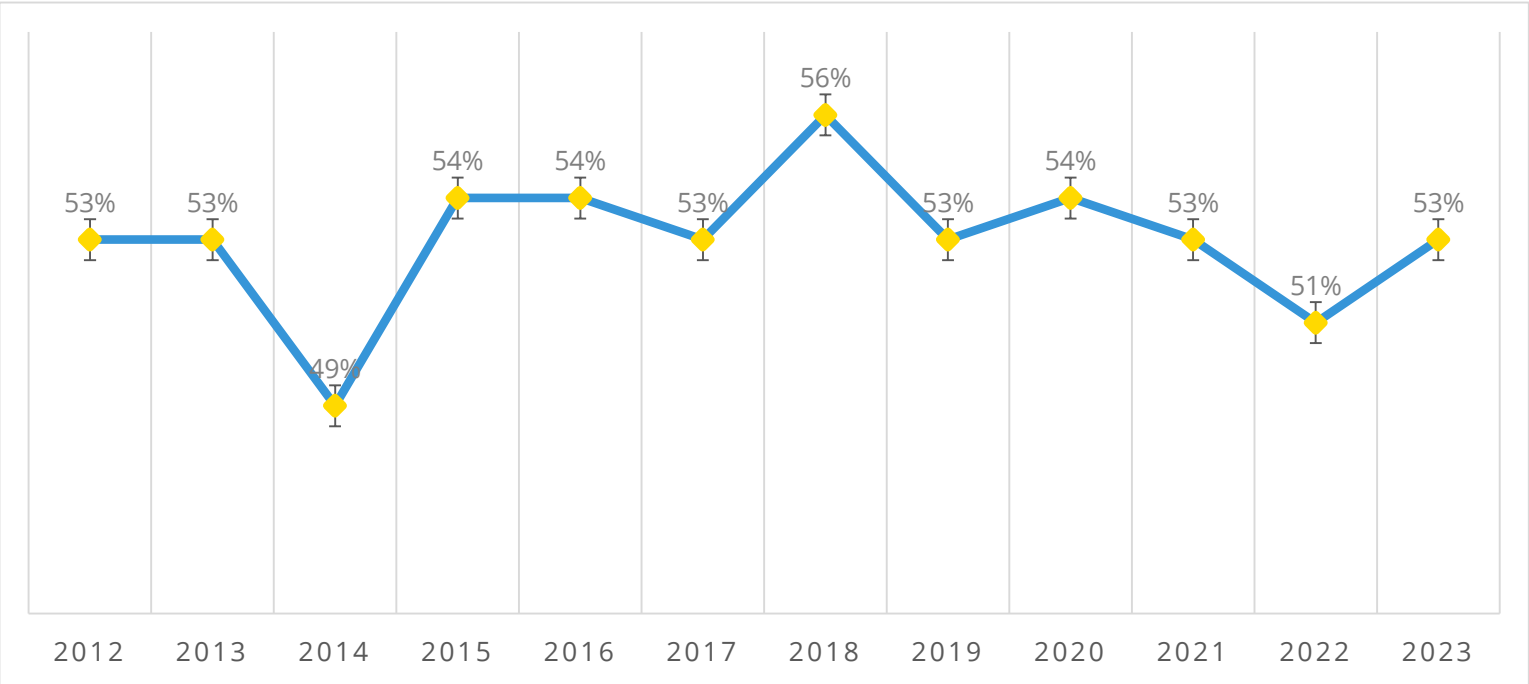
Figure 12: Trend on the Government's efforts in the fight against Corruption 2024



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

From 2021 to 2024, there has been a notable improvement in public perception of the government’s efforts to combat corruption. Although the percentage of people who view these efforts as “Very effective” slightly decreased from 34.10% in 2021 to 28.20% in 2024, those who see the government effort as “Effective” significantly rose from 37.80% to 52.30%. Meanwhile, the proportion of respondents who consider the efforts “Neither effective nor ineffective” dropped from 21.50% to around 18.70%, and those viewing them as “Somewhat ineffective” or “Very ineffective” also decreased. This trend suggests growing confidence in the government’s anti-corruption measures over these years which corroborate the Corruption Perception Index by Transparency International.

Figure 13: Corruption Perception Index for Rwanda(2018 – 2023)



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2021, 2022, and 2023 reflects the government’s ongoing commitment to fighting corruption. In 2021, the CPI stood at 53%, showing steady efforts to maintain public trust. Although there was a slight decline to 51% in 2022, this dip was followed by a strong recovery to 53% in 2023, demonstrating the success of renewed anti-corruption strategies. This positive rebound highlight the government’s determination to address challenges, implement effective reforms, and reinforce public confidence in its fight against corruption.

Rwanda has been recognized for its robust anti-corruption efforts over the past decade, earning accolades for maintaining one of the lowest corruption rates in Africa. Key anti-corruption efforts made by Rwanda during this period include:

Strong Institutional Framework: Office of the Ombudsman: Established in **2003** and expanded over the years to enhance its investigative and preventative functions; **Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB):** Formally launched in **2018**, taking over criminal investigation functions, including corruption cases, from the National Public Prosecution Authority; **Auditor General's Office:** Operational since **1999**, its annual reports have been a cornerstone of public accountability, with notable intensifications in audits and enforcement throughout the 2010s.

Zero Tolerance Policy: Prosecution of high-profile corruption cases intensified in the last decade, with notable cases occurring between **2015 and 2023**, where senior officials and public servants faced legal action.

Specific laws, such as the **2018 Penal Code**, codify stringent penalties for corruption offenses.

E-Governance and Technology: E-Procurement System: Introduced in **2016** under the Rwanda Public Procurement Authority (RPPA) to curb corruption in public procurement; **Irembo Platform:** Launched in **2015**, streamlining access to over 100 government services and reducing direct interaction between citizens and service providers; Promotion of cashless payment systems intensified from **2019**, aligning with broader digital transformation efforts.

Public Engagement and Education; Annual Anti-Corruption Week: Held consistently since **2008**, with renewed vigor in campaigns and citizen participation in the 2010s; Toll-free whistleblowing hotlines were introduced by the Office of the Ombudsman in **2012**, with subsequent upgrades to ensure user anonymity and security.

Ethical Leadership: Asset declaration by public officials became mandatory under the **2003 Leadership Code of Conduct Law**, with reforms in **2013** to make the process more rigorous and transparent.

Civil Society and Media Empowerment: Strengthening of civil society partnerships and media involvement in anti-corruption efforts accelerated post-**2010**, with Transparency International Rwanda playing a pivotal role in advocacy; Media laws revised in **2013**, improving freedom of the press and enabling investigative journalism on corruption cases.

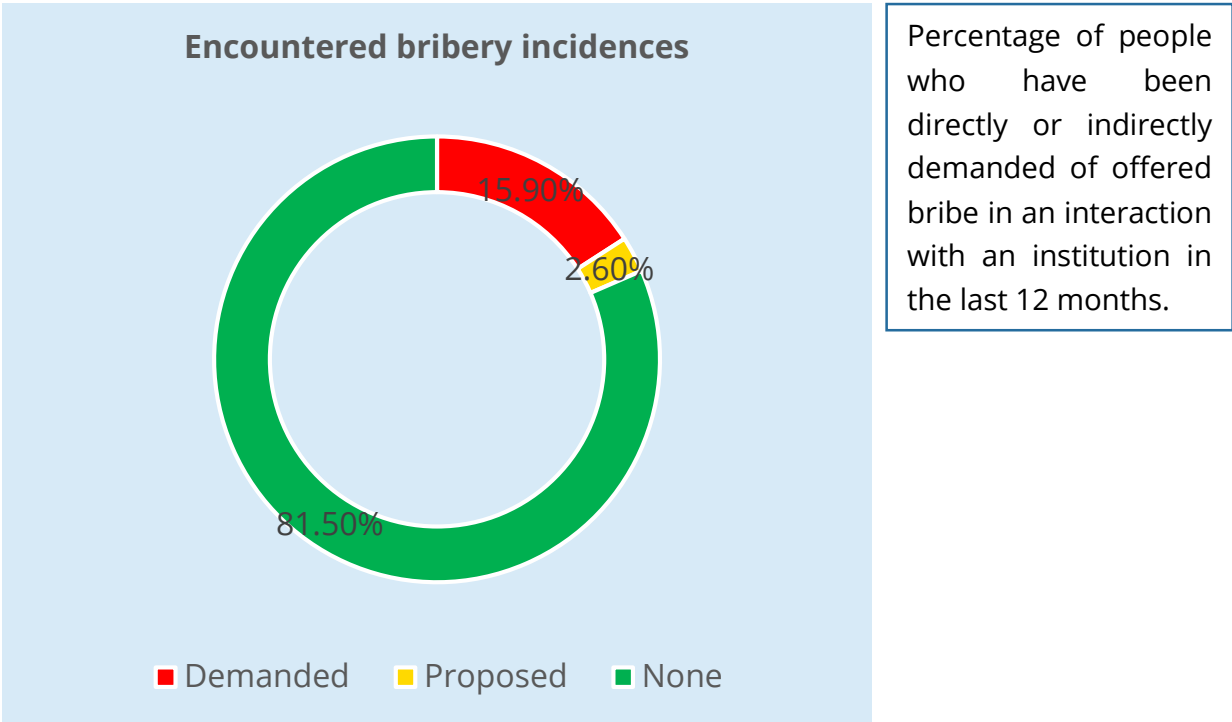
International Collaboration: Rwanda ratified the **United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)** in **2006** and has actively engaged in international anti-corruption forums throughout the decade, including through the **2015 Kigali International Anti-Corruption Conference**.

These sustained efforts have firmly established Rwanda as a regional leader in anti-corruption, with notable improvements in governance and public trust.

5.7. Personal experience with bribery (bribe encounter)

The data on personal experiences with bribery reveals that only **18.5%** have encountered a bribe in 2024. Additionally, **15.90%** of respondents reported that a bribe was demanded from them, while **2.6%** indicated that they proposed to pay a bribe. This suggests that in Rwanda, bribery is a prevalent issue with a notable portion of the population experiencing it in various forms.

Figure 14: bribe encounter in 2024

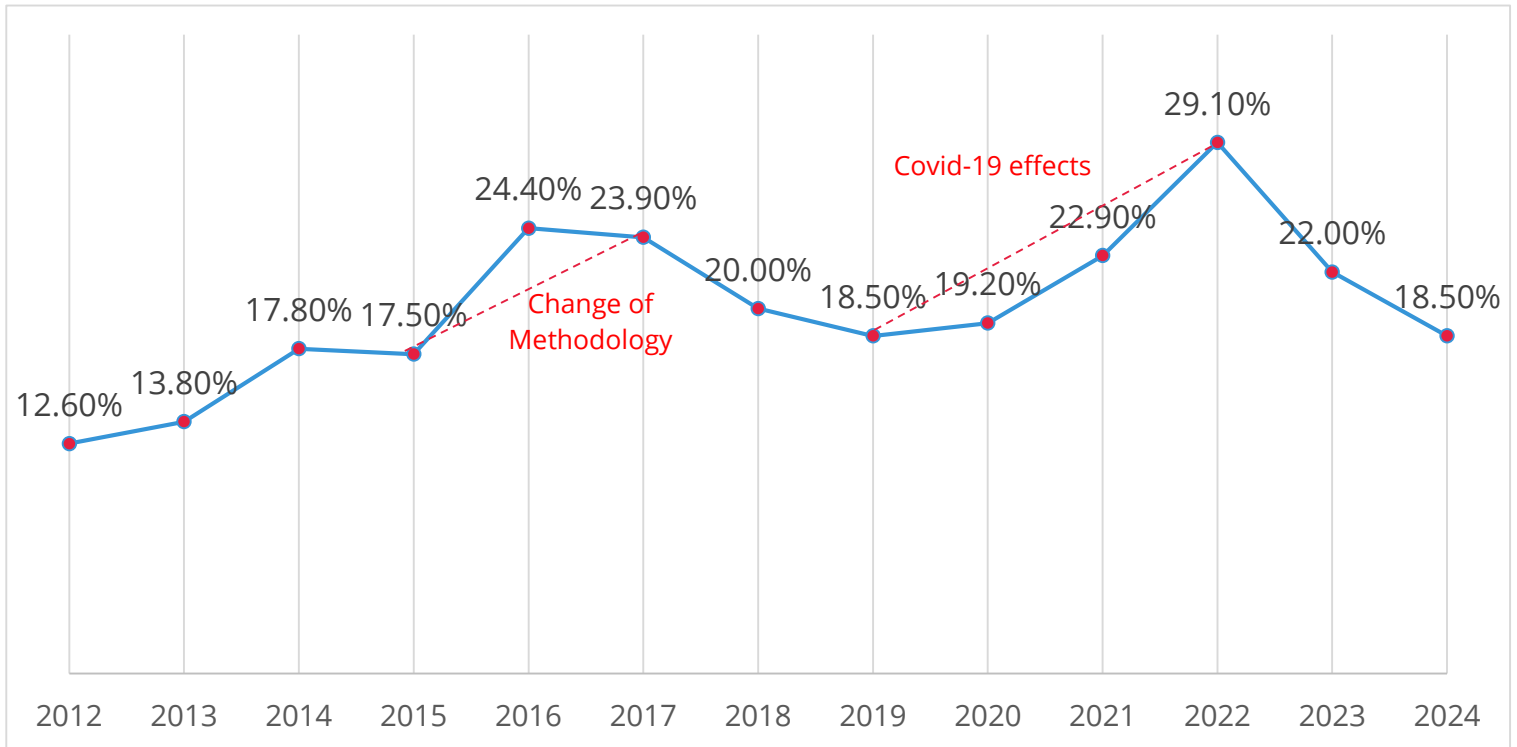


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

5.7.1. Bribery encounter over time (2012-2024)

In 2024, the bribe encounter stands at 18.50%. This is a decrease compared to previous years (22.00% in 2023, 29.10% in 2022, and 22.90% in 2021). This trend indicates a consistent reduction of bribe encounter over the past Twelve years, suggesting that anti-corruption measures are becoming more effective and that there has been progress in reducing the occurrence of bribe.

Figure 15: Bribe encounter trend in Rwanda (2012 - 2024)

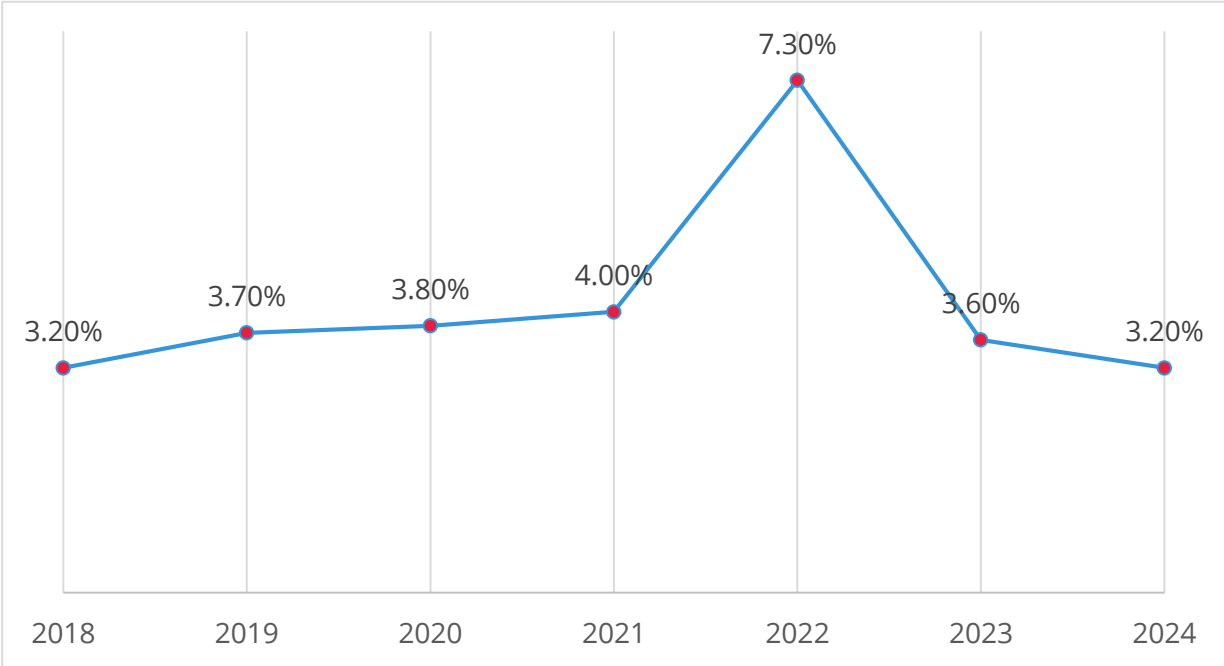


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

5.8. Likelihood of bribe in 2024

The likelihood of bribery indicates how often service providers demanded bribes from service seekers over the past twelve months. The figure below shows the national average likelihood of bribery in Rwanda for 2024, where the national average is 3.2%. The figure below illustrates the trend analysis of the likelihood of bribe between 2018 and 2024.

Figure 16: Likelihood of bribe (National average 2018 – 2024)



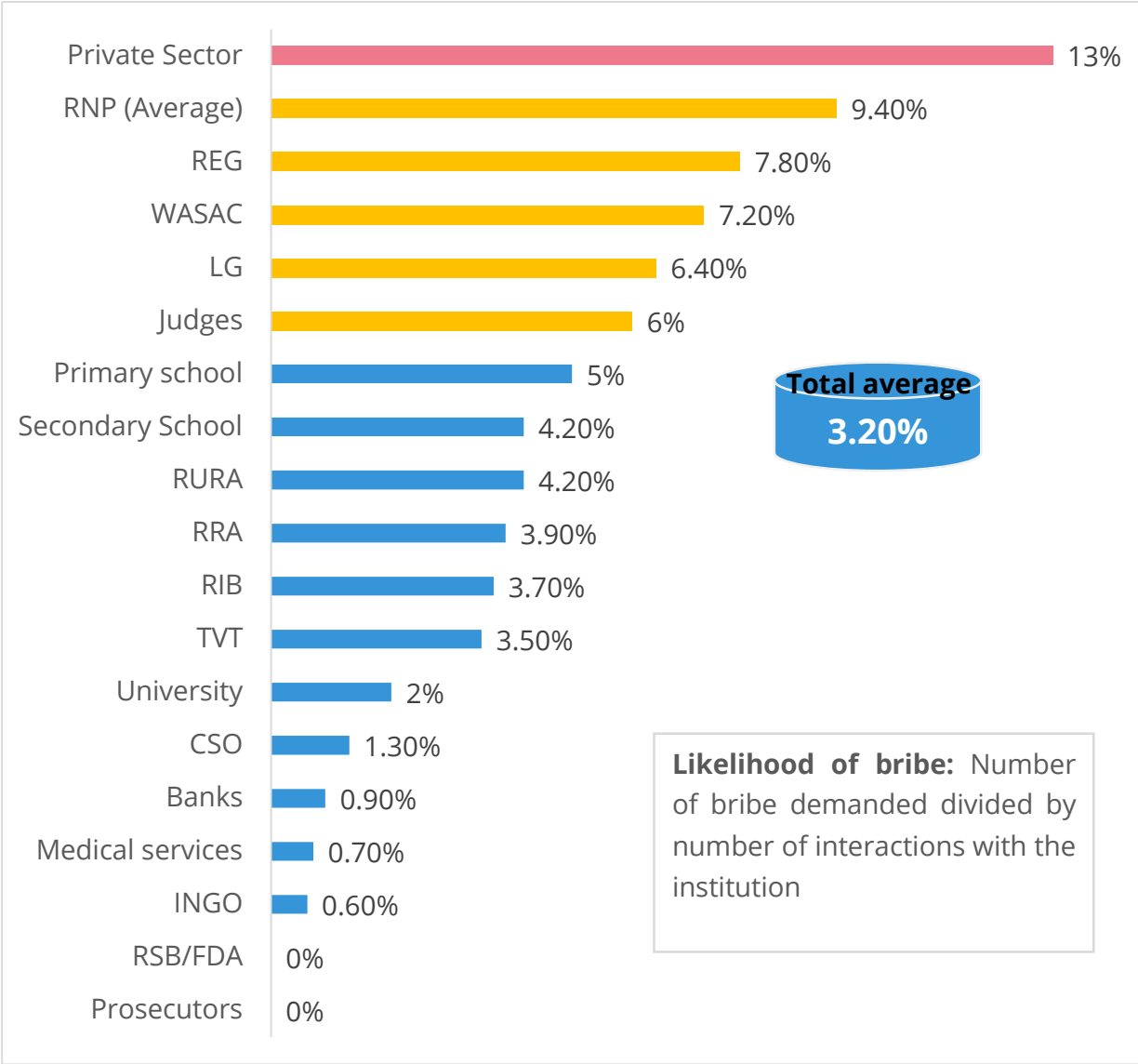
Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

The data in the above figure shows that in 2022, the likelihood of bribe occurrence peaked at 7.30%. This high rate indicated a significant issue with bribery during that year. However, since then, there has been a notable reduction. In 2023, the likelihood of bribe occurrence decreased to 3.60%, showing a significant improvement. This downward trend continued into 2024, with the likelihood further reducing to 3.20%. These reductions suggest that measures taken to combat bribery have been effective, leading to a more positive outlook in recent years.

5.8.1. Likelihood of Bribe by Institutions

The figure below illustrates the likelihood of bribe and provides a detailed breakdown on the extent to which bribe is demanded across various institutions that provide key services to citizens of Rwanda.

Figure 17: Likelihood of bribe in (2024)



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

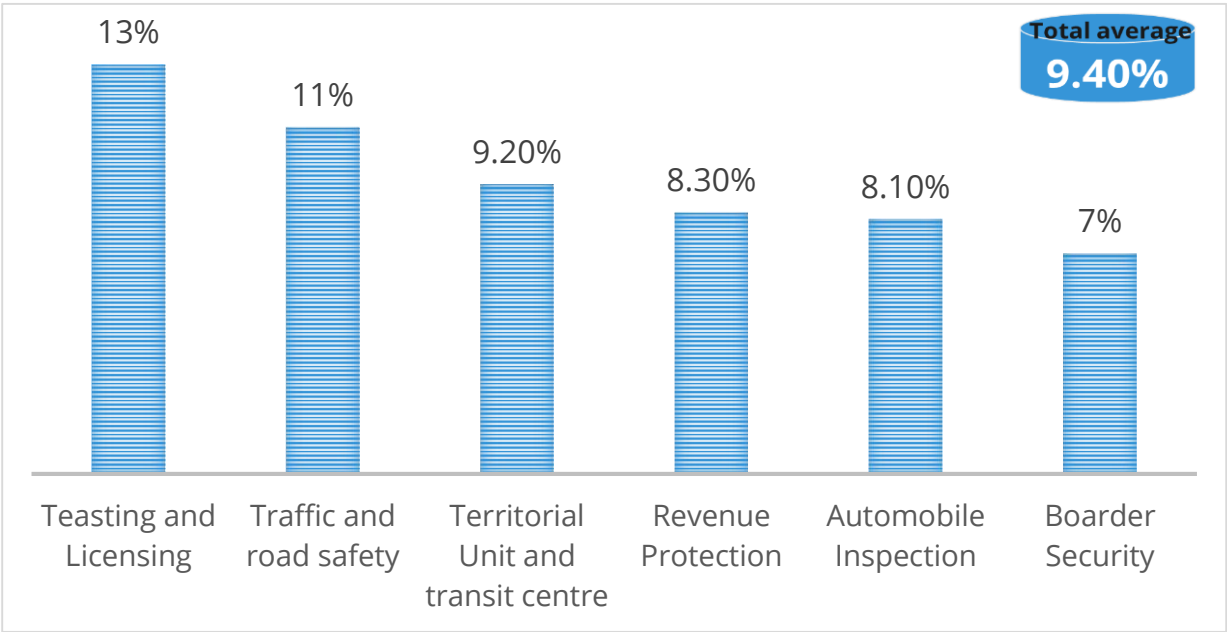
In the above figure the Private sector has the highest likelihood of bribery accounting for 13%. This rate may significantly impact disadvantaged individuals, who might struggle to afford the extra costs associated with bribery. This can limit their access to essential services and opportunities, further entrenching poverty and inequality. The Rwanda National Police (RNP) follows with a 9.40% likelihood, indicating that law enforcement processes might be compromised. For those with limited means, this can mean having to pay bribes to avoid fines or expedite police services, which can be a heavy financial burden and lead to a lack of trust in law enforcement.

Rwanda Energy Group (REG) has a 7.80% likelihood of bribery, which could lead to inefficiencies and unfair practices in energy distribution. Low-income families might have to pay bribes to get connected to the grid or resolve service issues, making it harder for them to access reliable electricity, which is essential for improving their living conditions. The Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) shows a 7.20% likelihood, suggesting that corruption could affect the availability and quality of water and sanitation services. Economically disadvantaged people might have to pay bribes to access clean water or get timely repairs, impacting their health and well-being, as they may not have the means to afford these extra costs.

Local Government (LG) has a 6.40% likelihood, indicating potential issues with local governance. This can affect community projects and resource allocation, with marginalized residents possibly needing to pay bribes to access public services or influence local decisions. This can lead to unequal access to resources and services, further marginalizing the poor.

Lastly, Judges have a 6% likelihood, raising concerns about fairness and justice within the legal system. For those with fewer resources, this means they might need to pay bribes to secure favorable rulings or expedite legal processes, which can be a significant barrier to accessing justice and protecting their rights.

Figure 18: Likelihood of bribe in Rwanda National Police (data disaggregated by department)



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) shows an average likelihood of 9.40%, which is above the national average of the likelihood of bribe. Within the RNP, different departments exhibit high rates of bribe demand, where in Testing and Licensing stands at 13%, suggesting that individuals, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, may face significant financial barriers when trying to obtain driving licenses. This can limit their mobility and employment opportunities, as they might not afford the bribes required to pass tests or expedite the licensing process. Traffic and Road Safety services are at 11%, this can lead to unsafe driving conditions, as individuals might pay bribes to avoid fines or penalties for traffic violations.

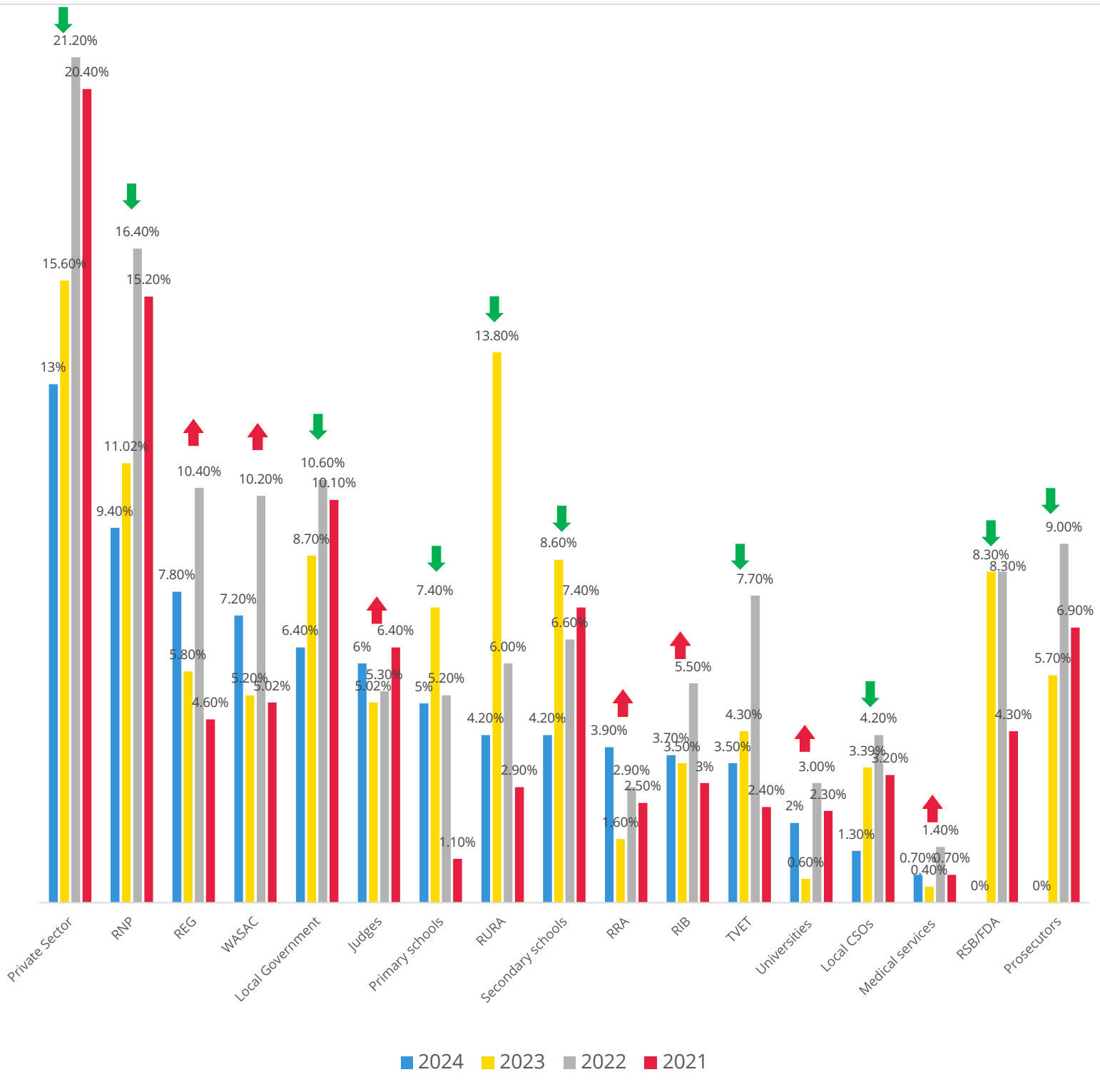
The likelihood of bribery within the Territorial Unit and Transit Center is 9.20%. This often involves instances where individuals are detained to extort bribes for their release. Economically active individuals who are detained may face significant financial strain as they are pressured to pay bribes to secure their freedom. The conditions in detention centers can be harsh, leading to deteriorating health and well-being due to overcrowding, poor sanitation, and inadequate access to medical care. This not only affects their physical health but also their mental well-being, as prolonged detention under such conditions can be extremely stressful and traumatic. The need to pay bribes for release can also disrupt their economic activities, causing loss of income and further financial instability.

Revenue Protection being at 8.30%, implies that business people might be demanded to pay bribes to reduce their tax liabilities in cross-border trade. Such practices can be seen as a form of financial fraud which might divert funds from the government income to the private gains. This not only undermines the integrity of the tax system but also deprives the government of essential revenue needed for public services and infrastructure.

The graph below shows how likely bribery is in different sectors of Rwanda from 2021 to 2024.



Figure 19: Comparison of likelihood of bribery (2021 – 2024)



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In the private sector, bribery was high at 20.40% in 2021 and increased slightly to 21.20% in 2022. However, it dropped to 15% in 2023 and further down to 13% in 2024. This shows that efforts to reduce bribery are working, but there was a big issue in the past.

For the Rwanda National Police (RNP), bribery was 15.30% in 2021 and went up to 16.40% in 2022. It then decreased to 11.02% in 2023 and further to 9.40% in 2024, indicating a positive trend in reducing corruption.

The Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) saw bribery rates increase from 8.70% in 2021 to 10.20% in 2022. There was a notable improvement in 2023 with rates dropping to 7.10% and further down to 2.10% in 2024, showing significant progress.

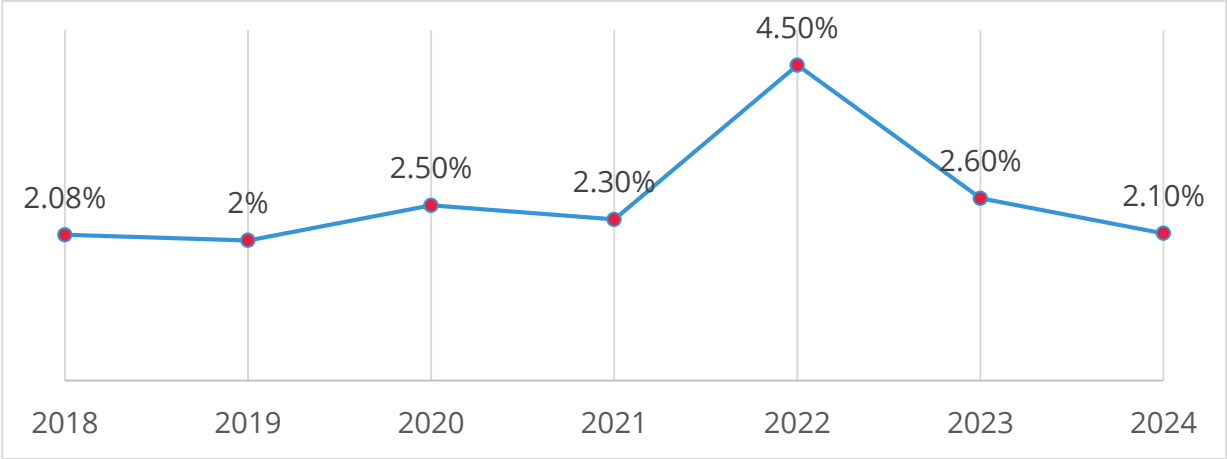
For local government (LG), bribery was 10.10% in 2021, slightly increased to 10.60% in 2022, then decreased to 6.40% in 2023, and down to 6% in 2024. This steady decrease reflects ongoing efforts to combat corruption.

The judiciary experienced an increase from 6.40% in 2021 to 7.40% in 2022, then decreased to 5.10% in 2023 and slightly down to 5% in 2024. The judiciary is improving, though more gradually.

The Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) had a high bribery rate of 13.80% in 2023, which dramatically decreased to 4.20% in 2024. This significant drop indicates effective anti-corruption measures.

5.9. Prevalence of bribery in 2024

Figure 20: Prevalence of bribe (2018 - 2024)

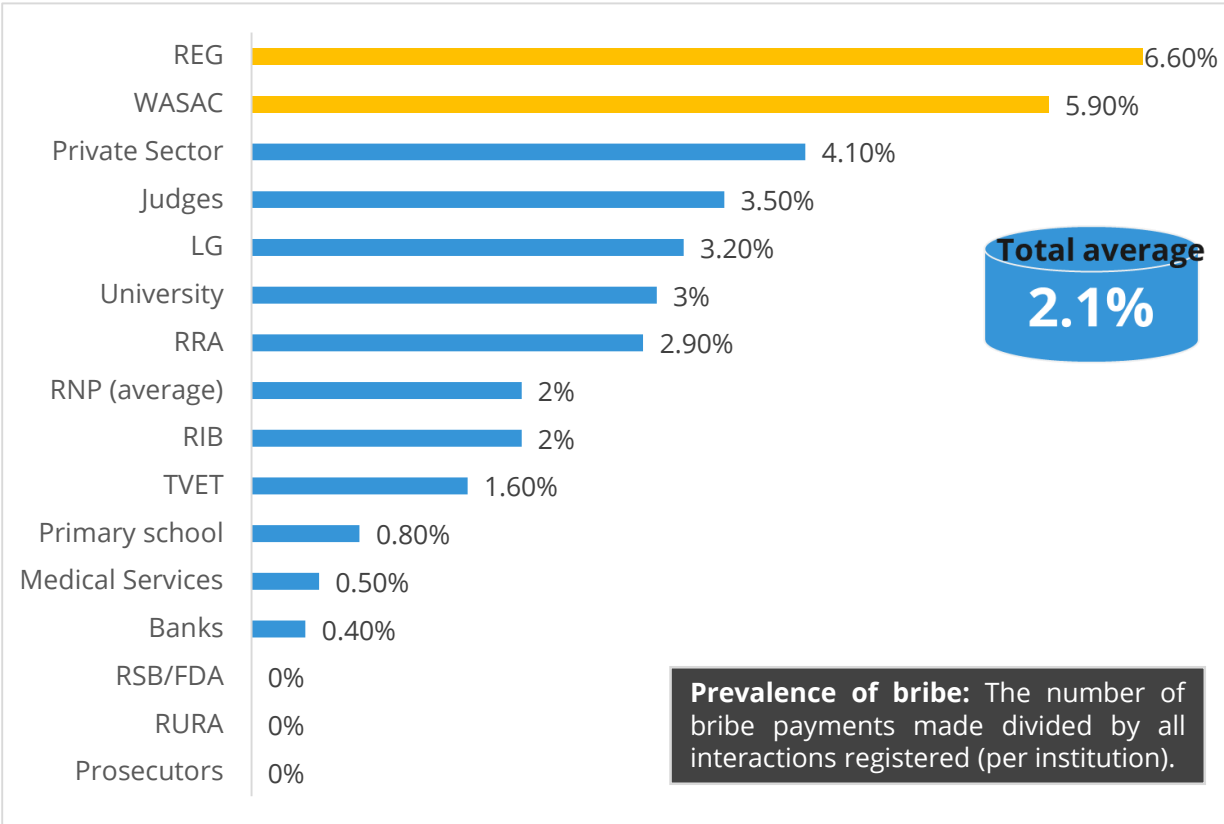


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

The national average prevalence of bribery from 2021 to 2024 shows significant fluctuations. In 2021, the prevalence was at a low of 2.30%, but it sharply increased to 4.50% in 2022, indicating a possible surge in corrupt activities or a change in reporting mechanisms. This peak was followed by a decrease to 2.60% in 2023 and further down to an anticipated 2.10% in 2024. These variations suggest that while there was a temporary spike in bribery encounters, the overall trend is moving towards a reduction. This could reflect the impact of anti-corruption measures or changes in socio-economic conditions that influence bribery rates.

5.9.1. Prevalence by institutions in 2024

Figure 21: Prevalence of bribe by institutions

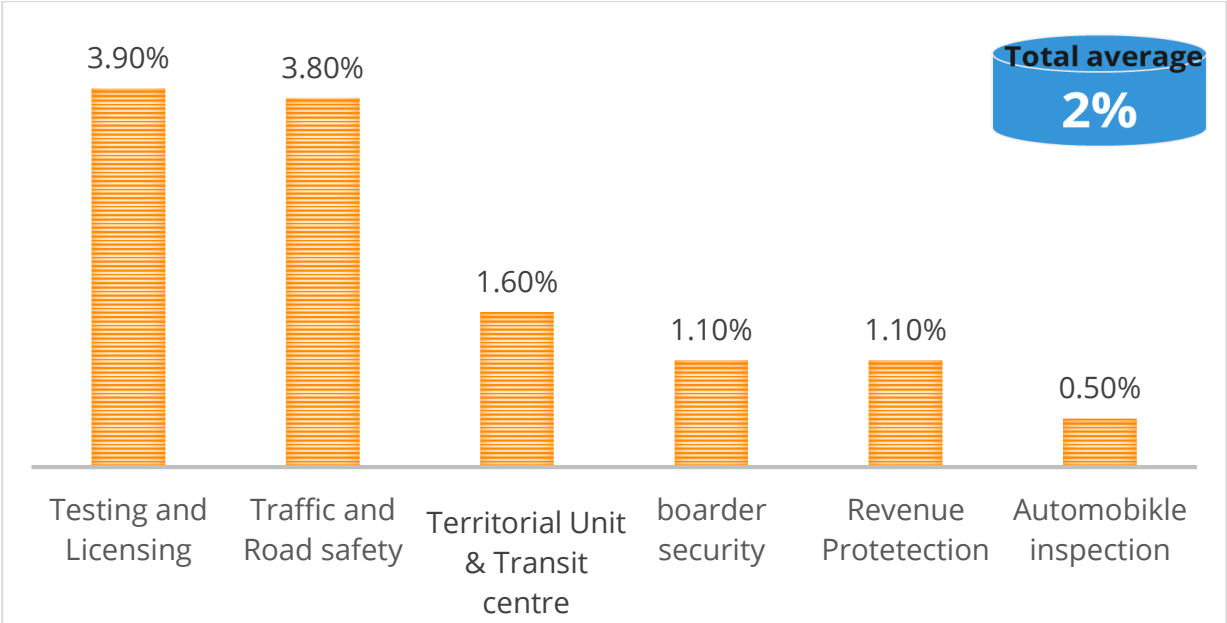


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In 2024, the national prevalence of bribery is at 2.1%, reflecting a slight reduction from previous years. This shows progress in efforts to combat corruption at a national level. However, certain institutions still show higher bribery rates. Rwanda Energy Group (REG) has the highest rate at 6.60%, indicating significant corruption in the energy sector. Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) follows with 5.90%, suggesting notable bribery in

water and sanitation services. The Private Sector has a prevalence of 4.10%, showing persistent issues in business dealings. Judges have a prevalence of 3.50%, indicating concerns about corruption in the judiciary, while Local Government (LG) stands at 3.20%, reflecting ongoing issues at the local government level. Universities have a prevalence of 3%, suggesting some corruption in higher education. Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) is at 2.90%, reflecting concerns in tax administration. Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) and the Rwanda National Police (RNP) average are both at 2%, which is below the national level of 2.1%, indicating relatively lower corruption payment concerns within these institutions.

Figure 22: Prevalence of bribe in Rwanda National Police (data disaggregated by department)

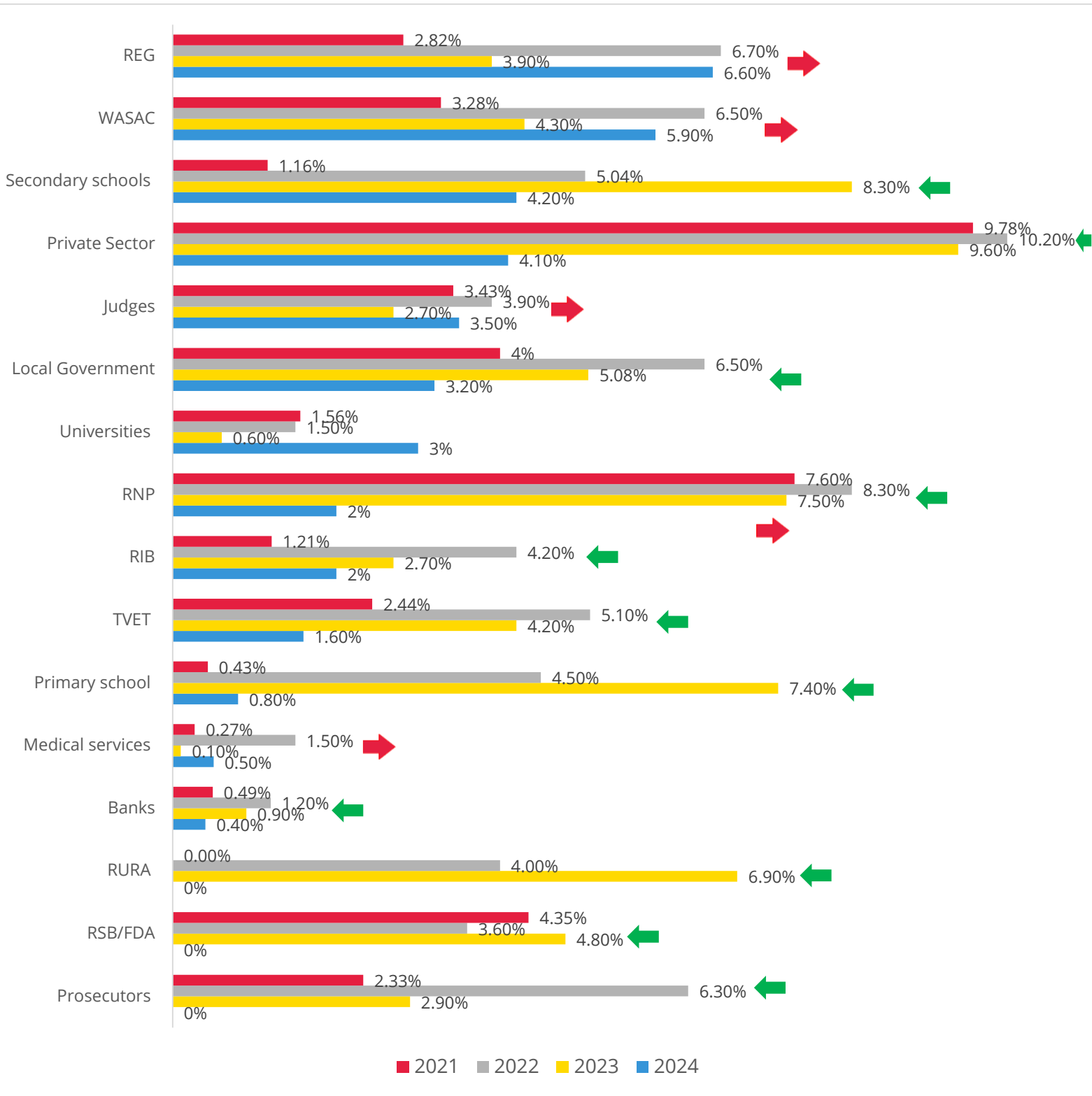


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) average is at 2%, which is slightly below the national level. However, within the RNP, certain services show higher rates of bribery. For instance, Testing and Licensing has a bribery prevalence of 3.90%, indicating that individuals frequently encounter payment for bribes during these processes, which undermines the integrity and fairness of these procedures. Similarly, the traffic and road safety sector have a bribery prevalence of 3.80%, highlighting significant concerns in traffic-related matters. These figures reveal ongoing challenges in ensuring fair and transparent operations within the police force, despite the overall RNP average being below the national level.

The trend below provides a detail analysis of the prevalence of bribery in various sectors in Rwanda from 2021 to 2024.

Figure 23: Trend of the prevalence of bribe in selected institutions (2020 – 2024)



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In the private sector, the prevalence of bribery has shown a decreasing trend over the years. In 2021, the prevalence was 13%, slightly decreasing to 12.87% in 2022. It continued to decline to 12.20% in 2023 and further down to 10.20% in 2024. This downward trend indicates an improvement in ethical practices and a reduction in corruption. However, the initial high rates suggest that corruption has been a significant issue, impacting fair competition and business integrity. As bribery decreases, it fosters a more level playing field and can attract more investments.

The trend in secondary schools is concerning as it shows a significant increase in the prevalence of bribery. In 2021, the prevalence was 4.20%, which slightly decreased to 3.04% in 2022. However, it rose sharply to 8.30% in 2023 and further to 9.40% in 2024. This rising trend is troubling because it undermines the quality of education. Bribery in schools may lead to unfair advantages for some students, affecting academic integrity and the overall learning environment. This corruption can demotivate students and teachers, eroding trust in the education system.

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) has experienced a steady increase in the prevalence of bribery from 2021 to 2024. The rate was 7.80% in 2021, which decreased slightly to 7.40% in 2022 but then increased to 8.30% in 2023 and further to 9.40% in 2024. This increasing trend affects public safety and trust in law enforcement. When bribery is prevalent, it compromises the police's ability to enforce laws fairly and protect citizens effectively, leading to a lack of confidence in the police force.

For local government, the prevalence of bribery increased from 4.80% in 2021 to 6.50% in 2023, with a slight decrease to 6.40% in 2024. This fluctuation indicates ongoing challenges in reducing corruption within local government institutions. Corruption in local government can lead to inefficient public services, misallocation of resources, and reduced trust in local authorities.

The prevalence of bribery in WASAC shows a slight decrease in 2022 (6.50%) from 7.20% in 2021 but then returned to 7.20% in 2023 and 2024. The stable yet high level of bribery indicates persistent corruption issues in the water and sanitation sector. This affects the equitable distribution of water services, leading to delays and inequality in access to essential services.

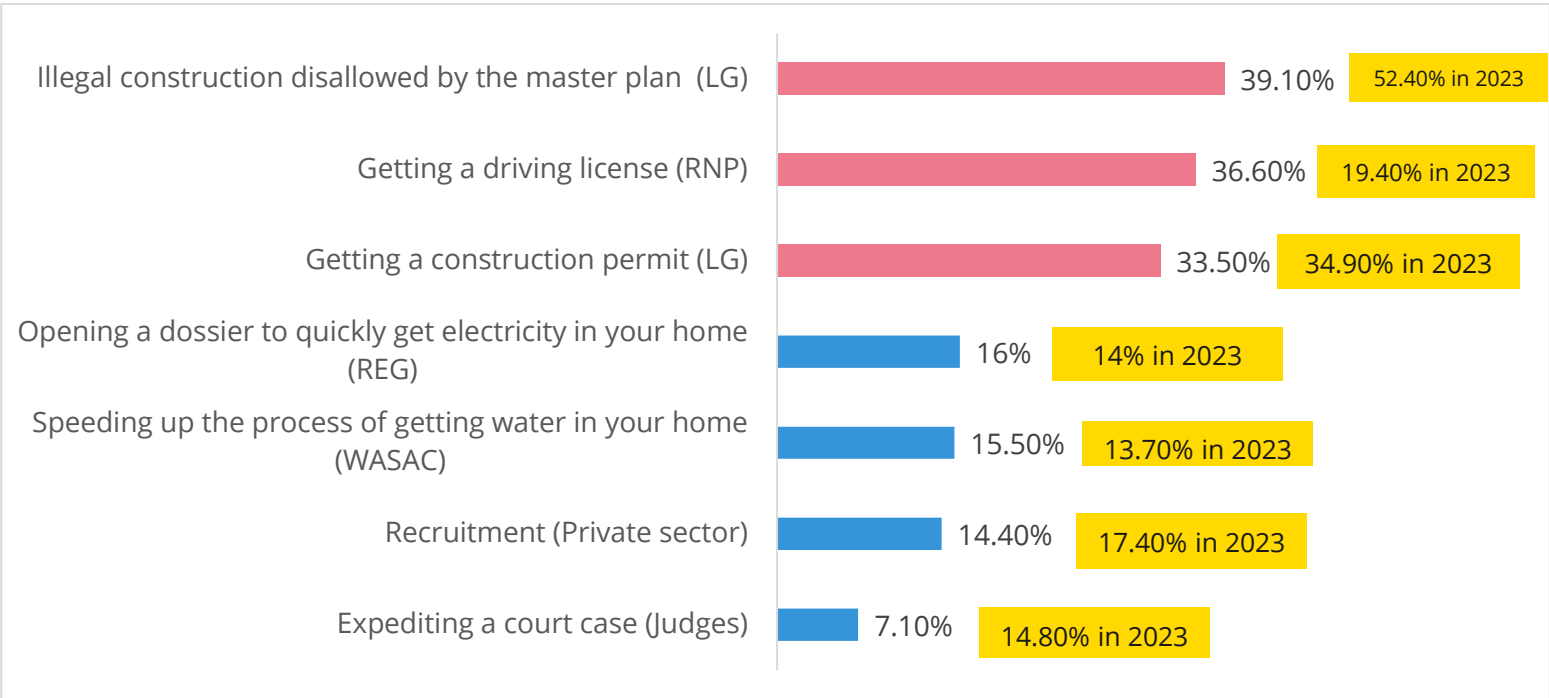
REG shows an increasing trend in the prevalence of bribery from 5.10% in 2021 to 6.70% in 2023 and 2024. Corruption in the energy sector can affect the reliability and fairness of electricity services, leading to increased costs and access issues for consumers.

The prevalence of bribery in RIB saw a significant increase from 2.80% in 2021 to 6.70% in 2022, with a slight decrease and stabilization at 6.30% in 2023 and 2024. This indicates ongoing corruption issues within the investigative bureau, affecting the integrity and effectiveness of investigation.

Among judges, the prevalence of bribery fluctuated, with a significant increase from 4.20% in 2021 to 6% in 2024. This rising trend undermines the fairness and integrity of the judicial system, leading to mistrust in legal outcomes and justice delivery.

5.10. Services with highest bribe payment in 2024

Figure 24: Services with highest bribe payment in 2024



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In 2024, the services with the highest bribe payments show significant corruption that affects both fairness and efficiency in service delivery. For illegal construction disallowed by the master plan (LG) at 39.10%, this high rate of bribery undermines urban planning and development. People who pay bribes can bypass regulations, leading to unsafe and unregulated buildings, which can harm the community's safety and well-being. Similarly, getting a driving license at 36.60% means that unqualified drivers can obtain licenses through bribes, increasing the risk of traffic accidents and compromising road safety. With getting a construction permit (LG) at 33.50%, bribes can result in non-compliance with

building standards, again posing safety risks and contributing to inefficient urban development.

Speeding up the process of getting water in your home (WASAC) at 15.50% and opening a dossier to quickly get electricity in your home (REG) at 16% indicate that essential utilities are being distributed unfairly. Households that cannot afford to pay bribes might face delays or lack access to water and electricity, affecting their quality of life and perpetuating inequality. Recruitment in the private sector at 14.40% shows that hiring processes are compromised, potentially leading to less qualified individuals being selected for jobs, which can reduce overall productivity and foster a culture of corruption. Expediting a court case (Judges) at 7.10% undermines the judicial system, as individuals who can pay bribes might receive faster or more favorable outcomes, eroding trust in legal processes and perpetuating injustice.

Comparing the 2024 findings with 2023, we see some changes in bribery rates. Illegal construction disallowed by the master plan (LG) decreased from 52.40% in 2023 to 39.10% in 2024, showing some improvement. However, getting a driving license increased significantly from 19.40% in 2023 to 36.60% in 2024, indicating worsening conditions. Getting a construction permit (LG) decreased slightly from 34.90% in 2023 to 33.50% in 2024. Speeding up the process of getting water in your home (WASAC) increased from 13.70% in 2023 to 15.50% in 2024, and also opening a dossier to quickly get electricity in your home (REG) saw an increase from 14% in 2023 to 16% in 2024. Recruitment in the private sector decreased from 17.40% in 2023 to 14.40% in 2024, and expediting a court case (Judges) significantly decreased from 14.80% in 2023 to 7.10% in 2024. These trends highlight ongoing efforts to address corruption but also reveal areas where bribery has worsened, affecting the fairness and efficiency of service delivery.

5.11. Prevalence and likelihood of bribe among busing people in 2024

Figure 25: Bribe occurrences among the business community (SDG16.5.1 and SDG 16.5.2)

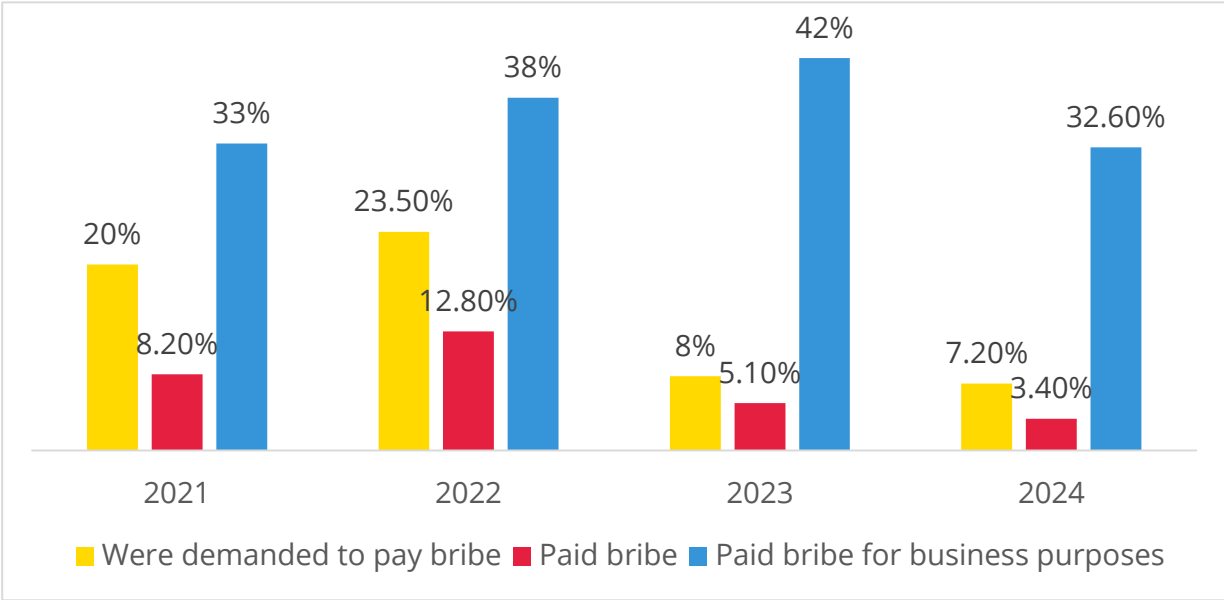


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In 2024, the data shows that 7.2% of business people were asked to pay a bribe, and 3.4% of them actually paid the bribe. Furthermore, 32.6% of business people paid a bribe for business purposes. This means that many business transactions involve bribery, which is a big problem for fairness and honesty in business.

5.11.1. Trend of Prevalence and Likelihood of Bribe among Business People

Figure 26: Trend of prevalence and likelihood of bribe among business people – SDG 16.5



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In 2024, the data shows that 7.2% of business people were asked to pay a bribe, and 3.4% of them actually paid the bribe. Additionally, 32.6% of business people paid a bribe for business purposes. This high rate of bribery indicates ongoing issues with corruption in business transactions, affecting fairness and honesty.

Comparing these figures to previous years, we see both decreases and increases. In 2021, 20% of business people were asked to pay a bribe, 8.20% paid a bribe, and 33% paid a bribe for business purposes. In 2022, these numbers increased to 23.50%, 12.80%, and 38%, respectively. However, in 2023, the figures for being asked to pay a bribe and paying a bribe dropped to 8% and 5.10%, while the rate for paying a bribe for business purposes increased to 42%. The 2024 data shows a slight further decrease in being asked to pay a bribe and paying a bribe but a decrease in paying a bribe for business purposes compared to 2023. Overall, there has been a general decline in the prevalence and likelihood of bribe

payments among business people from 2021 to 2024, indicating some progress in reducing corruption.

5.12. Average amount of bribes paid in 2024

Table 1: Average amount of bribes paid

Institutions	Average size of bribe (RWF)
Judges	271,428
RNP	106,379
RIB	82,272
Banks	77,200
LG	65,515
WASAC	34,500
RRA	25,222
REG	20,533
Primary school	10,600
Private Sector	9,200
Secondary School	2,000
National Average	65,543

Judges:

Total amount: 1,900,000

- ❖ 600,000Frw: expediting a court case
- ❖ 500,000Frw paid to win a court case
- ❖ 800,000Frw: getting an executory stamp

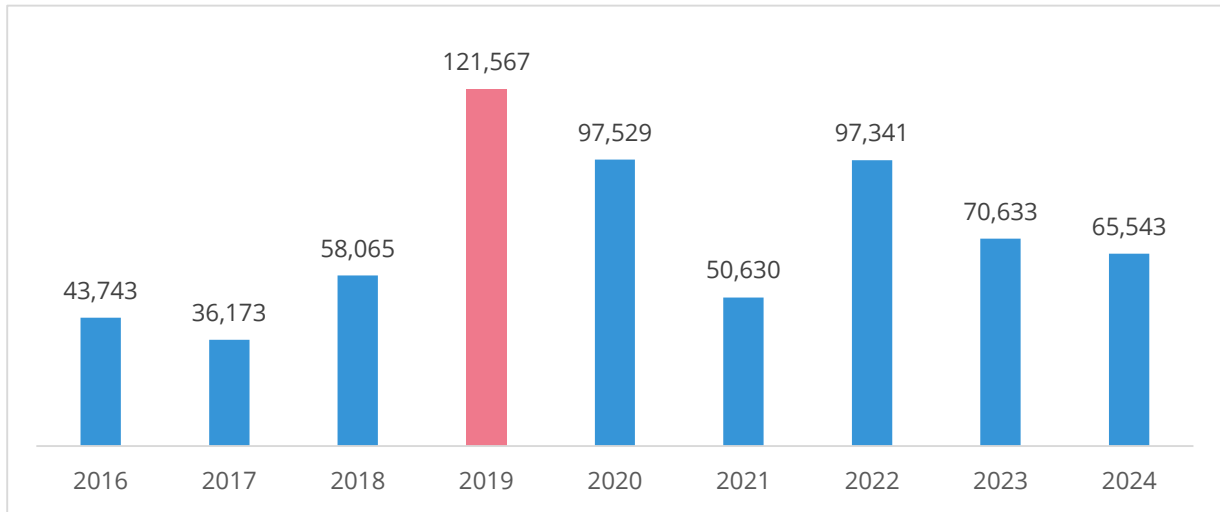
Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In 2024, the national average amount of bribes paid is 65,543 Rwf, with a total amount of 1,900,000 Rwf being paid in bribes. Breaking down this total, 600,000 Rwf was paid to speed up judiciary cases, 500,000 Rwf to win court cases, and 800,000 Rwf for Cachet. The Judiciary institution has the highest amount of bribes paid, indicating significant corruption within the legal system. This undermines the fairness and efficiency of judicial processes, leading to unequal access to justice.

Following the Judiciary, the Rwanda National Police has an average bribe amount of 106,379 Rwf, and the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) follows with 82,272 Rwf. These figures highlight ongoing issues with bribery within these institutions, affecting their ability to serve the public effectively. Such high levels of bribery can lead to a lack of trust in these institutions, decreased public safety, and a broader impact on societal integrity and governance.

5.12.1. Trend for Average Amount of Bribes Paid in 2024

Figure 27: Trend for average amount of bribes paid in the last 12 months (2016 – 2024)



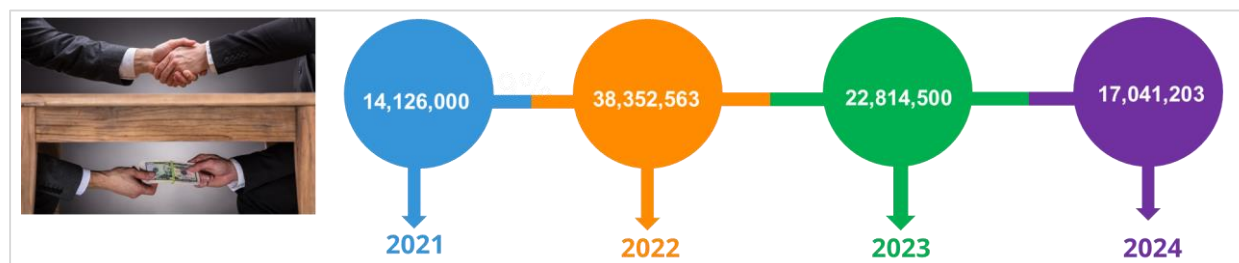
Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In 2024, the national average amount of bribes paid is 65,543 Rwf. Comparing this to previous years, in 2021 the average was 50,630 Rwf, in 2022 it was 97,341 Rwf, and in 2023 it was 70,633 Rwf. This comparison shows that the average amount of bribes paid in 2024 has decreased from the high in 2022 but is still higher than in 2021, indicating fluctuating trends in bribery amounts over the years.

Overall, the average amount of bribes paid in 2024 has decreased compared to 2023 and 2022, but it has increased from 2021. This suggests that while there has been some progress in reducing bribery amounts from the peak in 2022, the efforts need to continue to achieve further reduction and maintain consistent lower levels of bribery.

5.12.2. Trend of the Total Amount of Bribes Paid in 2024

Figure 28: Trend of the total amount of bribes paid (2021 – 2024)

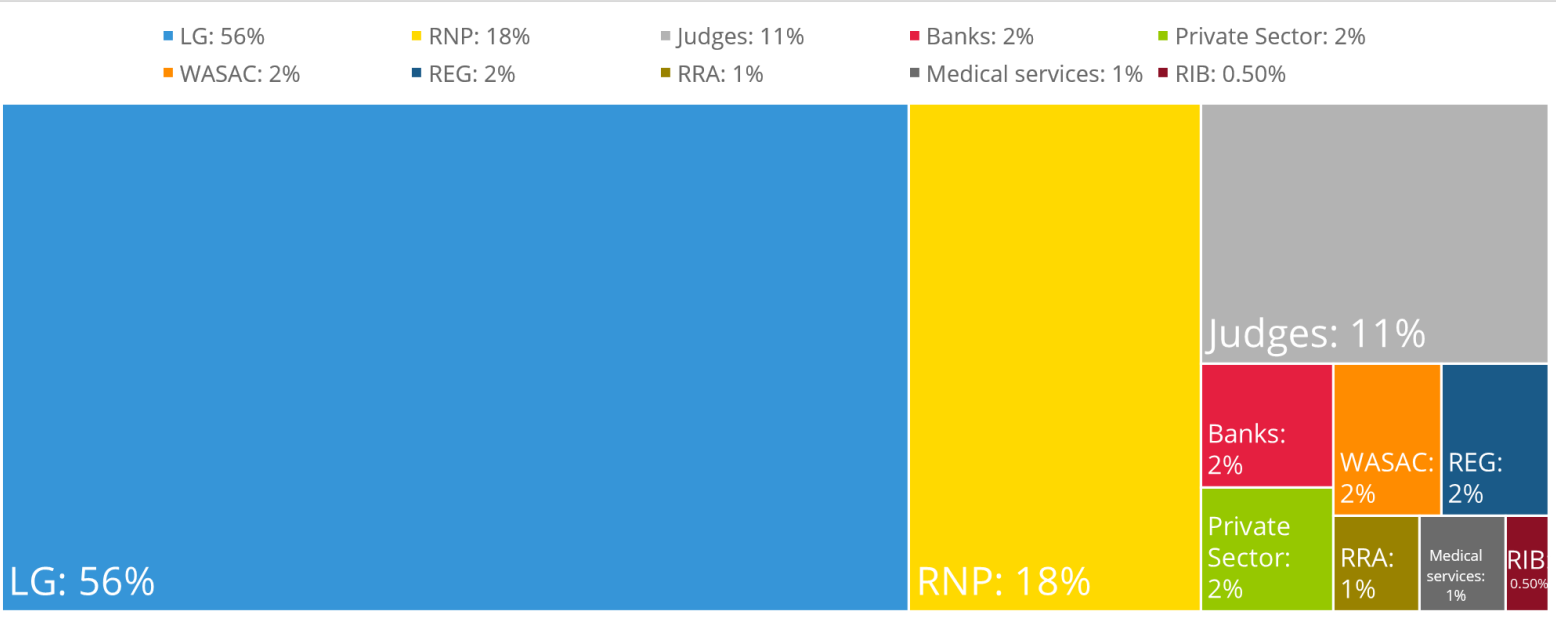


Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In 2024, the total amount of bribes paid was 17,041,203 Rwf. This represents a decrease compared to 2023, where the total amount was 22,814,500 Rwf, and a significant decrease from 2022, when it was 38,352,563 Rwf. However, compared to 2021, when the total amount of bribes paid was 14,126,000 Rwf, there is an increase in 2024. These figures indicate fluctuating trends in bribery over the years, with a notable reduction in the total amount of bribes paid in 2024 compared to the peak in 2022, suggesting some progress in anti-corruption efforts despite an increase from 2021.

5.13. Share of bribe by institutions in 2024

Figure 29: Share of bribe by institutions



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In 2024, the data shows that the Local Government (LG) has the highest share of bribes at 56%. This indicates a significant level of corruption within local government institutions, which can lead to inefficiency in governance, misuse of public funds, and loss of public trust. For the community, this translates to poor service delivery, limited access to essential services, and increased inequality. People might have to pay bribes to get basic services like permits or approvals, which can delay projects and increase costs unfairly.

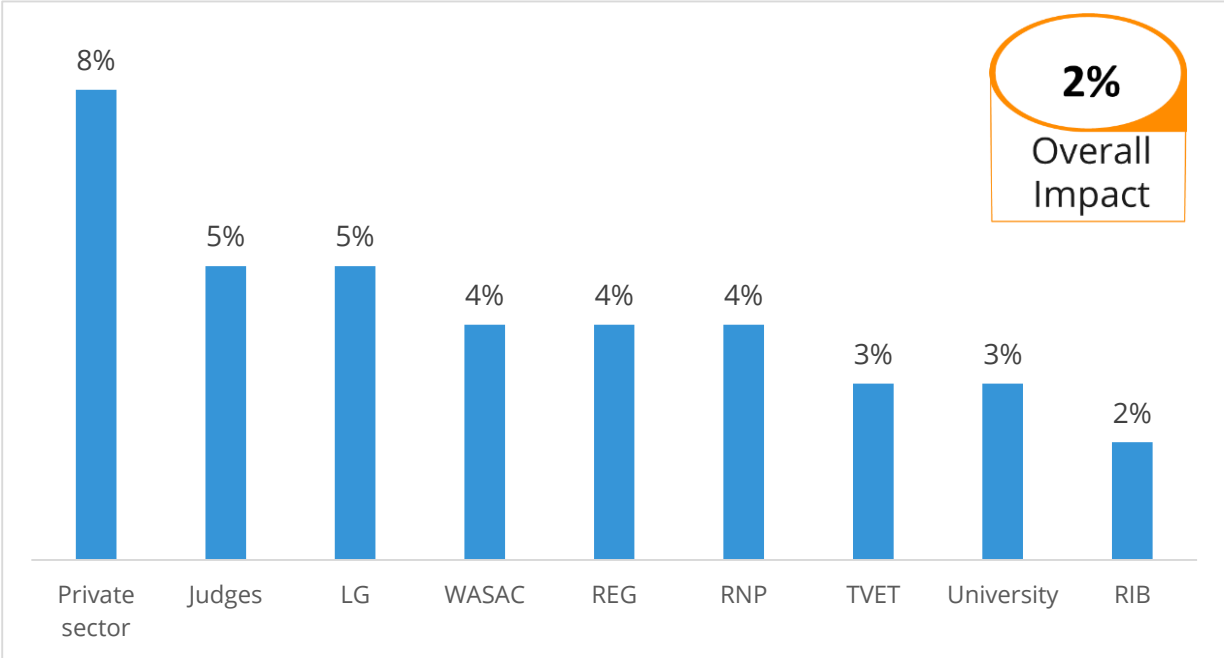
The Rwanda National Police (RNP) holds 18% of the bribe share. Such corruption within the police force undermines law enforcement, leading to biased or unfair treatment of citizens, increased crime rates, and a general sense of insecurity. This diminishes public confidence in the police, making it harder to maintain order and safety.

Judges account for 11% of the bribes. Corruption in the judiciary severely impacts the justice system, resulting in unfair trials, wrongful convictions, and a lack of accountability. This erodes trust in legal institutions, deters people from seeking justice, and perpetuates social injustices. As a result, those with financial means can manipulate the judicial process, leading to unequal treatment before the law and overall societal disillusionment with the fairness of the system.

Overall, these high levels of bribery within key institutions suggest systemic corruption that significantly hampers government effectiveness and service delivery. It affects the government's ability to implement policies and provide services equitably, ultimately impacting the quality of life and development of the community. Addressing these issues is crucial for improving governance and ensuring fair, transparent, and efficient service delivery.

5.14. Perceived impact of bribe in 2024

Figure 30: Impact of bribe



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

In 2024, the overall perceived impact of bribery is 2.00%. The Private Sector stands out with the highest perceived impact at 8%, indicating that bribery significantly affects business operations and interactions, leading to unfair advantages and undermining the integrity of market activities. Judges and Local Government (LG) both have a perceived impact of 5%, showing that corruption in these areas significantly affects the fairness and efficiency of judicial processes and local governance. WASAC (Water and Sanitation Corporation), REG (Rwanda Energy Group), and the Rwanda National Police (RNP) each have a perceived impact of 4%, indicating that bribery affects the delivery of essential services and law enforcement. TVT (Technical and Vocational Training) and Universities each have a perceived impact of 3%, suggesting that bribery in education and training sectors can compromise the quality and accessibility of these services. The Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) has the same overall impact of 2.00%, implying a lower but still present concern about bribery within this institution.

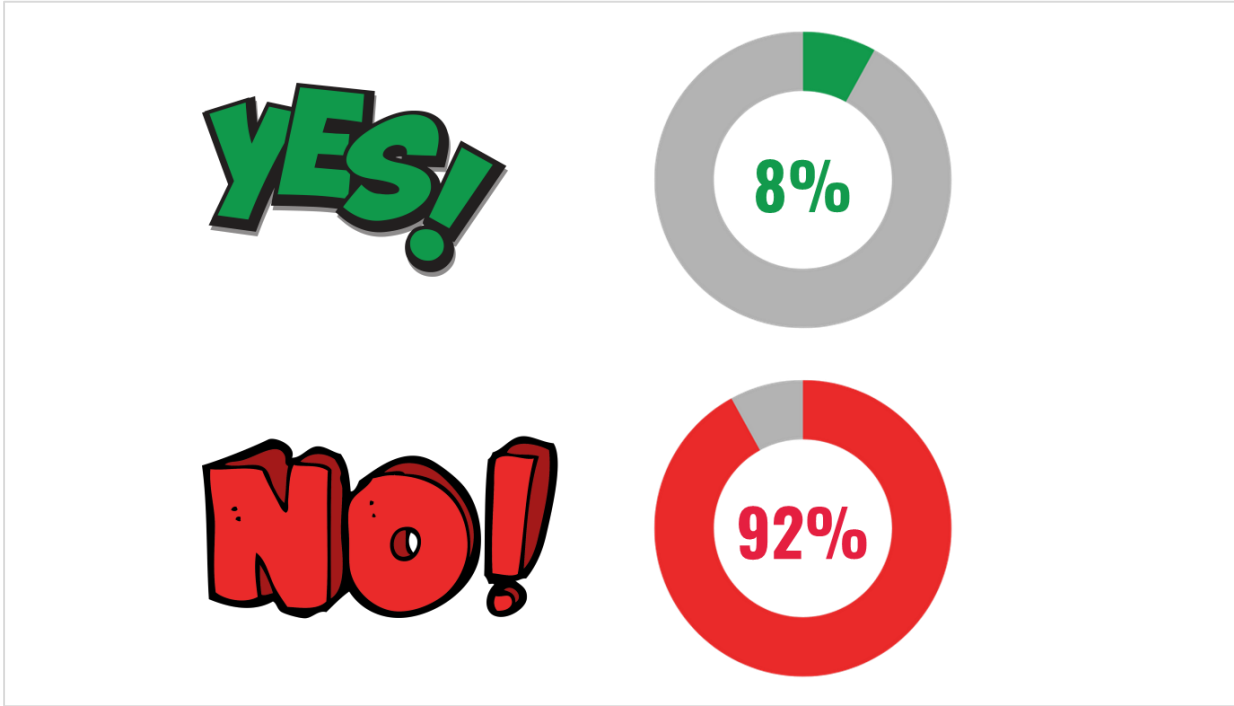
Beyond affecting fairness, bribery also impacts other areas significantly. It leads to inefficiencies in service delivery as processes are delayed and resources diverted. This impacts economic growth by deterring investments and raising costs for businesses. The quality of services provided deteriorates, as priority is given to those who can pay bribes, resulting in substandard services and infrastructure. Public trust in institutions is eroded, leading to reduced civic engagement and cooperation. Bribery exacerbates legal and social inequality, allowing those with financial means to bypass legal requirements and gain unfair advantages. Lastly, persistent bribery erodes moral and ethical standards, fostering a culture of corruption that can have long-lasting negative effects on societal values and behavior.

These areas highlight the broad and damaging effects of bribery, impacting efficiency, economic health, service quality, public trust, and social equality, underscoring the need for comprehensive anti-corruption efforts.

5.15. Corruption reporting in 2024

In 2024, data on corruption reporting reveals that only 8% of individuals reported instances of corruption, while a staggering 92% did not report any corrupt activities. This stark difference suggests that the huge majority of people are either unwilling or unable to report corruption.

Figure 31: Reporting corruption



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

5.15.1. Reasons for not reporting corruption

Figure 32: Reasons for not reporting corruption



Source: TI-Rwanda RBI 2024 primary data

The reasons why individuals did not report corruption in 2024 are varied and reflect significant barriers to effective anti-corruption efforts. The most common reason was fear of self-incrimination, which was 24.7% of respondents. This suggests that many individuals

who encounter corruption may be involved in illegal activities themselves and fear repercussions if they report such incidents.

Another major reason, accounting for 19.2%, was that reporting corruption simply did not occur to them. This indicates a lack of awareness or a sense of futility about the reporting process. No action being taken after reports was a reason for 17.8% of respondents, highlighting skepticism about the effectiveness of reporting and a possible lack of trust in the authorities responsible for addressing corruption. A significant portion, 16%, didn't know where to report corruption, pointing to gaps in information and accessibility of reporting mechanisms. Fear of intimidation was 11.5% of individuals, showing that threats and retaliation are real concerns for those who might consider coming forward. Another 7.3% believed that the institution, official, or person to whom they would report are also corrupt, reflecting deep-seated distrust in the system's ability to handle corruption effectively. Lastly, 3.4% had other reasons not specified in the survey.

Overall, these reasons underline the urgent need for better protection for whistle blowers, enhanced public awareness campaigns, more accessible reporting channels, and stronger assurances that reports of corruption will be taken seriously and acted upon to build trust and encourage more individuals to report corruption.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This Rwanda Bribery Index is an annual survey that aims to analyse the experience and perception of Rwandans with regard to bribe incidences in the country. The study uses mainly the quantitative approach to collect data from a national representative sample of respondents aged beyond 18 years in Eleven districts of Rwanda.

The 2024 RBI indicates that the perception of corruption has decreased from 2023 and that the majority of respondents believe their government is effectively fighting corruption. With regard to the experience of bribe, the 2024 RBI shows a decrease of bribe encountered compared to the last year. The current study also reveals that the Private sector, the Rwanda National Police, REG, WASAC, local government and Judges took the lead in as far as the likelihood of bribe is concerned.

The prevalence of bribery from 2021 to 2024 shows significant fluctuations. A peak was observed in 2021 followed by a decrease to 2.60% in 2023 and further down to an anticipated 2.10% in 2024. These variations suggest that while there was a temporary spike in bribe payment the overall trend is moving towards a reduction.

In 2024, the national average amount of bribes paid is 65,543 Rwf, with a total amount of 1,900,000 Rwf being paid in bribes. Breaking down this total, 600,000 Rwf was paid to speed up judiciary cases, 500,000 Rwf to win court cases, and 800,000 Rwf for Cachet. The Judiciary institution has the highest amount of bribes paid, indicating significant corruption within the legal system. This undermines the fairness and efficiency of judicial processes, leading to unequal access to justice.

As in the previous RBI, the vast majority of respondents who encountered bribes did not report. The main reasons were that “it did not occur to me that I should report, fear of self-incrimination and that they knew no action would be taken even if they reported corruption. These reasons are likely to affect the existing efforts aimed to fight against corruption if nothing is done to address the identified main reasons of not reporting corruption in Rwanda.

Based on RBI 2024 findings, TI-Rwanda propose the following recommendations to relevant institutions or actors.

Table 2: Recommendations

Issue	Recommendations	Concerned actors
Corruption in the private sector compromises fairness in business practices	Require companies to adopt standardized and auditable recruitment processes, with external oversight for senior-level positions.	PSF, MIFOTRA, Private Companies
	Conduct regular audits of recruitment records to identify and address patterns of favoritism or bribery.	PSF, Office of the Ombudsman
	Form committees within high-risk sectors like construction, finance, and trade to monitor corruption risks and promote ethical practices.	PSF, CSOs, Sector-Specific Associations
	Introduce certifications for businesses that implement strong anti-corruption measures (e.g., anti-bribery training, whistle-blowers protection, transparency initiatives).	RDB, MINECOFIN, PSF
REG and WASAC, as government enterprises, are prone to corruption in access to electricity and water	Conduct regular, surprise audits of field operations, such as meter installations and repair services, to identify and address corruption hotspots.	RURA, Office of Ombudsman, NPPA
	Develop public awareness campaigns educating citizens about their rights and procedures to access electricity and water without paying bribes.	REG, WASAC, Media, CSOs
	Foster partnerships with anti-corruption organizations to implement training programs for employees on ethics and accountability.	REG, WASAC, TI-Rw, OTHER CSOs
Corruption in issuing construction permits by the Local Government	Establish strict timelines for each stage of the application process and penalize officials for unjustified delays or irregularities.	Local Government, Office of Ombudsman, RIB
	Conduct regular training for staff in One Stop Centres on ethics, anti-corruption measures, and legal responsibilities.	Local Government, MINALOC, TI-Rw
	Set up anonymous whistle-blowers' channels for reporting corruption in the construction permit process, with strong protections for reporters.	RIB, Office of Ombudsman, Local Government
Corruption among judges demanding bribes to speed	Promote public awareness about legal rights, court processes, and how to report judicial corruption, empowering citizens to resist bribery demands.	CSOs, Media, Office of Ombudsman

up court proceedings or influence decisions		
Corruption in obtaining driving licenses, including bribery for passing tests	Implement regular audits of driving schools and test centers to ensure compliance with ethical and operational standards.	RNP
	Mandate the publication of pass/fail statistics for driving tests to identify unusual patterns indicative of corruption.	RNP
	Conduct regular anti-corruption training for driving test examiners and administrative staff, emphasizing ethical practices and legal consequences of bribery.	RNP, OoO, TI-Rw
	Raise public awareness about the official procedures, costs, and timelines for obtaining a driving license to reduce exploitation due to misinformation.	RNP, Media, CSOs
Low reporting of corruption by victims in Rwanda	Develop a secure, anonymous, and easy-to-use digital reporting platform accessible via mobile apps, SMS, and websites to protect reporters' identities.	Office of Ombudsman, RIB, MINICT
	Establish dedicated anti-corruption desks in all public institutions and private enterprises to collect and address corruption complaints.	Office of Ombudsman, Local Government, PSF
	Strengthen legal frameworks to protect whistleblowers from retaliation, ensuring that laws are effectively enforced.	RIB, NPPA, Ministry of Justice

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