



# **Promises, promises: A decade of allocations for and spending on Anti-Corruption in Papua New Guinea**

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# Introduction

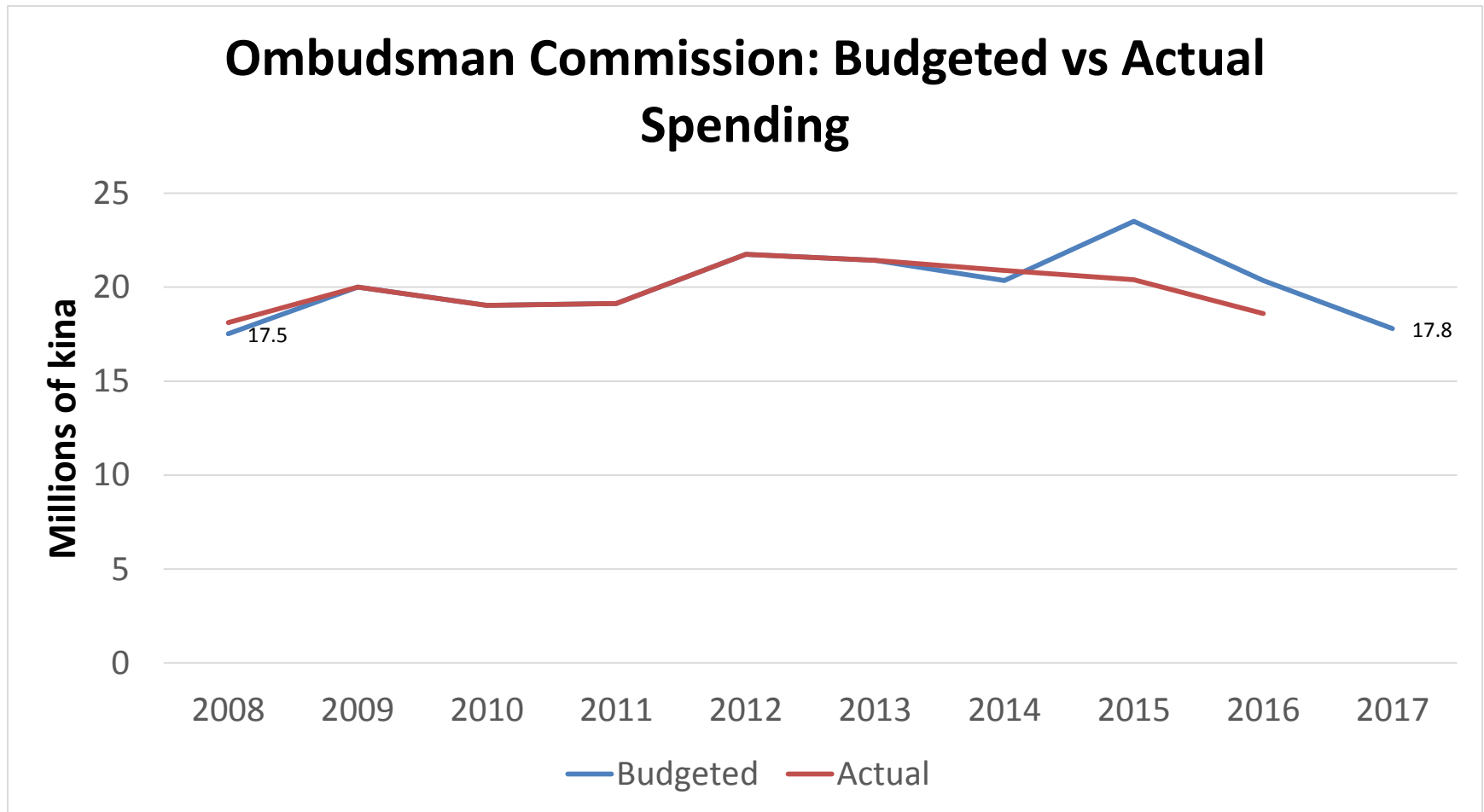
- Much media coverage about anti-corruption efforts in PNG
- However, still much we don't know about the country's anti-corruption agencies.
  - The Ombudsman Commission has not publicly released its annual report since 2005!
- The fortunes of anti-corruption agencies are, in part, embedded in allocations and for spending on these agencies
  - Reveals the degree to which governments fulfil their budgetary promises, and put their money where their mouths are

# Research Questions

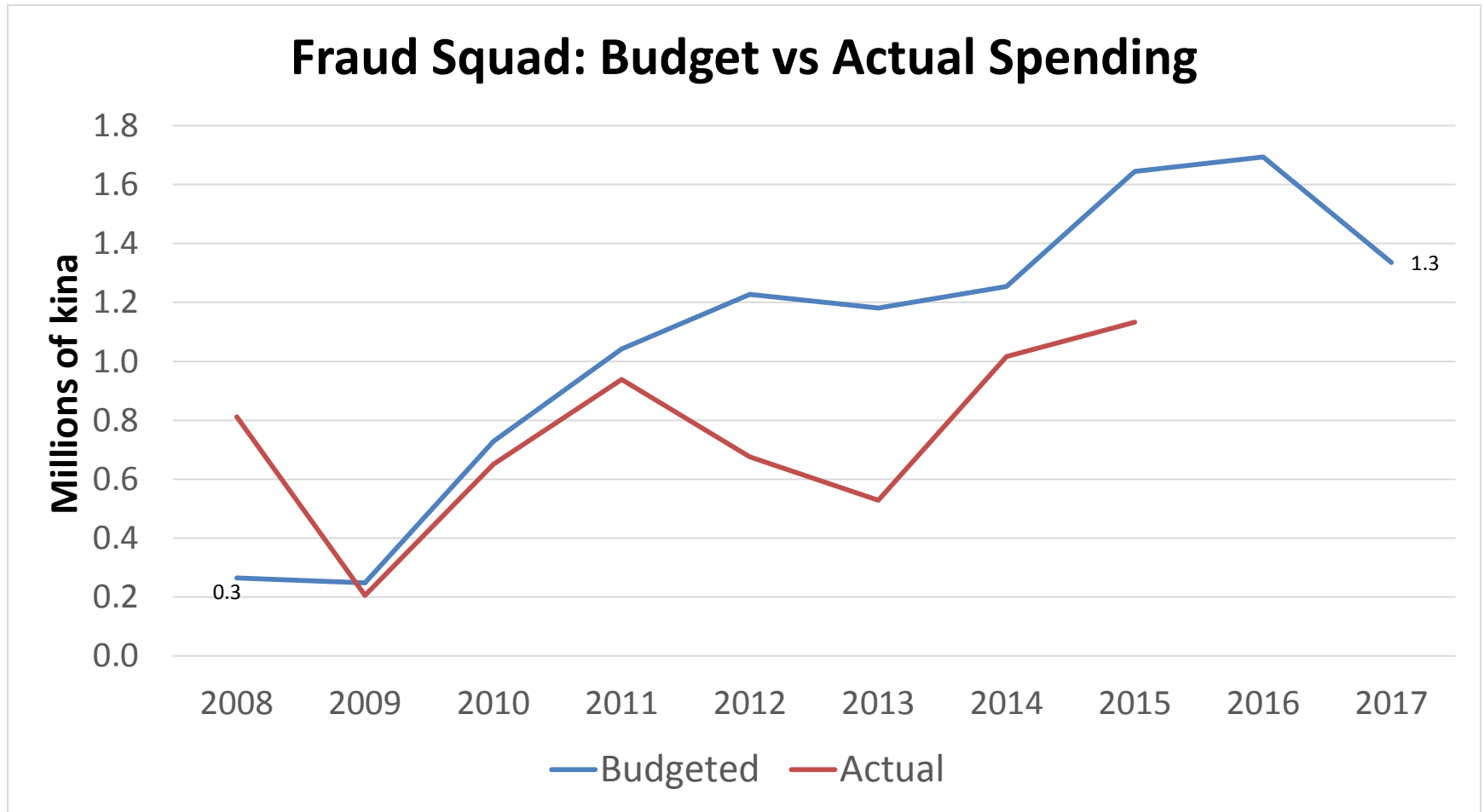
- 1. How have allocations for and spending on anti-corruption organisations changed over time?**
- 2. How does spending on anti-corruption organisations compare to other law and justice organisations, and for overall government spending?**

Mind the gap:  
spending vs allocations

# Ombudsman Commission: budgeted and actual spending in sync until 2015

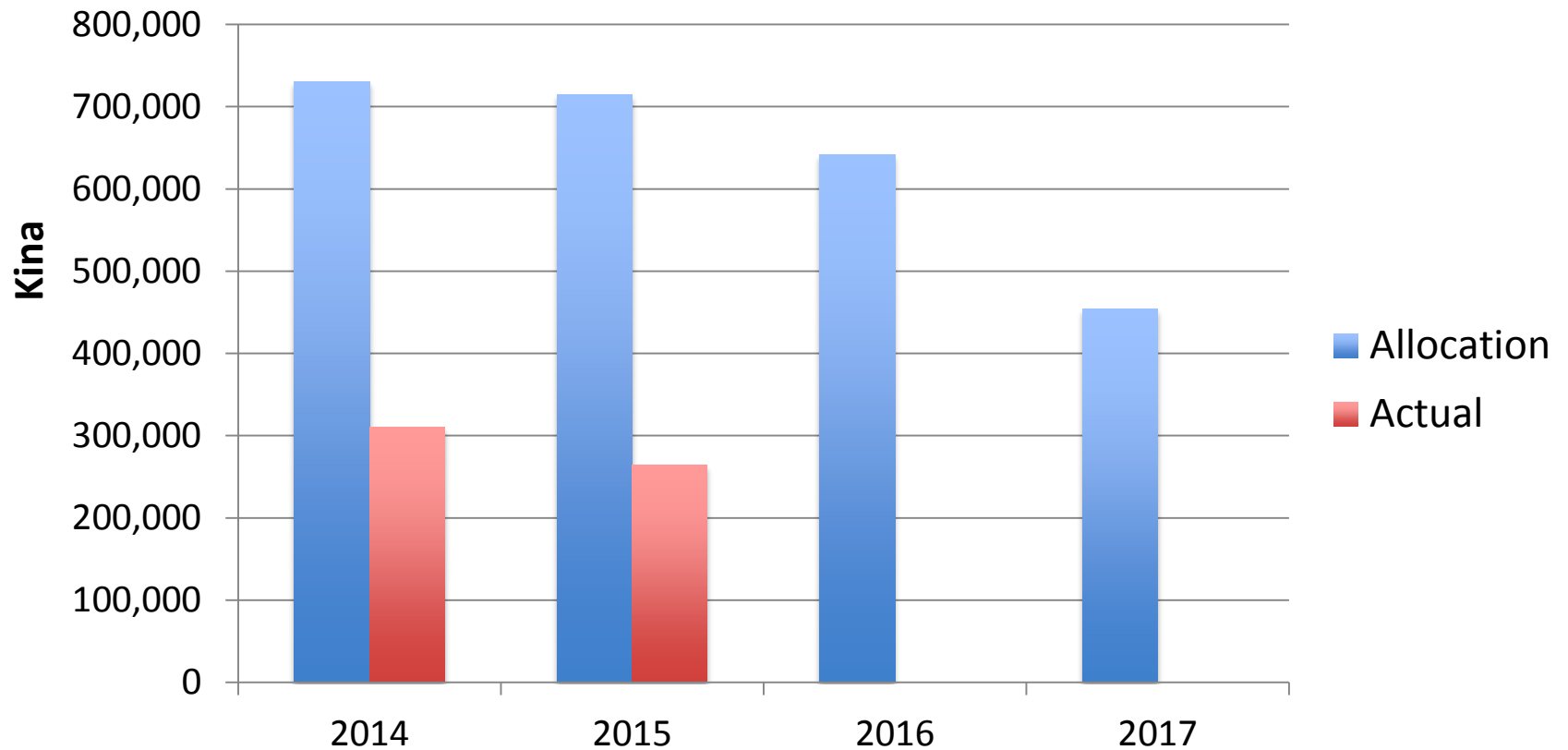


# Fraud squad: large gap between budget and spending



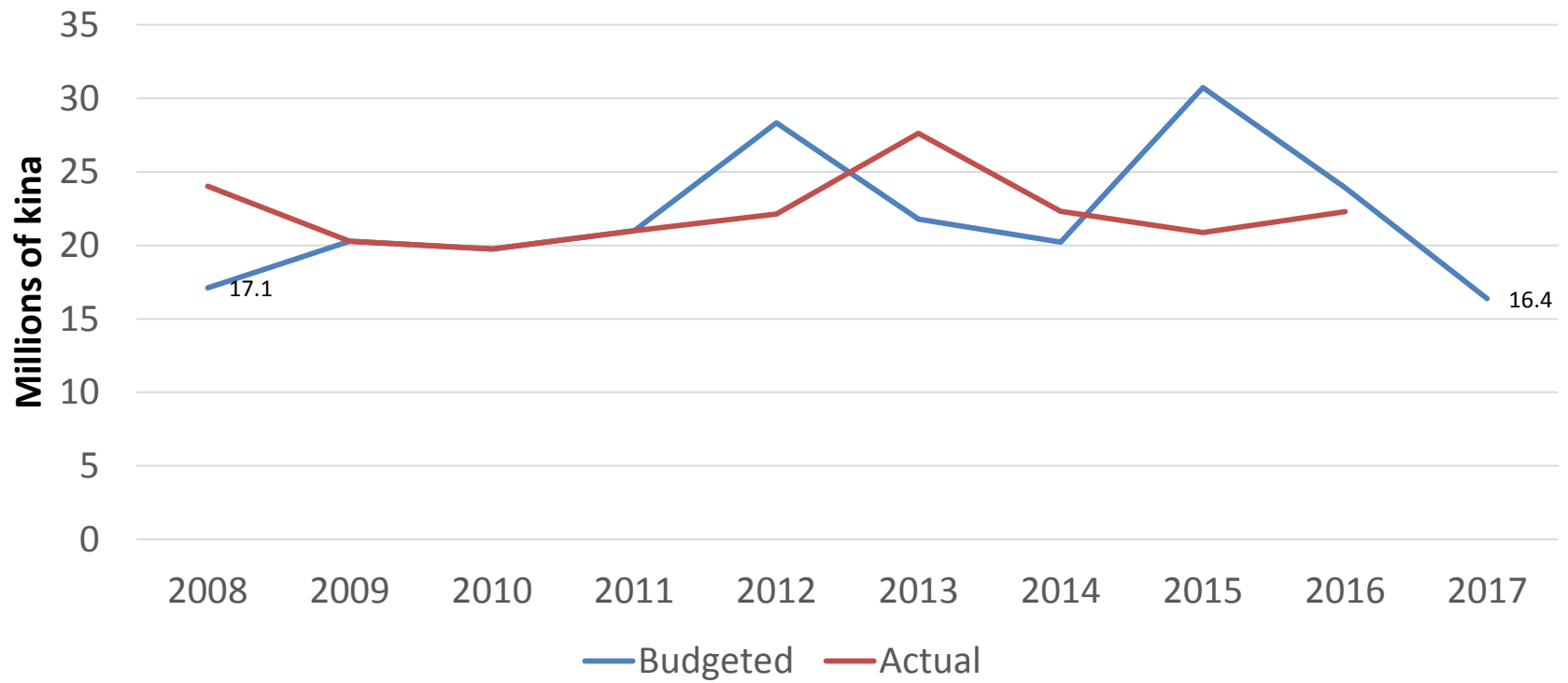
# FIU: spending half of allocations

## FIU: Budgeted vs Actual Spending



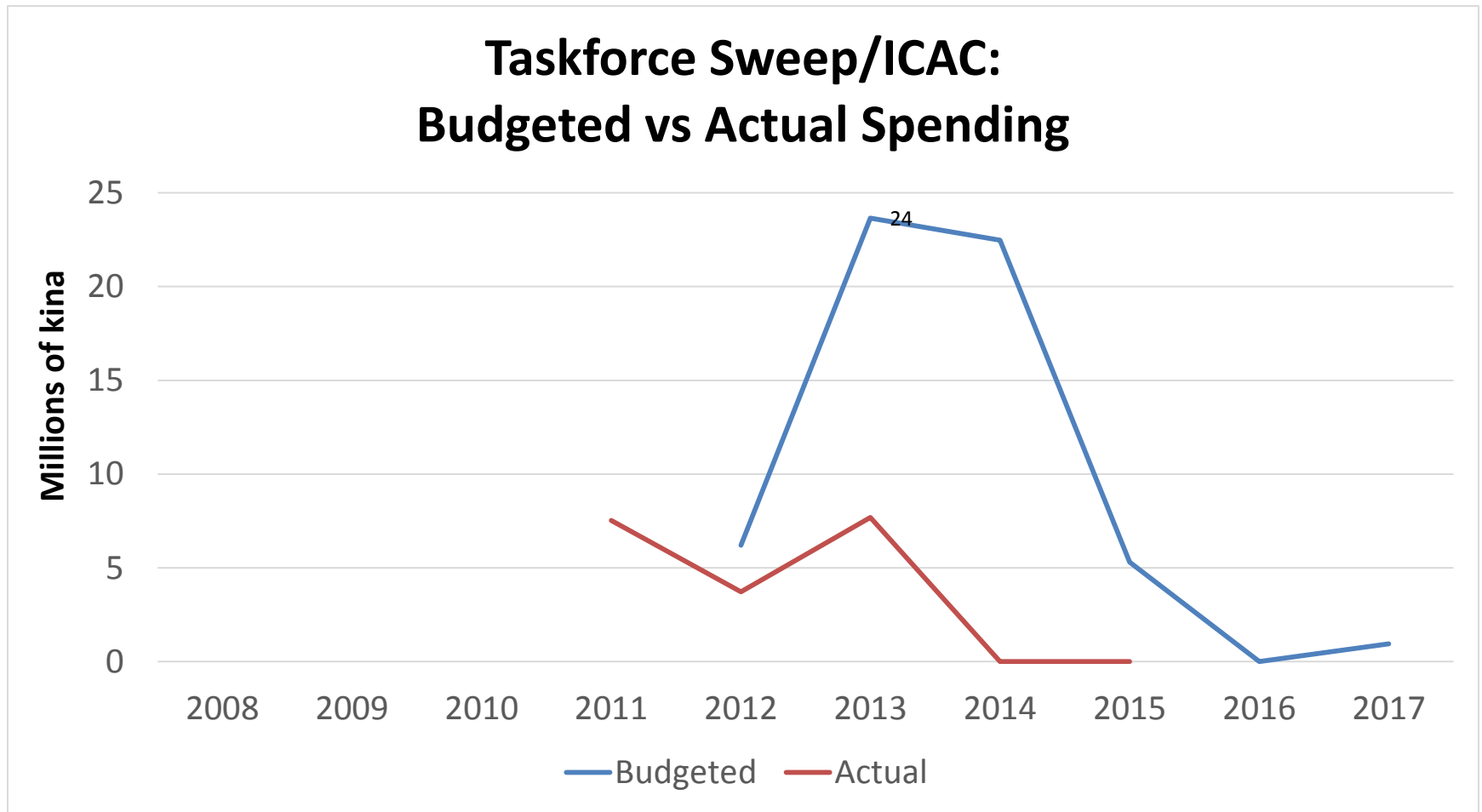
# Auditor General: gaps since 2015; large decline in allocations in 2017

## Auditor General's Office: Budgeted vs Actual Spending



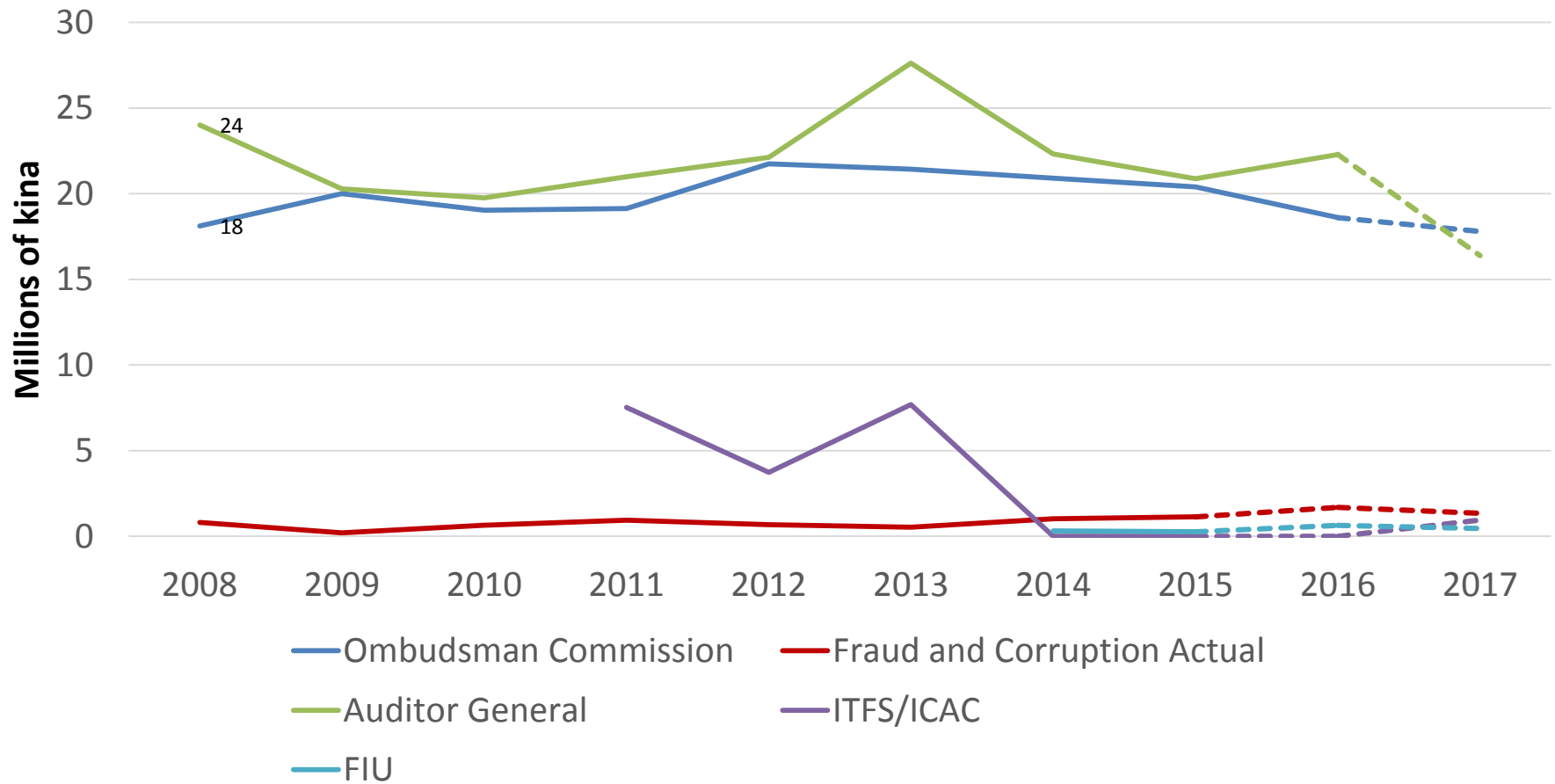


# Taskforce Sweep/ICAC: a tale of unfulfilled promises



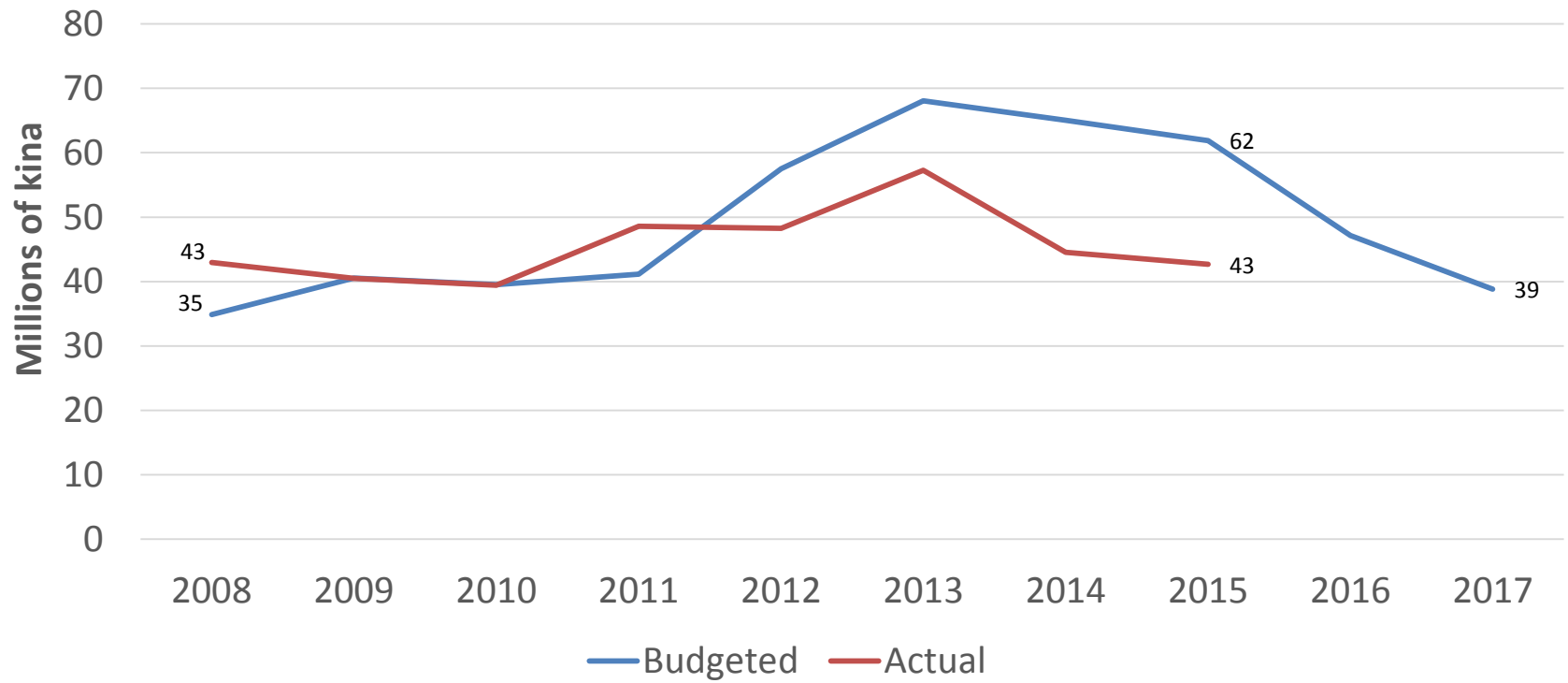
# Most funding to Auditor General and Ombudsman Commission

## Spending on Five Anti-Corruption Agencies



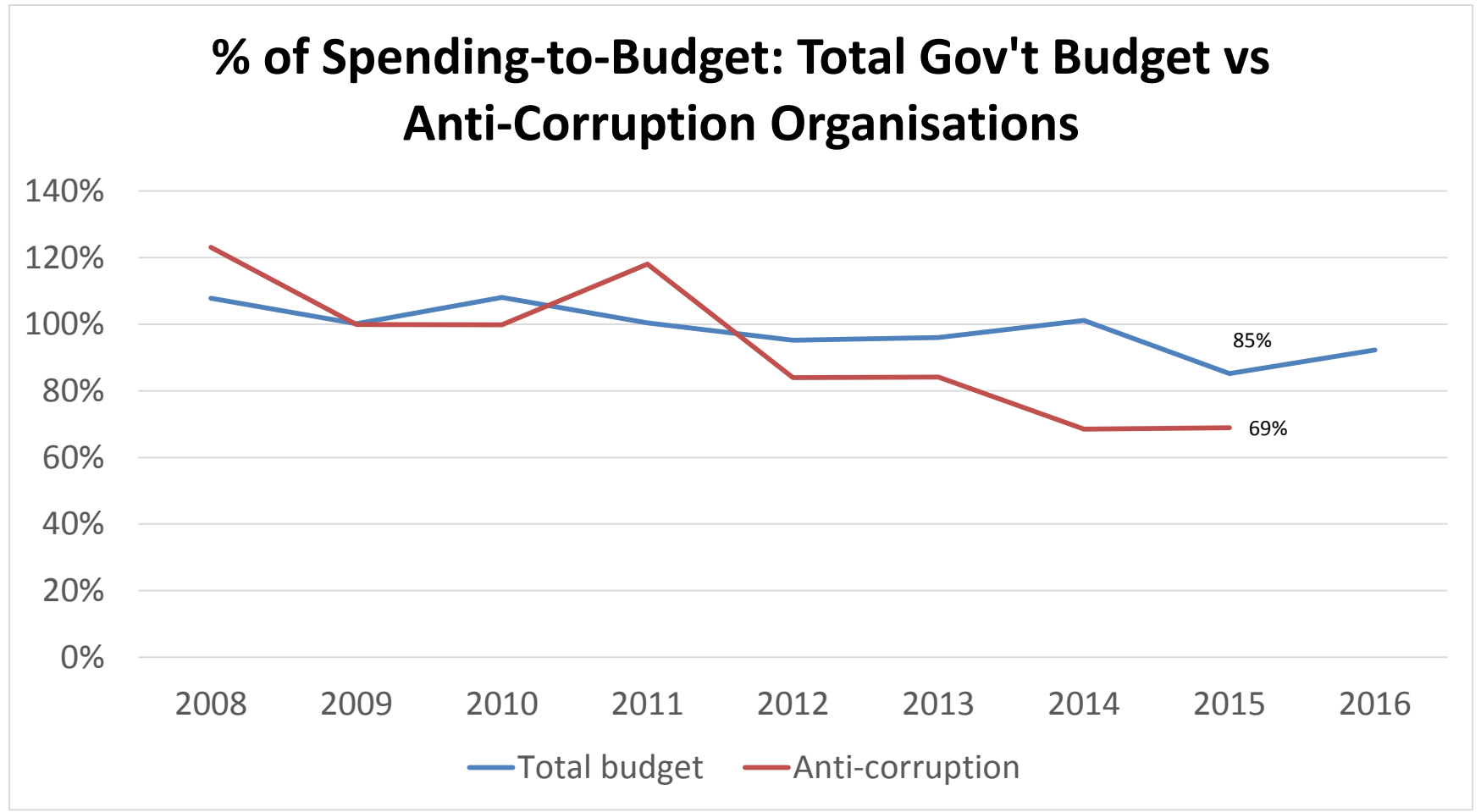
# Total spending less than allocations since 2012

## Total Five Anti-Corruption Organisations: Budgeted vs Actual Spending

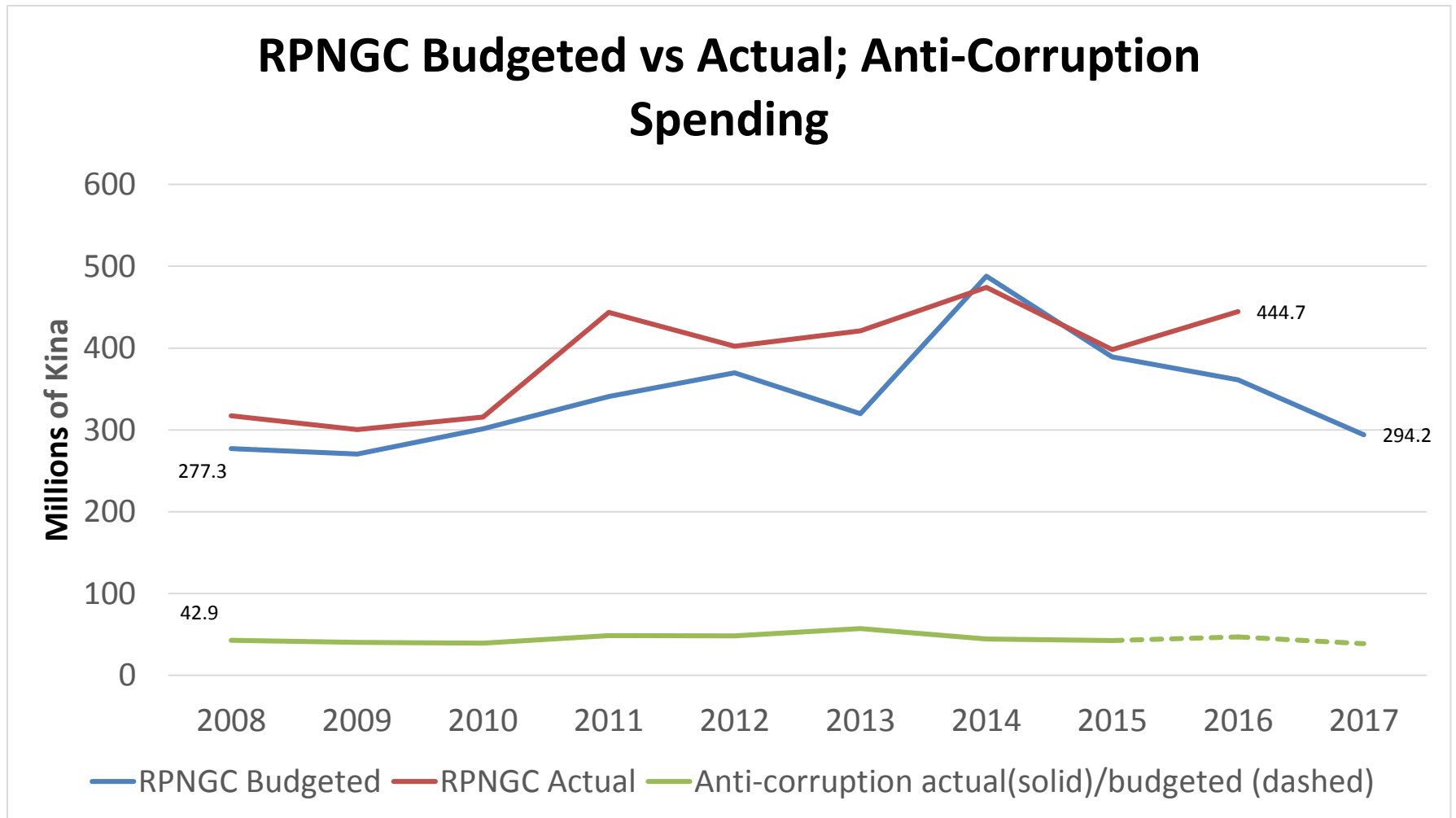


# Comparisons

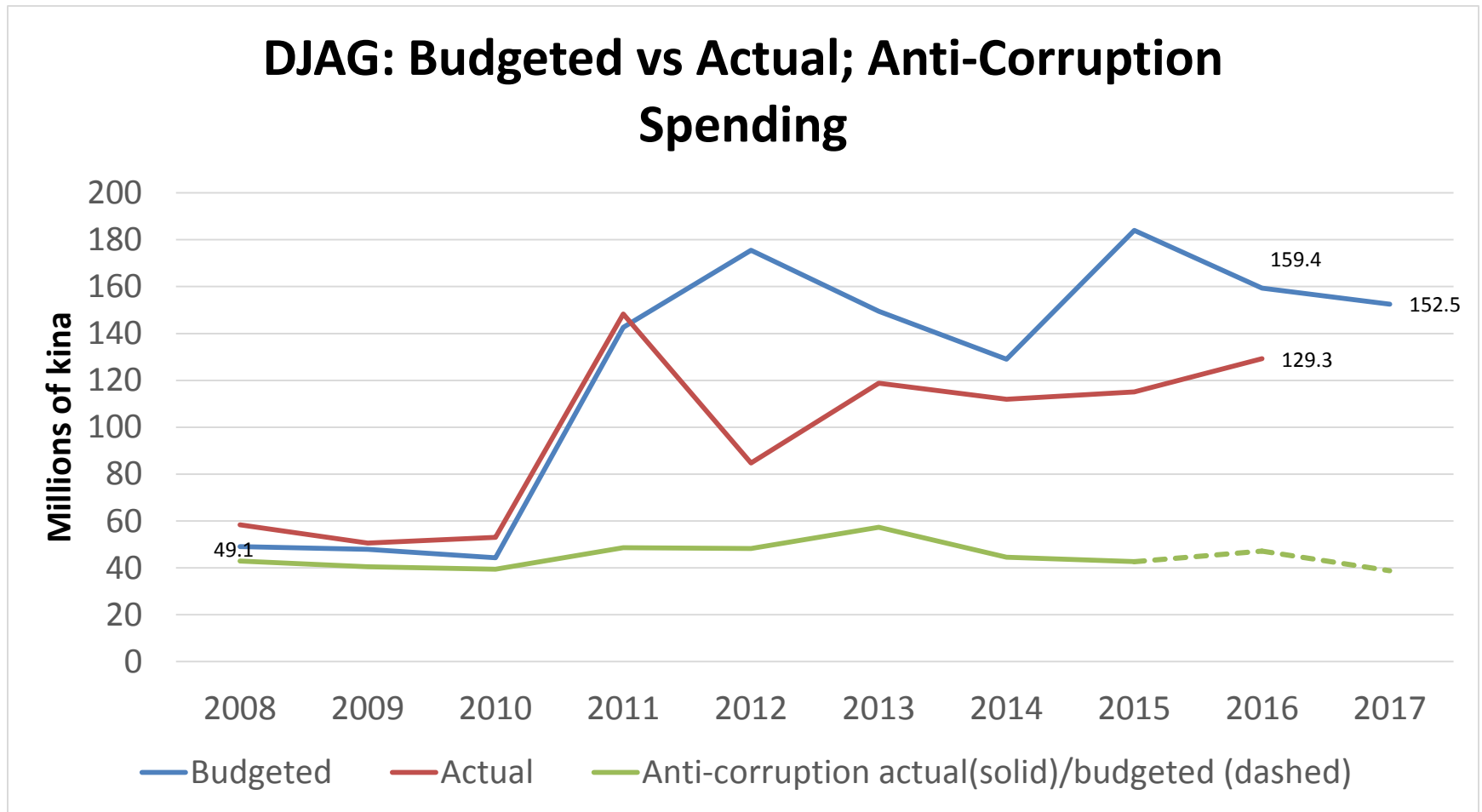
# Spending:budgeted: lower for anti-corruption agencies compare to other areas of government



# RPNGC: spending increases set to unravel



# DJAG: increased spending since 2011



# Conclusions



# How have allocations and spending changed over time?

- Fortunes of anti-corruption agencies have **varied** :
  - funding for Taskforce Sweep dramatically rose and fell within a short period of time,
  - Fraud Squad saw increases.
  - The Ombudsman Commission and the Auditor-General's Office have seen some gains.
- Overall both **allocations and spending** on key anti-corruption organizations have **declined** since 2013
- All agencies have suffered from promised budgetary allocations not materialising,
  - Acute within Taskforce Sweep and the Fraud Squad.
  - Overall, the difference between allocations and spending has been growing since 2012

# How do anti-corruption organisations compare to other government spending?

- Funding for key anti-corruption organisations has reduced in importance relative to other areas;
  - reductions in spending are not simply a function of smaller budgets.
- Combined anti-corruption spending is now miniscule compared to two key law and justice organisations: the DJAG and the RPNGC;
  - (but not always the case with DJAG).

# What to do?

- Monitoring of budgetary allocations and spending
- Further advocacy to ensure funding does not continue to fall, especially if/when an ICAC is established
  - Important not to overlook existing anti-corruption agencies in the rush to introduce a new one
- Still more research required about why underspends and overspends occur.

# Discussion Paper

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3009987](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3009987)