

TI IPP STRONGG IN PAKISTAN

Strengthening Civic Voices in Pakistan

Since 2001, Transparency International Pakistan (TI Pakistan) has been part of the Transparency International global coalition against corruption. The TI Movement brings together chapters operating in more than 100 countries worldwide with an international Secretariat based in Berlin, working towards a shared vision: a world free of corruption.

With support from the *TI Indo-Pacific Partnership for Strong, Transparent, Responsive & Open Networks for Good Governance (TI IPP STRONGG) 2020 – 2023*, TI Pakistan seeks to promote good governance in Pakistan by working at different levels and with different target groups to foster public demand for accountability, improve public service delivery, and strengthen institutions. Building on networks and partnerships established under past projects and initiatives, TI Pakistan scales up its research, advocacy, and social accountability activities through the *Strengthening Civic Voices for Good Governance and Accountability* project to increase stakeholders' engagement in anti-corruption efforts.

Project At A Glance

- Topics of focus:
Citizen engagement through social accountability mechanisms &
Improved anti-corruption frameworks.
- Project timeframe:
1 May 2020 – 31 August 2023
- Locations & project outreach:
Across the country, in both urban and rural areas.
- Budget: 150,000 EUR



'Importance of Access to Information in the Context of COVID-19' webinar (Sukkur IBA University, 28 September 2020) / Picture: © Transparency International Pakistan

BACKGROUND

Overall, Pakistan's score in [Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#) has remained stagnant in the past years (32 points in 2016, 2017, and 2019). This poor performance indicates that corruption is still a major obstacle to the improvement of national governance systems. Despite some progress made regarding legislation and convictions in a few high-profile corruption cases, citizens and civil society expect more accountability and transparency from their leaders and institutions. According to [Transparency International's 2017 Global Corruption Barometer – Asia Pacific \(GCB\)](#), Pakistan has a high bribery rate for the region, and at least 1 citizen out of 6 reported having paid a bribe to access a public service relating to utilities, the police or the judiciary, in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

- **Empowering citizens** to encourage them to take action against corruption, through trainings on Right to Information, provision of free legal advice on corruption-related complaints, and use of Citizen Report Cards to collect evidence of people's perceptions on corruption. The chapter also conducts youth engagement activities and provides tailored trainings to women to increase their participation in political decision making.
- Enhancing civil society voice through **strengthened partnerships and coalition building** to collectively lobby the government on good governance and anti-corruption.
- Improving transparency and **anti-bribery practices in public and private sector** entities through capacity building activities.
- Conducting research and advocacy on the **enforcement of both national laws**, including RTI laws, and **international frameworks**, including Pakistan's commitments towards achieving the SDGs and implementing the UNCAC.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objectives

1. Enhance the use of social accountability tools by citizens to hold their government accountable and improve public services.
2. Strengthen civil society capacity, voice, and cross-collaboration to foster public demand for accountability and shed light on corrupt practices.
3. Strengthen the capacity of public institutions to redress citizens grievances and become more accountable.



TI Pakistan's response to the COVID crisis

TI Pakistan pays close attention to mainstreaming its responsiveness to the COVID crisis in all the project activities:

- RTI trainings include a component on the relevance of RTI in the current pandemic context.
- ALAC services provide free legal advice on COVID-related complaints.
- COVID-related aid is monitored through mechanisms such as Citizen Report Cards.
- The chapter launched a social media campaign to support accurate public messaging on COVID.
- TI Pakistan advocates for enhanced transparency and accountability in public procurement and is advocating for the disclosure of information on contract awards in COVID-related direct contracting.