

TI IPP STRONGG IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Citizens Holding Power to Account in Solomon Islands

Founded in 2003, Transparency Solomon Islands (TI Solomon Islands) is 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 Solomon Islands aims to enhance accountable governance and public participation in anti-corruption. Through the *Citizens Holding Power to Account* project, the chapter advocates towards improving citizens' understanding of democratic processes, their political, legal and civil rights including the protection of civil society space, voice and activism against corrupt conduct and practice calling for anti-corruption reforms. The programme also supports the chapter's overall strategy by providing access to core funding supporting the chapter's on-going advocacy.

Project At A Glance

- Topics of focus:
Empowering communities through awareness raising on civic engagement and good governance & Leading a strong anti-corruption voice in the country.
- Project timeframe:
1 February 2020 – 31 December 2023
- Locations & project outreach:
Across the country, in both urban and rural areas.
- Budget: 818,709 EUR



*TI Solomon Islands conducts outreach and awareness activities on democratic principles and good governance
Picture: © Transparency Solomon Islands*

BACKGROUND

Solomon Islands' score in [Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#) remains below 50 and has dropped by two points in the last year, from 44 in 2018 to 42 in 2019, which indicates high levels of perceived corruption in the public sector. Many public officials are alleged to have misused state resources, abused entrusted power and have faced charges of corruption. A few top-ranking officials were convicted under the "conflict of interest offense". Often aid funds and public service are too often seen as opportunities for personal gain by those in positions of entrusted power. The chapter empower citizens and help them raise their concerns regarding these widespread corrupt practices, TI Solomon Islands is the only Civil Society Organisation that reaches out to communities, inform them on their rights and give them the tools to engage in anti-corruption initiatives.

Objectives

1. Inform and empower people, including women, youth, and vulnerable groups, on their rights as citizens to demand accountability from their representatives and actively engage in anti-corruption initiatives.
2. Strengthen and expand national multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks working on anti-corruption.
3. Contribute to policy and legislative reforms with active input from an informed and influential civil society.
4. Strengthen the chapter's foundations to enhance its voice, agency, and access.

Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

- Conducting community **outreach and awareness activities** on democratic principles and processes.
- Providing **free legal advice** to victims and witnesses of corruption and any information required by clients.
- Launching public awareness **campaigns** on corruption-related issues.
- Strengthening and building **partnerships** with the media and other stakeholders to raise awareness and disseminate information on corruption-related issues at the local, national, and international levels, including grand corruption and cross-border corruption issues.
- Providing legal analysis and technical inputs on legislative reforms, particularly on right to information, electoral reforms, political parties integrity, and anti-corruption reforms. This **work on legislation** also includes advocacy around civil society space and protection of journalists.
- **Monitoring the implementation** of key anti-corruption mechanisms through the development of different tools and approaches.
- Enhancing TI Solomon Islands' capacity, sustainability, brand, and partnerships in line with the **chapter's overall strategy**.



Picture: © Transparency Solomon Islands

TI Solomon Islands' response to the COVID crisis

In the current pandemic context, the chapter actively monitors and comments on governance issues related to COVID, regularly calling for transparency and consistency in COVID-related policies, including on the emergency funds awarded to each MP to support the COVID response in their constituencies.