

TI IPP STRONGG IN CAMBODIA

Ready to Engage Project

Transparency International Cambodia (TI Cambodia) has celebrated its 10th year anniversary in 2020 and is part of the Transparency International global coalition against corruption that 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 Cambodia is increasing awareness of anti-corruption among diverse groups across the country, enhancing social demand for accountable governance by citizens, and improving the national anti-corruption legal framework. Building on existing networks that reached over the last four years approximately 25,000 citizens, the *Ready to Engage Project (REP)* intends to further expand its outreach and engage various anti-corruption actors and citizens, particularly women and youth, to increase awareness and empower their participation in anti-corruption.

Project At A Glance

- Topics of focus:
Citizen engagement through social accountability mechanisms & Improved anti-corruption frameworks
- Project timeframe:
1 June 2020 – 31 December 2022
- Locations & project outreach:
Across the country, both in urban and rural areas.
- Budget: 150,000 EUR



Advertisement for TI Cambodia's ALAC services

BACKGROUND

In Cambodia, corruption remains a critical issue. Over the last 5 years, Cambodia scored very low in [Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#), dropping from 21 to 20 points in 2018, and placing the country at the rank 162 (out of 180) in the 2019 Index. However, results from [Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer – Asia 2020 \(GCB\)](#) indicate some positive recent developments regarding anti-corruption. More than half of Cambodians think that corruption levels have decreased in the 12 months prior to the survey and 7 out of 10 people believe that they can make a difference in the fight against corruption. Nevertheless, the bribery rate remains a concern with 37% surveyed people saying that they had to pay a bribe to access a public service over the same period.



Youth-led initiative in Steong Treng province

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objectives

1. Increase anti-corruption awareness among diverse groups, particularly women and youth, and their engagement in demanding more accountable governance.
2. Strengthen anti-corruption legislation in Cambodia.
3. Increase public awareness on beneficial ownership and demand for transparency.

TI Cambodia's response to the COVID crisis

TI Cambodia's outreach under this project includes social media campaigns conducted to raise people's knowledge related to COVID-19, and activities on COVID-19 related governance issues conducted for youth and targeted communities.

Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

- Strengthening TI Cambodia's youth networks across the country to further expand its outreach and **engage various anti-corruption actors, particularly women and youth**. Tools and platforms will be developed and used for initiatives to reduce corruption and build **demand for accountable governance**.
- Strengthening the effectiveness of alternative reporting mechanisms on corruption cases through the [Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre \(ALAC\)](#). Through its ALAC services, TI Cambodia provides free and confidential **legal advice to victims and witnesses of corruption** and help them to seek redress for their grievances.
- Enhancing anti-corruption legal and regulatory frameworks in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including on **whistleblower protection**, and **right to information**.
- Developing enhanced knowledge and understanding of **beneficial ownership transparency** through evidence-based research.