

# TI IPP STRONGG IN THE MALDIVES

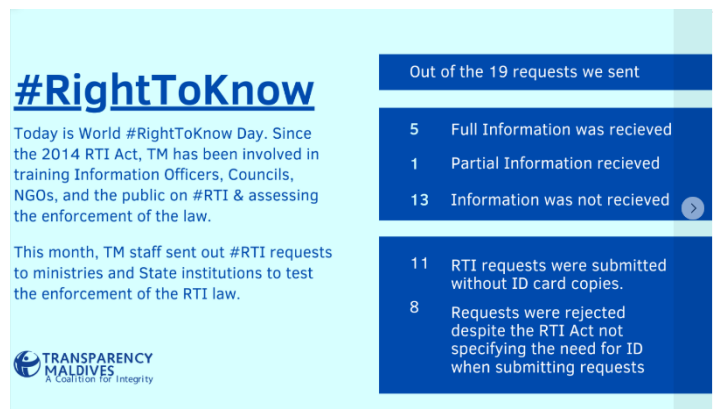
## Deepening Democracy in the Maldives

Formally registered in 2007, Transparency Maldives (TI Maldives) 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 Maldives aims to strengthen anti-corruption actors' capacity to tackle corruption issues and enhance good governance in the country. Through the *Strong Institutions and Empowered Electorate for Deepening Democracy (SEEDD)* project, TI Maldives is working towards improving the national anti-corruption legal framework, increasing the compliance capacity of both public and private sectors, and encouraging people's use of social accountability mechanisms to take action against corruption. The SEEDD project will contribute to enhanced state of governance in the Maldives and increased public trust in institutions.

### Project At A Glance

- Topics of focus:  
Transparency in healthcare sector procurements & Strengthened anti-corruption frameworks
- Project timeframe:  
1 July 2020 – 31 August 2023
- Locations & project outreach:  
Across the country through increased digital engagement.
- Budget: 150,000 EUR



*Graphic published for Right to Know Day on 28 September 2020. TI Maldives has been advocating for the effective implementation of the Right to Information Act since the legislation came into force in 2014.*

## BACKGROUND

The environment for civil society in the Maldives has significantly changed in the last years. Until recently, civil and political liberties were severely restricted by the state. The Maldives scored very low in [Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#), dropping from 31 to 29 points in 2019, and placing the country at the rank 130 (out of 180) in the 2019 Index. However, the election of a new administration in September 2018 resulted in new opportunities for TI Maldives and civil society actors to engage government and institutions on anti-corruption, a welcome change for the country where, according to [Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer – Asia 2020 \(GCB\)](#), 90% of the population still believes that government corruption is a big problem.



*TI Maldives advocates for transparency and best practices in emergency public procurements during the COVID-19 pandemic*

## TI Maldives's response to the COVID crisis

As part of the first phase of the project, TI Maldives is conducting a study on corruption in the healthcare sector identifying risks and good practices in the procurement of medical supplies, also specifically related to COVID19. Through its ALAC services the chapter is also offering support to clients on COVID-related complaints.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Objectives

1. Improve the understanding of the scale of corruption in the Maldives to better design and implement nationwide anti-corruption efforts through evidence-based research and advocacy.
2. Strengthen governance and anti-corruption legal frameworks.
3. Increase the capacity of public and private sectors to comply with anti-corruption legal instruments and to ensure the accessibility of social accountability tools.
4. Enhance capacity of partner CSOs and raise citizens' awareness, including youth, women, and disadvantaged groups, vulnerable to corruption, on anti-corruption.

### Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

- Producing evidence-based research to advocate for good governance and **corruption risks mitigation** in public services and in the private sector.
- Conducting legal analysis and advocacy work around **whistleblower protection policies and asset declaration laws**, in partnership with institutions such as the Whistleblower Protection Unit.
- Enhancing anti-corruption actors' capacity through Whistleblower Protection and Right to Information (RTI) **compliance trainings for representatives from both public institutions and private entities**, as well as joint work on the RTI framework with the Information Commissioner's Office.
- Providing **free legal advice to victims and witnesses of corruption, whistleblowers, and RTI applicants** through the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) and help them to seek redress for their grievances.
- Raising awareness on avenues and mechanisms that citizens can use to take action against corruption. Outreach activities include **social media campaigns and trainings on social accountability tools** targeting civil society organizations and citizens, including youth, women, and vulnerable groups.