

TI IPP STRONGG IN NEPAL

Social Accountability and Integrity in Nepal

Established in 1996, Transparency International Nepal (TI Nepal) 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 Nepal aims to engage a wide range of anti-corruption actors, including citizens, civil society organisations, public institutions and private sector entities, to enhance accountable governance at all levels and in all sectors of society. Through its network of Affiliated Organizations and alliances with 19 civil society organizations, the chapter expects to reach 70 000 people under the *Together for Social Accountability and Integrity (T-SAI)* project.

Project At A Glance

- Topics of focus:
Citizen engagement through social accountability mechanisms & Transparency in public procurements.
- Project timeframe:
15 June 2020 – 31 August 2023
- Locations & project outreach:
Across up to 6 districts of Nepal, reaching about 70 000 people in total.
- Budget: 148,000 EUR



TI Nepal ALAC services provide free legal assistance to citizens / Picture: © Transparency International Nepal

BACKGROUND

In recent years, Nepal has improved its score in the [Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#), rising from 27 points in 2015 to 34 in 2019. Nepal has made slight progress against some of the indicators relating to fundamental aspects of good governance but its score on balance remains poor and corruption remains a significant issue. The country suffers from rampant corruption in public service delivery, which prevents citizens, especially vulnerable people and communities, to benefit uninterruptedly from basic services in a fair and transparent manner. According to [Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer – Asia 2020 \(GCB\)](#), 58% of Nepalese citizens thought that corruption levels had increased in the 12 months prior to the survey.



TI Nepal supports people and communities that are typically not reached by public services and empower citizens by giving them the right tools to hold their leaders and institutions accountable.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objectives

1. Increase anti-corruption awareness and social demand for accountability among diverse groups, particularly women and youth.
2. Promote integrity standards and good governance practices among civil society organisations and businesses.
3. Advocate for accountable governance in the public sector through civil society monitoring and policy change.

Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

- Reaching out to vulnerable groups through information sessions on public service delivery and **social accountability tools** such as public hearings and social audits. TI Nepal's helpdesks and ALAC provide **free legal advice** to victims and witnesses of corruption.
- Raising students' awareness on **anti-corruption values** as part of the curriculum and educational activities on various integrity issues.
- Improving **budget tracking** in the education sector through citizen engagement in budget monitoring.
- Encouraging businesses and NGOs to improve **internal governance standards and practices**.
- Conducting research and advocacy for policy change based on international commitments (SDGs, UNCAC) and supporting academic **research on the healthcare and disaster management sectors**. The experiences and views of victims of corruption, including in the context of the pandemic, will be collected.
- Leading public campaigns for transparency and accountability in **public procurement standards** for infrastructure investments and pandemic management.

TI Nepal's response to the COVID crisis

TI Nepal's helpdesks and Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) provide free legal advice on corruption-related grievances to citizens, including COVID-19 related complaints. The chapter is also incorporating their views into research and advocacy products to voice their concerns. TI Nepal's work on public procurements is essential in ensuring transparency in COVID-related procurements.