

TI IPP STRONGG IN NEW ZEALAND

Mitigating Money Laundering Risks in the Pacific

Established in 1999, Transparency International New Zealand (TI New Zealand) 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 New Zealand aims to reduce corruption risks in the Pacific region by conducting research, monitoring, and advocacy on money laundering and illicit financial flows coming in and out of Pacific countries. As part of its research under the project *Anti-Money Laundering across Pacific Nations*, TI New Zealand will identify corruption and money laundering risks, study the impact of corrupt practices associated with illicit financial flows on the lives of citizens living in Pacific forum countries, and advocate for stronger anti-corruption frameworks.

Project At A Glance

- Topic of focus:
Anti-Money Laundering in the Pacific
- Project timeframe:
1 December 2020 – 28 February 2022
- Locations & project outreach:
The project is led from New Zealand and includes 18 Pacific countries as beneficiaries.
- Budget: 71,144 EUR

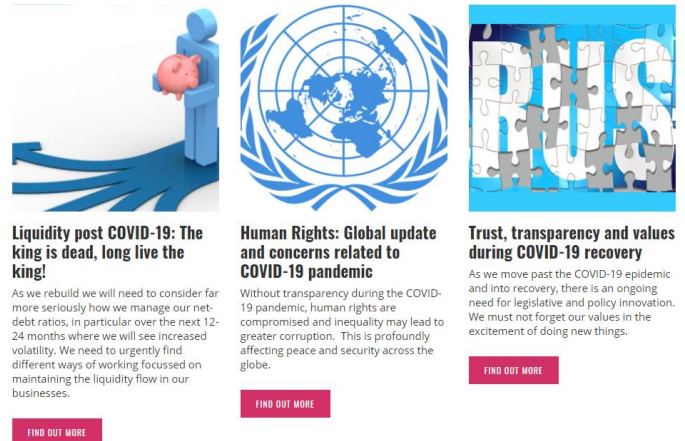


*Participants from the TI Pacific Visioning Meeting,
Wellington, February 2019*

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BACKGROUND

Across the Indo-Pacific region, countries are making little progress in tackling corruption, as confirmed by [Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perception Index \(CPI\)](#). Whilst the amount and nature of illicit flows of funds generated through corruption and criminal practice, and the nature of corrupt practices have been studied separately, there is limited research in the Pacific context of the ways in which the two facilitate and reinforce each other. TI New Zealand intends to address this knowledge gap by commissioning expert research, and using the findings to collectively advocate for stronger integrity systems and legal frameworks against the laundering of the proceeds of corruption.



Transparency International New Zealand published a series of articles on human rights and economic recovery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objectives

1. Increasing knowledge of the types, and risks of illicit financial flows across the Pacific forum countries and factors that heighten the risk of corruption.
2. Holding Pacific governments to account to implement stronger legal frameworks against laundering the proceeds of corruption, through informed activity activities by an active Pacific civil society.

Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

- **Conducting research into the types and risks of illicit financial flows across the Pacific** by reviewing publicly known cases of illegal activities, and potential and actual corruption proceeds in and out of nations. TI New Zealand will then identify the factors that heighten the risk of corruption. TI New Zealand will ensure that the assessment focusses on the interdependency between money laundering and corruption and includes analysis of the impact of corruption on the economic, political, and social and cultural life of citizens in these nations, including people who are being trafficked or exploited, and vulnerable communities whose resources are stolen and exploited to their detriment.
- From this research, TI New Zealand will **develop recommendations for strengthening integrity systems**. TI New Zealand will work with local, regional, and international actors, including civil society, to develop and implement evidence-based advocacy and monitoring activities leading to stronger legal frameworks against laundering the proceeds of corruption.

TI New Zealand's response to the COVID crisis

TI New Zealand's research project was designed in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and integrates learning from 2020. The research will predominantly be conducted remotely and will utilise digital and in-country means of consulting with stakeholders. Throughout the COVID crisis, TI New Zealand have advocated strongly for increased transparency, particularly around procurement.