

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

INDO-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP STRONGG

Transparency International's Indo-Pacific Partnership for Strong, Transparent, Responsive, and Open Networks for Good Governance (TI IPP STRONGG), funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), ran from January 2020 to December 2023. Led by the TI Secretariat (TI-S) and implemented by a total of 16 TI national chapters and partners across the Indo-Pacific region, the programme focused on contributing to reduced corruption by empowering a robust and independent civil society voice that mobilizes action in support of increased institutional accountability. The following paragraphs outline the main achievements of the programme.

ENHANCED LOCAL DEMAND FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

The programme engaged nearly 65,000 individuals across 25 countries in anti-corruption and good governance initiatives, with over 22,000 women and 21,000 young people participating, and many taking concrete actions against corruption. Beyond outreach and awareness campaigns, TI chapters implemented social accountability mechanisms that produced tangible evidence of increased government awareness and responsive actions. TI experts guided citizens in utilizing Right to Information (RTI) laws, empowering them to submit [RTI applications](#) and access information from public institutions. In six countries, TI chapters played a crucial role in [assisting victims and witnesses of corruption](#) through dedicated Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres ([ALACs](#)). The ALACs amplified citizens'

voices, allowing individuals to safely report corruption and misconduct. Recognizing the pivotal role of young people in the fight against corruption, TI chapters also facilitated the establishment of youth networks. These networks initiated a wide array of [youth-led initiatives](#), fostering a culture of integrity, promoting accountable societies, and strengthening youth-led advocacy approaches.

INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS

The Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) surveys conducted in 34 countries in [Asia](#) and the [Pacific](#) generated new insights and data on people's experience of corruption. Serving as a powerful tool for anti-corruption advocacy, the GCB provides a baseline for monitoring anti-corruption progress over time. The GCB results have helped to raise awareness among key regional anti-corruption stakeholders, fostering new partnerships and providing entry points for advocacy efforts. These surveys produced groundbreaking data on sextortion, shedding light on the sexual exploitation of individuals dependent on those entrusted with power. Gender-disaggregated GCB data has been thoroughly analysed in a recently published [report](#), contributing to **increased knowledge of the gendered impact of corruption in Asia-Pacific.**

TI New Zealand added to the body of knowledge by releasing a [report](#) on corruption and money laundering across the Pacific, while TI Australia developed a [tool](#) to identify corruption risks in infrastructure projects selection, piloted in Indonesia and the Solomon Islands. Nationally, **chapters published over 50 studies and reports addressing prioritized corruption issues**, serving as a solid evidence base on which to make recommendations for stronger accountability and

governance, and further empower communities to hold their leaders and public service providers to account. Examples include TI Papua New Guinea's [election observation report](#), TI Pakistan's [progress report on SDG16](#), and TI Maldives' [study](#) on corruption in the health sector.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

TI strategically leveraged opportunities for outreach, partnerships, and advocacy in the Indo-Pacific. This included significant roles like co-chairing the C20 Anti-Corruption working group, co-creating a side event for the Summit for Democracy, and active participation in the PIF Regional CSO Forum and Leaders Meeting. As part of its broader advocacy initiatives, **TI contributed to formulating over 350 anti-corruption recommendations** aimed at [enhancing governance frameworks and practice](#) at regional, national, and local level. Where anti-corruption laws and mechanisms were in place, TI chapters identified the common challenge of patchy implementation and offered recommendations to [bolster enforcement](#). Additionally, chapters' advocacy was instrumental in the [establishment of integrity institutions](#), although there remains significant work ahead to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of such institutions. **To amplify anti-corruption actions, over 160 partnerships were strengthened at national and regional levels.** In response to the concerning trend of shrinking civic space, chapters joined forces with other civil society organizations to effectively [campaign against repressive laws](#), playing a pivotal role in advocating for the preservation of fundamental rights in the digital sphere.

STRONGER ANTI-CORRUPTION VOICE

Navigating the complexities of a highly polarized geopolitical landscape marked by divergent perspectives on the significance of democracy and citizen engagement, the IPP STRONGG programme has successfully **enhanced the capacity of TI chapters to act as well-reputed, vocal, and**

effective advocates that keep the good governance and anti-corruption debate alive.

This achievement encompasses crucial support pillars, including core and project funding, technical assistance, managerial support, as well as knowledge building and peer learning.

Tapping into the regional expertise and extensive networks of chapters as well as the support of the Secretariat staff based in the Pacific, **TI has significantly bolstered its presence and influence in the Pacific region.** This heightened visibility has facilitated increased engagement with regional stakeholders, leading to new avenues for collaboration and advocacy, as evidenced by the first-ever TI involvement in the PIF process.

In line with the commitment to strengthen TI's engagement in the Pacific, new partnerships have been established. Notably, in 2021, CLCT Integrity Fiji became TI's National Contact in Fiji, and in 2023, it transitioned into a National Chapter in Formation. Despite the travel restrictions in place for a significant portion of the programme timeframe, **110 capacity development initiatives and exchanges were organised online and in person**, allowing knowledge exchange and development both on internal governance and organisational issues as well as on thematic issues relevant to TI anti-corruption priorities.

RESPONSE TO THE COVID CRISIS

A notable area of high performance has been the programme's role in challenging government behaviour in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic response. TI chapters drew on their experience of emergency response and anticorruption to monitor and advocate for clear and transparent measures around the COVID-19 response. One example of impact in this area occurred in Pakistan, where the federal government had initially approved the commercial sale of COVID-19 vaccines at vastly inflated prices. Following TI Pakistan's advocacy, the private import of vaccines at a 170% higher rate than international prices was revoked, prompting the government to find solutions for providing free access to vaccines.