

# TI IPP STRONGG IN AUSTRALIA

## Accountable Infrastructure in Indo-Pacific

Established in 1995, Transparency International Australia (TI Australia) 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 Australia aims to identify and address corruption risks in the infrastructure sector in the Indo-Pacific region through the development of tools and advocacy strategies under the *Accountable Infrastructure* project. Building on expertise, networks and partnerships established under other initiatives, including the *Accountable Mining Programme*, TI Australia intends to use its advocacy expertise and capacity to advocate for transparency, and accountability in infrastructure decision making processes and encourage the participation of women and vulnerable communities in decision making.

### Project At A Glance

- Topic of focus:  
Infrastructure Sector Accountability
- Project timeframe:  
1 August 2020 – 31 August 2023
- Locations & project outreach:  
The project is led by TI Australia and engages with stakeholders from across the Indo-Pacific region. The Infrastructure Corruption Risk Assessment Tool (ICRAT) will be piloted in Solomon Islands and Indonesia.
- Budget: 223,898 EUR



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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 \(CPI\)](#). Corruption is prevalent across most sectors in the Indo-Pacific region, and particularly in infrastructure and mining, two sectors that are closely linked and will lead Australia's COVID-19 economic recovery in the Indo-Pacific region (e.g. [AIFFP Policy Framework, DFAT development assistance in the Pacific](#)). TI Australia aims to address the lack of existing analysis of corruption risks in the infrastructure sector in the region to enhance understanding of these risks, advocate for strengthened governance frameworks and hold decision makers accountable.



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## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Objectives

1. Increasing citizen and civil society organisation participation in infrastructure governance processes in the Indo-Pacific.
2. Increasing government capacity to ensure adequate checks and balances on infrastructure projects in at least one Indo-Pacific country.
3. Increasing capacity of the infrastructure industry to adopt and champion business integrity.

### Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

- Developing an **Infrastructure Corruption Risk Assessment Tool (ICRAT)**. This will contribute to increased understanding of corruption risks in planning and design processes for infrastructure projects. The tool will also help to identify the gendered impact of these risks. Civil society will be provided with guidance on how to engage government and industry stakeholders to determine the source and level of exposure to corruption risks in the sector.
- Building and engaging **multi-stakeholder national and regional networks** on transparency in infrastructure projects, including civil society organisations, key government institutions, and infrastructure industry stakeholders.
- Providing tailored training, as well as research and advocacy **support to TI Solomon Islands and TI Indonesia as the chapters pilot the ICRAT**. The tool will be used to identify where corruption risks exist in infrastructure project planning, design and implementation processes. Evidence will then be used to call for strengthened oversight, transparency and accountability of infrastructure projects at a national level and led by TI Solomon Islands and TI Indonesia.

### TI Australia's response to the COVID crisis

Infrastructure and construction sectors are central to government stimulus packages being developed in the post-COVID context. The Accountable Infrastructure project will help to ensure public funds and project approval processes are managed and implemented with transparency, accountability and community participation.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS - 2022

In 2022 the program made progress to improving governance and reducing corruption risks in the infrastructure sector by engaging with governments, industry, and civil society on the Infrastructure Corruption Risk Assessment Tool (ICRAT).

The key achievement of the program was the launch of the ICRAT tool and the initiation of ICRAT assessments in the Solomon Islands and Indonesia. In February 2022, we held an initiation workshop with the Solomon Islands Ministry of Infrastructure Development and the Auditor-General to introduce the ICRAT project and discuss approaches to assessing an infrastructure project. Valuable information and advice were shared that will guide the pilot going forward.

Working closely with TI Solomon Islands, we developed workshop content to introduce the ICRAT in detail to staff who will be using the tool. We also developed a series of case studies and interactive activities. In addition, we spent time building relationships with critical stakeholders in the Solomon Islands, including the Australian High Commission, the Asian Development Bank, local infrastructure companies, and civil society organisations, whom we will work with closely throughout the implementation stage in 2023.

In September, we were approved to expand the project to carry out ICRAT assessments in Indonesia and began plans to do so. In November, the Project Coordinator travelled to Indonesia to run an introductory workshop with the TI Indonesia Chapter using and adapting the content developed with TI Solomon Islands. Workshops for government and civil society stakeholders were run by the TI Indonesia Chapter and attended by TIA. TI Indonesia has engaged a consultant to lead on the ICRAT assessments, which will be completed in early 2023. Over the course of the year, we shared the tool with large infrastructure companies and contractors, including GHD, Cardno, and DT Global, and representatives from the Australian, UK, and US governments working across anti-corruption, infrastructure, and energy transition programs.



*Introductory ICRAT workshop with government officials hosted by TI Indonesia, Jakarta, 30 November*

### DEVELOPING INFLUENCE

The publication of the ICRAT and public launch event in May opened up opportunities to promote the ICRAT tool and the Accountable Infrastructure project regionally and globally. We were invited to speak at the UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum in Bangkok and G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Side Event on Corruption Prevention in Canberra in September. We were approached by the Global Infrastructure Hub (G20 initiative) to work with them to develop a module on governance and transparency capacity building as part of their initiative to develop an online executive education/accreditation process to increase the uptake of best-practice guidance material for infrastructure industry professionals.

Finally, we were invited to join a group of infrastructure experts as part of the OECD Trust in Business Initiative's Infrastructure Anti-Corruption Toolbox (IACT) working group. The group, which includes 40 global leaders in business, civil society and academia, has been brought together to discuss, examine and create the next generation of tools to prevent and detect corruption in infrastructure. Participating in this working group also opens up opportunities to connect with leaders in the infrastructure sector and to influence global anti-corruption efforts in this sector. Invitation to participate in these events and initiatives underscores the high quality and novel approach of the ICRAT tool and the Accountable Infrastructure Program's potential to influence anti-corruption efforts at a global level.

## Increased influence and awareness from events and conferences

TI Australia spoke at and moderated the following events:

- **ICRAT Public Launch Event (16 May):** Panel discussion moderated by former CEO Serena Lillywhite. Panellists were Anna Griffin, Project Coordinator; Bill Paterson, ICRAT development consultant; Ruth Liloqula, Executive Director, TI Solomon Islands.
- **UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum (22 September):** The Project Coordinator spoke on a panel on day 3 of the forum, '[Leveraging a Human Rights-Based Approach to Infrastructure Development in Southeast Asia.](#)'
- **G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Side Event on Corruption Prevention (29 September):** The CEO was invited to speak on a panel hosted by Australia's Attorney General's Department.
- **STRONGG Program meeting – Bali (3-6 November):** Bringing together Chapters across Asia-Pacific, this program meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on our progress, learn from our colleagues and plan for 2023.
- **TIA World Anti-Corruption Day Event (9 December):** '[What does the energy transition mean for the mining and infrastructure sectors? Challenges and opportunities for a just transition.](#)' In collaboration with TIA's Global Mining Program, we hosted this event to mark World Anti-Corruption Day.



*The Infrastructure Corruption Risk Assessment Tool (ICRAT)*

## LOOKING AHEAD

Key priorities for TI Australia's Accountable Infrastructure program in 2023 are:

- **Completing ICRAT assessments in Indonesia and the Solomon Islands** and publish case studies and reports.
- **Completing desk-based thematic research on infrastructure corruption risks** across Asia-Pacific.
- **Holding infrastructure industry roundtables** to share preliminary ICRAT findings and seek industry advice on strengthening oversight, transparency, and accountability of infrastructure project decision-making and approvals.
- **Working with TI Indonesia and TI Solomon Islands** to advocate for strengthened oversight, transparency, and accountability of infrastructure project decision making and approvals.
- **Seeking opportunities to present ICRAT findings** at regional and global events and conferences.
- **Developing multi-country and regional work on infrastructure based on demand from chapters and donor interest.**