

# TI IPP STRONGG IN FIJI

## Building Partnerships for Integrity in Fiji

Established in 2015, Civic Leaders for Clean Transactions Integrity Fiji (Integrity Fiji) is part of the Transparency International global coalition against corruption. The TI Movement brings together chapters and partners 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*, Integrity Fiji aims to build partnerships with the public and private sectors and other civil society organisations to raise awareness of corruption risks and drive transparency and accountability across Fiji.

Building on their existing work with youth groups, government bodies, academic institutions and civil society organisations, Integrity Fiji will work across sectors to build partners' capacity to raise awareness of and address corruption risks. Integrity Fiji's association Youth Group, Youths for Integrity, will be supported to develop and disseminate compelling anti-corruption messages and to build a culture of transparency across Fiji.

### Project At A Glance

- Topic of focus:  
Building Partnerships to strengthen anti-corruption interventions in Fiji
- Project timeframe:  
1 August 2020 – 31 December 2023
- Locations & project outreach:  
Integrity Fiji will engage with anti-corruption stakeholders across Fiji.
- Budget: 282,078 EUR

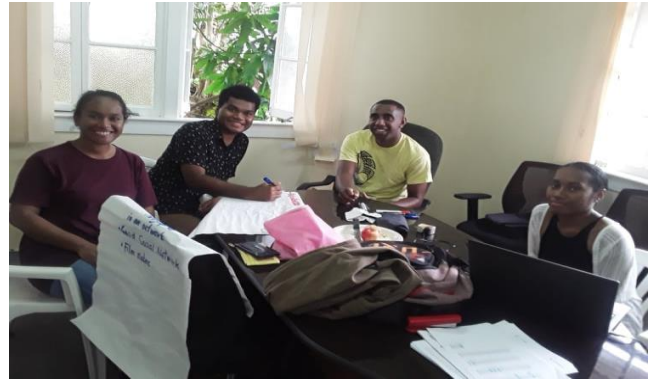


*Integrity Fiji with partners at Fiji National University*

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## BACKGROUND

In Fiji, there is limited reporting of corruption by citizens due to a lack of public awareness of anti-corruption concepts and mechanisms. High levels of poverty also fuel corruption and Integrity Fiji believes that cultural norms reduce the rates of reporting. There is a need to strengthen the capacity of anti-corruption actors, including Integrity Fiji and their partners, and to build a civil society coalition against corruption to address the current weak levels of collaboration, while also raising awareness of anti-corruption organisations.



*Youths for Integrity strategic planning with Integrity Fiji © CLCT Integrity Fiji*

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Project Objectives

1. Enhanced capacity within CLCT Integrity Fiji and partners to engage in anti-corruption activities, focusing on youth engagement.
2. Strengthened relationships with key government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders to improve legal frameworks and institutional practices.
3. Increased visibility of CLCT Integrity Fiji as a credible actor in anti-corruption in Fiji.

### Fiji's response to the COVID crisis

Heavily reliant on tourism income, Fiji's economy has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the Fijian government declared two states of emergency: one in response to TC Harold and, a week later, to respond to the pandemic.

### Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

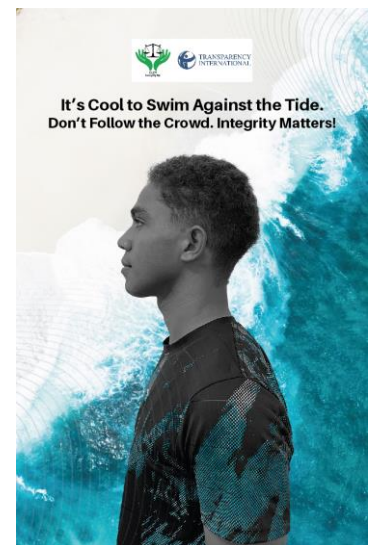
- Integrity Fiji will work with key partners to build their knowledge and capacity and support them to proactively and dynamically engage the general public on Anti-Corruption. This includes capacity building for **Youths for Integrity** to develop and disseminate effective anti-corruption messaging.
- Integrity Fiji will build **coalitions and partnerships** with key anti-corruption actors in Fiji, including government bodies, academics, civil society, and young people. This will lead to enhanced collaboration with key national and regional partners to conduct joint engagements on anti-corruption initiatives and work towards improved legal frameworks and practices, including procurement related regulations.
- Integrity Fiji will actively **showcase its work** together with key stakeholders and as a result, achieve increased visibility among anti-corruption actors, government, civil society, the private sector, media, and the general public.

# SUMMARY OF PROGRESS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS - 2022

In 2022, CLCT Integrity Fiji started a new two-year project to scale up its outreach, awareness-raising, and advocacy work. Integrity Fiji's key achievements for the project this year include:

## ***Developing and strengthening partnerships***

- Integrity Fiji established strong relations with other CSOs in Fiji, including partnerships with the Citizens Constitutional Forum and the Fiji Women's Rights Movement to integrate anti-corruption advocacy into their strategies and programmes.
- In 2022, Integrity Fiji worked with the Ministry of Economy and other government Ministries on ethical procurement processes. It was noted that under Fiji's Laws, all procurements below \$50,000 were handled by individual Ministries, and a few allegations of corruption were reported. The training aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge of ethical procurement procedures. FICAC, Fiji's National Anti-Corruption Agency, was also part of the training.
- Several joint activities and events were undertaken in collaboration with the Fiji National University (FNU), such as the Nadaro Climate Change Educational Interventions. Moreover, the free online anti-corruption course, 'Ethics and Anti-Corruption in Oceania', developed in cooperation with FNU, was upgraded to a degree-level course. Students included FICAC staff, the Fiji Police Force, the Fiji Military, journalists, and NGOs in the anti-corruption space.
- Integrity Fiji collaborated with FICAC to run joint corruption prevention workshops focusing on anti-corruption in the court system and recent corruption cases. They also organised a joint celebration on International Anti-Corruption Day.
- Through its Youths for Integrity Network, Integrity Fiji spread innovative anti-corruption messages through posters, flyers, films, and social media posts.
- In December 2022, Integrity Fiji became a member of the UNCAC Coalition, a global network of CSOs in over 100 countries committed to promoting the ratification, implementation, and monitoring of UNCAC.
- A further highlight was a visit from Charlotte Laing of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and representatives of the New Zealand High Commission in Suva.



## ***Raising Awareness***

- A noteworthy event was the CPI 2021 launch on January 25th. Fiji was included in the CPI after a lapse of 16 years, as the last CPI was in 2005. To mark the event, Integrity Fiji commissioned Fijian celebrity and singer Josa Nailati to compose the CPI song with contemporary dance moves by Youths4IntegrityFiji, which award-winning Tevita Tobeyaweni choreographed.
- A breakthrough, especially for the youth network Youths4IntegrityFiji, was the new coalition government allowing the whistle-blower Vice Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific to return to Fiji. The Youth Network (working with TI NZ) declared Pal Ahluwalia the Pacific Integrity Champion in 2021.
- The advocacy against the draconian Fiji Media Act was also successful, with the new Government stating that it would be repealed.
- Integrity Fiji worked closely with the Fijian Election Office to increase citizens' knowledge of voting rights and anti-corruption issues during the National Elections in 2022. After 16 years, a new coalition government came into power. With the support of the international community, including DFAT and MFAT, to strengthen democracy, Integrity Fiji remains confident that there will be a stable political environment in the foreseeable future.
- Integrity Fiji developed a dynamic working relationship with the Fijian Elections Office, organising joint workshops and symposiums to encourage young people to exercise their voting rights. The events consisted of interactive educational sessions, mock election exercises, capacity building for vote tallying, and dialogue

(Talanoa) on parliamentary democracy and the Rule of Law. The anti-corruption workshops and Talanoa were supported by speakers and trainers from FICAC, the Fiji National University, the Fiji Procurement Office, and CSOs like Fiji Women's Rights Movement and Citizens Constitutional Forum.

### **Capacity Building and Organisational Strengthening**

- In 2022, the board and staff did courses at the University of the South Pacific and the Fiji National University in Finance, Administration, Event Management, Marketing and Anti-Corruption Strategies. This gave them the competencies to serve CLCT Integrity Fiji's anti-corruption mandate better.

## **ENGAGING YOUTH IN ANTI-CORRUPTION**

Integrity Fiji is supporting the Youths for Integrity (YFI) network, a youth association group, to develop and disseminate compelling anti-corruption messages and to build a culture of transparency in the country. Jared, a student at the Jai Narayan College in Suva, is one of the active members of the YFI network. He is part of a group of dynamic high schoolers responsible for conceptualising innovative ideas to raise awareness of integrity and anti-corruption issues on social media and through expressive arts.

Apart from coming up with new ideas, Jared has actively participated in contemporary dances, acting in youtube videos and supporting Youths For Integrity Fiji in its integrity and anti-corruption advocacy.



*Youth leaders conceptualise new social media ideas on anti-corruption / © CLCT Integrity Fiji*



*A mock election is held during the workshop/ © CLCT Integrity Fiji*

One of the highlights for Jared was the workshop organised with the Fijian Elections Office to explain Fiji's national electoral process and to encourage more young people over 18 to vote. The 18 to 25 demographic group recorded the lowest percentage of voters in the 2014 and 2018 national elections.

As appointed Supervisor of the mock elections, Jared had to tally votes and follow all the calculation methods used in the Fijian Electoral System. That gave him important insights into elections and what it entails. Thanks to these initiatives, Jared feels he is an integral part of the youth network plan to prevent corruption and strengthen integrity institutions in Fiji.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Integrity Fiji's priorities for 2023 include:

- Work with the Fiji Procurement Office to strengthen procurement processes amongst Government Ministries.
- Kick off the Climate Change Ethics and Integrity project in partnership with the Fiji National University and stakeholders in Government, civil society, and corporate bodies.
- Undertake anti-corruption advocacy through expressive arts and social media through the YFI.
- Collaborate with FICAC to raise awareness around corruption issues and anti-corruption strategies for the public sector.
- Work with Transparency International New Zealand on Open Government and Budget Transparency.
- Work on Transparent Mining Mapping and Research.