

# TI IPP STRONGG IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## Good Governance and Access to Justice in PNG

Started in 1997, Transparency International Papua New Guinea (TI PNG) 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 PNG aims to build a strong coalition against corruption by bringing together voices of anti-corruption actors from across the country. Through the *Coalition Engagement for Good Governance and Access to Justice* project, the chapter sheds light on corruption issues and seeks to improve citizens access to justice, and their understanding of key legislation and policies. The programme also supports the chapter's overall [2019-2023 strategy](#) by providing access to core funding.

### Project At A Glance

- Topics of focus:  
Leading a strong civil society voice to promote good governance and advocate for effective anti-corruption frameworks.
- Project timeframe:  
1 February 2020 – 31 December 2023
- Locations & project outreach:  
Across the country, in both urban and rural areas.
- Budget: 511,338 EUR



*TI PNG conducts awareness raising and outreach activities / Picture: © Transparency International PNG*

## BACKGROUND

Due to widespread corruption, governance issues, and lack of political integrity, Papua New Guinea's score in [Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#) has remained stagnant in the past years (28 in 2016, 2018, and 2019). 'Petty' corruption prevents citizens from accessing public services in a fair and transparent manner, and corruption at the top has so far prevailed. The election of a new Prime Minister in 2019 brought some hope for change as James Marape's government has presented anti-corruption efforts as one of his top priorities. TI PNG continues to advocate for the passing of RTI laws and the introduction of an independent Information Commission for which promising measures have been taken.



*Youths participating in TI PNG's 2019 Mike Manning Youth Democracy Camp / Picture: © Transparency International PNG*

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Objectives

1. Increase citizens' awareness and engagement on corruption, and improve understanding of the functions of state agencies.
2. Strengthen multi-sectoral coalitions against corruption.
3. Strengthen the chapter's foundations to enhance its voice, agency, and access

### Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

- Providing **free legal advice** to victims and witnesses of corruption through TI PNG's Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC). As part of an internship program launched by the chapter, students will provide support on ALAC activities.
- Organising a **Biennial Anti-corruption Exhibition** to provide an avenue for state agencies and anti-corruption actors to showcase their work and raise citizens' awareness of their services.
- Reinvigorating the **Community Coalition Against Corruption** to mobilize and collectively campaign on corruption-related issues.
- Facilitating input into **international governance platforms**, including the Open Government Partnership and the PNG Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.
- Enhancing TI PNG's capacity, sustainability, brand, and partnerships in line with the **chapter's overall strategy**.

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

In the current pandemic context, TI PNG's ALAC services include the provision of free legal advice to citizens on COVID-related complaints. ALAC services are being targeted at relevant sectors, including healthcare, public administration and sub-national governments.

The chapter has also been working on a State of Emergency (SOE) COVID Transparency Campaign, lobbying Parliament to report on the use of COVID Aid received.

# SUMMARY OF PROGRESS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS - 2022

TI PNG's main achievements in 2022 include:

- **Community Coalition against Corruption (CCAC) Meeting**

The first CCAC meeting was held with longtime key members who shared the sentiment that CCAC had to be fully established and an effective platform for multi-sector advocacy. The objectives of the CCAC meeting were to provide an overview of the CCAC and have discussions on the set-up of the coalition. A second meeting will be held again in the first quarter of 2023 with a wider audience to firm up the structure of the CCAC.

- **Election observing activities**

The PNG Electoral Commission accredited TIPNG as a Domestic Election Observation Group. The chapter registered 340 observers and fielded them across 20 provinces to observe the country's National General Election. This was the fourth consecutive Domestic Election Observation that TIPNG has conducted. In collaboration with individual communities and organisations, they published an independent report, '[TIPNG Domestic Election Observation Report](#)',. Overall, the chapter observed a continuing trend of deteriorating election quality in PNG.

- **Youth outreach**

TI PNG continued to involve youth in anti-corruption activities. In 2022, the chapter ran the third Active Civic Engagement workshop in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, reaching 40 young people. Moreover, TI PNG visited the Kundu International Academy, presenting the Corruption Perceptions Index to students and raising awareness around transparency and integrity.

- **Making ALAC accessible through a toll-free number**

Making ALAC accessible through a toll-free number has allowed people nationwide to be able to receive informed advice on steps to take with their complaints. In 2022, 65 people contacted the chapter's ALAC.

- **Push for integrity through the media**

This year, TI PNG released stronger media statements that called out the lack of integrity by institutions mandated to protect the rights of citizens, for example, the PNG Electoral Commission. The chapter was sought as a first point of response by the media for any national issues which lack governance.

- **Partnership with a recruitment company**

In October 2022, TI PNG signed into a partnership with Applus+ PNG to commence pro bono support in innovative recruitment. A key strategic priority focus for TIPNG is to enhance TIPNG's organisational capacity by recruiting the right team members. TI PNG is confident in Applus+'s global recruitment expertise and its robust focus on the Code of Ethics, and its desire to have a positive impact in Papua New Guinea.



TI PNG visiting the Kundu International Academy/  
© TI PNG



TI PNG signs partnership with Applus+  
in October 2022/ © TI PNG

- **Development of a Risk Management Strategy**

The TI PNG Risk Management framework details the requirements for identifying, managing and monitoring risk and uncertainty. Adopting the ISO-31000:2009 principles, the Framework addresses how TI PNG will embed risk management into their culture and practices. Doing so will support the Executive and Board in making informed decisions and ensure a robust risk management approach is adopted across TI PNG. The Risk Management Strategy will be workshopped to staff in the first quarter of 2023.

## COORDINATING CIVIL SOCIETY EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE PRINCIPLES

TI PNG was elected President of the PNG Resource Governance Coalition (PNGRGC) in October during its Annual General Meeting. The PNGRGC, founded in 2015 and incorporated in 2018, is responsible for coordinating civil society organisations' (CSOs) efforts to promote and advocate the principles of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in PNG.



*TIPNG elected President of the PNGRGC/ © TI PNG*

The objectives of the PNG Resource Governance Coalition include:

- Be an umbrella organisation encompassing all CSOs that have an interest and work in or related to the Extractive Sector.
- Contribute constructively to civil society's participation in the introduction, promotion, awareness and implementation of the EITI in PNG.
- Introduce, promote and maintain programs and initiatives that are community focused.
- Develop understandings and partnerships with others.
- Maintain high standards of good governance for the Coalition and its members.
- Establish and maintain a registry of members as the basis for programs and outreach activities.

TI PNG plans to take the PNGRGC forward to be more innovative and is prepared to take bold steps in supporting outreach and programs to achieve the objectives set out in the PNGRGC Constitution.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Priorities for the chapter in 2023 include:

- Fully establish the framework of CCAC and coordinate meetings with coalition partners.
- Continue to provide feedback on legislation when required or requested. Review the chapter's advocacy plan and restart campaigns and other advocacy priorities.
- In quarter 3, host TI PNG's 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Corruption Exhibition and provide the space for organisations to showcase their efforts in combatting corruption internally and externally.
- Continue to promote the ALAC toll-free number and ensure corruption cases are addressed or forwarded to appropriate authorities.
- Continue to enhance organisational capacity and efforts to be effective by ensuring all systems are in place and building staff capacity.