

TI IPP STRONGG IN PAKISTAN

Strengthening Civic Voices in Pakistan

Since 2001, Transparency International Pakistan (TI Pakistan) has been 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 Pakistan seeks to promote good governance in Pakistan by working at different levels and with different target groups to foster public demand for accountability, improve public service delivery, and strengthen institutions. Building on networks and partnerships established under past projects and initiatives, TI Pakistan scales up its research, advocacy, and social accountability activities through the *Strengthening Civic Voices for Good Governance and Accountability* project to increase stakeholders' engagement in anti-corruption efforts.

Project At A Glance

- Topics of focus:
Citizen engagement through social accountability mechanisms & Improved anti-corruption frameworks.
- Project timeframe:
1 May 2020 – 31 August 2023
- Locations & project outreach:
Across the country, in both urban and rural areas.
- Budget: 150,000 EUR



'Importance of Access to Information in the Context of COVID-19' webinar (Sukkur IBA University, 28 September 2020) / Picture: © Transparency International Pakistan

BACKGROUND

Overall, Pakistan's score in [Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#) has remained stagnant in the past years (32 points in 2016, 2017, and 2019). This poor performance indicates that corruption is still a major obstacle to the improvement of national governance systems. Despite some progress made regarding legislation and convictions in a few high-profile corruption cases, citizens and civil society expect more accountability and transparency from their leaders and institutions. According to [Transparency International's 2017 Global Corruption Barometer – Asia Pacific \(GCB\)](#), Pakistan has a high bribery rate for the region, and at least 1 citizen out of 6 reported having paid a bribe to access a public service relating to utilities, the police or the judiciary, in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Main Activities

Activities under this project include:

- **Empowering citizens** to encourage them to take action against corruption, through trainings on Right to Information, provision of free legal advice on corruption-related complaints, and use of Citizen Report Cards to collect evidence of people's perceptions on corruption. The chapter also conducts youth engagement activities and provides tailored trainings to women to increase their participation in political decision making.
- Enhancing civil society voice through **strengthened partnerships and coalition building** to collectively lobby the government on good governance and anti-corruption.
- Improving transparency and **anti-bribery practices in public and private sector** entities through capacity building activities.
- Conducting research and advocacy on the **enforcement of both national laws**, including RTI laws, and **international frameworks**, including Pakistan's commitments towards achieving the SDGs and implementing the UNCAC.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objectives

1. Enhance the use of social accountability tools by citizens to hold their government accountable and improve public services.
2. Strengthen civil society capacity, voice, and cross-collaboration to foster public demand for accountability and shed light on corrupt practices.
3. Strengthen the capacity of public institutions to redress citizens grievances and become more accountable.



TI Pakistan's response to the COVID crisis

TI Pakistan pays close attention to mainstreaming its responsiveness to the COVID crisis in all the project activities:

- RTI trainings include a component on the relevance of RTI in the current pandemic context.
- ALAC services provide free legal advice on COVID-related complaints.
- COVID-related aid is monitored through mechanisms such as Citizen Report Cards.
- The chapter launched a social media campaign to support accurate public messaging on COVID.
- TI Pakistan advocates for enhanced transparency and accountability in public procurement and is advocating for the disclosure of information on contract awards in COVID-related direct contracting.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS - 2022

2022 was an engaging year for TI Pakistan and anti-corruption work. TI Pakistan organised many physical and online activities, awareness-raising and training workshops, and released research reports and surveys. Citizens, including women and young people, actively engaged in anti-corruption efforts and took measures in response to initiatives from Transparency International Pakistan.

In 2022, TI Pakistan continued to provide oversight and action against public procurement violations to inhibit the governmental practice of awarding government contracts to favourable companies at the taxpayers' expense. Around 100 letters were written to the procuring agencies informing them of violations of public procurement rules. Most procuring agencies rectified these, and regulators took action against violators. Authorities also took up several cases on the complaints sent by TI Pakistan.

At the same time, the chapter continued to advocate for the disclosure of information and the publication of contract information under Pakistan Public Procurement Authority (PPRA) Rules 2004, Rule 47, on the authority's website. To the success of TI Pakistan, federal and provincial governments have issued directives for mandatory compliance with PPRA Rule 47.

During the reporting period, TI Pakistan's Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre organised several Mobile ALACs to provide free legal advice to victims and witnesses of corruption. Around **250 victims of corruption registered complaints and sought free legal advice** through the ALAC hotline and mobile ALACs.

The chapter continued to empower women by raising awareness on women's rights. On the eve of International Day for Women 2022, TI Pakistan organised a series of workshops on Gender & Corruption: Women's Empowerment for the Fight Against Corruption. These workshops aimed to inform women participants of how various forms of corruption and corrupt practices usurp women's rights and hinder women's empowerment despite many women-supported laws. **Around 116 women participated in these seminars and workshops.**



TI Pakistan's seminar on gender and corruption
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Engaging Youth and Women in the fight against corruption

Youth and women can play a critical role in bringing transparency and accountability to the government and other institutions by actively participating in anti-corruption efforts. One way they can do this is by participating in anti-corruption activities and taking action. Youth and women can be engaged in data collection and monitoring of public sector performance and advocate for the protection of whistle-blowers and the establishment of anti-corruption laws and policies.

During the reporting period, an increased number of youth and women participated in TI Pakistan's activities. Overall, in all our 2022 activities, the participation of women was **33%**, while youth participation was **40%**. Particularly in the National Corruption Perception Survey 2022, **38%** of women and **25%** of youth participated in the survey making it an achievement. During the walks and seminars organised on International Anti-Corruption Day, youth participation was **28%**, while the participation of women was **29%**.

With these efforts, TI Pakistan believes that the involvement of youth and women in anti-corruption efforts can have a multiplier effect, as they are more likely to be engaged in their communities, networked and familiar with new technologies and innovations. They can effectively engage other youth and women, amplify their voices and help them build the skills and knowledge necessary to engage in anti-corruption efforts.

TI Pakistan continued to advocate for enhanced awareness and implementation of Pakistan's Right to Information laws. The chapter organised several capacity-building workshops for CSOs, citizens and journalists. RTI workshops have been instrumental **in educating the citizens, particularly women, about Access to**

Information laws in Pakistan and how citizens can use RTI laws to play an active role in combating corruption. At the end of the workshop, the participants wrote RTI applications to different departments, strengthening the demand side for RTI implementation in Pakistan. TI Pakistan also organised a one-day training workshop for journalists on using Right to Information laws. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of journalists to use access to information laws as a social accountability tool for investigative journalism. **Around 100 RTI applications were filed by the citizens from these workshops.**

TI Pakistan commemorated International Youth Day and organised several youth-related activities focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to encourage youth to get involved with sustainable development. The workshops emphasised that youth comprise more than 60% of Pakistan's population, and young people are essential in solving Pakistan's socioeconomic and development problems, including achieving sustainable development goals. **133 youth, including 42 women, increased their awareness about SDGs after participating in workshops on the localisation of SDGs.**

In 2022, TI Pakistan organised three training sessions for public officials on local government laws, elections and systems in the Sindh province. The capacity-building training has helped increase the awareness of local government representatives and candidates contesting local government elections in Sindh about their roles and responsibilities in addressing citizens' problems. These trainings have also contributed towards enhancing community awareness at the grassroots level on how they can participate at the local level.

Moreover, the chapter conducted the National Corruption Perception Survey (NCPS) 2022, assessing the levels and frequency of corruption perceived by Pakistani Citizens. The survey was conducted in collaboration with partner organisations in all four provinces, with 1,600 respondents (400 respondents from each Province). The findings of NCPS 2022 were shared with the provincial and federal governments and received wide coverage in Pakistan, emphasising the need for anti-corruption reforms in the country.

TI Pakistan also undertook research on the implementation of Proactive Disclosure clauses of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act 2013 and Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 to provide an external review to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Government of Punjab and provide recommendations concerning the implementation of the clauses of proactive disclosures.

On International Anti-Corruption Day 2022, TI Pakistan arranged walks and seminars in 12 districts across four provinces of Pakistan in which government officials, civil servants, law enforcement officers, media representatives, the private sector, civil society, academia, the public and youth participated in tackling corruption. A total of 755 citizens participated in these events, including 216 women.



Participants during the anti-corruption walk on International Anti-Corruption Day 2022
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LOOKING AHEAD

In 2023, the chapter will continue to:

- Monitor and provide recommendations on public procurement.
- Reach out to vulnerable communities, women, and the general public, by equipping them with accountability tools and skills through RTI training and awareness-raising activities and providing free legal advice to citizens on corruption-related complaints.
- Further advocate jointly with partners for both the enactment of strong RTI laws in Gilgit Baltistan and the effective implementation of RTI laws in Sindh, Punjab, KP and Baluchistan provinces, and at the federal level, by increasing awareness and demand from citizens.
- Engage youth, public and private institutes to enhance young people's knowledge about corruption and integrity.
- Organise capacity-building training for public officials.
- Design and disseminate advocacy material, including success stories.