

TI IPP STRONGG IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Citizens Holding Power to Account

Founded in 2003, Transparency Solomon Islands (T-SI) is part of the Transparency International global coalition against corruption that 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.

Project at A Glance

- Topics of Focus: power accountability, electoral system, legislative reforms
- Project timeframe: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2028
- Locations & project outreach: Honiara & country provinces
- Budget: Project: 150,000 EUR
Core: 650,000 EUR

With support from the TI Indo-Pacific Partnership for *Strong, Transparent, Responsive & Open Networks for Good Governance (TI IPP STRONGG) Phase II* (2024 – 2029), Transparency Solomon Islands (T-SI) aims to address the significant governance challenges plaguing the island nation. T-SI's strategy focuses on empowering citizens, holding political power accountable and protecting democracy through the promotion of good governance. T-SI's efforts include community information sessions, civic awareness programs, election monitoring, engagement with the government, CSOs, media, development partners and legal support for citizens. The global geopolitical movements add additional layers of complexity, making the work of T-SI crucial to the citizens. T-SI's advocacy aims to inspire and support citizens to actively participate in democratic processes, ensuring a better future for all. Through these efforts, T-SI aims to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Solomon Islands National Anti-Corruption Strategy and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).



Tina Hydro Project, Trust Association Election of BoT and CAC
Election monitor

© Transparency International Solomon Islands

BACKGROUND

Solomon Islands, an island nation of tribal communities in Melanesia, has a relatively new centralised administrative state. Political institutions and national democracy are still being established in the country whose machinery of government is also often affected by ethnic tensions and corrupt leaders. T-SI is working to address the prevalent corruption that significantly impacts trust in the government, the election processes, political leadership, resource exploitation, and public service delivery. Through IPP STRONGG Phase II, T-SI aims to build on the progress made in Phase I by empowering citizens to hold political power accountable and protecting democracy through good governance. T-SI's advocacy efforts follow a three-pronged approach: influencing government policies and legal reforms, empowering citizens to actively participate in democratic processes, and advocating for greater political will from politicians to tackle corruption and exposing corrupt practices.



T-SI booth by youth

© Transparency International Solomon Islands

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Outcomes

- Increase citizen engagement in anti-corruption and democratic processes, enhance knowledge of governance, electoral principles and voter rights, and provide free legal services to support activism.
- Develop stronger governance laws and policies with civil society input, strengthen governance frameworks, and advocate for improved political leadership integrity.
- Strengthen partnerships with media and stakeholders, conduct public awareness campaigns, and disseminate information through media.
- Advocate for legal Reforms Improving the Integrity of Elections and Electoral Processes.

Main Project Activities

- Conduct **community outreach and awareness-raising activities** on democratic processes and good governance.
- Provide **free legal services and advice** to victims of corruption.
- Conduct **legal research and offer technical input on policy and legislative reforms** related to Freedom of Information and the Electoral System.
- Design **targeted advocacy initiatives** and engage with government and development partners.
- Collaborate with the Electoral Management Body to ensure **transparent electoral processes**.
- **Strengthen partnerships with the media** to raise awareness and expose corruption cases.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS – 2024

In 2024, T-SI began setting up for IPP STRONGG Phase II by engaging with various stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), High Commission representatives, donors, civil society organizations, Australia National University (ANU). In 2024, the chapter engaged in a Clean Election Campaign for the first joint election (general, provincial, and local). Mainstreaming its efforts to include the socially excluded, women and youth, T-SI hosted a session with the WARA women's association to raise awareness on the individual rights in the context of the Constituency Development Funds Act passed in 2023. T-SI also continued to support the Youth 4 Democracy Network (Y4DN) established in Phase I with its school and community outreach. Continuing its efforts to promote good governance, T-SI has provided free legal services and public interface, made submissions to the Parliamentary Bills and Legislation Committee, and engaged in the induction of new Members of Parliament on parliamentary systems, good governance, and democracy.



Bills and Legislation committee hearing
© Transparency International Solomon Islands

Transparency in Action: TSI's Impact on Governance

In 2024, the following engagements by TI Solomon Islands reinforced public trust in the governance of the country:

- In June, the Solomon Islands government launched a revised National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). Transparency Solomon Islands was officially invited by the Office of the Prime Minister to join the NACS Steering Committee. This inclusion has positioned T-SI to directly influence policy implementation and strengthen anti-corruption efforts.
- T-SI played a critical role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the governance of the Tina Hydro Project, part of the Solomon Islands Sustainable Energy Project (SISEP), as an independent monitor engaged by the government. T-SI oversaw the election processes of the Board of Trustees and Community Advisory Committee, including candidate screening, vote counting, and declaration of successful candidates, ensuring transparency and accountability in the establishment of the Trust Association, which manages the community benefit trust fund for local communities in the project area.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2025, Transparency Solomon Islands will:

- Continue to focus on community outreach and youth workshops to expand the reach and engagement in the demand for anti-corruption.
- Expand its partnerships through CSO workshop to address the impacts of corruption on women and socially disadvantaged groups.
- Continue its ongoing advocacy toward legislative reforms, stronger anti-corruption laws, and enhanced political integrity.