

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL CAMBODIA

“Collective ACTIONS Against Corruption (CA2C)”

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1. Context of Our Work and Justification

Corruption

Corruption in Cambodia continues to exist on the grand as well as petty scales. In the 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) Cambodia ranked 157 among 180 countries assessed, with a score of 23 out of 100. In Southeast Asia, Cambodia was, like in the previous two years, placed bottom. According to the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators 2020, which measure six key dimensions of governance, Cambodia still fares poorly on all fronts, with most areas having gotten worse over the last five years. The low scores in voice and accountability (12.56), political stability and absence of violence (41.04), government effectiveness (37.98), regulatory quality (29.81), the rule of law (17.79), and control of corruption (11.06) highlight the widespread and endemic forms of corruption that permeate every aspect of the Cambodian daily life.

Elite capture: The most significant arena of corruption is the political sphere in Cambodia. It manifests in wide-range of ways. The first is state capture, where the political elites and their cronies continue to use their power to amass their wealth at the expense of state resources, environment and human rights, and even the country's sovereignty. This is done via vast patronage networks, through legal and illicit means, combined with coercion, violence and intimidation. This trend has only intensified in recent years, propelled by the influx of Chinese money, and the government's increasing crackdown on domestic watchdogs and critical voices. Members of the ruling elites and their business associates also reportedly engage in and reap benefits from money-laundering activities. Corruption has been effectively used or abused by both politicians and business elites to not only cement their power but also further extend their hold on power in Cambodia. Therefore, corruption must not be viewed as a technical bureaucratic problem that can be tackled by technical responses but as a state capture and political force that must be systematically addressed by political solutions as well. Political corruption has been well embedded into governance functions that have significant implications on how key policy decisions are made, how power is structured, how election is conducted and more importantly how the democratic institutional checks and balances are operated.

Shame election: Political corruption also took the form of brutal crackdowns on the main opposition party and the organization of a shambolic election in 2018, marked by vote buying, violence and intimidation, and where the ruling party won every seat in the national assembly. These moves by the ruling party have effectively turned Cambodia into a full swing autocratic, one-party state. While past elections provided some opportunities for citizens to exercise their voting right, the 2018 national elections functioned entirely as a tool for the government to enhance its legitimacy and authority. Combatting political corruption, as such, requires an improvement in the integrity and transparency of elections in Cambodia.

Weak and politicized judiciary: And yet political corruption also involves corrupting the judiciary and using it as a tool to enhance the power of the ruling elites. The judiciary totally lacks independence from the CPP leadership and is controlled by the weak Ministry of Justice. This renders this institution the last, not the first resort. The most glaring recent example of the judiciary's lack of independence is the 2017 Supreme Court ruling that overturned the 2017 National election results. The Supreme Court then dissolved the political opposition party based on the request of the Prime Minister. Both of these decisions show how the Executive intervenes in judicial decisions to maintain political power. What is more, citizens who seek justice at the sub-national and national levels for land disputes and other rights violations rarely receive impartial adjudication. With this sad reality, it is unsurprising that Cambodia has consistently been ranked the lowest in the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index. In the 2021 Index, for example, Cambodia was ranked 138 out of 139 countries.

Bureaucratic corruption: Going hand in hand with endemic political corruption is the widespread bureaucratic and public service corruption. While salaries for public officials have increased notably

over the past few years, corruption within the public services remains widespread. The 2020 Global Corruption Barometer shows that 37 percent of Cambodian respondents who used public services in the past 12 months had paid a bribe to access the services, with the highest bribery rate being experienced by those who obtained identification documents (40 per cent). Furthermore, nepotism and patronage remain pervasive in the bureaucracy, responsible for undermining the crucial functions of public services. A culture of impunity among senior officials exacerbates this problem. Lack of political will on the part of the leadership of the ruling party and the absence of a viable political opposition exacerbates the CPP's accountability deficiency, as the party and government officials lack an incentive to improve performance.

Significant barriers continue to prevent and discourage people from reporting corruption, not least the lack of an effective reporting mechanism for citizens. For instance, according to the 2020 GCB, only 2.5 percent of those who paid bribes to access public services said they had reported corruption. In addition, only 38% of respondents believed that citizens could provide information about corruption without fear, while 57% think that they were afraid of possible retaliation.

Closing democratic space

Closely intertwined with corruption is closing civic space. In recent years, the Cambodian government has accelerated its suppression of democratic space. Suppression of critical NGOs, unions, and the media: As the opposition party has been virtually dismantled, a primary target of the repression has now been CSOs, particularly NGOs dedicated to human rights, good governance, rule of law, anti-corruption, land disputes, and environment. As with NGOs, independent trade unions have also faced harsh clampdown. In spite of these external and internal challenges, pro democracy NGOs and groups, grassroots communities, and worker unions and associations persist in defending and advocating for fundamental rights and freedom. In addition to pro democracy NGOs, independent media has also bore the brunt of state crackdown. By 2018, the majority of independent newspapers, radio, and TV channels in Cambodia had ceased to exist. At the same time, attacks against journalists critical of the government have increased dramatically. While the growth of digital adoption was positive news for information freedom, digital technologies, particularly social media, are increasingly subject to growing government monitoring and intervention. Growing atmosphere of fear and self-censorship: State suppression, in addition, aims to strike fear and promote self-censorship and disengagement among the public. Recent research by TI Cambodia indicates that the growing repression has led to increased apathy and further marginalisation of citizens, particularly youth, women and vulnerable groups, from civic and political affairs of the country. Nevertheless, where youth, especially women, participate or take the lead in political campaigns, such as protests or anti-corruption initiatives, the results tend to be particularly impactful and effective. Interventions to open up civic space should therefore focus on harnessing the potential of youth, who make up a substantial share of the population, in defending and opening up civic space in Cambodia.

Recent legislative developments, including the passing of the NGO law, Lèse-majesté law, the state of emergency law, and the Internet gateway sub-decree, have served to further inhibit the ability for civic groups and individuals to exercise and protect civil rights and freedom. And yet, the draft Access to Information law, ostensibly aimed at allowing Cambodians to obtain access to public information, also features several clauses that could threaten the already restricted environment for free speech. On the other hand, existing laws—such as the Criminal Code— have also been frequently employed by the government to crackdown on critical voices.

Economic status

Cambodia has enjoyed a robust GDP growth over the past decade, which has been facilitated by many factors. These include the adoption of free market macro-economic policies, increased trade and investments particularly in the garment and footwear industry due to EBA and GSP preferential trade agreements with the EU and the US, a steady growth of the tourism sector and fast growing property

and construction sectors. However, Cambodia has recently experienced slow economic growth due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and increasing oil price while the recovery of the tourism sector remains slow. According to the World Bank, Cambodia's economy will grow by 4.5 percent in 2022 and its fiscal deficit is expected to widen to 6.3% of GDP. The upcoming global recession and high inflation rate will make the predicted 2022 GDP growth uncertain. As Cambodia's economy is largely dependent on a few main drivers, Cambodia will be very vulnerable to economic shock. Therefore, it is vital that Cambodia maintains the stability in the garment and footwear industry by keeping EBA and GDP (which requires the government to address key recommendations introduced by the EU and USA), increase industrial diversification and make double efforts to boost investment and trade by reducing the costs of doing business, facilitate trade and adopt a cleaner and friendlier investment climate. This presents an opportunity for key development partners and stakeholders to lobby the government to restore democracy and reverse the shrinkage of civic space and promote transparency and accountability in the public sector.

Positive steps in government's anti-corruption efforts: A number of anti-corruption initiatives have been, to some extent, successfully implemented in Cambodia amid increased authoritarian rule. Notable among these are public finance management and public procurement reforms.

Public financial management reform

Cambodia launched the public financial management reform programme (PFMRP) in 2004, a key milestone in its efforts to transform the public financial management system. The PFMRP, which represents a comprehensive set of reforms, has been essential to improve how state resources are organised, allocated, transferred and made accountable. The PFMRP has contributed to the improvement in revenue mobilisation and management. For example, between 2014 and 2019, tax revenue rose by 243 percent, boosting the national budget. Cambodia has also made efforts to increase budget transparency. The most recent Open Budget Survey notes improvement in the availability of relevant budget documents. Nevertheless, a host of challenges remain. Cambodia has a transparency score of 33 (out of 100) in the 2021 Open Budget Survey and is regarded as being insufficiently transparent when it comes to public access to information on how the central government raises and spends public resources. In addition, whilst the ability of citizens and civil society to engage with the national budget process is mandated in law, in practice their role has often been limited across the four different stages of the budget cycle. The OSB's score on public participation was 0 out of 100 in 2021. Although the Ministry of Economy and Finance has established public consultations during the budget implementation, the participation of relevant stakeholders seems not very meaningful. Budget oversight remains weak, receiving a score of 41 out of 100. The legislature and auditing institution provide limited oversight of the process. There are also challenges for citizens and civil society to provide effective oversight with the delayed publication of only limited financial statements and auditing and assessment.

Public procurement

The introduction of the Law on Public Procurement 2012 has provided a foundational framework to standardise public procurement and is gradually being implemented in practice. A recent analysis by TI Cambodia found some improvements in public procurement in Cambodia. For example, amendments, bid advertisements, and contract awards appear on the website of the General Department of Public Procurement of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, relevant multilateral organisations' websites, and local bulletin boards. Training is provided to procurement officials of the line ministry, government ministry and provincial departments on an annual basis. There is an established appeals process for aggrieved bidders. Despite the positive steps, significant challenges and issues in public procurement persist. For instance, existing accountability mechanisms to monitor public procurement practice remain weak. According to the 2021 Economic Freedom Index, corruption within public procurement in Cambodia remains widespread. While procurement rules and practices

may have improved over the years, it is largely prone to corruption and malpractice especially involving large scale projects, contracts and licences. The system is still dominated by patronage practice which means that well-connected companies and business people are able to access generous state rents and are able to avoid regulations or ignore due legal processes.

Business climate

Cambodia's business environment is rapidly changing due to increased foreign direct investment, a growing number of industries and entrepreneurs, and a rapidly changing legal framework. Not all changes are positive, however, as companies continue to be incentivized to engage in corruption. The private sector is frequently viewed as the supply side of corruption, making informal payments to facilitate permits, licences, and tax declarations. In the 2018 ASEAN Business Outlook Survey, 80 percent of US investors who responded raised corruption as a concern to those doing business in Cambodia. Private sector actors who refuse to engage in corruption may face an uneven playing field in terms of establishing their business and claiming a share of the market. According to the most recent World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Survey, Cambodia is placed 144th out of 190 economies. Cambodia's ranking dropped from 138 in 2018 to 144 in 2019. In addition, the realms of politics and business are indistinct. Certain actors often take on dual roles. Some directors of big companies serve as senators, while some politicians, civil servants, police officers, military staff and judges are the ultimate owners of business interests. Conflicts of interest appear to be unregulated and unsanctioned. While Cambodia has adopted strong legislations concerning anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism, enforcement remains weak. In 2016 alone, at least \$1.8 billion was laundered out of Cambodia, according to an analysis by U.S. think tank Global Financial Integrity. Furthermore, Cambodia was placed 100th out of 110 nations in the Basel Anti-Money Laundering Index 2021, suggesting a very high risk of money laundering and terrorism financing.

2. TI Cambodia's Strategic Priorities

TI Cambodia's strategy is structured with three priority areas: 1) public resource governance, 2) rule of law and democratic governance, and 3) business integrity and level playing field. Thus, the overarching purpose of the strategy is to contribute to increasing transparency and accountability of public resource governance, enhancing rule of law, democratic governance and participation, and fostering integrity in the business environment. Each priority consists of specific sectors that need immediate interventions which can lead to attainable results of enhanced good governance, democracy and rule of law, and conducive business environment, within the framework in this strategy.

Under Priority 1 - Public Resource Governance priority, there are four key sectors including 1) public financial management reform and budget transparency, 2) public procurement, 3) accountable mining for sustainable development, and 4) oversight bodies. By addressing the problems in these key sectors, we expect to achieve an improved level of accountability and transparency in the mobilisation, management and expenditure of public resources.

Under Priority 2 – Rule of Law and Democratic Governance, TI Cambodia looks at 1) improving Cambodia's anti-corruption legal framework and relevant legislation, 2) advocating for improvement and adoption of the draft law on Access to Information, 3) strengthening citizen and youth activism against corruption, and 4) increasing awareness of political corruption. The realisation of these objectives will contribute to better rule of law and democracy in the society.

Under Priority 3 – Business Integrity and level playing field, concentrated focuses are directed at 1) flow of dirty money or money laundering, 2) beneficial ownership, 3) corporate integrity system and compliance, and 4) fair for all/responsible business conduct. By achieving the expected outputs of these focuses, integrity in the business sector in Cambodia will be relatively improved to a greater extent as compared with the current business environment. The interventions involving capacity

building and research under the priority areas will also be supported by a newly initiated Centre for Governance Research and Education. The centre has three main aims

- (1) Gather, analyse and share evidence about pressing problems pertaining to governance in Cambodia and researching solutions to the problems. Issues covered by the research will include corruption, public policy, public financial management, civic engagement and sustainable development, but also cross-cutting issues such as human rights and freedom, gender equality, and youth.
- (2) Stimulate research partnerships and collaboration with independent research and academic institutions and individuals in Cambodia, the ASEAN region, and beyond.
- (3) Provide research-driven, theoretical and practical training in anti-corruption, good governance, and business integrity.

3. Results Achieved in Relation to the Planned Results for 2023

3.1 Overview of Results Achieved under TI Cambodia's Strategic Priorities for Year 2023

The below table gives an overview of progress toward the planned outcomes and outputs under TI Cambodia's strategic priorities 2023-2026. The table includes columns for Expected Results, Indicators, Baseline, Target for 2023 and Actual Progress. **Expected Results** column shows intended outcomes and outputs set to achieve during and or at the end of the project; **Indicators** column defines measurable metrics for each outcome and output; **Baseline indicators** provides historical data as reference points; **Targets for 2023** indicates quantity or extent of outputs and outcomes intended to be achieved for the year 2023, and the **Actual Progress in 2023** shows progress made during 2023. By comparing Actual Progress and Target 2023, you can determine if results were met, underachieved or delayed. The Actual Progress column also provides a brief overview of progress, while more details are available in the **Detailed Narrative on Progress in 2023** section below the table.

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target 2023	Actual Progress as of 2023
PRIORITY 1: PUBLIC RESOURCE GOVERNANCE				
Sector 1: Public Financial Management Reform and Budget Transparency				
Specific Objective/Outcome: to improve transparency and accountability of the public resource management	OBS overall transparency score for Cambodia	33 (2021)	35	TI Cambodia was not able to measure this target outcome as the 2023 Open Budget Survey (OBS) results have not been released.
	# of recommendation(s) adopted by the government	0	1	Achievement = 2 2 recommendations were adopted and reflected in the 2024 national budget 2024. In 2022, the BWG working group and TI Cambodia put forward several recommendations after analysing the 2023 national budget. The 2024 national budget showed adjustments made in response to these recommendations. Two noticeable changes included an increase in budget allocation for sub-national administrations from 12% in 2023 to 18% in 2024, and an increase in a special tax rate for domestic sugary drinks. Joint efforts made over the past years by TI Cambodia and BWG also led to enactment of the Public Financial Management System Law in 2023.

Output 1.1: CSO engagement and advocacy in budget transparency and accountability enhanced	# of capacity building activity(ies) for CSOs	1 (2022)	1	Achievement = 2 Two capacity building training sessions were provided to members of the CSO Budget Working Group and CSO partners, increasing knowledge among 26 participants (16 females) about fiscal policy, budget literacy, budget classifications, and budget analysis tools and techniques.
	# of action(s) taken by CSOs	1	1	Achievement = 3 Actions taken by the CSO Budget Working Group included: 1- Successfully organising a national public forum on Stakeholders' Engagement in PFMRP bringing together about 130 stakeholders (62 females). 2- Conducting 2024 national budget analysis and submitting recommendations to relevant ministries 3- Developing Citizen Budget 2024 – with simplified budget information for the general audience.
Output 1.2: Increased public awareness and participation to promote public budget process	# of citizens engaged in the intervention	48 (2022)	45	Achievement = 47 A total of 47 citizens participated in TI Cambodia's two interventions to promote budget transparency and accountability, including a Young Journalist Training and a Young Budget Tracker.
	% of digital platform users increased awareness on the topics	0	60%	Delayed The web-portal to produce online interactive and visualised information on the public budget is under development. The technical team is still working on the layout of the web-portal. The full functioning of the web-portal is expected in 2024.
	# of action(s) taken by citizens	6	8	Achievement = 12 As a result of Young Journalist Training, 12 initiatives were implemented by youth participants, which involved producing and disseminating articles for the online audience.
Output 1.3: Enhanced transparent public revenue collection	# of piece(s) of evidence/study(ies) produced on public revenue collection	1	1	Achievement = 1 As part of the analysis of the public budget in 2024, the revenue stream was analysed and discussed. Five areas of revenues which were included in the analysis were Value Added Tax (VAT) and Tax on Personal Income, Tax

				<p>on Tobacco, Alcohol and Sugary Beverages, Low Nutrition Intake Products, Tax on Properties, and and Tax on Gasoline.</p> <p>A Fair Tax Monitor research project is still underway. However, the consultant is on board, and a conceptual framework is agreed upon. TI Cambodia is conducting the research project with technical support from Oxfam Novib. The final report is expected in mid-2024.</p> <p>Meanwhile, TI Cambodia and BWG have developed posters containing 2023 public revenue information for social media campaigns (referring to the below indicator).</p>
	# of advocacy activity(ies) conducted	0	3	<p>Achievement = 3</p> <p>Social media campaigns on citizen budgets have been implemented, involving disseminating posters on public revenue and expenditure and progressive taxation.</p>
Sector 2: Public Procurement				
Specific Objective/Outcome: to increase transparency and accountability in public procurement	# of policy(ies) or institutional practice(s) on public procurement improved or adopted	0	1	<p>Achievement = 1</p> <p>The Public Procurement Law was adopted in 2023. Joint efforts by CSOs and TI Cambodia were made towards improving the draft law on public procurement in 2022, resulting in 3 CSO recommendations being incorporated into the adopted law.</p>
Output 2.1: Empowered citizens and civil society to hold government accountable for responsive decisions and actions to improve public procurement practice through increasing their awareness and participation	# of activity(ies) conducted to raise awareness of public procurement	0	2	<p>Achievement = 5</p> <p>Three social media posts were made with the contents from the public procurement law which was adopted in 2023 to raise public awareness on the new law.</p> <p>TI Cambodia also hosted two American fellows in 2023 as part of reciprocal exchange project to promote understanding of public procurement systems and practices in Cambodia and the United States.</p>
Output 2.2: Legal frameworks and practices related to public	# of recommendation(s) on public procurement submitted	0	3	<p>Achievement = 3</p> <p>TI Cambodia is currently working with the technical team of the Ministry of Interior on reviewing the 2017 Guidebook on the Implementation of</p>

procurement reviewed or assessed				Commune/Sangkat Fund Project, with a special focus on commune/sangkat public procurement. Three key recommendations were put forward and incorporated in the revised guidebook in 2023. It included the principle on civic engagement, the principle on environmental impact analysis and the compensation scheme for environmental impact to households/communities. The newly updated guidebook is expected to be published in 2024.
Sector 3: Accountable Mining				
Specific Objective/Outcome: To enhance transparency and accountability of extractive industry for sustainable development in Cambodia	# of action(s) taken by affected communities	-	1	Achievement = 2 Two affected communities took action by requesting the government for mining funds for their community development. Actions taken by these communities are indicative of their participation in holding the government accountable and ensuring sustainable development in the mining industry.
	# of recommendation(s) by CSOs and communities accepted by relevant authorities	-	1	Delayed Since evidence-based recommendations are being formed through an ongoing study on “mapping gold mining projects/companies in Cambodia and their contributions to state revenue”, no recommendations were submitted to the government yet.
Output 3.1: Increased evidence and access to information on extractive industry in Cambodia	# of piece(s) of evidence produced and disseminated		1	Delayed The research study on “mapping gold mining projects/companies in Cambodia and their contributions to state revenue” is still underway. The inception report of the study was agreed upon. The lead consultant is working on the first draft of the report. The report is expected to be released in July 2024.
	Information related to fiscal, non-fiscal revenue or community funds from extractive industry made available	-	1	Delayed Led by ANSA, TI Cambodia and the CSO Coalition on Extractive Industry Governance jointly submitted a letter to the Ministry of Mine and Energy, requesting formal and complete information on mining funds for local community development. However, no response has been made by the ministry.

Output 3.2: Enhanced capacity of affected communities to advocate for transparency and accountability in extractive industry	% of trained community members having increased awareness and better understanding of relevant legal framework and principles of FPIC, ESIA, ESG, and advocacy	0%	40%	Achieved In collaboration with ANSA, 2 full-day workshops were conducted in Kampot (28 people including 15 females) and Kratie (64 people, including 29 females) in order to raise awareness among community people regarding the government's initiative Mining Funds for Local Community Development and how to develop proposals for the fund. All the participants learnt about the initiative, and their increased awareness was demonstrated by their active engagement in developing fund requests from the government's initiative.
Output 3.3: Improved business practices of mining companies so that they engage responsibly with the government, host communities and civil society when starting new projects and expanding or investing in existing projects	# of mining company(ies) engaged with the intervention	0	2	Partly achieve = 1 The members of Fair Finance Cambodia, a CSO coalition which engages in fostering the social and environmental well-being of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups conducted a dialogue with a gold mining company, Renaissance Minerals (Cambodia) Limited, on the implementation of environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. The coalition also conducted and disseminated a research study on Environmental, Social and Governance (practices) of the Gold Mining Industry in Cambodia.
Output 3.4: Fostered multi-stakeholder dialogues on extractive industry	# of dialogue(s) held with relevant stakeholders on mining issues	2	3	Achievement = 3 Three key dialogues were conducted in 2023. These dialogues fostered open discussions on the extractive industry matters, enabled information-sharing and learning on current and emerging issues, and established/enhanced collaboration among the multi-stakeholders on improving transparency and accountability in the sector.
Sector 4: Oversight				
Specific Objective/Outcome: to strengthen parliamentary oversights and practices	# of recommendation(s) accepted to strengthen oversight institutions' efficacy, accountability and independence	0	1	Delayed since direct advocacy or lobbying with the national assembly, could not take place during the reporting year especially with the national election in July 2023 and forming of the government.
Output 4.1: Evidence for CSOs to advocate for strengthening of oversight functions produced	# of assessment conducted on parliamentary oversight	0	1	Achievement = 1 Through support from TIS, a report on parliamentary oversight assessment in Cambodia was produced, which included primary reviews of the legal

				framework, practice, and impact of parliamentary oversight functions in the country.
Output 4.2: Citizen awareness and participation, particularly youth and young women, around parliamentary oversight and accountability increased	# of advocacy action(s) conducted to increase demand-side pressure on oversight institutions	0	11	Achievement = 7 Seven advocacy actions were taken to increase demand side pressure on oversight accountability. The initiatives included 2 policy briefs, 4 feature articles, and 1 digital campaign.
PRIORITY 2: DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW				
Sector 1: Anti-Corruption Legal Framework, ALAC and CSO Working Groups				
Specific Objective/Outcome: to strengthen anti-corruption legal and regulatory frameworks and the enforcement through alternative reporting mechanism on corruption cases (Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre) and anti-corruption coalition building	# of corruption case(s) referred to the law enforcement agency(ies) for further action	0 (2022)	1	Achievement = 2 ALAC intervened in two corruption related cases. The case involved a provincial officer asking for additional payment to speed up the administration process. Under TI Cambodia’s intervention, the officer in charge passed the letter to the city governor, and there was a prompt response from the governor. Another case was related to a long delay of issuing a birth certificate. The request was lodged five years ago, but even after repeated follow-ups from the resident, it was still not successful. The case was resolved at a local forum, which was organised by TI Cambodia and the Ministry of Interior to facilitate discussions between local authorities and residents.
	# of recommendation(s) taken aboard by the government	0	1	Achievement = 1 TI Cambodia, the secretariat of CSOs Working Group on Anti-corruption, jointly developed and submitted a joint statement for the United Nation Universal Periodic Review for the 46th Session of the UPR Working Group. TI Cambodia will continue to work with relevant stakeholders to use UN mechanisms in pushing for the government’s response on corruption in Cambodia.

				In addition, TI Cambodia and CSO Anti-Corruption Working Group conducted a few analyses, including a joint resolution adopted on Anti-Corruption Day and analysis on Asset Declaration regime and Whistle-blower Protection draft law. TI Cambodia will put forward recommendations to the government, utilising evidence form by these analyses.
Output 1.1: Legal service and advice are provided to citizens who report corruptions and refer the cases to relevant authorities	# of report(s) received by ALAC	17	30	Achievement = 44 ALAC received 44 issues with 27 corruption related issues, 9 non-corruption issues and 8 request for general information from 31 clients (10 males, 17 females, 4 others).
Output 1.2: Relevant anti-corruption legal and regulatory framework drafted, adopted or amended in partnership with relevant stakeholders and government institutions	# of joint advocacy conducted	3	4	Achievement = 4 Four joint advocacy activities aim at increasing public awareness and demand for legal reform, were conducted with key CSO working groups in Cambodia, including 1) leading CSO Anti-Corruption Working Group in organising National Anti-Corruption Day, 2) together with CSO Digital Right Working Group, organise the Phnom Penh Internet Freedom, 3) leading the CSO Anti-Corruption in producing the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) on Anti-Corruption, 4) joint efforts with CSO Digital Right Working Group in developing and disseminating UPR on Digital Rights.
Output 1.3: Capacity of stakeholders including the government, CSOs, media and business enhanced on key anti-corruption legal and regulatory frameworks.	% of trained participants demonstrated increased awareness	0	65%	Achievement = 100% ALAC provided eight anti-corruption legal framework trainings to youth, NGOs and journalists across provinces and municipalities with a total of 295 people combined (145 females). Based on an online follow-up survey, all the respondents (69 people) reported increased awareness of corruption after the training.
Sector 2: Access to Information				
Specific Objective/Outcome: to advocate for adoption and effective implementation of the Law on Access to Information	# of recommendations by CSOs accepted by the government	0	1	Achievement = 1 The CSOs Coalition on Access to Information jointly developed and submitted a joint statement for the United Nation Universal Periodic Review for the 46th Session of the UPR Working Group.

Output 2.1: Enhance coordinated advocacy of CSO working group on the law on access to information	# of coordination advocacy activity(ies) conducted	1 (2022)	3	Achievement = 4 Four coordinated advocacy activities were taken by CSO Access to Information Group including 1) holding a national workshop on access to information for all, 2) organising a workshop on World Press Freedom Day, 3) organising a workshop on Universal Access to Information Day on 28 September 2023, and 4) co-developing Universal Periodic Report on Access to Information.
Output 2.2: Disseminate information to the public about the draft law on access to information	# youth engaged in discussion on access to information	0	60	Achievement = 60 60 youths (38 females) were engaged through two youth debates organised by API in partnership with TI Cambodia with an aim to provide platforms for them to discuss issues concerning access to information.
Sector 3: Citizen and Youth Empowerment and Action				
Specific Objective/Outcome: to strengthen youth capacity and provide them opportunities/platforms to raise their voices on most important issues affecting their lives, futures and communities	% of youth engaged in social and political issues following participation in TIC intervention	44%	60%	Achievement = 97% A sample of 110 core youths were surveyed to measure the impact of TI Cambodia “Greater Young Women Empowerment in Decision Making and Accountable Public Service Delivery.”107 of them engaged at least one time in social and political matters that affect their lives including attending community development plan meetings, monthly meetings with their commune, district, provincial councils, raising concerns/local issues to the local authority to solve, submitting complaints regarding public service delivery and corruption to relevant authorities. (100% of 23 males, 96% of 85 females, and 100% of 2 LGBTQs reported participated in social and political issues).
Output 3.1: Developed and enhanced platforms to mobilise youth to learn and discuss about democratic principles, good governance, leadership, transparency and accountability	# of platform(s) designed to engage youth developed or enhanced	5 (2022)	6	Achievement = 12 A total of 12 youth engagement platforms were created for youth across the country to participate in learning and building their capacity to take action to address issues related to democracy, good governance, transparency and accountability. These platforms included one youth camp, 4 Young Leadership Programmes, one international study tour, one local exposure tour, one youth boot camp, a Young Women Political Apprenticeship, and three sub-national youth forums.

Output 3.2: Develop youth influencers to be the youth role models and mentors who will lead the youth initiatives at the community level and help to sustain youth on-going efforts	# of youth influencer(s) promoted	0	6	Achievement = 11 11 youth influencer videos were produced. The video showcased youth who are champions of positive change in their community in different provinces.
Output 3.3: Create a social and digital engagement platform where youth feel comfortable sharing information, opinions and ideas freely	# of total engagement on digital platforms	-	15,000	Achievement = 28,675 Through social media campaigns involving online quizzes, and online youth talks, 28,675 engagements were garnered, which contributed to increased awareness among social media users. (See details in the progress narrative section)
Output 3.4: Educate youth leaders and social activists to effectively mobilise their peers and engage with civil society and government officials at national and sub-national levels.	# of discussion(s) by youth leaders conducted	-	12	Achievement = 6 6 face-to-face youth discussions were conducted with 111 youth participants (40 females)
Output 3.5: Train youth to lead their own projects with clear links to sub-national and national issues	# of youth led project(s) implemented	2	6	Achievement = 24 8 youth-led projects were implemented by youth groups who participated in the youth camp, these activities reached 515 (329 females) people. In addition, 6 youth-led initiatives were conducted by youths who attended two YLPs in February and March which further engaged 299 (164 females) people. 5 more youth-led initiatives were conducted by youth alumni, reaching 227 (130 females) people. Last, 5 youth-led initiatives were conducted by youth network members at the three regional offices, engaging a total of 463 (308 females) people.
Output 3.6: Use survey and study findings and recommendations to advocate for government responsiveness on identified issues	# of policy recommendation(s) produced and disseminated	-	5	Delayed 3 policy papers by junior researchers are being drafted. Another 2 policy papers will be produced in the next quarters

Output 3.7: Promoted transparent, accountable and responsive public service deliveries	# of action(s) that taken by government officials to be more accountable, transparent and responsive in public service delivery	15 (2021)	5	<p>Achievement = 17 17 actions were taken by the Ministry of Interior to promote transparency, accountability and responsiveness in public service deliveries across the country. The actions involved 10 community forums, five multi sectoral dialogues at district/city level, one multi sectoral dialogue at provincial level, and one national public dialogue.</p>
Output 3.8: Strengthened TI Cambodia's regional office and coalition building with relevant stakeholders on governance and anti-corruption	# of advisory citizens committee meeting(s) conducted	15 (2022)	9	<p>Achievement = 9 9 advisory meetings were conducted at the three regional offices, 3 meetings each province. There were 7 members (1 female) on the Citizen Advisory Committee in Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kampot, providing advice on project implementation.</p>
	# of regular capacity building provided to youth networks	5 (2022)	6	<p>Achievement = 15 15 regular capacity building/training to youth networks at regional offices in Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kampot, with a total of 541 youth participants (315 females). The training covered topics including good governance, anti-corruption legal framework, and communication.</p>
	# of joint initiative(s) with other networks or coalitions	2	2	<p>Achievement = 5 At the domestic level, TI Cambodia has joined the initiatives with CSO partners including Paris Peace Agreement, Labour Day and International Human Rights Day. At the international level, TI Cambodia has expanded its anti-corruption network and efforts by joining and organising regional workshops, events and meetings including ASEAN People Forum (APF), and Asia Democracy Networks. Partnership meetings were also held with the National Anti-Corruption Commission in Thailand. This joint advocacy and engagement has built and strengthened collaboration between TI Cambodia and regional CSOs, DPs, ASEAN bodies, and ASEAN member states.</p>
Sector 4: Political Corruption and Electoral Integrity				

Specific Objective/Outcome: to contribute to the fighting of corruption in politics and enhancing electoral integrity	# of recommendation(s) submitted	-	1	Not achieved.
Output 4.1: Enhanced electoral integrity in Cambodia through evidence based advocacy	# of policy(ies) on political integrity produced	-	1	With donor approval, this output has been cancelled.
PRIORITY 3: BUSINESS INTEGRITY AND LEVEL PLAYING FIELD				
Sector 1: Business Integrity, Responsible Business Environment and Tackling Illicit Financial Flows				
Specific Objective/Outcome: Enhanced corporate integrity and level playing field	# of action(s) taken to improve business integrity and level playing field	0	1	Achievement = 1 A list of compiled issues collected from SMEs was produced in 2023 and submitted to the Ministry.
Output 1.1: increased evidence and information on money laundering and systems for secret payments and concealment of assets	# of research/study(ies) conducted	0	1	Achievement = 1 An investigation research study on suspicious financial flow from Cambodia to Australia was conducted in collaboration with TI Australia, and has been completed. A report launch will be conducted in April 2024.
Output 1.2: Enhanced coordinated actions against money laundering and systems for secret payments and concealment of assets	# of advocacy action(s) conducted	0	1	Achievement = 2 Two coordinated actions have been fostered in 2023 to address common issues in the Southeast Asian region, in which cross-border illicit financial flow is one of the key priorities. TI Cambodia joined force with Southeast Asian Network for Transparent and Accountable Governance (SEANTAG) which leverage the collective strength of Southeast Asian civil society organisations, think tanks and research institutions, to advocate for holistic transparency and accountability initiatives which foster knowledge sharing and encourage dialogue between policymakers and civil society to promote good governance across the region. TI Cambodia has recently joined another newly established regional network on anti-corruption, "Southeast Asian Anti-Corruption Network for Civil Society." The network aims to facilitate the

				<p>sharing of experiences and lessons in advocating for reforms and greater transparency and accountability. It also seeks to support diverse voices in policy and decision making, identify commonalities in regional challenges, and work together to address them.</p> <p>Following the investigation, a research study on suspicious financial flow from Cambodia to Australia, the advocacy plan was already developed jointly between TI Cambodia and TI Australia, identifying key proposed actions and key relevant stakeholders who have influence on the issue. Advocacy efforts will be made at both national and international levels.</p>
Output 1.3: Promoted transparent, accountable and responsible business conduct and level playing field	# of capacity building activity(ies) for CSOs or youth	0	2	<p>Achievement = 2 Two training programs on Fiscal Policies Supporting the Rubber and Banana Sectors and Inclusive Supply Chains of the Two Sectors were conducted for CSO Partners and Youth in March 2023. After training the sessions, its curriculum was developed for 4 YLIs (Youth-Led Initiatives) to implement the project at their target areas in communities in October 2023 and reached 180 (109 females) people plus other online viewers.</p>
	# of piece(s) of evidence produced	0	2	<p>Achievement = 2 A Policy Paper of Cambodia’s Natural Rubber Industry: “Non-inclusive value chain and fiscal policies undermine smallholder farmers’ contribution to the country’s export economy” was produced. A research report on Fiscal Policy Options for the Banana and Rubber Industries in Cambodia was finalised and is being printed. However this report was already circulated among Fair for All partners to develop activities for their year 4.</p>
	# of action(s) taken to advocate for responsible business conduct and better level playing field	0	5	<p>Achievement = 4 BIP collaborated with FASMEC and other stakeholders to organise a workshop on SMEs Development after the Covid-19, aimed to address specific issues and challenges faced by SMEs. Three other workshops were conducted in Kandal, Siem Reap, and Phnom Penh.</p>

Detailed Narrative on Progress in the Reporting Year 2023

PRIORITY 1: PUBLIC RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Sector 1: Public Financial Management Reform and Budget Transparency

Specific Objective/Outcome: *to improve transparency and accountability of the public resource management*

Results: TI Cambodia was not able to measure this target outcome as it relies on 2023 Open Budget Survey (OBS) results which have not been released yet. 2021 OBS overall transparency score for Cambodia was 33. TI Cambodia has anticipated an increase to 35 in 2023 through joint advocacy efforts with CSOs under various initiatives in Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 below. The release of 2023 OBS results is expected in 2024.

Nonetheless, 2 recommendations were adopted and reflected in the 2024 national budget. The BWG working group and TI Cambodia put forward several recommendations after analysing the national budget in the previous year. The 2024 national budget showed change made in response to these recommendations. Two noticeable changes included an increase in budget allocation for sub-national administrations from 12% in 2023 to 18% in 2024, and an increase in a special tax rate for domestic sugary drinks, which the group and TI Cambodia recommended to revise.

Output 1.1: *CSO engagement and advocacy in budget transparency and accountability enhanced*

Results: This output was met. The CSO Budget Working Group (BWG) maintained and strengthened its involvement in budget transparency and accountability through 11 coordination meetings and two capacity building training sessions supported by TI Cambodia. They continued to jointly conduct advocacy to promote budget transparency. For instance, the group organised a national public forum on the Public Financial Management Reform Program (PFMRP) to raise public awareness and engagement in the budget process. They further developed the Citizen Budget 2023 and conducted an analysis of the National Budget 2024 which was shared widely with relevant ministries and stakeholders.

Activities Implemented:

TI Cambodia provided support to the CSO BWG in organising regular meetings to enhance their coordination and share updates on ongoing fiscal matters within the country. Throughout the reporting period, the group held meetings 12 times with an average of 15 participants who were from NGO members of the group. The meetings shared progress updates, updated the group's TOR, elected a new chair (API), vice chair (TIC) and secretariat (NGO Forum), synergised common activities among members, and conducted midterm review of its current 2020-2025 strategy and planned for more effective joint advocacy efforts.

Besides regular meetings, the BWG, with other CSO partners and journalists, participated in two capacity building workshops facilitated by TI Cambodia on 11-13 January 2023 and 28-30 August 2023. The objectives of these training sessions were to deepen their insight into fiscal policy, budget literacy, budget process, budget classifications, budget analysis and various tools and techniques such as visualisation and infographic creation for more effective advocacy. Following the training, the group applied their enhanced knowledge by conducting an analysis of the national budget for 2024, which they submitted to relevant ministries including MEF, MoE, MoEYS, MoWA, MoSVA, and NCDD. They also developed 2023 Cambodia's National Budget Infographics on Revenue and Allocation for Prominent Sectors which was disseminated at the National Budget Forum.

Members of the working group also played a key role in developing the Citizen Budget, a simplifying, easy-to-read version of the national budget, developed for a general audience. This document was finalised, published online and in print, and distributed to various relevant stakeholders including CSO partners, development agencies, youth and the public.

Additionally, a National Public Forum on “Stakeholder Engagement in Public Financial Management Process” was conducted on 25 May 2023, serving as a platform for sharing ideas, experiences, and best practices, promoting a broader understanding of the PFM, budget process and the need for public participation. The forum was attended by around 130 participants (62 females) including representatives from government ministries, the private sector, UN agencies, development partners, civil society organisations, universities, students, youth, indigenous communities, citizens, and the media. It was also live streamed on Facebook, reaching a total of 3,000 people. The forum discussed a wide range of specific issues including ineffective oversight engagement in budgetary process, the over-complexity of the commune budgetary system for local administration, and lack of local citizen participation in the commune budgetary process.

Following the joint efforts including the analysis of the draft law on the public financial management system and proposing recommendations to the government, the draft law was finally passed in early 2023. Transparency of budget documents is assessed and promoted in the law as the article 51 of the law states the disclosure of the draft law on the national budget.

Output 1.2: Increased public awareness and participation to promote public budget process

Results: Due to delays in web portal development, awareness level among digital platform users was not fully achieved. However, citizen engagement targets were met. 47 citizens were engaged as planned, in TI Cambodia’s two interventions namely Young Journalist Training and Young Budget Tracker Programme. These two programmes empowered young journalists and youths to report on budget accountability issues and engage with the public, fostering a better understanding of the budget process. Fully equipped with knowledge and skills after the training, they participated in promoting the public budgetary process and budget accountability to a wider public by publishing 12 story articles on budget-related topics. Efforts in raising awareness among social media and online platform users are ongoing with plans to launch a web portal and publish educational videos early 2024.

Implemented Activities:

In partnership with CamboJA, 2023 Young Journalist Training on National Budget Reporting was conducted on 10-11 August 2023, with 21 young journalists including 12 females. After the training, the participants (including participants from 2022 Young Journalist Training) initiated 12 story article projects covering community issues closely linked to budget accountability such as budget allocation for communes, the damage to a rubber road in Takeo province, and the public desire for Cambodia to develop without falling into more foreign debt. In the reporting year, all articles were produced and disseminated.

Young Budget Tracker for Transparency training was successfully held in Kampot from 15-20 August 2023, with 27 participants, including 14 females, one person with a disability, and one person from the LGBTQ group. Participants learned about fiscal policy, national revenue, state budgets (national and subnational), citizen budget formulation, and project design and management. They also participated in three field visits to three Sangkat/Communes in Kampot: Kampong Bay, Andoung Khmer, and Troey Koh commune. Seven groups were formed to develop sub-national and national citizen budgets. Four teams focused on commune budget information, while the other three teams focused on government funding in 2023. Seven citizen budgets were drafted for state budgets at the national and commune levels. The training results showed that about 53% of participants increased their knowledge.

With a purpose of increasing awareness among social media and digital platform users, TI Cambodia planned to develop a web portal for interactive visualisation of public budget information. Due to some delays, the web portal development was not yet finished until early 2024. However, a kick-off meeting on the project took place on 28 September 2023 to brainstorm the web portal's layout. Zero draft layout of the web portal was developed by the consultant, followed by TI Cambodia’s review and

feedback. Currently, the consultant is working on the revision and actual web development. The draft web portal is expected to be introduced to TI Cambodia's management and CSO's Budget Working Group for further review and feedback in November 2023. Additionally, a video animation titled "Citizen Participation in Budget Expenditure Process in Cambodia" is being produced. A consultant has been selected, the content of the video was finalised, and the script is now being reviewed. In the meantime, the video's storyboard is being developed. The video is expected to be published next quarter.

Output 1.3: Enhanced transparent public revenue collection

Results: the output was met. As part of the analysis of the public budget in 2024, the revenue stream was analysed and discussed. Five areas of state revenues which were included in the analysis include Value Added Tax (VAT) and Tax on Personal Income, Tax on Tobacco, Alcohol and Sugary Beverages, Low Nutrition Intake Products, Tax on Properties, and Tax on Gasoline. The recommendations on the state revenue stream were also submitted as part of the annual public budget analysis.

A Fair Tax Monitor research project is still underway. However, the consultant is on board, and a conceptual framework is agreed upon. TI Cambodia receives technical support from Oxfam Novib in undertaking the studies. The final report is expected in mid-2024.

Furthermore, public awareness on the topics such as public revenue collection and expenditure was widely raised through a social media campaign by TI Cambodia and CSO BWG, increasing awareness, stimulating discussions, and ultimately increasing public demand for transparent public revenue collection.

Implemented Activities:

Key documents related to Fair Tax Monitor (FTM) were reviewed and collected, including common research framework, guidelines, and scoring methodology. A Term of Reference (ToR) for the Consultant to undertake the Fair Tax Monitor was developed and posted to the public in mid 2023, resulting in 10 applications submitted. However, none was deemed qualified by the recruitment committee. TI Cambodia has then identified potential individuals and firms for the assignment and invited them to submit the proposals. After the second attempt, a consultant was recruited to lead the study. TI Cambodia team has met with colleagues at Oxfam in Cambodia and Oxfam Novib virtually and in person on 14 July 2023, 14 September 2023 and 29 September 2023 to discuss the collaboration technical support offered by Oxfam Novib and to review the FTM tool itself. The consultant reviews the guidance documents and conducts desk research to gather relevant information and data. The study is expected to conclude in March 2024.

With the content from 2023 Citizen Budget booklet, TI Cambodia implemented a series of a social media campaign involving posting budget information about revenue and expenditure by both national and sub-national administrations. The posts received 3,977 engagements and reached around 1 million social media users.

They also developed 2023 Cambodia's National Budget Infographics on Revenue and Allocation for Prominent Sectors which was disseminated at the National Budget Forum.

Sector 2: Public Procurement

Specific Objective/Outcome: *to increase transparency and accountability in public procurement*

Result: This outcome was achieved. Since the release of the draft public procurement law by the ministry of finance in 2022, TI Cambodia and CSO BWG had made efforts to improve the draft law and push for enactment. On 16 May 2023, the law was passed, with three recommendations from TI Cambodia and the BWG having been incorporated by the ministry. Before the adoption of the law, TI Cambodia was also given chances to provide our analysis on the new draft law to the Ministry of

Economy and Finance. Moreover, TI Cambodia is currently reviewing the Ministry of Interior's Guidebook on the Implementation of Commune/Sangkat Fund Project with a focus on the sub-national procurement component.

Output 2.1: *Empowered citizens and civil society to hold government accountable for responsive decisions and actions to improve public procurement practice through increasing their awareness and participation*

Result: This output was achieved through public awareness activities on social media platforms. Three social media posts were made with the contents from the public procurement law which was adopted in 2023 to raise public awareness on the new law.

Activities implemented: Following the adoption of the new law on public procurement, TI Cambodia also conducted public awareness raising activities through social media platforms. Three online posts were conducted with the contents from the public procurement law which was adopted in early 2023. The contents focused on explaining to the public what public procurement is, what the procedure of public procurement is, and what the key principles for transparency are.

TI Cambodia also hosted two American fellows in 2023 as part of reciprocal exchange project. The fellows visited Cambodia with a purpose of learning about CSO's engagement in public procurement in Cambodia as well as sharing the public procurement systems and practices in the United States. The visits involved workshops, visits to relevant organisations, and meetings with youth.

Output 2.2: *Legal frameworks and practices related to public procurement reviewed or assessed*

Result: Three key recommendations were put forward and incorporated in the revised guidebook on the Implementation of Commune/Sangkat Fund Project in 2023. It included the principle on civic engagement, the principle on environmental impact analysis and the compensation scheme for environmental impact to households/communities.

Activities Implemented: TI Cambodia and BWG continued to advocate for enactment of the draft public procurement law since its first release by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in 2022, leading to adoption of the law in 2023. Leading to the adoption, an analysis on the draft procurement law was conducted, and the recommendations from the analysis were also presented to the Ministry of Economy and Finance's General Department of Public Procurement in March 2023.

Following the enactment, TI Cambodia continued to support the relevant government bodies to enhance their procurement practices and policies efforts. In the reporting year, TI Cambodia worked closely with the Mol's Technical Working Group tasked with reviewing and improving Mol's Guidebook on the Implementation of Commune/Sangkat Fund Project. with a special focus on the sub-national procurement procedures. The newly updated guidebook is expected to be disseminated in 2024.

Sector 3: Accountable Mining

Specific Objective/Outcome: *To enhance transparency and accountability of extractive industry for sustainable development in Cambodia*

Result: The targets for this outcome were achieved. As a result of TI Cambodia and ANSA's capacity building interventions, two mining affected communities took action to develop proposals for mining funds from the government. This demonstrates that communities, once empowered and given tools and platforms, are ready to demand accountability from their government and take part in ensuring sustainable development in the mining industry.

Output 3.1: *Increased evidence and access to information on extractive industry in Cambodia*

Result: This output was delayed as the study on "mapping gold mining projects/companies in Cambodia and its contributions to the state revenue" is underway.

Implemented Activities: The study on “mapping gold mining projects/companies in Cambodia and its contributions to the state revenue” is still under way and expected to be completed in 2024. The purpose of the research is to form evidence for recommendations to the government regarding opportunities for revenue mobilisation from the gold mining industry, to contribute to sustainable development. Once the paper is completed, advocacy efforts based on the findings of the analysis will be put into raising awareness and mobilising demand from affected communities and the public. In addition, led by ANSA, CSOs submitted a joint letter to demand the government to publicly release formal information regarding the Mining Funds for Local Community Development. No response was received from the government yet.

Output 3.2: *Enhanced capacity of affected communities to advocate for transparency and accountability in extractive industry*

Result: This output was achieved. The capacity of affected communities in Kampot and Kratie provinces was enhanced through training workshops organised by TI Cambodia and ANSA. The workshops raised their awareness about the government’s mining fund initiative and provided them tools on how to access the funds. The fund scheme was launched by the government in 2017 with the aim to support local development of communities affected by mining projects, yet it is not well known among mining affected communities.

Implemented Activities:

In cooperation with the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA), two workshops were conducted in Kampot province with 28 participants including 15 females on 25 May, and in Kratie province with 64 participants including 29 females on 02 June. Among these participants were local authorities and community people regarding the mining funds for local community development and how to develop proposals for funding. Following the training, 2 communities were supported in developing their fund proposals for their community: Sdach Kong Khang Thbung community in Kampot, and Svay Chras community in Kratie, focusing on construction of 2 bridges and building a school, respectively. The proposals are still being finalised.

Output 3.3: *Improved business practices of mining companies so that they engage responsibly with the government, host communities and civil society when starting new projects and expanding or investing in existing projects*

Result: This output was partly achieved. Only one out of the two planned companies was engaged in promotion of best business practices in the mining sector. TI Cambodia will scale up its efforts in the next year.

Implemented Activities:

The members of Fair Finance Cambodia, a CSO coalition which engages in fostering the social and environmental well-being of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups conducted a dialogue with a gold mining company, Renaissance Minerals (Cambodia) Limited, on the implementation of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. The coalition also conducted and disseminated a research study on Environmental, social and governance (practices) of the Gold Mining Industry in Cambodia, in which Renaissance Minerals was one of the companies assessed with regard to the implementation of ESG principles.

Output 3.4: *Fostered multi-stakeholder dialogues on extractive industry*

Result: This output was achieved. All the planned three dialogues were conducted. These dialogues fostered open discussions on the extractive industry matters, enabled information-sharing and learning on current and emerging issues, and established/enhanced collaboration among the multi-stakeholders on improving transparency and accountability in the sector.

Activity Implemented:

Three key dialogues were conducted in 2023. A workshop which was organised by the Ministry of Mine and Energy to provide an update on mineral sector governance and development, was held on May 29, 2023. The workshop brought together the relevant stakeholders, including relevant ministries, private companies, CSOs and mining community representatives to learn and discuss the progress and the challenge within the sector.

The Extractive Industry Social and Environmental Impact (EISEI), a network of local NGOs for national level communication and knowledge-sharing, also held its 45th meeting on 22 June 2023. The meeting also engaged the officials from the Ministry of Mine and Energy and NGOs working on mining issues to share updates and discuss about mining management and development in Cambodia, local community development and best practices by a cement company, emerging impact (mining exploitation and exploitation), mining exploitation and exploitation advocacy action plan, and review on a tool to monitor the impact of mining on women.

Another forum organised by Open Development Cambodia as part of the CSO Coalition on Extractive Industry Governance brought together relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Mine and Energy, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, NGOs, CBOs, and local communities, to present a new web-portal that contains information on revenues from extractive industry in Cambodia to generate inputs and feedbacks from all relevant stakeholders.

Sector 4: Oversight

Specific Objective/Outcome: *To strengthen parliamentary oversights and practices*

Result: The outcome target was not yet achieved since direct advocacy or lobbying with the supply side, namely the national assembly, did not take place during the reporting year especially with the national election and forming of the new government.

Output 4.1: *Evidence for CSOs to advocate for strengthening of oversight functions produced*

Result: This output was achieved. The output target was to produce 1 piece of evidence for advocacy to strengthen oversight functions. In the reporting year, one assessment report on parliamentary oversight was produced.

Implemented Activities:

With support from TIS, an assessment report on parliamentary oversight in Cambodia was developed, reviewing legal framework, practices, and impacts of parliamentary oversight functions in the country. Overall findings of the report show that parliamentary oversight is ineffective, particularly its financial oversight. On September 22, 2023, the assessment report was shared with 40 stakeholders (including 10 females) from CSO Anti-Corruption Working Group to discuss the findings and recommendations and determine the way forward. The report was well-received as a crucial starting point for advocating for a more accountable parliament in the country. As a result, several members agreed on a joint letter to the National Assembly (NA) to request a meeting on this issue. The letter is being finalised and will be sent to the national assembly next year.

Output 4.2: *Citizen awareness and participation, particularly youth and young women, around parliamentary oversight and accountability increased*

Result: The output target was almost met. Compared to the target of 11 advocacy actions, 8 advocacy actions were implemented to increase the demand side pressure on oversight accountability. These initiatives involved 2 policy briefs, 4 feature articles, and 1 digital campaign

Activities Implemented:

Two subsequent policy briefs based on the findings of the oversight assessment report were produced: one focusing on fostering pluralism and the other on improving parliamentary oversight through

enhanced post-legislative scrutiny. The papers were widely disseminated to relevant stakeholders. In collaboration with the Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association (CamboJA), **four feature articles** have been produced and shared on social media to promote accountability in Cambodia's oversight institutions. These articles include interviews with experts, government officials, and the national assembly representatives, highlighting their perspectives on the assessment's findings and recommendations. Furthermore, **a series of social media campaigns**, including information posters and online quizzes, have been launched to encourage engagement and discussion among social media users, particularly the youth in Cambodia, regarding parliamentary oversight in the country. These efforts have resulted in 13 posts receiving over 30,000 engagements on Transparency International Cambodia's social media page. TI Cambodia will implement more activities to increase public discussions and demand for improved oversight accountability, including a youth debate, a youth essay competition, and two policy dialogues.

PRIORITY 2: DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

Sector 1: Anti-Corruption Legal Framework, ALAC and CSO Working Groups

Specific Objective/Outcome: *to strengthen anti-corruption legal and regulatory frameworks and the enforcement through alternative reporting mechanism on corruption cases (Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre) and anti-corruption coalition building*

Result: This outcome was met. ALAC intervened in two corruption related cases. One case involved TI Cambodia's intervention with a provincial authority, and the other one was with a commune/sangkat authority. During the period, key recommendations on anti-corruption were submitted through a joint statement for the United Nation Universal Periodic Review for the 46th Session of the UPR Working Group.

Output 1.1: *Legal service and advice are provided to citizens who report corruptions and refer the cases to relevant authorities*

Result: This output was met. TI Cambodia's Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) received a total of 44 reports from 31 clients (17 females), with 27 of these reports related to corruption. While ALAC could not assist in legal proceedings for the corruption issues, ALAC intervened in two corruption related cases. The case involved a provincial officer asking for additional payment to speed up the administration process. Under TI Cambodia's intervention, the officer in charge passed the letter to the city governor, and there was a prompt response from the governor. Another case was related to a long delay of issuing a birth certificate. The request was lodged five years ago, but even after repeated follow-ups from the resident, it was still not successful. The case was resolved at a local forum, which was organised by TI Cambodia and the Ministry of Interior to facilitate discussions between local authorities and residents. ALAC also helped to resolve three non-corruption cases in the reporting period.

Implemented Activities:

In 2023, ALAC received 44 reports on various issues including 27 related to corruption, 10 non-corruption-related, and the rest related to general inquiries. The reports/complaints were received or submitted by a total of 31 clients including 17 females, through online report, email, hotline and walk-in visits. Some notable achievements included drafting a complaint for a client to file with the Supreme Court, sending an intervention letter to the ministry of labour regarding a labour exploitation case, providing legal advice to clients in a lawsuit and in a traffic violation case. A number of clients expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the support received from ALAC.

Output 1. 2: *Relevant anti-corruption legal and regulatory framework drafted, adopted or amended in partnership with relevant stakeholders and government institutions*

Result: This target output was met in terms of joint CSO advocacy. Five joint advocacy activities aimed at increasing public awareness and demand for legal reform, were conducted with relevant CSO working groups in Cambodia, including 1) organising National Anti-Corruption Day with CSO Anti-Corruption Working Group, 2) organising the Phnom Penh Internet Freedom together with CSO Digital Right Working Group, 3) with CSO Anti-Corruption Working Group, producing and submitting the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) on Anti-Corruption to OHCHR, 4) a joint effort with CSO Digital Right Working Group in developing and disseminating UPR on Digital Right, and 5) reviews of key anti-corruption legal frameworks on asset declaration and whistleblower protection.

Implemented Activities:

On 09 December 2023, In collaboration with CSO Anti-Corruption Working Group, TI Cambodia's ALAC organised various activities to celebrate **National Anti-Corruption Day** including a plenary session, workshops, photo and drawing competitions, highlighting the impacts of corruption. The event saw active participation from 153 stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. The competitions received a total of 28 photos and drawings depicting corruption's effects, and 16 of them were selected to be displayed throughout the event. The event concluded with a resolution reaffirming commitment to anti-corruption efforts among the participants. ALAC also supported the Digital Right Working Group to organise **Phnom Penh Internet Forum** on 18-19 May 2023 with 200 participants.

TI Cambodia also completed its first **Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report on Anti-Corruption** in Cambodia. TI Cambodia furthermore developed three policy papers on anti-corruption in Cambodia, anti-corruption in ASEAN, and CSOs engagement with ASEAN member states. Except the policy paper on anti-corruption in Cambodia, which is still receiving stakeholder inputs, the other two policy papers were distributed to regional partners including representatives of anti-corruption in Lao PDR, Indonesia, and Thailand, and United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) in Thailand. Furthermore, TI Cambodia also actively participated in designing anti-corruption advocacy in the ASEAN region. TI Cambodia also supported the Digital Right Working Group to develop the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report on Digital Rights**, which was submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR). ALAC is conducting two legal assessments on the draft whistleblower protection act, and asset declaration system in Cambodia, comparing them to international standards and best practices from neighbouring countries. ALAC also completed an analysis of news coverage on corruption in Cambodia. The study analysed the extent and capacity of media coverages on corruption related cases in Cambodia.

In addition, TI Cambodia and CSO Anti-Corruption Working Group conducted a few analyses, including a joint resolution adopted on Anti-Corruption Day and analysis on Asset Declaration regime and Whistle-blower Protection draft law. TI Cambodia will put forward recommendations to the government, utilising evidence form by these analyses.

At the national level, TI Cambodia met the Anti-corruption Unit to reestablish partnership on 16 March 2023. As a result, both agreed on three points: 1) providing technical training to the ACU; 2) supporting the ACU on corruption education; and 3) co-organising National Anti-Corruption Day.

ALAC facilitated the formation of a synergy platform for various CSO-led working groups including those focused on budget, access to information, digital rights, and anti-corruption, to enhance collaboration and effectiveness. Through 10 synergy meetings held in 2023, these groups worked together to maximise their impact, develop joint initiatives, share resources, and advance policy dialogues with relevant stakeholders.

Output 1.3: *Capacity of stakeholders including the government, CSOs, media and business enhanced on key anti-corruption legal and regulatory frameworks*

Result: This output was achieved. Through ALAC's series of training on anti-corruption and asset declaration. 100% of 69 respondents to an online follow-up survey reported having increased awareness about corruption following their participation in anti-corruption training. The participants of asset declaration training demonstrated increased understanding through their creative educational videos and articles around the topic.

Activities Implemented:

ALAC conducted 13 anti-corruption trainings throughout the year for youths across the country, journalists, media partners, NGOs and trade unions, engaging 433 participants (nearly 50% of them are females), increasing their awareness of anti-corruption legal framework, particularly anti-corruption law and TI Cambodia's ALAC mechanism.

In addition, on 05-06 August 2023, a training was held with 41 participants including 31 females to increase their knowledge on the asset declaration system in Cambodia, its weaknesses, and best practices from other countries. Two competitions were organised to encourage participants to apply their learning by creating videos and articles on asset declaration in Cambodia, resulting in the submission of 11 videos and 21 articles, with six articles already published and reaching a wide online audience.

Transparency International Cambodia also partnered with citizens to increase awareness of asset declaration by supporting initiatives aimed at promoting public understanding of asset declaration. A total of 41 participants, including 31 females, attended training sessions, resulting in the creation of 21 articles and 12 videos, with six articles already published. Additionally, at the regional level, TI Cambodia joint advocacy efforts at the ASEAN People Forum with the SEANTAG Coalition. Collaboration efforts with the Anti-corruption Unit at the national level and engagement with the SEANTAG coalition at the regional level further strengthened TI Cambodia's anti-corruption initiatives in 2023.

Sector 2: Access to Information

Specific Objective/Outcome: to advocate for adoption and effective implementation of the Law on Access to Information

Result: The outcome was achieved. The CSOs Coalition on Access to Information jointly developed and submitted a joint statement for the United Nation Universal Periodic Review for the 46th Session of the UPR Working Group.

Output 2.1: Enhance coordinated advocacy of CSO working group on the law on access to information

Result: This output was achieved. Four coordinated advocacy activities were taken by CSO Access to Information (A2I) Working Group including 1) holding a national workshop on access to information for all, 2) organising a workshop on World Press Freedom Day, 3) organising a workshop on Universal Access to Information Day on 28 September 2023, and 4) co-developing Universal Periodic Report on Access to Information.

Implemented Activities:

TI Cambodia supported the A2I Working Group to develop the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report on Access to Information**, which was submitted to the OHCHR for support to urge the Cambodian government to adopt the A2I law. The A2I Working Group also organised three other national-level advocacy activities including 1) a national forum on **Universal Access to Information Day** on 28 September 2023 with 173 representatives from the government, civil society, development partners, the private sector, the media, street vendors, community-based organisations, and youth; 2) **National Workshop on Access to Information for ALL** on 24 May 2023, with 90 participants, 13 participants from government officials, 3) **World Press Freedom Day** on 2nd May 2023 with 237 (83 female) participants from the journalists, youths, representatives from civil society organisations, activists, and development partners in Phnom Penh.

The working group also submitted CSO inputs on the draft access to information law to the ministry of information and the top five political parties in the 2023 election, seeking their commitment to push for adoption of the law.

The A2I working group is planning to engage the ministry of information in positive dialogues to push forward the progress of draft A2I law. In the meantime, the group is looking into expanding its scope of work on promoting sectoral public information disclosure and increasing its coalition by welcoming international and community-based organisations of common goals. A revised ToR for the group is being drafted.

Output 2.2: *Disseminate information to the public about the draft law on access to information*

Result: This output was met. 60 youth were engaged in discussion on access to information, as planned.

Implemented Activities:

In collaboration with API, two youth debates were organised to stimulate discussions among youth on fundamental freedom and the importance of the Law on Access to Information in Cambodia. The debates engaged a total of 60 youth participants including 38 females. TI Cambodia is planning a digital campaign on the draft law on Access to Information, which will include two short educational videos. One video features an influencer talking about the Access to Information draft law, while the other shows an animated character illustrating the challenges in accessing information from public institutions. The first drafts of the two videos were already completed in late 2023 and expected to be finalised in early 2024.

Sector 3: Citizen and Youth Empowerment and Action

Specific Objective/Outcome: *to strengthen youth capacity and provide them opportunities/platforms to raise their voices on most important issues affecting their lives, futures and communities*

Result: 97% of 110 youth engaged in social and political issues following their participation in TI Cambodia's interventions. A sample of 110 core youths were surveyed to measure the impact of TI Cambodia "Greater Young Women Empowerment in Decision Making and Accountable Public Service Delivery." 107 of them engaged at least one time in social and political matters that affect their lives including attending community development plan meetings, monthly meetings with their commune, district, provincial councils, raising concerns/local issues to the local authority to solve, submitting complaints regarding public service delivery and corruption to relevant authorities. (100% of 23 males, 96% of 85 females, and 100% of 2 LGBTQs reported participating in social and political issues).

Output 3.1: *Developed and enhanced platforms to mobilise youth to learn and discuss about democratic principles, good governance, leadership, transparency and accountability*

Result: This output was successfully achieved, with TI Cambodia offering numerous opportunities for youth engagement in governance-related topics. **12 youth engagement platforms** were created (compared to an initial target of 6 platforms), including one youth camp, 4 Young Leadership Programmes, one international study tour, one local exposure tour, one youth boot camp, a Young Women Political Apprenticeship, and three sub-national youth forums. The platforms enabled youth to increase their awareness and discussions on leadership, accountability, transparency, and good governance as well as their capacity to participate in addressing the issues in their communities.

Implemented Activities:

A Youth Camp was held from 03 to 07 March 2023 in Kampot under the theme "Enlarging Democratic Space for Greater Young Women and Youth Engagement in Promoting Transparent Society", with 105 youths (58 females) including high school and university students, LGBTQ members, indigenous people, and people with disabilities.

Four Young Leadership Programmes were conducted in Kampot, Battambang, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey with a combined total of 126 youth (72 females) to enhance their leadership skills and promote further understanding and dialogues on democratic governance, integrity, and anti-corruption at the grassroots level.

An annual study tour to Jakarta, Indonesia, took place from 27 November to 2 December 2023 with 16 participants selected from the various youth engagement programmes including youth camp, Young Leadership Programme, and Young Professional Journalist Training. They were selected through a rigorous selection process including the requirement to successfully implement their own initiative. The purpose of this tour was to provide them with valuable insights, knowledge, and experiences related to democracy, good governance, leadership, accountability, and transparency. **A local exposure trip** involving 14 youth participants (11 females, 2 LGBTQI) from various initiatives such as YLP and youth camp, was also successfully organised, covering the visits of various institutions in Phnom Penh, such as civil society institutions, media organisations, government agencies, and historical sites. The exposure tour facilitated better communication among the youths and better insight on different social and governance-related issues in Cambodia from the institutions they visited.

In partnership with CID, two capacity building programmes were conducted, including **one youth boot camp** and **Young Women Political Apprenticeship (YWPA)** programme, engaging a total of 104 youth across the country. The YWPA was a 24 week-long training programme, designed to empower young women from Kampot and Battambang provinces to partake in politics and take leadership roles in their communities or at national levels in the near future. The YWPA was completed with 24 young women who further applied their learning by developing 6 initiative proposals. TI Cambodia is reviewing the proposed initiatives which are expected to be implemented next year if approved. A 5-day youth boot camp under the theme of 'Youth's Engagement in Democratic Governance' (YEDG) was organised with 80 youths from 19 provinces and municipalities to bolster their interest and knowledge about electoral accountability and responsive government and empower them to demand improved governance in the country. The bootcamp was designed not only to equip knowledge and cultivate interest but also to develop the habit of being an active and engaged citizen in their community. As a result, 10 youth-led initiatives were proposed to TI Cambodia for financial support. The initiatives are expected to be implemented by the participating youth groups in 2024.

Three sub-national youth forums on the theme “The Empowerment of Women and Youth in the Digital Age” were implemented in Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, and Banteay Meanchey during June 2023, with total participants of 508 (358 females). These forums aimed to increase knowledge on the digital society amongst women and youth and encourage them to take advantage of technological advancement in their self-development, freedom of expression, and self-empowerment. Local authorities, CSOs, and educational institutes were invited and present for the event, indicating their support and cooperation

Additionally, youths were also engaged in learning and increasing their knowledge about other topics including access to information and transparent budgetary process, through **two youth debates** (conducted in partnership with API, referring to Access to Information Output 2.2), a **Young Journalist Training** (in collaboration with CamboJA, referring to PFMR and Budget Transparency Output 1.2), and a **Young Budget Tracker Programme** (referring to PFMR and Budget Transparency Output 1.2), which have already been reported earlier under the relevant outputs.

Output 3.2: *Develop youth influencers to be the youth role models and mentors who will lead the youth initiatives at the community level and help to sustain youth on-going efforts*

Results: The output was met. As a result of implementation, 11 youth influencer videos (target was 6 videos) were produced. However, only 3 youth influencer videos were promoted during the year, while the rest will be posted in 2024.

Implemented Activities:

TI Cambodia worked with two video production houses—606 Digital Media and Chenla Media—to produce Youth Influencer videos. Eleven out of the targeted twenty-five videos have been produced. These videos starred influential youth from 11 provinces: Kampot, Svay Rieng, Takeo, Phnom Penh, Kep, Kandal, Prey Veng, Siem Reap, Koh Kong, Sihanoukville, and Kampong Thom. Three videos were posted on TI Cambodia's official Facebook page, garnering 7,116 engagements. These videos acknowledge active youth for their concerted effort and involvement in community development and aim to inspire other youth to engage with their community and become change-makers. One main challenge with producing these videos was identifying truly influential youth who have created fundamental changes in their community, especially in the remote provinces. TI Cambodia will continue building and strengthening youth networks in these remote areas.

Output 3.3: *Create a social and digital engagement platform where youth feel comfortable sharing information, opinions and ideas freely*

Result: This output was met. Aiming to enhanced digital engagement platforms, social media campaigns were implemented, including quizzes and online youth talks, receiving a total of 28,675 engagements.

Activities Implemented:

A social media campaign involving quizzes was implemented to promote civic education among women and youth through TI Cambodia's I AM CLEAN page. In 2023, a total of 7 quizzes were held, garnering 51,408 reaches, 3,499 engagements (including reactions and comments), and 3,289 shares. Each quiz had 20 winners who received a \$10 phone card. These quizzes mostly took place on special occasions including:

- to commemorate International Women's Day, achieving 7,802 reaches, 480 engagements (480 reactions and 412 comments), and 442 shares.
- to celebrate World Press Freedom Day, focusing on "The Importance of Press Freedom." It garnered 8,723 reaches, 615 engagements (615 reactions and 563 comments), and 561 shares.
- to mark UN Public Service Day, emphasising "Citizens' Role in Improving the Quality of Public Services," reaching 17,346 people with 616 engagements (616 reactions and 820 comments) and 515 shares.
- to raise awareness about citizens' political rights during the election process, reaching 4,991 individuals and generating 510 engagements (510 reactions and 486 comments) and 515 shares.
- to celebrate World Literacy Day, reaching 4,112 people and resulting in 431 engagements (431 reactions and 427 comments) and 428 shares.
- to celebrate Cambodia's Independence Day, reaching 5,923 individuals and receiving 468 engagements (468 reactions and 469 comments) and 449 shares.
- Lastly, on International and National Anti-corruption Day to raise awareness on social media about the civic role in combating corruption in Cambodia. This campaign achieved 2,511 reaches, 379 engagements (reactions and comments), and 379 shares.

Six online youth talks were also conducted and live streamed on the I AM CLEAN Facebook page. These talks featured youth guest speakers and experienced youth moderators discussing various youth-related issues. The total online engagements amounted to 3,555. The topics covered included promoting youth in civic and political engagement, balancing school and volunteer work, understanding the impact of digital content, youth as positive change agents, internet freedom, freedom of expression, Sustainable Development Goals, and capacity-building among women and youth in the digital age.

A video competition was conducted on 28 June 2023 under the theme "The Roles of Women and Youth in the Fight Against Corruption" with 42 participants (20 females), reaching 5,471 engagements.

Output 3.4: *Educate youth leaders and social activists to effectively mobilise their peers and engage with civil society and government officials at national and sub-national levels*

Result: This output was half achieved. Only 6 of the 12 discussions by youth leaders were conducted.

Implemented Activities:

With TI Cambodia, Politikoffee organised six face-to-face youth discussions, engaging a total of 111 participants including 40 females. The programme attracted mainly high school and university students and monks, aiming to foster a culture of open dialogue and raise awareness of various social issues. These discussions provided a valuable platform for participants to exchange ideas with speakers and audiences, promoting freedom of expression and facilitating their active involvement in policy influencing.

Politikoffee also conducted a youth capacity building and an online debate training as part of the Youth Perspective Empower Programme on 18-19 February in Siem Reap, attracting 23 youth participants (10 females) including from high school and university students, a monk, an LGBTQ individual, and a person with a disability. The programme aimed to build a culture of discussing various social issues and raising awareness of social problems by debating with peers and young audiences nationwide. This is a significant strategy used to improve freedom of expression in the country and take part in policy influencing and strengthen the capacity of young women and youth leadership to cultivate awareness of youth empowerment to enhance social development and democracy in society. Youth participants actively engaged with each other and the trainers, especially during the debate role plays on various topics.

Output 3.5: *Train youth to lead their own projects with clear links to sub-national and national issues*

Result: This output was achieved. A total of 24 actions were taken by trained youths. 8 youth-led projects were implemented by youth groups who participated in the youth camp, these activities reached 515 (329 females) people. In addition, 6 youth-led initiatives were conducted by youths who attended two YLPs in February and March which further engaged 299 (164 females) people. 5 more youth-led initiatives were conducted by youth alumni, reaching 227 (130 females) people. Last, 5 youth-led initiatives were conducted by youth network members at the three regional offices which reached 463 (308 females) people.

Implemented Activities:

Following the two Young Leadership Programs (as reported under Citizen and Youth Empowerment and Action Output 3.1) organised in February and March, 6 youth-led initiatives were developed and carried out, engaging 291 (160 females) participants through a public forum on “Gender Equality and Leadership”; a forum on “Eradicating Discrimination against the LGBTQ community” in Battambang; a public forum in Sangkat Trey Koh, Kampot province, to increase knowledge on One Window Service; two trainings—one on “Form of Corruption and Protection of Environmental Sector” and one on “Protection and Negative Impacts of Environmental Issues”; a panel discussion with 27 participants, as well as a study tour on the topic of “Youth and Leadership”.

Following the Youth Camp on *Enlarging Democratic Space for Greater Young Women and Youth Engagement in Promoting Transparent Society* (referring to Output 3.1 above), eight youth-led initiatives were also developed and implemented. These youth-led initiatives engaged 350 participants (208 females).

TI Cambodia also supported active youth alumni from its past interventions, to implement their creative initiatives to address governance-related issues. As a result, in 2023, TI Cambodia received 5 proposals from them. The proposed projects involved a training on understanding of the rights and roles of youth in a democratic society, a training to indigenous youth on gender equality in understanding technology and science, a training on coding and robotics skills, a training on children’s

awareness on environment and healthcare, as well as running a youth debate competition. They were successfully executed, reaching 227 (130 females) people.

Five additional youth initiatives were implemented by youth networks in the provinces of Siem Reap, Battambang and Kampong Speu, engaging 463 (308 females) people. The initiatives not only addressed good governance and accountable public services, but also tackled the environmental issues such as plastic waste and pollution, and the importance of education and volunteering social work.

Output 3.6: *Use survey and study findings and recommendations to advocate for government responsiveness on identified issues*

Result: This output was achieved. 3 policy papers by junior researchers were produced. The other 2 policy papers are in progress. All five policy papers will be published in 2024.

Implemented Activities:

After inviting proposals, five young researchers were chosen, trained and mentored to work on small research projects. The five research projects include the projects on youth with disabilities and employment challenges, impact of social media-based alcohol advertising on young people, challenges faced by young people in accessing sexual and reproductive health services, the potential benefits of a government student loan program for Cambodian students, and barriers and pathways to local political participation for young people. Three junior researchers already completed their policy briefs while other two researchers are working toward the first drafts. We are pleased with the progress of the young researchers. TI Cambodia will continue to monitor the researchers' progress and support them as needed. We expect the five final reports to be published in 2024.

The research team collaborated with four academics to develop a research manual, aiming to empower junior researchers and university students by providing essential guidance on conducting research. All draft chapters were submitted by the end of 2023, and the team is currently undertaking a thorough editing process.

Output 3.7: *Promoted transparent, accountable and responsive public service deliveries*

Result: 17 actions were taken by the Ministry of Interior to promote transparency, accountability and responsiveness in public service deliveries across the country. The actions involved 10 community forums, five multi sectoral dialogues at district/city level, and two national public dialogues.

Implemented Activities:

In partnership with the Ministry of Interior, "Met Yerng" mobile application was maintained and well updated, despite a few technical issues which were promptly resolved. With support from TI Cambodia, the ministry continued to enhance their capacity in using and managing the mobile app. In efforts to disseminate the mobile application in the target areas, three competition campaigns and six monthly quizzes were conducted on TI Cambodia's Facebook page, resulting in a significant increase in engagement and app downloads. The mobile application was also promoted in various youth engagement activities of TI Cambodia. Since its launch in 2022, the number of the mobile app downloaded was 9,377, with 8,643 registered users. A total of 517 reports were received through the mobile application while 85% of them were responded to by PO/DO. To complement this complaint reporting mobile app, 10 community forums were held to collect complaints and issues from rural community people who could not access the mobile app due to limited resources and knowledge.

In September 2023, TI Cambodia and the ministry held 10 community forums in 11 target Sangkat/communes: Sangkat Angdoug, Sangkat Kampong By, Sangkat Treykosh, Sangkat Kampong Kandal, Sangkat Sambour Meas, Sangkat Kampong Cham, Sangkat Veal Vong, Sangkat Kok Chork, Sangkat Tuek Vil, and Sangkat Svay Dangcum. The forums engaged a total of 595 participants (321 females) to discuss issues regarding public service delivery in their communities. As a result, 115

suggestions and complaints were received from the participants, covering issues such as civil status, ID card, residence book, cadastral issues, OWSO, public order, corruption, and mobile app.

SoG provided training online to 18 OPDOs on how to use the mobile app and manage all the data. We also conducted physical refresher training on how to use a mobile app for responding to feedback from citizens to the DO in Pursat municipality on February 20, 2023, DO in Kampot municipality on February 22, 2023, PO and DO in Siem Reap province on August 19, 2023, DO in Peam Ro and Banlung on August 21-25, 2023.

In collaboration with the MoI, TI Cambodia conducted **five multi-sectoral dialogues at district/city level** in 4 target provinces with 357 participants, of whom 160 were female. It received 47 suggestions and complaints, most covering traffic, education, social security, land licence issues, civil registration, public health, drug issues, civil registration, the transfer of work and authority from the national to the sub-national level, and the mobile app Mate Yerng.

On February 16-17, 2023, TI Cambodia, GIZ, and Action Aid, in collaboration with the Department of Administrative of the Ministry of Interior, conducted the **Multi-Sectoral Dialogue at provincial level** in BMC province, presided over by HE Ngy Chanphal, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Interior, and closed by HE Prak Sam Oeun, Director General of the General Department of Administration, Ministry of Interior. There were 568 participants (160 females) from the 16 representative relevant ministries, OWSU/O, PO, and sub-national administrations nationwide. In the dialogue, some significant challenges were raised, including delay in the provision of the national ID card service and poor quality ID cards; correction of civil registration data is difficult and time-consuming, requiring a correction in court; and the provision of administrative services in the areas of land management, urban planning, and construction, especially the transfer of land ownership, has been very slow due to complicated forms and procedures for providing services.

On 24 November 2023, TI Cambodia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, organised a **National Dialogue** on "Promoting Public Service Delivery and Enhancing the Process for Receiving and Addressing Complaints" to respond regarding the provision of public services at the sub-national level. The dialogue was attended by 79 participants (21 females) from ministries, institutions, professional units, and stakeholders to share information and discuss with each other to find good practices to deal with both at the strategic level and develop policies at the institutional or agency level.

Output 3.8: *Strengthened TI Cambodia's regional office and coalition building with relevant stakeholders on governance and anti-corruption*

Result: This output was met. TI Cambodia's regional offices were enhanced through strategic guidance from regional Citizen Advisory Committees who regularly met to ensure TI Cambodia's activities on the ground were on track, while giving advice for more effective approach and impacts. Partnerships with youth groups at provincial levels were also strengthened through capacity building activities and other engagement platforms offering them to take anti-corruption action and promote good governance and accountability. 15 regular capacity building/training to youth networks were held with a total of 541 youth (315 females).

Implemented Activities:

Quarterly meetings with Citizen Advisory Committees based in Siem Reap, Battambang and Kampot were organised. The meetings were mainly to present the achievements, work plans, challenges and discuss and enhance approaches to delivering the regional projects to promote integrity, good governance, and anti-corruption at the grassroots levels.

Three capacity building activities were carried out in Siem Reap, Battambang, and Kampot, engaging a total of 140 provincial youths (85 females, 4 LGBTQI). The training focused on improving their understanding of topics such as good governance, decentralisation, One Window Service Office

(OWSO), Ombudsman Office, the roles of Commune/Sangkat, corruption, ALAC mechanism, and leadership. 21 trained youths formed groups to implement five youth-led initiatives (YLI) in various communities, aiming to raise awareness among citizens, especially regarding local public services provided by OWSO and Ombudsman Office at Commune/Sangkat. With support from TI Cambodia's regional teams, these initiatives organised activities like training, public forums, sharing sessions, reflection meetings, study tours to OWSO, and distribution of leaflets. The efforts of these five groups reached 518 beneficiaries (343 females, 1 LGBTQI) and distributed 1,620 leaflets, demonstrating an increase in citizens' knowledge and awareness of public services. **12 other regular trainings** were conducted with youth groups by Siem Reap, Battambang, and Kampot regional offices, with 401 (230 females) youth engaged.

A youth gathering was organised to commemorate National Youth Day 2023 on August 11. In collaboration with two civil society organisations, TI Cambodia brought together over 203 participants (113 females) from 20 core youth members in regional offices (including 1 LGBTQI, 1 monk, and 8 females), government officials, CSOs, international development agencies, and active youths. The event aimed to provide a platform for participants to express their opinions and perspectives on engaging in civic and political processes and to highlight the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing challenges and creating opportunities for Cambodian youth. The gathering included plenary discussions on youth's civic engagement, featuring youth representatives, youth and gender activists, policymakers, and discussions on key topics such as youth and political engagement, youth and corruption, youth and employment, and youth and drug and crime. Additionally, the forum included various activities like youth music performances, games, quizzes, and a youth exhibition showcasing projects on gender equality, environmental issues, public speaking, youth employment, public service delivery, technology, child protection, digital literacy, climate change, and STEAM.

TI Cambodia has jointly implemented the initiatives with CSO partners including celebrations of key events such as Paris Peace Agreement, Labour Day and International Human Rights Day.

TI Cambodia became part of the Southeast Asia Network for Transparency and Accountable Governance (SEANTAG) coalition. Through this coalition, TI Cambodia tapped into experience and best practices of anti-corruption agencies in Indonesia and Thailand and sought for collaborative opportunities on regional corruption initiatives. Under the SEANTAG, TI Cambodia expanded its anti-corruption network and efforts joining and organising regional workshops, events and meetings including ASEAN People Forum (APF), and Asia Democracy Networks, and partnership meetings with National Anti-Corruption Commission in Thailand. This engagement has built and strengthened collaboration between TI Cambodia and regional CSOs, DPs, ASEAN bodies, and ASEAN member states.

Sector 4: Political Corruption and Electoral Integrity

Initiatives under this sector have been cancelled.

PRIORITY 3: BUSINESS INTEGRITY AND LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Sector 1: Business Integrity, Responsible Business Environment and Tackling Illicit Financial Flows

Specific Objective/Outcome: *Enhanced corporate integrity and level playing field*

Result: This outcome target was met. One advocacy activity was conducted as planned to improve business integrity and level playing. The BIP team in partnership with FASMEC collected and compiled SME issues and submitted them to the relevant ministry for action.

Output 1.1: *increased evidence and information on money laundering and systems for secret payments and concealment of assets*

Result: This output was achieved as evidence was increased through a successful study on Anti-Money Laundering.

Implemented Activities:

An investigation research study on suspicious financial flow was conducted in collaboration with TI Australia and has been completed. The report has been written and designed for printing. TIC anticipates launching the report in April 2024.

Output 1.2: *Enhanced coordinated actions against money laundering and systems for secret payments and concealment of assets*

Result: Two regional networks on anti-corruption were established to strengthen regional efforts to fight corruption in the region. The first network is the Southeast Asian Network for Transparency and Accountability Governance (SEANTAG), and the second one is the Southeast Asian Anti-Corruption Network. The networks held regular meetings to share updates on progress and challenges of anti-corruption actions in the region. It is also to serve as the regional platforms for information and knowledge sharing.

Implemented Activities:

Two coordinated actions have been fostered in 2023 to address common issues in the Southeast Asian region, in which cross-border illicit financial flow is one of the key priorities. TI Cambodia joined force with Southeast Asian Network for Transparent and Accountable Governance (SEANTAG) which leverage the collective strength of Southeast Asian civil society organisations, think tanks and research institutions, to advocate for holistic transparency and accountability initiatives which foster knowledge sharing and encourage dialogue between policymakers and civil society to promote good governance across the region. TI Cambodia has recently joined another newly established regional network on anti-corruption, “Southeast Asian Anti-Corruption Network for Civil Society.” The network aims to facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons in advocating for reforms and greater transparency and accountability. It also seeks to support diverse voices in policy and decision making, identify commonalities in regional challenges, and work together to address them.

Following the investigation, a research study on suspicious financial flow from Cambodia to Australia, the advocacy plan was already developed jointly between TI Cambodia and TI Australia, identifying key proposed actions and key relevant stakeholders who have influence on the issue. Advocacy efforts will be made at both the national and international levels.

Output 1.3: *Promoted transparent, accountable and responsible business conduct and level playing field*

Result: This output was met. Two capacity building activities were conducted for youths as planned. The 2 planned pieces of evidence (a study and a policy paper) for advocacy were produced. 6 actions to promote responsible business conduct, including three workshops, one multi-stakeholder dialogue, and one video campaign was implemented.

Implemented Activities:

TI Cambodia built the capacity of CSOs and youth on responsible business, fiscal policies, agricultural policies, inclusive value supply chains particularly of rubber and banana smallholders, through **two trainings**: one was for 25 CSO representatives and the other for 33 youths (13 females) from various provinces. The 25 CSO representatives were from Oxfam, NGOF, CCC, Nature life of Cambodia, SILAKA, Farmer and Nature Net (FNN), Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC), Community Advancement Organization (CAO), Rural Economic and Agriculture Development Agency – Siem Reap (READA), Action For Development (AFD), and Samakum Krom Akpuiwat Phum (KAWP). The participants actively participated in discussions and worked together to identify and analyse key issues impacting rubber and banana smallholders, developing a matrix of advocacy actions to address these issues. There was a general increase in knowledge among the CSO based on a pre-test and post-test. By enhancing the knowledge and skills of CSOs and youth on responsible business, fiscal policies, and inclusive value supply chains, TI Cambodia is empowering them to identify and address issues affecting smallholders

Furthermore, after the training, the youth participants formed five groups to develop five initiatives (one group dropped midway due to busy schedules). These initiatives undertaken by the youth groups aimed to improve the conditions of rubber and banana smallholders who often face challenges due to their size and limited resources. The first group conducted a video interview featuring rubber-growing families in Kampong Cham province, which was shared on social media to emphasise the importance of rubber cultivation. The second group provided training to communities in Tbong Khmum, aiming to enhance knowledge among small-scale farmers about rubber types and technical skills. It involved 47 participants (17 females). The third group shared technical knowledge on rubber cultivation with four indigenous villages in Ratanakiri, engaging approximately 133 participants (92 females). The fourth group surveyed 30 families in Kampot involved in the banana industry, aiming to comprehend their livelihoods and working conditions, and the group subsequently compiled a research report. Unfortunately, the last youth group could not carry out their project due to their busy schedules at school. Nonetheless, the efforts made by these youth can ultimately contribute to promoting responsible business practices and help create a level playing field for these smallholders.

In addition to the capacity building activities, evidence that serves as a basis for advocating changes in policies and practices that benefit smallholders, was also produced through two research papers. **A study** on Fiscal Policy Options for the Banana and Rubber Industries in Cambodia was conducted, with the findings validated by key stakeholders. While the report has not yet been published, it has been circulated among Fair for All partners to plan the activities for next year's advocacy. In addition, **a policy paper** on Cambodia's natural rubber industry: "non-inclusive value chain and fiscal policies undermine smallholder farmers' contribution to the country's export economy" was completed. TI Cambodia plans to publish it in early 2024.

With the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), **a multi-stakeholders dialogue** was co-organised on 25-26 October 2023, to promote equitable taxation, fiscal accountability, responsible investment, and inclusive and sustainable trade value chain and value chain. There were nearly 100 participants from different backgrounds: workers, small holders, line ministries, private sectors, CSOs, and Fair for All partners. The dialogue especially enabled rubber smallholders and banana workers to present their concerns relevant to the supply chain and value chain to government agencies and the private sector and seek solutions as well as clarification on the rubber and banana fiscal policies. As their concerns were addressed and information was shared, the participants left the workshop well informed.

BIP in cooperation with FASMEC and other stakeholders organised **a workshop** on SMEs Development after the Covid19, which aims to address specific issues and challenges faced by small and medium enterprises (SMEs). **Three additional workshops** were conducted in Kandal on June 16, 2023, in Siem Reap on August 11, and in Phnom Penh on August 25. A survey conducted during the workshops with 295 FASMEC members highlights five main concerns including high cost of raw materials (18%), lack of government's support for marketing (15%), lack of access to finance (15%), unfair competition between tax-compliant and non-tax compliant companies (10%), lack of government's financial support (10%) and others (32%). Among these five issues, unfair competition between tax compliant and non-tax compliant businesses, and lack of access to finance, were chosen as priorities to address at the "19th Government-Private Sector Forum" on 13 November 2023. **A 23-minute video** featuring: "Workers' Livelihood in Banana Farms in Cambodia" was also produced based on the findings of the Fiscal Policy Options research study. Planning for publication on social media next year.

Other Ad Hoc Activities Implemented

A training on "Training-Workshop and Dialogue on Reporting on Environmental Issues." The training, conducted in two sessions on October 21-22 and October 28-29, 2023, at Poulou Wai Hotel in Phnom Penh, aimed to enhance skills and knowledge of 30 professional and student journalists (including 14 females) in environmental investigative reporting. Led by two distinguished trainers, the courses

employed a student-centred methodology, fostering active participation and interest among attendees. The training covered contemporary environmental issues, physical and digital tools for investigations, and included a refreshing session on press ethics and professionalism. Participants practised article writing under the guidance of trainers, exploring geospatial data, QGIS, satellite imagery, corporate records, Global Forest Watch, and risk assessments. The evaluation forms revealed overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the training's helpfulness and the valuable content provided, including insights into geospatial data, QGIS, satellite imagery, corporate records, Global Forest Watch, and risk assessments. A network was subsequently established with the participants to facilitate the exchange of information related to environmental issues and foster opportunities for collaboration among its members.

TI Cambodia launched the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index on January 31, at Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The event was covered by 13 media coverages and received a total 2,133 Social Media Engagement (pre-event and during the livestream day).

TI Cambodia conducted a digital campaign utilising winning videos produced by youth during the previous video competition under the theme of “Women and Girls in Science” to celebrate “International Women’s Day”. The campaign received 429 Social Media Engagement.

TI Cambodia reposted a short film on “Justice”, produced 8 years ago, which highlights corruption is the core of justice deterioration in the Cambodian judicial system and youth role in the fight against corruption. The video was posted on TI Cambodia’s YouTube channel and cross-posted on TI Cambodia’s Facebook page. While it received 723 hits and 10 engagements on Facebook page, it has gained 48, 000 views and 389 likes on YouTube.

TI Cambodia conducted a digital campaign to celebrate “International Youth Day 2023” by utilising extracted quotes from youth participants in the event. The campaign received 3,980 Social Media Engagement.

TI Cambodia conducted a digital campaign to celebrate the movement “16 Days Against Gender-Based Violence”. 14 posters were posted on TI Cambodia’s Facebook page, and they received a total of 437 Social Media Engagement.

TI Cambodia produced IEC materials including 200 Tumblers and 200 T-shirts for staff, partners, beneficiaries through TI Cambodia’s programs’ activities. The materials aim to enhance TI Cambodia’s visibility and encourage public participation to collectively fight against corruption in Cambodia..

4. Risks and Challenges

The following table provides a report on the risks that occurred in 2023 (as described in the “Status” Column) as compared with the risks that were identified before and during the implementation (in the “Risk Description” Column). The table also provides information regarding when each risk was identified, what type of each risk is, impact and probability of those risks happening, and mitigation of the risks.

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Risk Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mgt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
OVERALL RISK: ALL PROGRAMMES									
1	Potential disruptions to TI Cambodia's work due to changes in the government leadership following the 2023 national election	Jan 2023	External	Impact: High Probability: Low	To maintain strong relationships with various stakeholders, including government agencies; build a strong presence to demonstrate its commitment to country's development, and regularly assess the political and social contexts and adapt strategies and approaches accordingly	ED/ Director of Programmes	Director of Programmes	Sept 2023	There were no major challenges during the new transition of power/leadership following the election.
2	Administrative burden in some target areas	Aug 2023	External	Impact: Medium	To foster stronger local collaborations with the local authorities and			Dec 2023	Some local authorities were not well aware of TI Cambodia's work, staying alert to TI Cambodia and at

				Probability: Medium	communities; Develop a clear communication plan to keep stakeholders informed about TI Cambodia's work and goals in order to build trust				times refusing to provide smooth collaboration. TI Cambodia promptly addressed this issue by demonstrating to them our work and genuine objectives, gaining their trust as a result.
3	Sensitivity of Illicit Financial Flow research project can jeopardise safety of staff involved	June 2023	External	Impact: High Probability: High	Direct lobbying and liaison with relevant stakeholders including businesses, TIS, DPs, concerning overseas governments on the issues.	Executive Director	Director of Programmes	Dec 2033	The risk was assessed as very likely to happen. Therefore, TI Cambodia took a very careful approach in implementing the research. The research was recently completed. And the mitigation plan will be implemented.
	TI Cambodia facing shortage of funding due to a shift in the donor landscape/focus.	Dec 2022	External	Impact: High Probability: High	Exploring and securing funding from multiple sources, SIDA, USAID, EU, TIS and other donors to reduce sole reliance on a single donor source	Executive Director	Director of Programmes	Dec 2023	The funding for 2023 implementation was secured from various donors. However, this risk is still relevant, therefore, the identified mitigation plan needs to be acted upon, regularly updated, and followed up.

5. Cross-cutting issues

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

While TI Cambodia's work focuses on anti-corruption, good governance, transparency, accountability and other democratic principles, cross-cutting issues are also incorporated in its programme approaches. Three important elements distinctly visible throughout its activities include diversity, equity and inclusion. Youth engagement programs such as Youth Camps, Young Leadership Programmes, Youth Debates, Youth Capacity Building Training, Youth Talks, and study tours, etc, ensured representation of underrepresented groups like female youth, youth from rural areas, youth from different religions, indigenous youth, LGBTQ members and youth with disabilities. These people were provided with equal opportunities to be empowered with knowledge and supported with tools to address issues and challenges faced by their communities and society. Apart from youth, many activities such as national forums and dialogues underscored the importance of involving various stakeholders, including CSOs, media, private sectors, government agencies, trade unions, communities and citizens, highlighting inclusive approaches adopted in promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability.

Gender equity was especially emphasised through the Young Women Political Apprenticeship Programme, which focused on training young women to participate in local politics and prepare them for future leadership roles. The sub-national youth forums on the theme of "The Empowerment of Women and Youth in the Digital Age" further highlighted efforts to increase digital literacy and access to information for female youth and women's self-development and empowerment. TI Cambodia also participated in the fight against Gender-Based Violence, by joining the "16 Days Against Gender-Based Violence" movement. In terms of gender representation, at least 40% of the direct beneficiaries were women. Likewise, a good gender balance was ensured across the organisation from its governing board to staff and volunteers. It adopts a strong PSEAH policy that outlines regulations and codes of conduct to prevent and address all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, creating a safe and respectful working environment for both women and men.

Environment Sustainability

TI Cambodia aims to prevent unexpected harmful environmental impacts caused by its activities by making every effort to minimise unnecessary waste. In all of the events except high-profile events with government stakeholders, we choose to use an LCD projector to display event backdrops rather than printing out a one-time use backdrop. In office, staff are encouraged to reduce paper consumption by means of using online tools to read and take notes, print less or double-sided and make use of recycled paper. We prioritise publications and materials for public relations that are environment friendly or durable and long-lasting so that it can be recycled or reduce the consumption. Small and local producers of the materials are also targeted to support the livelihoods of local communities and small-scale producers.

On the project level, TI Cambodia has continued to support the Ministry of Mines and Energy to increase accountability and environmental sustainability in the mining sector in which all involved stakeholders – the government, the mining companies and the affect communities – would benefit in a long term, ensuring the mineral resources are being properly utilised, not being depleted, and thereby environmental sustainability is ensured. In many of its awareness-raising activities, TI Cambodia also makes sure to not only focus on its areas of work such as anti-corruption, good governance and accountability, but also on cross-cutting issues including environment. One specific environmental sustainability initiative conducted in 2023 was the training workshop on reporting on environmental issues, provided to journalists to enhance their skills and knowledge in environmental investigative reporting. The initiative can help raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable practices by empowering journalists to report on environmental issues effectively. TI Cambodia is also a member of Fair Finance Cambodia, a local coalition that works with the government to promote sustainable finance, social and environmental well-being of vulnerable groups.

Human Rights-Based Approach

Human rights-based approach is evident in the programmes implemented in the reporting year. By focusing on themes like democratic space, integrity, anti-corruption, youth engagement, leadership development, and empowerment of marginalised groups, TI Cambodia's activities align with the principles of human rights. The emphasis on inclusivity, diversity, and empowerment reflects a commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of all individuals, including young women, LGBTQ members, indigenous people, and people with disabilities. Additionally, by promoting dialogue on democratic governance, accountability, transparency, and freedom of expression, these activities contribute to creating a more rights-respecting and inclusive society. TI Cambodia programmes also demonstrate a holistic approach that integrates human rights principles into civic empowerment and leadership development efforts.

Synergies

Many activities implemented involved collaboration with CSOs. The collaboration helped pool resources, expertise and knowledge. It allowed involved stakeholders to enhance their capacity to conduct joint advocacy efforts, leading to better impacts. In this sense, the collaboration ensured that CSO efforts were complementary, had a greater impact on their work and achieved better outcomes, while at the same enhancing their capacity in conducting advocacy. Results of the synergised collaboration can be seen in the enactment of the laws on public procurement and public financial management, the government being more likely to receive CSO inputs. In efforts to maximise the synergy among CSOs, TI Cambodia took the lead in establishing a synergy platform where key CSO working groups could meet to discuss their work and seek input from other CSO members, ensuring diverse perspectives.

Partnerships with media and journalists: the collaboration with CamboJA allowed TI Cambodia to tap into CamboJA's rich expertise and journalist network. Through this expertise and network, TI Cambodia could upskill young journalists to report more accurately on the trained topics, which helped ensure that accurate and relevant information reached a broader audience, raising public awareness.

Multi-sectoral involvement: The national public forums and other events involved representatives from government ministries, the private sector, UN agencies, development partners, civil society organisations, universities, students, and the media. This multi-stakeholder involvement fostered knowledge sharing, open dialogue and mutual understanding, leading to more informed decision-making and policy changes.

Current Financial Situation and Future Strategy Beyond 2023

Aiming to achieve sustainability, TI Cambodia makes continuous efforts to diversify its funding sources. Currently, the organisation has secured funding from three major donors: Sida, EU and USAID, ensuring that its mission is supported for the next few years. TI Cambodia also received grants for shorter projects from other donors such as a US-based donor, TIS, IFES, Oxfam. While funding appears to be secured for the current strategic phase, TI Cambodia continues to expand its sources through grants. The Executive Director and the management team hold frequent meetings with development partners and donors to foster relationships and stay updated on potential fundings. Networks with both domestic and international organisations have also been expanded to put TI Cambodia in a better position in terms of strategic interventions and financial sustainability. Currently, TI Cambodia is also developing a proposal to TIS for financial support on several components in the strategic plan.

6. Lessons Learned

Areas that need additional efforts

Even though good rapport with the government at the national level has been maintained, some local authorities still have misperceptions about TI Cambodia, viewing the organisation as a "trouble maker". Their misunderstanding underlines the need for a clear communication strategy and approach to presenting the organisation as *working in line with the government agenda* and contributing to local development. The approach may also include fostering closer collaboration with local authorities and communities,

strengthening the capacity of local government, and the use of discrete language when dealing with them (words like corruption still appear sensitive).

It is apparent that TI Cambodia achieved many positive outcomes from the youth outreach activities at local levels. However, the impacts could be maximised from establishing and maintaining collaboration with grassroots organisations to expand the reach and impact of TI Cambodia's youth engagement initiatives, as well as to provide ongoing support and resources for youth empowerment and leadership development in communities.

Monitoring and evaluation: Regularly assessing the impact and effectiveness of initiatives need to be strengthened to help identify areas for improvement, ensure that resources are allocated efficiently, and progress is on track. By enhancing monitoring and evaluation processes, which requires further capacity building for staff, TI Cambodia can adapt their strategies and programmes to better achieve their goals.

Effective strategies/activities

Importance of collaboration: The success of TI Cambodia's work in the reporting year as well as the past years, highlights the significance of collaboration among various stakeholders, particularly among CSOs and media. By working together, all stakeholders including TI Cambodia can leverage each other's strengths, resources, and networks to achieve common goals more effectively. As evident in the reporting year's work, the strengthened cooperation among key CSO coalitions has led to increased public awareness, enhanced capacity of stakeholders, and improved legal framework. This shows that time and resources should be invested into maintaining and strengthening such cooperation for the current and future interventions.

Building a next generation of future leaders: Capacity building workshops and training programs play a crucial role in equipping participants with the necessary skills and knowledge. Involving youth in various programs and activities can help foster a culture of transparency and accountability from an early age and enable them to become active agents of change, promoting good governance and democratic participation in their communities. As demonstrated in the report, youth were more proactive in seeking knowledge and ready to take action in social and political issues. TI Cambodia will continue to offer learning opportunities to ensure that youth in particular those in remote areas with limited access to learning are informed, empowered and able to participate in democratic and governance-related matters.

The use of social media and online platforms is an effective tool to reach a wide audience to raise awareness and encourage discussions about various topics. Utilising these platforms, TI Cambodia were able to connect and communicate with targets who could not be reached through physical initiatives, foster information exchange with them, and mobilise their support to drive positive change. A successful example was that, through TI Cambodia's facebook's post, the video on "mobile application" has reached out to more than 10k viewers. Another example was that TI Cambodia was able to mobilise almost four hundred applications for our youth camp while only 110 youths were required for the program.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, despite delays in several activities, significant progress was made in promoting good governance, transparency and accountability through enhanced partnerships with both the demand side and the supply side, empowerment of relevant stakeholders, and increased youth participation. With the demand side, TI Cambodia engaged closely with various government bodies including the Anti-Corruption Unit, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Finance to support in promoting and improving transparency and accountability within their respective fields. Key results from these partnerships included:

Public Financial Management Reform: the Public Financial Management Law was adopted with recommendations from the CSOs. Public Procurement Law was also passed, with CSO efforts put into providing recommendations to ensure at least minimum standards.

Responsive Public Service Delivery: 17 actions by the Ministry of Interior to promote transparent and accountable public services. Continuous support from TI Cambodia has allowed Mol's Department of Resources and Functions which is mandated to supervise One Window Office Unit/Office and provincial and district ombudsman offices across the country to strengthen its functions and performance through capacity buildings, reflections and innovative actions to address and improve public service delivery.

On the supply side, TI Cambodia successfully maintained and fostered collaboration with CSOs, media partners, businesses, citizens and youth. Key outcomes are:

Increased participation of youth in democratic governance and anti-corruption: 28 actions were taken by youth groups to promote democracy, free and fair elections, governance, transparent and accountable public services, joint Mol and TI Cambodia's mobile application, local governance, youth empowerment, anti-corruption legal frameworks and initiatives, gender and governance, environment and climate change, gender and technology, drug and crime, and youth's school drop-out and migration .

The success of TI Cambodia's interventions in 2023 highlights the collective action in driving positive change. By working together, stakeholders can contribute to a more transparent and democratic society, where the government is more open, and citizens are better informed and more actively engaged in shaping the future of their communities. Involvement of youth, civil society organisations, journalists, government agencies, and the private sector can create a culture of open dialogues and democratic participation.

Annexes

Annex 1: Visibility Report for 2023

**This report is prepared by Norin Im, Director of Programmes, and
Reviewed and Approved by:**



**Pech Pisey
Executive Director**