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List of Acronyms

AFH    Anti-Fraud Hotline
ALAC   Advocacy and Legal Advice Center
CBO    Community Based Organization
CPI    Corruption Perception Index
CRC    Citizens Report Card
CSO    Civil Society Organization
CVAC   Citizens Voice Against Corruption
FBR    Federal Board of Revenue
KPK    Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MoU    Memorandum of Understanding
NAB    National Accountability Bureau
NGO    Non-Governmental Organization
OIG    Office of Inspector General
PPRA   Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
RTI    Right to Information
SDGs   Sustainable Development Goals
TI     Transparency International
TI-P   Transparency International Pakistan
Executive Summary

In line with Transparency International's (TI) global anti-corruption movement, TI Pakistan continued to play a substantial role in strengthening citizens’ voices for an inclusive democracy, supporting Civil Society Organizations in the fight against corruption, and empowering youth to voice their civic concerns. In doing so, TI Pakistan is also partaking in the implementation of the global agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16, which puts the target of reducing corruption in all their forms as an integral development goal.

The report covers the period from January 2017 to December 2017. During the period, TI Pakistan undertook several youth-focused initiatives and extended the outreach of its advocacy efforts to the far-flung areas across Pakistan while continuing to operate its flagship programs: Anti-Fraud Hotline; Monitoring Public Procurement; and Citizens’ Voice against Corruption.

TI Pakistan has been successfully operating the 'Anti-Fraud Hotline' (AFH) for the last seven years in collaboration with USAID, to monitor and report fraud, wastage, and abuse in the USAID-funded projects. The activities of AFH have consequently resulted in the USAID funds to reach the targeted beneficiaries, for whom the resources had been allocated.

TI Pakistan continued to impart oversight of public procurement violations all over the country throughout the reporting year in an attempt to inhibit the government practices of awarding contracts to favorable companies. A number of letters were written to the procuring agencies informing them of the violations of Public Procurement Rules. Due to TI Pakistan's watchdog role, most procuring agencies rectified their violations identified by TI Pakistan while the regulators also took necessary actions against the violators.

TI Pakistan’s Citizens Voice against Corruption (CVAC) program regularly engages the public to create awareness and assist them in legal matters. Under the CVAC program, TI Pakistan conducted a number of awareness and capacity building activities in 2017 to keep empowering the youth, women and general citizens to counter corruption and hold the government accountable for its performance and actions.

The CVAC also organized information workshops on Right to Information (RTI) Acts across various districts throughout Pakistan in the reporting period. The primary goal of the workshops is to help enhance the capacity and understanding of citizens on how they can use the Right to Information Law to exercise their rights to access information held by the public bodies. Through these initiatives, CVAC is working towards empowering and mobilizing the ordinary citizen to hold the government accountable for its actions and performance and to bolster citizens’ engagement with the government.

During the reporting year, Transparency International Pakistan produced Citizen Report Cards (CRC) studies covering three new districts including District Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) on Health sector, District Okara, Punjab on Education sector, and District Jaffarabad, Balochistan on Local Government’s general performance. The purpose of the CRC is to get feedback from the citizens on the quality of public service delivery in health, education, water & sanitation, and police sectors.

TI Pakistan’s programs put a special focus on youth, women, and the people living in remote areas. Since people living in far-flung areas have limited access to information, therefore, they disparately become the targets of corruption. TI Pakistan’s recently inaugurated project 'Promoting Democratic Values
Amongst Young People’ was able to establish three Youth Integrity Clubs in collaboration with different academic institutions in Sindh province during its one year of implementation. Under the banner of these clubs, TI Pakistan conducted Youth Advocacy events and Youth Leadership and Integrity workshops in various areas of Sindh. In a short span of one year, TI Pakistan was able to give voice to young people and vulnerable communities in the Sindh province in the hope of bringing about a more open, transparent and democratic society.

Looking ahead, TI Pakistan has articulated its vision for 2020 based on the strategic direction developed for the period 2017-2020. The strategy has been drawn upon the experiences, input, and feedback from Board members, employees, CSO partners, donors, and other stakeholders of TI Pakistan. Based on the findings of our stakeholders’ survey, TI Pakistan has identified certain focus areas for the upcoming years, which will be discussed in the sections below.

Part 1: Progress Review

1.1) USAID Anti-Fraud Hotline (AFH)

The USAID Anti-Fraud Hotline (AFH) project was established as an oversight mechanism for projects undertaken with USAID funds including the US $7.5 billion Kerry Lugar Bill. It has played a vital role in monitoring corruption in USAID funded projects.

Corruption is antithesis to economic development; it undermines institutions, exacerbates poverty and hinders good governance. Since last eight years AFH has been playing an integral role in fighting corruption and improving accountability and transparency in USAID funded programs in Pakistan. The activities of AFH consequently help facilitate and enable citizens and beneficiaries of USAID funded projects to understand the gravity of issues involving fraud and corruption and report allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse in USAID-funded programs in Pakistan.

Since its inception, the Hotline continues to provide Office of Inspector General (OIG) with critical information and insight into alleged corruption cases in various USAID projects across the country. The investigations carried out have thus far lead to savings and recoveries of funds worth millions of U.S. Dollars and subsequent termination of corrupt employees of respective organizations. In consideration of the success in achieving the set objectives of the Hotline, an agreement was duly signed between USAID and TI Pakistan in September 2017 to extend the project for another two years.

Trained multilingual complaint management officers at AFH complaint cell receive complaints through toll free hotline, SMS, WhatsApp, email, website, and walk-in complainants on a daily basis. After careful review and assessment, the complaints are sent to the Office of Inspector General, USAID via a secure, highly-encrypted complaint database system ensuring that the integrity of the complainant’s information remains intact. The OIG is the only agency authorized to view the complaints ensuring confidentiality of the complainant’s information. AFH also scans local newspapers to pick up on any violation of PPRA rules in USAID funded projects.

Despite the environment in Pakistan where citizens are reluctant to come forward in reporting corruption issues and cases of fraud due to their mistrust of the government to resolve their complaints, AFH has still received more than 93,000 calls since the inception of the project.
Furthermore, AFH has successfully formulated around 8,000 complaints and forwarded to the OIG for investigation.

AFH has a two-pronged strategy, i) reporting complaints regarding fraud/corruption and ii) working towards spreading awareness regarding corruption hazards and fraud prevention among USAID implementing partners, sub-grantees and G2G partners.

In the reporting year, Transparency International Pakistan conducted a workshop on “Fraud Awareness and Prevention” in collaboration with USAID/OIG on May 18, 2017 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad for USAID Sub-Sub-Grantees. Around 75 participants from approx. 20 organizations attended the workshop.

The objective of the workshop was to create awareness regarding fraud and corruption among the Sub-Sub-Grantees implementing USAID funded projects.
1.2) Citizens’ Voice against Corruption (CVAC)

The Citizens’ Voice against Corruption Project is funded by Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Government of Australia, through our Secretariat in Berlin, Germany. Citizens’ Voice Against Corruption (CVAC) is an initiative which gives voice to all citizens of Pakistan to bring about a more open, transparent and democratic society that rejects corruption. A component of CVAC is the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC). The ALAC provides free legal advice and assistance to the victims and witnesses of corruption, and intervenes on their behalf with the concerned public officials and government departments. A number of complaints have been addressed for the benefit of citizens after TI Pakistan’s intervention. Besides, CVAC also organizes several awareness and capacity building trainings to better prepare the youth, women and the general public to identify and counter the corruption plaguing the country.

   a) Mobile ALAC Camps

TI Pakistan’s Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) is meant to equip the citizens with free legal guidance and advocacy to pursue their corruption-related complaints. ALAC also proactively spots potential corruption areas which require government attention.

In 2017, TI Pakistan organized four free mobile legal advice camps, one each in the four provinces. These camps were organized in collaboration with TI Pakistan’s local partners in Khushab, Jamshoro, Matta, and Kalat districts. The representatives of TI Pakistan encouraged the camp audiences to speak their piece about matters related to corruption, violation of rights, and unfair public dealings they experience and witness in their surroundings.

TI Pakistan representatives also took notice of most of the complaints and wrote to the respective local governments to take immediate steps to resolve the citizens’ concerns. The camp successfully tapped around 2500 citizens including a significant proportion of females.
b) Right to Information Workshops

TI Pakistan organizes RTI workshops to familiarize the general public with the RTI regime and its applications. Through these workshops, TI Pakistan not only aims to bridge the citizen-government gap but also transmits the message of transparency and accountability to the citizenry. During the year 2017, Citizens Voice against Corruption (CVAC) organized number of capacity building workshops for on Right to Information (RTI) for different audiences across the country. TI Pakistan organized five workshops on Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 in districts Bhakkar, Toba Tek Singh, Okara and Hafizabad, Punjab. Another workshop was held in Jacobabad, Sindh on Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2017. Similarly, workshop on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Right to Information Act 2013 was held in Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Two workshops were organized in district Jaffarabad, Balochistan to emphasize on the need for revised RTI legislation in the province.

A good number of people attended these workshops, including youth, social workers, representatives of CSO and government representatives. The workshop equipped participants with required skills on how to request access to information held by public departments by writing an RTI application in connection to the key provisions of RTI legislation. Some participants also wrote real RTI application to government departments at the end of the workshops resulting a few of these requests positively replied by government. That pushed the participants to further engage with government and write more RTI requests.

TI Pakistan also organized a capacity building workshop on Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2017, Sindh in Karachi in collaboration with City Institute of Image Management to train Local Government Elected Representatives from Layari and Saddar Union Councils on the RTI legislation in the province.
c) International Anti-Corruption Day

Every year, Transparency International Pakistan organizes walks and seminars on International Anti-Corruption day all over Pakistan. This year, TI Pakistan organized walks and seminars in 17 districts across Pakistan. In Sindh the programs were organized in Badin, Matiari, Mirpur Khas, and Jacobabad; in Punjab these were organized in Dera Gazi Khan, Layyah, Vehari, Hafizabad, Chaniot, Toba Tek Singh and Bahawalnagar; in Balochistan events were organized in Kalat, Jaffarabad, and Pishin; and in KPK walks and seminars were arranged in Mardan, Nowshera, and Peshawar. The message of anti-corruption was directly communicated to some 850 individuals including social workers, students, teachers, media and lawyers.

![Image of people participating in an anti-corruption walk and seminar]

d) Citizen Report Card

Citizen Report Cards (CRC) are district-level surveys used to obtain feedback from the citizens to evaluate delivery of public services such as health, education, water and etc. in the respective districts. The surveys are an important citizen engagement tools which would uncover public service areas that severely lack district government’s attention by gauging the satisfaction level of the citizens.

In the year 2017, CVAC carried out three CRC studies – in District Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) on health sector, in District Okara, Punjab on education sector, and in District Jaffarabad, Balochistan on local government performance. The findings of CRC studies highlight that the performance of the respective districts’ local governments needs to be significantly improved in the provision of basic public service delivery which includes healthcare, education, and other services such as roads infrastructure, sanitation, and waste management.
Based on the findings of CRC studies, TI Pakistan has proposed recommendations to the corresponding district governments on the need for reforms for the better service delivery.

1.3) Youth Engagement

TI Pakistan believes that for a long term effective anti-corruption strategy, it is imperative that that youth of Pakistan is aware and demand their civil rights, hold the government accountable for their actions and consequently force the government to involve them in the decision making process by increasing awareness. In a short span of one year, TI Pakistan was able to give voice to young people and vulnerable communities in the Sindh province, bringing about a more open, transparent and a democratic society.

During its one year of implementation, ‘Promoting Democratic Values Amongst Young People’ project was able to establish three Youth Integrity Clubs in collaboration with different academic institutions namely: Greenwich University Karachi, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, and Sukkur IBA University. Under the banner of these clubs, TI Pakistan was able to conduct Youth Advocacy events and Youth Leadership and Integrity workshops in different areas of Sindh province.
A youth advocacy seminar was conducted at Greenwich University (GU) Karachi on ‘The Role of Youth in Combatting Corruption’ on 9th December 2017 at Kamal Auditorium at GU, Karachi. The event, which featured prominent figures like Dr. Mehboob Shaikh, former Additional Secretary Education Sindh and well-renowned journalist Mr. Anwar Ahmed, was aimed at celebrating International Anti-corruption Day which takes place on December 9th each year. About 200 students attended the seminar.

TI Pakistan also organized a Youth Leadership and Integrity workshop on December 6, 2017 at Café Almanzar, Khairpur Mirs Sindh. The workshop was attended by around 60 participants belonging to different grass root organizations, civil society members and vulnerable communities.

**Part 2: Planning the Future – Focus & Priorities for 2017-2020**

Transparency International Pakistan is regarded as one of the most credible and reliable civil society organizations in Pakistan. Its work across the country to curb corruption-related activities has proved to be a catalyst for a more transparent society. For the purpose of defining our strategic direction, TI Pakistan has recently developed its 2020 strategy. The strategy is drawn upon the experiences, input and feedback from Board members, employees, CSO partners, donors and other stakeholders. Based on the findings of our stakeholders’ survey, TI Pakistan has identified certain focus areas for the upcoming years.

1) **Good Governance**

Pakistan has strong legal framework to curb corruption in form of legislations such as ‘Prevention of Corruption Act’ and ‘National Accountability Bureau Ordinance’. However, the country’s institutional framework lacks in strong implementation of its laws and regulations.

In its pursuit to develop strong and transparent institutions, TI Pakistan aims to work for an effective implementation of the country’s anti-corruption framework in all public institutions in line with the international standards of good governance and transparency. TI Pakistan has embarked on a number of initiatives to improve public governance practices both at National and Provincial levels including monitoring of procurement practices of the public institutions in complying with existing public procurement.

For coming years, TI Pakistan visualizes to adopt strategies to monitor public funds and budget allocations. As public funds have caught the attention of citizens and civil society groups in the recent years, TI Pakistan looks for extending its watchdog and advocacy role to the tracking and reporting on revenue, allocation, and actual outlay of public budgets.

2) **Citizens Engagement and Mobilization**

It is widely claimed that the top-down approach which hinges on developing institutions and anti-corruption regimes to wrestle corruption cannot be substantially effective without integrating it with the bottom-up approach which believes in the power of people to fight corruption by holding
government accountable. Although it is ordinary citizens who bear the burden of corruption, they are also capable to fight corruption when empowered and educated. The key to bottom-up citizen empowerment drive is thus civic education of citizens.

TI Pakistan recognizes that a citizenry well educated of their rights to access government information and empowered to act or raise voice against corruption is a linchpin of strong and transparent democracy. Therefore, one of our strategic priorities for the upcoming years is to empower, educate, and mobilize citizens, including a significant proportion of youth and women, to collectively strengthen the demand side of anti-corruption.

TI Pakistan plans to organize workshops and advocacy sessions for a greater variety of audiences comprising of general public, youth and women in particular in alliance with its strategy of engaging and mobilizing a far greater number of citizens all over Pakistan.

3) Awareness, Enforcement and Advocacy of Fair Legal Framework

Another strategic pillar of TI Pakistan is its advocacy for enforcement of a fair legal framework. A robust legal framework encounters violations of laws and thus identifies and tackle corruption hotspots in a country’s governance framework. The chapter is thus determined to ensure effectiveness and robustness in both formulation and implementation of the country’s laws and has been consistently advocating for the same for years. TI Pakistan has actively contributed in adoption of Whistle Blower Protection Laws in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and revised Right to Information Laws in Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). However, the enforcement and implementation of these laws still remains weak.

For the coming years, TI Pakistan intends to concentrate its advocacy efforts towards the systemic implementation of these laws in collaboration with other civil society organizations. TI Pakistan also aims to amend and strengthen the weak RTI and Whistle Blower Protection legislations in the province of Baluchistan.

4) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Though Pakistan is a democratic country, the governments do not involve the citizens in the decision making process. There is no history of a participatory approach adopted by the governments in Pakistan. This lack of inclusive governance has created an environment in which corruption thrives. Most often ordinary people and the poorest, bear the cost of this corruption as it exacerbates waste, inefficiency, exclusion and income equalities. As a result of all this, the country is falling behind on almost all the 12 targets included in Goal 16 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the coming months and years, TI Pakistan aims to collaborate and advocate for integrating anti-corruption reforms in Pakistan’s commitment towards SDGs. TI Pakistan seeks to engage CSOs and nongovernment organization on the issues around Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): ‘to promote peaceful, inclusive societies for sustainable development, to provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all level’.

5) Inculcating Integrity and Civic Sense in Youth

Youth comprise a majority of the population in Pakistan which implies that the country carries a huge potential to increase civic engagement as young people are transformative catalysts for democratic reforms. However, as per TI Pakistan’s national Youth Integrity Survey held in 2015, integrity is in crisis amongst young Pakistanis.
TI Pakistan stresses the importance of instilling integrity and civic values in youth and has been working towards the same through a series of training, coaching and capacity building interventions. For the future, TI Pakistan aims to undertake more youth-focused initiatives and engage substantially greater number of young audiences for its outreach activities and projects with the aim to develop a culture of transparency, integrity, and civic responsibility among the Pakistani youth.

6) Promoting Gender Equality

Pakistan has offered confined public and political space for women participation as a result of which women represent only 17.5% of the total National Assembly seats in the country, less than the world average of 23.6%, despite comprising at least 50% of the population in Pakistan as the country’s female/male population sex ratio is recorded at 1.06. The latest Global Gender Gap Index placed Pakistan 143rd out of 144 countries, which is worst in the South Asian region. The index further ranks Pakistan at 143rd in economic participation and opportunity, 95th in political empowerment, 136th in educational attainment, and 140th in health and survival. What’s worse is the gender gap of the country is widening over the decade as it ranked 112 out 115 in the year 2006. These gender inequality statistics are indicative of a circumscribed economic and political environment for women in Pakistan, which is also confining the overall development potential of Pakistan.

In its attempt to increase women participation in public life, TI Pakistan has been working for women public and civic empowerment through its outreach activities, seminars, and anti-corruption workshops. TI Pakistan’s flagship program ‘Citizens Voice against Corruption’ (CVAC) addresses the concerns of women causing their disparately low participation in public life at the grassroots level by holding social and policy dialogues between the local government representatives and citizens which include female citizens.

For the future, TI-Pakistan is determined to continue promoting women public and civic empowerment and keep advocating for women’s rights in line with the global Sustainable Development agenda of “Leave No One Behind”.

7) Research

TI Pakistan had conducted a study of the National Integrity Systems in 2002 and 2014 to undertake research in key pillars of the state with an aim to assess and evaluate the various key institutions of governance in the country. These institutions are responsible for integrity and the elimination of corruption. TI Pakistan also undertook a study ‘Anti-Corruption Agency Strengthening Initiative: Assessment of Pakistan’s National Accountability Bureau’.

In order to assess the services provided by the Provincial Governments, TI Pakistan undertakes the Citizens Report Card Study on different sectors in selected districts of all the four provinces. The study assesses the weaknesses in the provision of the services. A report with the recommendations for improving the services is disseminated amongst different stakeholders and the Provincial Government so that they improve the quality of services provided to the citizens.

8) Ensuring Transparency in Resources for Climate Change

According to Global Climate Risk Index 2018 report, Pakistan is the seventh most vulnerable country to climate change. The country is highly vulnerable weather-related loss events, i.e. storms, floods, heat waves etc. which causes it to lose an equivalent to 0.0048 per cent of the GDP to unpredictable climate change.
TI Pakistan aims to work with the Government in its efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. The chapter strives for transparency in management of public resources and public policies meant to combat climate change and its impact on people of Pakistan.

9) Collaboration with Private Sector

While the strategies to combat public sector corruption can be advocated by taking into account the civil society groups and the power of citizenry, mechanisms to tackle private sector corruption can’t be effectively laid down without taking the private sector on board. As the sector is responsible for mass employment and economic growth; advocating for its incorruptibility should go hand in hand with the advocacy for public sector corruption.

TI Pakistan believes in collaborations and mutual actions for advocacy for substantial anti-corruption measures in both public and privates sector. The national chapter emboldens private entities to embrace Transparency International anti-corruption toolkit in order to address corruption hotspots in their corporate setups and to promote integrity and accountability among their stakeholders.

Part 3: Management

Transparency International is registered as a Trust with the Sub Registrar, Board of Revenue and Government of Sindh. The board consists of members from the judiciary (retired), legal profession, chartered accountant, business, social activists and industry. It comprises 5 males and 3 females. They are from all over the country. The Board of Trustees as on December 31st, 2016 comprises of the following eight members:

1. Mr. Sohail Muzzaffar Chairman
2. Ms. Yasmin Lari Trustee
3. Justice (R) Nasira Javed Iqbal Trustee
4. Ms. Shahana Kaukab Trustee
5. Mr. Khurram S Abbas Trustee
6. Justice (R) Dr. Ghaus Muhammad Trustee
7. Justice (R) Zia Perwez Trustee
8. Chief Justice (R) Haziqul Khairi Trustee

The Board meets four times a year, one in each quarter. The Board formulates the policies which are followed by the Secretariat. The Executive Director presents details of the activities taking place during each quarter and submits unaudited statement of accounts for the quarter at the Board Meetings. The Board provides oversight to the TI Pakistan Secretariat. Members are invited to all the events organized by TI Pakistan. An annual members meeting of members takes place each December.

Mr. Saad Rashid is the Executive Director of TI Pakistan. During the year 2017, he has been ably supported at the Secretariat by:

1) Abdullah Bin Tashfeen
2) Aneela khan
Reports as required by the donors are sent weekly, quarterly and annually. These include both Narrative and Financial Report. Meetings are also held to discuss the progress of the projects. Annual Work Plans are prepared before the start of the year and forwarded to the donors for approval. TI Pakistan implements its activities according to the work plan.

3.1) Management, Organizational Changes, and Staff Composition

The number of trustees remained the same as that of last year. Members have an active role in TI Pakistan’s activities. There has been no change in the top management of TI Pakistan during the year. A few employees resigned and were replaced by suitable candidates after a competitive process. The new employees were given training by their supervisors so that they could contribute their share in the important work that TI Pakistan is undertaking. TI Pakistan’s work as an anti-corruption watchdog has not been hampered by the change of staff.

Part 4 – Lessons Learned

The report indicates significant progress made by TI Pakistan compared to the last year and over the years in terms of its outreach activities and implementation scale. Besides, TI Pakistan’s focus on catering youth, women, and marginalized groups to a greater extent as part of its projects while utilizing the potential of collaborations among the civil society stakeholders remain intact.

TI Pakistan has also learned, from its recent initiatives, that the advocacy actions should target youth and women not only as an integral part of the entire group of beneficiaries but also accommodate them exclusively to realize the maximum impact of the initiatives. TI Pakistan has also learned that strong relationships with grassroots CSOs, universities, and other key like-minded stakeholders are an essential pre-requisite to complement TI Pakistan’s anti-corruption advocacy efforts. Thus, for the coming years, TI Pakistan seeks the participation of the wider community of stakeholders to wrestle corruption and strengthen its advocacy efforts for anti-corruption and good governance.