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Executive Summary

In 2020, Pakistan stands at a critical juncture that will determine its future as a country. The new democratically elected government came to power on strong anti-corruption mandate. The two main accountability pillars, Supreme Court and National Accountability Bureau (NAB) have increased their efforts to make public office holders accountable. However, at the same time, democracy is in retreat in Pakistan. Pakistan ranks 108th in 2019 on Democracy Index of The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU). The country has been placed under the head of Hybrid Democracy. Similarly, Civil Society is experiencing a shrinking space in Pakistan with the independence of media being increasingly challenged. Therefore, the challenge is to change the political will of the government by cultivating a culture of transparency and openness in governance.

In the context of the new social norms in place during 2020, TI Pakistan working required new innovative ideas. Our strategy began with designing effective material that resonates with the right messaging on need for transparency and accountability during COVID-19 crisis. TI Pakistan had launched online ALAC social media campaign with a theme of “Access to Justice during COVID-19” to raise awareness among the general citizens. Different content shared under this campaign had reached out to around 32000 citizens through social media platform.

During 2020 TI Pakistan has established Youth Integrity Clubs in two selected academic institutions in Sindh and Balochistan provinces to provide platform for youth training. Right to Information workshops were organized in two districts of Sindh and Balochistan province during the period when the lockdown measures were relaxed, to empower citizens to demand their rights and hold government accountable. Number of webinars were arranged on the theme of importance of Right to Information in the COVID-19 context to amplify the voices of the civil society for the promotion of transparency and accountability during the COVID-19 emergency. Focused Group Discussion and surveys were conducted in selected districts to obtain citizens feedback regarding the state of public service delivery and the public satisfaction with the initiatives taken by the government to tackle COVID-19 situation. The findings of the study have been disseminated among government stakeholders to seek redress for peoples’ problems.

Youth leadership training on the effective use of Right to Information in the fight against corruption have been held at Sukkur IBA University so that young people can champion integrity and are better equipped to become change makers in their surroundings.

In line with the 2020 global theme “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!”, TI Pakistan organized a webinar to commemorate “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence”. The webinar helped raise awareness about the rights of women and the challenges being faced by women in Pakistan.

During the reporting period, Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre continued to provide legal advice to the victims and witnesses of corruption. ALAC registered number of complaints and had written letters to the federal and provincial authorities informing about the violation of rules, laws and regulations and seek redress for people complaints. During this period, TI Pakistan has also consistently advocated for transparent procurement during COVID-19, preventing billions from being wasted in corruption.

On International Anti-Corruption Day 2020, TI Pakistan joined hands with number of stakeholders including government departments, Anti-Corruption Divisions, district government offices, civil society, academia, journalists and the general public across all four provinces of Pakistan and organized seminars and walks to highlight the detrimental effects of corruption and the need for
stronger anti-corruption laws. Activities were organized at District Matiari, Nawabshah, D.G.Khan, Toba Tek Singh, Buner, Jaffarabad, and District Layyah.

TI Pakistan carried out evidence based input/advocacy for effective and responsive anti-corruption institutions. A country report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 was issued to present a series of recommendations for the federal and provincial governments to prioritise in order to achieve Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, research was conducted to provide an external review to the Government of Sindh and give recommendations with respect to the implementation of the clauses of proactive disclosures of Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016.

Advocacy interventions were carried out to push for the enforcement of national laws. Draft recommendations on Right to Information law were sent to the provincial government of Balochistan. TI Pakistan actively took up the case of amendment in the Companies Act 2017 and Pakistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules 2004 by the federal government. On July 09, 2020, the Government of Pakistan amended the Companies Act 2017, withdrawing several amendments inserted in the ordinance on April 30, 2020.

Looking ahead, it is hoped that 2021 will bring the life back to its normal. As countries are now preparing for the vaccine procurement, the biggest concern for TI Pakistan is the transparency in the procurement of vaccine and equity in the distribution. TI Pakistan will continue to monitor public procurement in Pakistan, provide recommendation, point out violations and seek redress for citizens’ complaints. The project will continue to reach out to the vulnerable communities, women and general citizens and empower them with the skills to hold government accountable. We will organize Mobile ALACs at grass root level to provide legal advice to address complaints of citizens and raise awareness among citizens against corruption. Social Accountability needs to be improved in Pakistan, and it requires more awareness and initiatives supported by evidence which will be provided by Citizen Report Card Studies and other evidence based research around Sustainable Development Goals and Right to Information. More citizens including women and minorities will be trained on RTI laws and motivated to file RTI requests. Citizens and Local Government members will be made aware of LG laws and their responsibilities. The Balochistan province requires strong RTI laws. With the help of our partners, we will aware general public about its importance and lobby the legislatures to enact the law. Similarly, strong implementation of RTI laws is required in Sindh, Punjab and KPK provinces and at the federal level which needs awareness and improved demand side. We will establish more Youth integrity Clubs after signing MoU with public and private universities and institutes to aware youth about corruption and integrity.

Part 1 Progress Review

1.1) Strengthening Civic Voices for Good Governance & Accountability

Funded by the Australian Government – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand Government – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) through our Secretariat in Berlin, Germany, Strengthening Civic Voices for Good Governance and Accountability is an initiative with a central goal of reducing corruption in Pakistan, thereby contributing to better governance, improved economic conditions, and reductions in poverty levels. The key objectives of the project include:
1. Enhance the use of social accountability tools by citizens to hold their government accountable and improve public services.

2. Strengthen civil society capacity, voice, and cross-collaboration to foster public demand for accountability and shed light on corrupt practices.

3. Strengthen the capacity of public institutions to redress citizens grievances and become more accountable.

Activities under this project include:

- **Empowering citizens** to encourage them to take action against corruption, through trainings on Right to Information, provision of free legal advice on corruption-related complaints, and use of Citizen Report Cards to collect evidence of people’s perceptions on corruption. The chapter also conducts youth engagement activities and provides tailored trainings to women to increase their participation in political decision making.

- Enhancing civil society voice through **strengthened partnerships and coalition building** to collectively lobby the government on good governance and anti-corruption.

- Improving transparency and **anti-bribery practices in public and private sector** entities through capacity building activities.

- Conducting research and advocacy on the **enforcement of both national laws**, including RTI laws, and **international frameworks**, including Pakistan’s commitments towards achieving the SDGs and implementing the UNCAC.

a) **Advocacy for Transparent Procurement during COVID-19 Emergency**

Since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic, TI Pakistan had been advocating for transparent procurement by urging the federal and provincial governments in Pakistan to make all COVID-19 related contract information publicly available on the Procurement Regulatory Authority's website. So that prices are known to the public, whereby the public can scrutinize any overpriced purchase by comparing prices between different departments. In May 2020, TI Pakistan wrote letters to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the provincial Chief Ministers urging to make contracts awarded under direct contracting public.

As a result of TI Pakistan’s advocacy, the federal government and the provincial governments of Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) have issued the notification to all the procuring agencies in the province who are selecting "alternative methods of procurement – Direct Contracting" advising to hoist the contract award information (BOQ with rates) of all the contract awards on the authority's website. The notification also requires the procuring agencies that in future the contract award information be hoisted on the authority's website.

The broader impact of this has been that through the proactive disclosure of the contract information of emergency public procurements made during the COVID-19 situation, citizens can compare contract prices across provinces which will help reduce potential chances of corruption.

b) **Right to Information Trainings in the COVID-19 Context**

During 2020, Transparency International Pakistan organized number of physical and online trainings on RTI to familiarize the general public with the RTI regime and its importance in the context of COVID-19. 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. TI Pakistan organized two workshops on Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2017. One training workshop was organized in District Hyderabad, Sindh and the second training was conducted online. Similarly, two webinars were arranged each on Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Right to Information Act 2013. Another advocacy workshop for civil society was organized in District Lasebilla, Balochistan to emphasize on the need for revised RTI legislation in Balochistan province.

Around 100 participants were trained through these RTI trainings including youth, social workers, representatives of CSO and government representatives. These trainings have 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. More importantly, the trainings incorporated a component on the crucial relevance of RTI in the COVID-19 context to amplify the voices of the civil society for the promotion of transparency and accountability during the COVID-19 emergency.
c) International Anti-Corruption Day

Every year, Transparency International Pakistan organizes walks and seminars on International Anti-Corruption day all over Pakistan. This year, on International Anti-Corruption Day 2020, TI Pakistan joined hands with number of stakeholders including government departments, Anti-Corruption Divisions, district government offices, civil society, academia, journalists and the general public across all four provinces of Pakistan and organized seminars and walks to highlight the detrimental effects of corruption and the need for stronger anti-corruption laws. Activities were organized in the following districts across four provinces. Sindh: Karachi, Nawabshah, Matiari, Sukkur; Punjab: Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah, Toba Tek Singh; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Buner; Balochistan: Jaffarabada
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 2020, Transparency International Pakistan conducted a CRC study in district Thatta and Sujawal, Sindh to gather feedback of the users of the health services and provide conclusive recommendations to the government. The objectives of Citizen Report Card (CRC) study conducted in district Thatta and Sajawal, Sindh were:

- To evaluate the health care system in Districts Thatta and Sajawal in Sindh province particularly its response to COVID-19.
- To identify gaps in service delivery processes and appraise the good practices.
- To provide a quantitative feedback to all the stakeholders, particularly the Sindh Government about the feedback of their health initiatives and its performance particularly in COVID-19 context.
- To provide a baseline for future research in the same area.

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 during COVID-19.

e) Youth Leadership and 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. During 2020, TI Pakistan established two Youth Integrity Clubs in collaboration with different academic institutions namely: Sukkur IBA University, Sindh and Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, Balochistan. Under the banner of YIC at Sukkur IBA University, On International Access to information Day, 28th September 2020, TI Pakistan in collaboration with Sukkur IBA University organized Youth Leadership training on the theme of the International Access to Information Day. It was highlighted how the youth can play their role in promoting democratic norms and eradicating the menace of corruption. This was followed by a brief overview of the Youth Integrity Club, its functioning and the activities planned for students.
f) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 16)

During 2020, TI Pakistan organized number of stakeholder webinars on “Progress and Implementation around Sustainable Development Goal 16”. The objective of the webinar was to disseminate findings of TI Pakistan Country Progress report on SDG16, share input and suggest way forward for the planning and implementation of Goal 16 in Pakistan. Diverse stakeholders from across Pakistan including Sindh SDGs Parliamentary Taskforce, Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, UNODC Pakistan and Civil Society partners participated in the webinar to highlight significance of SDG16 and the implementation challenges.

1.2 Evidence Based Research

a) National Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG16)

On July 02, 2020, Transparency International Pakistan issued a country report on Sustainable Development Goal 16. The report was based on the SDG 16 Monitoring Methodology consisting of 175 indicators and is developed by the Transparency International Secretariat. The report provided an independent appraisal of Pakistan’s progress towards four SDG targets linked to Goal 16 – 16.4 (illicit financial and arms flows), 16.5 (reduce bribery and other forms of corruption), 16.6 (transparent and accountable institutions) and 16.10 (access to information) and presented a series of recommendations for the federal and provincial governments to prioritise in order to achieve Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. TI Pakistan has shared the findings of the report with government stakeholders, UN agencies, SDG Support Units and Civil Society partners.
This scorecard is simply intended to assess whether a given country’s legislative and institutional anti-corruption framework is in line with international best practice. It does not assess compliance with the legislative framework or the effectiveness of its implementation.
b) State Of Implementation Of Proactive Disclosure Provision: Case Study Of Sindh Transparency And Right To Information Act 2016

TI Pakistan published a report on September 15, 2020 on the state of implementation of proactive disclosure provision, a case study of Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016. The research report aimed to provide an external review to the Government of Sindh and give recommendations with respect to the implementation of the clauses of proactive disclosures. The study finds that the official websites of various important departments of the Government of Sindh contain very less information. The available information on these websites provides only a little information which is contrary to the essence of proactive disclosure provision. Through this report, TI Pakistan has also provided a set of recommendations to improve the state of online proactive disclosure as per Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016.
Part 2 - Plan on Operations, Planning the Future

Focus & Priorities for 2021-2022

Transparency International Pakistan has established itself 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 identified certain focus areas for the upcoming years.

1) Transparent and Equitable Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccine

Looking ahead, it is hoped that 2021 will bring the life back to its normal. As countries are now preparing for the vaccine procurement, the biggest concern for TI Pakistan is the transparency in the procurement of vaccine and equity in the distribution. TI Pakistan will continue to monitor public procurement in Pakistan, provide recommendation, point out violations and seek redress for citizens’ complaints.

2) Access to Justice during COVID-19

TI Pakistan will continue to reach out to the vulnerable communities, women and general citizens and empower them with the skills to hold government accountable and have access to Justice during COVID-19. This will be facilitated by organizing Mobile ALACs at grass root level to provide legal advice to address complaints of citizens and raise awareness among citizens against corruption. Social Accountability needs to be improved in Pakistan, and it requires more awareness and initiatives supported by evidence which will be provided by Citizen Report Card Studies and other evidence based research around Sustainable Development Goals and Right to Information. More citizens including women and minorities will be trained on RTI laws and motivated to file RTI requests. Citizens and Local Government members will be made aware of LG laws and their responsibilities.

3) AWARENESS, ENFORCEMENT AND ADVOCACY OF FAIR LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Transparency International Pakistan is working extensively to ensure that effective and robust laws are implemented in Pakistan and will continue to advocate for stronger implementation of these laws to ensure that the struggle against corruption can be won. To advance integrity within society, Right to Information laws, Whistle Blower Protection laws and Right to Public Services laws are essential to boost the rule of law in Pakistan. Despite significant contributions of TI Pakistan and the subsequent adoption of revised Right to Information Laws in Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and adoption of Whistle Blower Protection Laws in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the enforcement and implementation of these laws remains weak. TI Pakistan intends to lobby in collaboration with other civil society organizations to ensure that these laws are implemented correctly and can be further strengthened in all provinces of the country, especially in the province of Baluchistan, where RTI law is weak and outdated.

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) Women Empowerment

In the coming years, TI Pakistan aims to empower women with skills to effectively articulate their demands for increased participation in political decision making through training workshops in selected districts. TI Pakistan will increase Community Dialogues (for sensitization on Rights of Women) and gender sensitization of duty-bearers. Similarly, TI Pakistan will seek joint advocacy efforts with women’s organizations. This will help mainstream the implementation of SDG 5 and also benefit the vulnerable population including women and minorities who are largely excluded/isolated from the civil space especially in the rural and marginalized regions which will be the focus area under this action. By targeting rural women as agents for change, TI Pakistan will empower women to bridge the gender gap and become leaders in their respective communities, making sure that the marginalized and excluded groups are included.

6) WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Transparency International Pakistan advocates for substantial anti-corruption measures and practices to be developed and implemented in the Private Sector. The importance of the private sector has to be taken into account in any advocacy to curb corruption. The sector is responsible for employment, economic growth and government revenue; advocating for its incorruptibility can ensure a more transparent and honest society. Transparency International Pakistan encourages businesses to adopt Transparency International toolkit to address corruption by instituting accountability, accounting and governance to promote ethics and integrity.

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 accountants, business, social activists and industry. It comprises 4 females and 1 male. They are from all over the country.

On the sad demise of Mr. Sohail Muzaffar, Chairman TI Pakistan on Feb 02, 2021 and Justice (R) Dr. Ghaus Muhammad, Trustee and Vice Chairman TI Pakistan on December 27, 2020, the Board during an emergent 70th Board of Trustees meeting held on 3rd February, elected Ms. Yasmeen Lari, as Chairperson TI Pakistan, Justice (R) Nasira Iqbal, as Vice-Chairperson TI Pakistan in compliance of the requirement of the Trust Deed of TI Pakistan. During the same meeting, the Board of Trustees had also appointed Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar, son of Sohail Muzaffar as the Advisor to the Chairperson on legal affairs and authorized him to represent TI Pakistan in all courts of Pakistan.
The Board of Trustees of TI Pakistan as of 28th February 2021 comprise of the following five members:

1. Ms. Yasmin Lari Chairperson
2. Justice (R) Nasira Javed Iqbal Vice-Chairperson
3. Ms. Shahana Kaukab Trustee
4. Justice (R) Zia Perwez Trustee
5. Dr. Tanweer Khalid, Trustee

The Board meets once in each quarter. The Board provides oversight to the TI Pakistan Secretariat. The Managing Director presents details of the activities taking place during the quarter and submits unaudited statement of accounts for the quarter. Members are invited to all the events organized by TI Pakistan. An annual members meeting of members takes place each December. Mr. Syed Adil Gilani is the Managing Director of TI-P. During the year 2020, he has been ably supported at the chapter by:

1) Abdullah Bin Tashfeen
2) Ashfaque Ahmed
3) Faiza Mubarak
4) Imran Khan
5) Kashif Ali
6) Shaheer Munir
7) Mohammad Irfan Khan
8) Mohammad Safdar Sheikh
9) Theresa Andrews
10) Waqas Khan