

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 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) Cambodia ranked 158 among 180 countries assessed, with a score of 22 out of 100, representing a two-point decrease compared to 2022. The result marks a concerning trend, as Cambodia's CPI score has fluctuated within the low 20s for the past decade, despite sporadic improvements. Cambodia's 2023 CPI score remains far lower than the regional and global averages. Within ASEAN, Cambodia remains near the bottom, surpassing only Myanmar.

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. 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.

Weak and politicised 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. This renders this institution the last, not the first resort. 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. Despite 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 NGOs, independent media has also bore the brunt of state crackdown. 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 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: Several 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 transforming 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, 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

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 businesspeople can access generous state rents and can 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 ranks 7th out of 128 countries, with 1st place indicating the highest risk for money laundering, in the Basel Anti-Money Laundering Index 2022.

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 2024

3.1 Overview of Results Achieved under TI Cambodia's Strategic Priorities for Year 2024

The table below summarises TI Cambodia's progress toward planned outcomes and outputs for 2024 within its strategic priorities from 2023 to 2026. It includes columns for Expected Results, Indicators, Baseline, Target 2024, and Actual Progress. The **Expected Results** column outlines the desired outcomes and outputs, while the **Indicators** column specifies measurable metrics. Baseline data provides historical context, and the **Target 2024** indicates the goals for that year. By comparing **Actual 2024** progresses with **Target 2024** column, one can quickly assess whether the goals were achieved. The Actual 2024 column gives a brief update, with more details available in the **Detailed Narrative on Progress 2024** section below the table.

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target 2023	Actual 2023	Target 2024	Actual 2024
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 (2023)	43 (the OBS results were released in 2024)	N/A (2024)	In the Open Budget Survey 2023, published in 2024, Cambodia's transparency scores 43 out of 100, showing moderate improvement in budget transparency as compared to its score in 2021. This increase can be attributed not only to the government's initiatives within the Public Financial Management Reform Programme (PFMRP) but also to the essential role played by civil society organisations (CSOs), which provide valuable input and recommendations to enhance public financial management in Cambodia.
	# of recommendation(s) adopted by the government	0	1	2	2	Achievement = 3 The three recommendations from the 2024 budget analysis, which include the reduction of unanticipated funds, the adjustment of the customs tax rate on gasoline, and the increase of budget information in the 2025 budget law, were observed to be reflected in the 2025 draft budget law.

Output 1.1: CSO engagement and advocacy in budget transparency and accountability enhanced	# of capacity building activity(ies) for CSOs	1 (2022)	1	2	1	Achievement = 3 Three training activities were conducted with members of the CSO Budget Working Group and CSO partners, enhancing their knowledge about the public finance system law, budget literacy, effective advocacy efforts, and economic, social, cultural and human rights obligations within budget allocation processes. A total of 109, including 46 females, CSO participants benefitted from the sessions. In addition to capacity development, the CSO Budget Working Group consistently coordinated their ongoing discussions throughout the year. A substantial capacity development training programme was also developed and scheduled for early 2025.
	# of action(s) taken by CSOs	1	1	3	3	Achievement = 5 Actions taken by the CSO Budget Working Group (BWG) included: 1-Successful organisation of the annual public forum on national budget under the theme of “ <i>2024 Budget Rationalization and Strengthening the Efficiency of Budget Execution and 2025 Budget Law Formulation</i> ”, on 27 June 2024 with 107 participants (42 females) from various sectors. 2-Conducting the 2025 national budget analysis, aimed at improving the national budget of the next fiscal year(s). 3-Successful review on national incomes from property taxes, aimed at providing recommendations for enhancing revenue mobilisation in this sector. 4-Successful co-hosting the Open Budget Survey 2023 Launch 5-Proactively providing inputs to the Ministry of Economy and Finance and its PFMRP Technical Working Group during its progress meetings and workshops.
Output 1.2: Increased public awareness and	# of citizens engaged in the intervention	48 (2022)	45	47	45	Achievement = 46

participation to promote public budget process					A total of 47 citizens were engaged and empowered in TI Cambodia's two interventions to further take action to promote budget transparency and accountability: 1) Young Budget Tracker 2024, engaging 25 (19 females) 2) Young Journalist Training 2024, engaging 21 (14 females)
% of digital platform users increased awareness on the topics	0	60%	Delayed	60%	Delayed The delay in fully achieving the functionality of the web portal for Citizen Budget is due to structural changes in budget data from 2024 onwards, requiring time to review and adjust for compatibility with the existing system. Despite the delay in the web portal, digital platform users' awareness was significantly raised through three successfully produced and published video animations. These videos serve as important IEC materials for raising public awareness about national budget matters. The campaign has achieved impressive engagement, reaching 256,589 individuals, with 456,465 views and 3,255 total engagements. Following the successful development of a Citizen Budget booklet of 2024 budget law, TI Cambodia conducted an online campaign to promote its key content to raise budget awareness. The campaign included six posts published on TI Cambodia's social media platforms, reaching 250,895 users, generating 3,123 engagements, and accumulating 427,070 views.
# of action(s) taken by citizens	6	8	12	8	Achievement = 24 Following the Young Budget Tracker 2024 training, participants initiated 15 actions, which included producing research-based articles and developing IEC materials for online campaigns. Additionally, Young Budget Tracker 2023 participants undertook 4 initiatives in 2024 to distribute leaflets and organise public forums,

						aimed at enhancing community awareness of the budget process and local commune budgets. 5 feature articles were produced and published by participants in the Young Journalists Training. The articles feature a range of fiscal and local issues including effective monitoring of public-school spending, adequate budget allocation for floating village’s toilets, budget allocation for the elderly, sub-national budget for ponds and canals to boost agriculture, and limitation of public health services for vulnerable groups.
Output 1.3: Enhanced transparent public revenue collection	# of piece(s) of evidence/study(ies) produced on public revenue collection	1	1	1	1	Achievement = 3 Three studies and reviews has been conducted regarding public revenue collection including: 1) A section analysis of revenue streams as part of 2025 Budget Analysis (as mentioned in Output 1.1 above) 2) A review on national incomes from property taxes (as mentioned in Output 1.1 above) 3) A study on increasing special taxes on sugary food, tobacco and alcohol, still underway and expected to be finalised in early 2025.
	# of advocacy activity(ies) conducted	0	3	3	3	Achievement = 2 Three advocacy actions were taken by TI Cambodia and the BWG including: 1) A social media campaign on 2024 Citizen Budget booklet, as mentioned in Output 1.2 above, was conducted. A special focus of the campaign was dedicated to advocating for transparent public revenue collection by raising public awareness and understanding of state revenues and expenditures. 2) A social media campaign was organised, aimed at increasing public awareness about revenue collection from special taxes on luxury and hazardous products.

						More advocacy activities will be conducted following the publication of the studies and policies.
Output 1.4: Improved participation and coordination of budget preparation and monitoring at sub-national administration	# of local authorities benefited from the activities				20	This output has been cancelled.
	# of local residents benefited from the activities				150	This output has been cancelled.
	# of meetings/ workshops/ forums between local authorities and youth on local budgeting issues				6	This output has been cancelled.
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	1	1	Achievement = 1 Since 2023 TI Cambodia has been supporting the Ministry of Interior to update its Guidebook on Commune/Sangkat Fund Project Implementation, specifically focusing on sub-national procurement procedures. The updated guidebook was initially set for finalisation in 2024. However, in 2024, the initiative expanded to a much more detailed review of the manual, thoroughly addressing sub-national administrative challenges, conducting inclusive discussions with stakeholders across multiple provinces to identify key challenges and gather valuable input for further refinement. Finalisation of this improved manual will happen in 2025. Once adopted, accountability in the commune-Sangkat procurement practices will be significantly enhanced.
Output 2.1: Empowered citizens and civil society	# of activity(ies) conducted to raise	0	2	5	2	Achievement = 2

to hold government accountable for responsive decisions and actions to improve public procurement practice through increasing their awareness and participation	awareness of public procurement					Two activities were conducted to enhance awareness of public procurement: 1) a compelling social media campaign that spotlighted the key elements of the 2023 procurement law through four engaging posters, reaching thousands of users 2) a collaborative video vlog competition with the CSO Access to Information Working Group, encouraging participants to creatively explore issues related to access to information and public procurement. (Further details on the competition are reported under Priority 2, Sector 2, Output 2.1)
Output 2.2: Legal frameworks and practices related to public procurement reviewed or assessed	# of recommendation(s) on public procurement submitted	0	3	3	3	Achievement = 3 A series of recommendations and inputs were developed, provided and or presented to the government, including: 1. Enhancing Procurement Practices: Recommendations were provided for the ongoing revision of the Ministry of Interior's Guidebook on Commune/Sangkat Fund Project Implementation, with a focus on improving procurement practices. 2. Improving Project Delivery: Based on a comprehensive review of Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) projects, targeted procurement-related recommendations were developed to boost project delivery and effectiveness. 3. Promoting Sustainable Practices: Recommendations emerged from an assessment of Climate Change Governance Integrity, emphasising the necessity for sustainable procurement practices.
Sector 3: Accountable Mining						
Specific Objective/Outcome: To enhance transparency	# of action(s) taken by affected communities	-	1	2	1	Not achieved due to delay in implementation.

and accountability of extractive industry for sustainable development in Cambodia	# of recommendation(s) by CSOs and communities accepted by relevant authorities	-	1	Delayed	1	Not achieved due to delay in implementation
Output 3.1: Increased evidence and access to information on extractive industry in Cambodia	# of piece(s) of evidence produced and disseminated		1	Delayed	1	Delayed Although this output has not been achieved, a study and a policy brief are being produced, expected to be completed and disseminated in early 2025. They include: 1) a comprehensive mapping on gold mining projects in Cambodia and their contributions to the national budget 2) a policy brief on the need for more transparency in mining revenues from gold, cement, sand, gems, and rocks. These two documents will serve as a basis and add to the limited sources of information on extractive industry in Cambodia.
	Information related to fiscal, non-fiscal revenue or community funds from extractive industry made available	-	1	Delayed	1	Delayed This output is a continuation of the two ongoing study and policy brief.
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	0%	40%	40%	40%	Not achieved The activity was cancelled.

	principles of FPIC, ESIA, ESG, and advocacy					
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	1	2	Not achieved The activity was cancelled.
Output 3.4: Fostered multi-stakeholder dialogues on extractive industry	# of dialogue(s) held with relevant stakeholders on mining issues	2	3	3	3	Achievement: 1 1) A dialogue on mining issues was held at a workshop organised by EISEI, emphasising critical concerns about the transparency of national revenue collection from the extractive industry.
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	Not achieved	0	No planned activity in 2024
Output 4.1: Evidence for CSOs to advocate for strengthening of	# of assessment conducted on parliamentary oversight	0	1	1	0	No planned activity in 2024

oversight functions produced						
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	7	0	No planned activity in 2024
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	2	1	Not Achieved No corruption reports have been developed into cases suitable for referral to law enforcement agencies.
	# of recommendation(s) taken onboard by the government	0	1	1	2	Achievement = 3 Following last year's submission of a joint statement, led by TI Cambodia and the CSOs Working Group on Anti-Corruption in Cambodia, as part of the CSO input to Cambodia's Fourth Cycle Universal Periodic Review, three recommendations were submitted to the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review for its 46th session from April 29 to May 10, 2024. The recommendations include: 1) strengthening the independence and accountability of the Anti-Corruption Unit; 2) establishing a whistle-blower regime with provisions to ensure adequate protection for whistle-blowers, in line with international best practices; and 3) addressing the public perception that the judiciary is one of the most corrupt institutions in Cambodia, despite its guaranteed independence under the constitution and relevant statutes.

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	44	30	Achievement = 5 Two individuals contacted ALAC for advice but did not proceed with a follow-up meeting. Additionally, three consultation calls were received by ALAC that were not related to any corruption issues.
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	4	4	Achievement = 4 TI Cambodia continued to work with the Southeast Asian Network for Transparent and Accountable Governance (SEANTAG) to promote anti-corruption and good governance at the regional level. In addition to the collaboration with CSO Anti-Corruption Working Group in Cambodia, ALAC continued to support key CSO Working Groups, including those focused on Access to Information and Digital Rights, to advocate for the development of relevant legal frameworks and rights that contribute to broader anti-corruption efforts. During the reporting year, ALAC, through TI Cambodia, endorsed a joint statement urging the adoption of the draft Law on Access to Information. Additionally, it supported the CSO Working Group on Digital Rights in organising the Phnom Penh Internet Forum, aimed at raising public awareness about digital rights and promoting stronger legal protections. In celebration of National Anti-Corruption Day, ALAC hosted a fully digital campaign centred on youth engagement and empowerment. The campaign, which was launched on 3 December and continued through late December, engaged hundreds of social media users. It featured inspiring quotes and testimonials from youth involved with TI Cambodia, Vox Pop videos, and a live talk show with youth leaders discussing the nature of corruption and the importance of youth in fostering transparency and accountability. The initiative aimed to

						inspire and mobilise young people to effect meaningful change and advance anti-corruption reform. TI Cambodia also collaborated with a local media partner to produce 10 articles related to corruption and governance issues. These articles were published on their media outlets, focusing on raising awareness about the impact of corruption and promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability. The initiative aimed to educate the public, inspire action, and support the global fight against corruption through accessible and impactful content.
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%	100%	65%	Not Achieved Although the ALAC team did not organise any training during this reporting year, it worked in close collaboration with TI Cambodia's programme teams to synergise activities aimed at enhancing youths' understanding of ALAC and anti-corruption frameworks. This was achieved by including dedicated short sessions on ALAC within other training initiatives, such as Youth Camp. The post training assessment indicated increased awareness and understanding among the participants.
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	1	2	Achievement = 2 The CSO Access to Information Working Group (A2IWG), of which TI Cambodia is a member, has been leading advocacy for the adoption of Law on Access to Information (A2I). The group has provided numerous inputs to the draft law to ensure it meets the international standards. In 2024, the A2IWG continued the advocacy including providing recommendations to incorporate CSO inputs into the draft law and accelerate the legislative process. As a result of its advocacy, a verbal confirmation was received during one of its advocacy dialogues from a Minister attached to the Prime Minister that CSO input has been well received and partly incorporated in the latest

						version of the draft, and that the draft law, now at the Council of Ministers, is likely to be adopted within the 7 th mandate of the current government.
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	4	3	Achievement = 5 1) One video vlog competition on access to information. 2) Four radio programmes that raised awareness about the A2I law's importance 3) One joint statement advocating for the draft A2I law submitted to the Prime Minister 4) One national workshop on IDUAI 5) Dialogue with a Minister Attached to the Prime Minister to follow up and push for adoption of the draft A2I law
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	60	60	Achievement = 83 A total of 83 youths (55 females) were engaged in two youth debate programmes organised in partnership with the API. The debates significantly contributed to developing the youth's understanding of and discussions around the importance of A2I in Cambodia.
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%	97%	60%	Achievement = 100% Through their involvement in TI Cambodia's initiatives, youth have been successfully empowered to participate in social and political affairs. With their skills enhanced and access to opportunities and resources provided, they have actively tackled community and social issues during their engagement with TI Cambodia. A sample survey conducted with participants from youth camps, young leadership programs, and the young budget tracker shows that even after their participation with TI Cambodia, these young individuals continued to act at least once in various social and political domains. This includes researching commune budgets, contributing to commune development budgets, attending village meetings, voicing concerns,

						reporting issues to local authorities, monitoring public service delivery, expressing opinions on social media, participating in social work and volunteer activities, and implementing initiatives to raise awareness within their communities.
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	12	11	Achievement = 11 A total of 11 platforms were established and enhanced by TI Cambodia for youth engagement in learning and discussing democracy, good governance, transparency, accountability and leadership. - 2 youth camps - 4 Young Leadership Programmes - 3 sub-national youth forums - 1 video competition on youth in democratic process - 1 training on Op-Ed writing Other complementary platforms enriching to this output including: - 2 youth debates in partnership with API - 1 series of face-to-face youth discussions by Politikoffee - 1 series of online youth talks - 1 Young Budget Tracker - 1 Young Journalists Training by CamboJA
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	11	6	Achievement = 7 7 youth influencer videos were produced. The video showcased youth who are champions of positive change in their communities in different provinces. The videos feature a wide range of issues including discrimination, youth engagement, women empowerment, child rights, health and wellbeing.

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	28,675	15,000	Achievement = 67,734 Through activities on TI Cambodia's social media platforms including the "I AM CLEAN" and newly developed "TRES RIS" Facebook pages, 67,734 engagements were achieved. The activities comprised online quizzes, online youth talks, and dissemination of educational and informative posters.
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	6	16	Achievement = 16 Six face-to-face discussions, organised in partnership with Politikoffee, with a total of 60 youth participants (including 27 females), addressed critical socio-political issues in Cambodia, fostering dialogue and engagement among diverse youth groups Additionally, one training on youth capacity building and online debate further supported the empowerment of youth leaders, resulting in improved knowledge and confidence among participants. Seven online youth talks were hosted, allowing youth to share opinions and address vital social issues, gender equality, and youth participation in governance. These activities collectively enhanced the capacity of youth leaders to educate, mobilise and advocate for changes with civil society and the government. Two initiatives with existing youth groups were implemented to engage, inform and equip young students to participate in democratic governance and contribute to their communities. Other initiatives such as sub-national forums (as reported under Priority 2, Sector 3, Output 3.1), and International Youth Day forum (as reported under Priority 2, Sector 3, Output 3.8), as reported in different outputs, also contribute to this output by providing platforms for youth to learn, discuss and engagement with government at national and sub-national levels.

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	24	8	Achievement = 13 As a result of the Young Leader Programmes reported in Output 3.1, 13 initiatives/projects were developed and implemented by trained participants. Other youth-led projects which are still underway, or have been achieved under other Outputs: - 8 youth-led projects received small grants through TI Cambodia's newly developed Grant Portal. These projects will be implemented in 2025. - 19 initiatives successfully implemented by Young Budget Tracker Programme participants, as mentioned in Output 1.2, Sector 1 – PFM and Budget Transparency
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	0	No activity planned for 2024
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	17	5	Achievement = 9 Three public forums where citizen concerns related to public services were addressed by local authorities. Two capacity building sessions aimed at enhancing Mol's mobile app management and complaint handling Three reflection meetings were facilitated by DFR with target Provincial and District Ombudsman Offices to discuss their progress, challenges, and outcomes related to the mobile app and the complaint handling mechanism.

						An update to the mobile app to link it with Mol's complaint management database.
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	9	6	Achievement = 7 The Advisory Citizens Committees in the three regional offices – Battambang, Siem Reap and Kampot, continued to meet on a quarterly basis to provide guidance to project teams. In the reporting year, a total of 7 meetings were held.
	# of regular capacity building provided to youth networks	5 (2022)	6	15	6	Achievement = 4 The indicator target was to conduct six training sessions, but only four were achieved. This was due to the final training being held online, combining participants from three provinces, providing greater flexibility and accessibility for these participants, while the first three trainings were conducted in-person for each province—Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kampot, respectively.
	# of joint initiative(s) with other networks or coalitions	2	2	5	2	Achievement = 3 TI Cambodia's regional offices provided support in organisation/celebration of key events including International Youth Day, International Day, and Phnom Penh Internet Forum.
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	0	Not plan in 2024
Output 4.1: Enhanced electoral integrity in Cambodia through	# of policy(ies) on political integrity produced	-	1	Not achieved	1	Cancelled

evidence based advocacy						
	# of people who received trainings on corruption in politics/enhancing electoral integrity				25	Cancelled
Sector 5 (new): Anti-corruption and democratic ecosystem: to build and support different CSO actors in the fight against corruption and promotion of democratic governance						
Specific Objective/Outcome: to build and support different CSO actors in the fight against corruption and promotion of democratic governance	% of youth who participate in civic engagement activities following soft skills/life skills training or initiatives	-	-	-	0%	No plan in 2024
Output 5.1: Empowered, engaged and protected human rights defenders (2EP-HRD)	# of advocacy campaigns aimed at furthering inclusion and non-discrimination of marginalised population	-	-	-	81	Achievement = 90 A total of 80 activities were conducted by 10 CSO implementing partners, including: 3 by CID, 10 by CYN, 6 by EC, 11 by HA, 22 by PKH, 8 by STT, 6 by ACT, 5 by Banteay Srei, 8 by YCC, and 11 by KYA. The activities involved campaigns, training, events, and technical and financial supports provided to marginalised communities, women and youth groups of diverse backgrounds, aimed at promoting their inclusion and non-discrimination.
	# of human rights defenders trained and supported.	-	-	-	130	Achievement = 180 A total of 180 human rights defenders were trained and received support through CSO partners.
	# of women participating in a	-	-	-	10	Not Achieved

	substantive role or leadership position in human rights activism					
	# of youth trained in soft skills/life skills	-	-	-	155	Achievement = 769 A total of 769 youth received life/soft skills training through various initiatives of CSO partners.
	# of citizens participate in trainees' initiatives	-	-	-	741	Achievement = 969 In partnership with CID and CYN, a total of 969 citizens participated in initiatives carried out by trained youths. Through CID, 593 citizens were engaged in seven youth-led initiatives, while CYN's four initiatives conducted by trained human rights defenders involved a total of 376 individuals.
Output 5.2: Empowered Cambodian youths to understand and exercise their civic and political rights	# of individuals receiving civic education through USG-assisted programs	-	-	-	667	Achievement = 796 A total of 796 individuals received civic education. The following numbers participated in various programmes: The CID's Human Rights and Democratic Leadership Academy had 61 participants, while CYN's Cambodian Youth Forum and Activist Camp & Youth Learning Forum engaged 335 participants. EC's Democracy Summer Camp provided civic education to 27 participants, and ACT's youth camp involved 64 participants. BS's YPAR training sessions included 38 participants. YCC's Youth Democracy Camp saw 59 participants, and the Capacity Building Trainings attracted 150 participants. Finally, KYA's three training activities had 62 participants.
	# of individuals participated in forums	-	-	-	235	Achievement = 573 The number of individuals who participated in the forums organised by CSO partners is as follows: 1- CYN Young Human Rights Defender Forum in late 2023 engaged 80 participants,

						2- CYN Youth Human Rights Defenders in late 2024 engaged 89 participants; 3- CYN Cambodian Youth Forum saw attendance from 300 participants; 4- YCC's provincial youth forums involved 104 participants.
Output 5.3: Enhanced support and engagement key events to promote governance, human rights and democracy	# of International Day events supported	-	-	-	5	Achievement = 3 TI Cambodia supported key events including: - The 33rd Anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreements on Cambodia - The 113th International Women's Day celebration - The 76th Anniversary of International Human Rights Day
Output 5.4: Enhanced governance system and practice for CSO partners	# of human rights defenders or activists received legal services	-	-	-	30	Achievement = 497 In partnership with Business and Human Rights Law Group (BHRLG), legal consultations have been provided to 497 NGO partners (250 females), focusing on environmental laws, Indigenous Peoples' protections, and legal risks associated with activism. BHRLG also offered legal representation in two cases involving incitement charges, and provided crisis support to six human rights defenders facing threats.
	# of human rights organisations trained and supported.	-	-	-	8	Achievement = 6 A training was conducted with a focus on the EU's proposed Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, specifically introducing participants to evidence-based approaches and enhancing their understanding of the broader international corporate sustainability and due diligence frameworks. A total of six unions and organisations attended the training, which included the Cambodian Labor Confederation (CLC), Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Worker Democratic Union (C.CAWDU), Building and Wood Workers Trade Union Federation of Cambodia (BWTUC), Cambodian Agriculture Worker Federation (CAWF), Cambodia Tourism Service Workers

						Federation (CTSWF), and Cambodia Industrial Workers Federation (CIWF).
	# of key internal policies of union organisations and associations newly developed and revised.	-	-	-	10	Achievement = 7 Seven unions are interested in adopting CIS, including CLC, CIWF, CTWF, CTDA, CTSWF, BWTUC, and CAWF. These unions have been assessed by TI Cambodia's BIP team. The findings of the assessments are being incorporated in the revision of their governance policies and practices.
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	1	1	Achievement = 3 The joint advocacy with TI Australia on anti-money laundering led to the adoption of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Amendment Bill 2024. While focused on Australia, it may enhance business integrity in Cambodia by increasing scrutiny on financial flows, encouraging local companies to adopt transparent practices. Improved collaboration between authorities and pressure from Australian businesses for compliance could foster better governance, contributing to a favourable investment climate and a strengthened regulatory environment in Cambodia. As a result of BIP efforts, Home Food Delivery, previously known as Green Business Development Company Limited, is interested in adopting the CIS. The BIP team is currently reviewing the company's policies, including internal statutes and finance regulations. Additionally, following a sub-national dialogue, So Ngoun Banana Company has expressed interest in collaborating with TI Cambodia and CSO partners to strengthen supply chains and develop responsible business relationships with small and medium holders.

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	1	1	Achievement = 1 In collaboration with TI Cambodia, TI Australia has conducted an investigation research study titled “Stopping dirty money in Australia and Cambodia” which started in 2023 and published in May 2024. The research explored Australia’s visibility of the funds flowing from Cambodia. Following the study, TI Cambodia currently is supporting TI Australia in its ongoing follow-up research to deep dive into the nature of the funds flowing, specifically on the processes/mechanisms.
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	2	2	Achievement = 4 TI Cambodia supported TI Australia’s advocacy for anti-money laundering, including organisation of two report launch events for the “Stopping dirty money in Australia and Cambodia” study, held in May in Melbourne and Sydney, where the report findings and recommendations were presented to relevant stakeholders. Additionally, a lobby dialogue was held with the Australian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and recommendations were submitted to the Parliament of Australia. As a result, the advocacy efforts have contributed to the adoption of the Australia’s long overdue Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Amendment Bill 2024 .
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	2	1	Achievement = 1 One training on responsible business conduct at Kampot Province, for 34 representatives (8 females) of local NGO partners and community fishery (Cfi) from Kep, Kampot, Koh Kong, and Sihanoukville.
	# of piece(s) of evidence produced	0	2	2	1	Not Achieved The BIP team, along with CSO partners such as the NGO Forum, AAC, and Oxfam, has identified potential risks facing target communities in coastal areas. In response, TI Cambodia and the three CSO partners plan to collaborate with a consultant to carry out case studies focused on responsible business practices for advocacy purposes. Two

					important cases have been selected: the SS Gold Company in Andoung Tuek commune, Koh Kong Province, and the TP Moral Company in Dong Korl Commune, Kep Province. The case studies are scheduled for 2025, with an additional case in Preah Sihanouk Ville identified during consultations with CNRO, which will be developed in 2026. The findings from NGO's Social and Environmental Impact Review report will be integrated to support the creation of these case studies.
	# of action(s) taken to advocate for responsible business conduct and better level playing field	0	5	4	3 Achievement = 6 Three sub-national dialogues were held with all relevant stakeholders in the banana value chain in Kampong Cham, Kampot, and Ratanakiri provinces. One national multistakeholder forum was held to identify the root causes of issues or obstacles and essential solutions for promoting equitable tax collection, accountable tax governance, responsible investment, and sustainable and resilient value chains in trade. Two field visits were organised in collaboration with CSO partners including: a study visit to examine the interactions between local communities and agro-industrial estates in Ratanakiri province, and a field visit to assess community capacity needs and monitor responsible business practices in six fishery communities across Kep and Kampot Provinces.
Output 1.4: Enhanced climate governance integrity	# of youth attended youth camp, painting contest and research fellowship	-	-	-	70 Achievement: 130 60 youth participants attended a four-day Youth Camp under the theme <i>"Building a Green Future: Youth Leadership in Climate Governance"</i> in Kampot, gaining better awareness about corruption's impact on climate governance. Participants has developed plans to share their learnings with their communities, potentially reaching over 500 additional youth. A Youth Painting Contest under the theme <i>"Climate Governance Integrity"</i> has also been launched, receiving significant interest among

						Cambodian youth, with 70 artwork submissions showcasing their creativity and passion. A panel of expert judges is currently evaluating the paintings, and the winners are expected to be announced in August.
	# of Journalist trained	-	-	-	15	Achievement: 30 The “Training-Workshop and Dialogue on Reporting on Environmental Issues” course was successfully conducted with 30 professional and student journalists (14 females) from various media outlets and educational institutions in Phnom Penh. The training enhanced participants’ skills in environmental investigative reporting, covering contemporary issues and practical tools, and received overwhelmingly positive feedback for its valuable content and engaging methodology.
	# of policy papers produced by participants	-	-	-	5	Delayed TI Cambodia planned to conduct a five-day training for young junior researchers to empower them to do research on climate and produce at least five policy papers, advocating for climate governance. Due to delay in implementation, the training has been rescheduled for early 2025. However, preparations have been completed, with 10 candidates shortlisted and selected, and the consultant teams successfully recruited to lead the training – including coaching and coordinating the compilation of a booklet of the participant’s policy briefs. While policy papers have yet to be produced by participant, in collaboration with the Overseas Press Club, TI Cambodia issued a call for proposals from independent journalists to produce five investigative stories. In the reporting year, two stories were produced and disseminated. The first investigative story, titled How Microloans Exacerbate Deforestation in Cambodia, was published on Dialogue Earth, a leading online platform dedicated to environmental journalism and sustainability, in April. The second story on “Green bonds, red flags: Cambodia’s microfinance crisis deepens amid sustainability push” was also published on Dialogue Earth, in early

						October. The two stories were also widely shared on the platform's Facebook page. TI Cambodia has also led the development of two policy briefs that discuss the risks of undue influence and conflict of interest in climate decision-making in Cambodia, and on the need to promote transparency and accountability in climate action, particularly climate finance, is being finalised. TI Cambodia has conducted an assessment of climate change governance integrity in Cambodia. The report will be published in 2025 and will serve as evidence for advocacy.
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Detailed Narrative on Progress in the Reporting Year 2024

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: Cambodia has demonstrated moderate improvement in budget transparency. The Open Budget Survey 2023 scores Cambodia's transparency 43 out of 100, which is higher than the score in 2021 as a result of an increase in information provided in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the Pre-Budget Statement.

To some extent, the government shows its commitment to improving transparency and accountability in public financial management. Three recommendations from the 2024 budget analysis by BWG are reflected in the 2025 draft budget law, evident in notable changes that align with these suggestions. These changes include a reduction of unanticipated funds from 7.11% in 2024 to approximately 4% in 2025, an adjustment of the customs tax rate on gasoline from 15% in 2024 to 0% in 2025, and enhanced availability and accessibility of information in the 2025 budget law. These recommendations promote a more responsible and transparent budgeting process, making resource management more predictable, equitable, and open to public scrutiny. Implementing these changes reflects a certain level of commitment by the government to improving transparency and accountability in public financial management.

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

Results: This output has been achieved. The enhanced coordination of CSOs in budget transparency and accountability is reflected through 1) the completion of three capacity building training sessions aimed at improving CSOs' knowledge of public finance system management laws and effective advocacy skills, and 2) their regular meetings to facilitate ongoing discussions and collaboration on budget-related issues, further strengthening their collective efforts. This enhanced coordination resulted in significant advocacy actions taken by the CSOs (the CSO Budget Working Group) including 1) successful organisation of the annual public forum on the national budget, 2) a comprehensive analysis of the 2025 national budget, 3) a comprehensive review of national income from property taxes, 4) successful co-hosting Open Budget Survey 2023 Launch, and 5) a dialogue with the PFMRP TWG to seek for a full membership.

Activities implemented under Output 1.1:

Capacity building for the BWG:

In June, Budget Analysis and Advocacy training was provided to 43 participants (of whom 23 are female) from 21 CSOs including BWG members, with an aim to enhance understanding of public finance laws, improve budget literacy, and boost advocacy efforts. Pre- and post-tests showed a 50% increase in participant understanding.

In August, 32 CSO participants (12 females) including BWG members attended training on Human Rights Approach to Budget Analysis, jointly organised with the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) in Cambodia. The BWG gained better understanding of human rights obligations within budget allocation processes, and aimed to use the knowledge in its budget analysis. In November, the BWG, in collaboration with the OHCHR in Cambodia, hosted a one-day follow-up workshop titled "Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Analysing the National Budget in Cambodia." The event gathered 34 representatives (11 women and 23 men) from civil society organizations (CSOs) that focus on budget analysis and various issues related to economic and social rights from both Phnom Penh and the provinces. The primary aim of this workshop was to enhance

the capacity of CSOs to comprehend and implement the principles of Maximum Available Resources (MAR) in advocating for economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as to deepen understanding of the draft 2025 national budget law.

Regular meetings among the BWG:

The regular meetings of the BWG were conducted with focus on various aspects of public finance management (PFM) reform throughout the year. Members reviewed 2023 achievements, noting the integration of 16% of recommendations into a new Public Finance System law. The group met to revise their Terms of Reference for better coordination under new leadership and discuss significant budget reductions impacting local development. Emphasis was also placed on enhancing cooperation with the government's TWG-PFM and addressing broader issues such as tax and social justice. The BWG reflected on ongoing interventions, discussed strategies and the challenges faced as an observer in the PFMRP platform, and prepared a joint project proposal for EU funding. The group also welcomed two new members, expanding its membership and discussing future collaborative training with government finance bodies.

Joint analysis of national budget:

BWG's budget analysis of the 2024 budget law last year has led to its recommendations reflected in the 2025 draft budget law, including a reduction of unanticipated funds (from 7.11% to 4% of) national expenditure, a customs tax rate adjustment on gasoline (from 15% to 0%), and enhanced budget transparency, resulting in an increase in Cambodia's transparency score in the latest Open Budget Survey.

Following the release of the draft 2025 budget law in late 2024, the BWG started analysis of it, focusing on key areas such as revenue, expenditure, public debt, and budget transparency. The analysis is being finalised, and its recommendations aimed at enhancing public financial management (PFM) with respect to budget credibility and performance accountability for the next fiscal years, will be submitted to relevant government counterparts.

Annual national budget forum:

A national forum on public budget titled "2024 Budget Rationalization and Strengthening the Efficiency of Budget Execution and 2025 Budget Law Formulation, was organised by the BWG on 27 June, drawing participation from a diverse group of stakeholders from both demand and supply sides, including the National Assembly, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Interior (MoI), and the National Committee for Democratic Development (NCDD), members of the private sector, UN agencies, development partners, national and international civil society organisations, academic representatives, students, youth, indigenous communities, citizens, and the media, totalling 107 attendees (42 females). The forum successfully fostered public engagement and dialogue with legislators and policymakers. It focused on sharing information about the 2025 national budget formulation to enhance public involvement in the budgeting process, while addressing the impact of the 2024 budget rationalisation on expenditures at both national and sub-national levels, as well as the significant challenges regarding citizen participation. As a result, the forum gathered valuable insights for relevant ministries to consider in their budget planning.

The event was also live-streamed on social media channels, garnering 1,500 views, and was covered by five media outlets, resulting in various articles.

Open Budget Survey 2023 launch:

On August 15, TI Cambodia and NGO, in partnership with the EU in Cambodia, co-hosted the launch of the Open Budget Survey (OBS) 2023 for Cambodia. Conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), the OBS evaluates public budget transparency and accountability. The event brought together key stakeholders from both the executive and legislative branches of government, including budget managers from various ministries. The gathering aimed to recognise the

government's significant strides in enhancing budget transparency while providing a vital platform for dialogue between government officials and civil society. The objective was to foster ongoing improvements in Public Financial Management systems and processes and to explore further opportunities for collaboration in advancing an open and accountable budget in Cambodia. The recent research published in May 2024 revealed that Cambodia's budget transparency score increased by 10 points, from 33 to 43—its highest score to date, reflecting the joint efforts of the government and civil society organisations in promoting greater public transparency in budget documents.

Review of national income from property taxes:

TI Cambodia conducted a review of national income from property taxes and produced a policy brief for enhancing government revenue mobilisation. Recommendations from findings are being integrated into the 2025 Budget Analysis which will be submitted to relevant ministries in 2025. Key recommendations to the government include:

- Maintaining a cautious yet pragmatic approach to improve immovable property tax performance by enhancing property registration, expanding the tax base, utilizing current market valuations, and employing technology for better administration and compliance. Tax relief should also be considered to address social equity concerns.
- There is significant potential for revenue increases, but these should be implemented gradually to avoid impacting vulnerable taxpayers. The government should aim to raise property tax revenue to 1%–1.5% of GDP over time.
- Current property tax rates are low. While the government's decision not to raise rates is prudent, focusing on a pro-poor tax policy and a progressive tax rate on unused land could enhance revenue and promote social equity.
- To combat corruption in the tax system, the government should enforce a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, whether petty or grand, digitalise tax administration, enhance accountability and oversight in reviewing national revenue performance, and ensure public access to tax payment information.
- Despite challenges like rapid urbanisation and informal markets, Cambodia should prioritize the long-term improvement of its property tax system, invest in taxpayer education and outreach, and explore innovative compliance incentives.

Advocacy with the Ministry of Economy and Finance on PFM RP

The BWG proactively advocated for PFM improvements by providing input to the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF). During the TWG's progress meetings, BWG made recommendations regarding enhancing citizen participation in budget formulation, strengthening budget oversight by legislature and National Audit Authority, and reducing unanticipated budget allocations. The BWG also stressed early disclosure of draft budget laws and establishment of public input mechanisms, while recognising the ministry's efforts in creating and improving its own Citizen Budget, and encouraging more inclusive budget communication. Other key advocacy points made by the BWG to the TWG included robust parliamentary oversight, establishing a Parliamentary Budget Office, strengthening revenue mobilisation through targeted taxation, and improving budget credibility and transparency.

On another occasion, the BWG along with EU PFM programme manager met with the H.E. Meas Soksengan, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) to discuss the Open Budget Survey 2023. The discussion was constructive, with MEF acknowledging the BWG's contributions to Public Procurement and Public Finance System laws. During the meeting, the BWG proposed upgrading its membership status from observer to full member in the PFM RP Technical Working Group, requesting an official agenda slot and a ministerial meeting. Both parties agreed to

co-host the upcoming 2023 Open Budget Survey launching in May and committed to further technical discussions on assessment results.

In early November, the BWG and several CSO partners participated in a workshop on the public fiscal framework and policy for the 2025 National Budget Law, hosted by the National Assembly and the MEF. The BWG collaborated with CSOs to provide input on addressing the challenges of budget execution related to social, environmental, and sanitation issues at the sub-national level. The MEF acknowledged these concerns and updated the guidelines for their establishment as a result.

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

Results: This output has been achieved. Several activities implemented by TI Cambodia have successfully increased public awareness of budgets, improved budget literacy, and fostered civic engagement in promoting the public budget process. Youths and citizens increased their awareness through both in-person and online interventions, leading to 24 initiatives undertaken by youth to further promote budget literacy and address budget-related issues within their communities.

Activities implemented under Output 1.2:

Dissemination of 2024 citizen budget:

TI Cambodia disseminated the 2024 citizen budget booklet which was designed as a tool for budget literacy. This booklet simplifies the 2024 budget law, making it easier to grasp for the general public. It also facilitates comparisons with previous years' budgets through the use of infographics and visualisations. The booklet was distributed to various stakeholders, including civil society organisations, youth groups, and commune authorities. It was used for an online awareness raising campaign in which six posts discussing its key content were published on TI Cambodia's social media channels. The campaign has garnered 3,123 engagements, 250,895 reaches and 427,070 views, increasing social media users' knowledge of public budget.

Interactive web portal for visual budget information:

An interactive web portal for Citizen Budget has been created to provide visual budget information. Budget data from 2020 to 2023 has been successfully integrated into the portal. However, due to slight changes in the budget data structure beginning in 2024, additional time is needed to review and adjust the structure for compatibility moving forward. The portal is currently available for preliminary access at <https://cb.ticambodia.org/>.

Producing videos on public budget issues:

TI Cambodia produced and disseminated three video animations focused on public budget issues with the intent to raise awareness and foster discussions on the importance of citizen participation, budget transparency, and budget oversight in the budgetary process. One of the videos titled "Citizen Participation in Budget Expenditure Process in Cambodia," was initiated in 2023 and completed in 2024.

Each video is organised into three key segments: progress, challenges, and recommendations, providing a comprehensive overview of the current landscape of budget-related issues, and ensuring that the audience gains a clear understanding of the topics presented. A social media campaign on these videos was conducted, yielding impressive results, achieving 256,589 total reaches, 456,465 total views and 3,255 total engagements.

Training professional journalists on public budget:

Based on successful past experience, TI Cambodia partnered with CamboJA to conduct a two-day training on national and sub-national budgets in Phnom Penh, attended by 21 young journalists (14 women) from various media outlets. The training resulted in significant knowledge gains among participants and an increase in confidence in reporting on budget topics, from 40% to 79% based on a pre/post training evaluation. Following the training, TI Cambodia and CamboJA launched a national

budget reporting competition to provide story grants. 10 proposals were received, and five of which were selected by a committee of experienced editors and a budget expert from TI Cambodia. An orientation was held to refine the story angles and ensure compliance with financial regulations. These articles underwent further evaluation, with three awarded as winners. The five articles were published on various media outlets including VOA, Koh Santeapheap Daily, Cambodia Today, and CamboJA News.

Implementing Young Budget Tracker:

From July 4-6, 2024, the Young Budget Tracker 2024 program was successfully held at Puolo Wai Hotel in Phnom Penh, engaging 25 youth participants (19 females) from diverse university and professional backgrounds. This program aimed to enhance understanding of public budgets and support outreach initiatives to raise public awareness regarding the importance of effective budget utilisation. Specifically, participants learned about Cambodia's legal frameworks, budget literacy, the budget calendar, processes, terminology, and data visualisation techniques.

The training employed a student-centred methodology, focusing on hands-on practice such as analysing budgets from key government ministries, which participants found valuable and stimulating throughout the training. Feedback by participants highlighted the practical nature of the training and its effectiveness in enhancing understanding of the national budget. Participants also expressed appreciation for the analytical skills gained. Results of the training assessment showed that 55.56% of participants increased their knowledge post-training, while 33.3% demonstrated consistent scores, likely due to prior exposure to similar topics.

The programme also led to 15 youth-led initiatives including producing and publishing research-based articles, and online campaigns featuring IEC materials related budget information of ministries. The participants successfully developed 10 informative posters about budget-related information for various ministries, complemented by 4 articles and 1 opinion piece. These materials were shared across social media platforms, generating 705 organic interactions from the local community. When these materials were additionally published on TI Cambodia's media channels, they achieved broader public visibility, with impressive metrics including 7,524 total reaches, 143 engagements, and 14,679 total views.

Furthermore, four youth-led projects that originated from YBT Program 2023 were successfully implemented in early 2024 in Kampot and Phnom Penh, aiming to raise awareness about communal budgets through the production of commune citizen budgets and the organisation of public forums. The projects resulted in two budget leaflets distributed to approximately 250 local people in Kampong Bay and Ang Soph. Additionally, three public forums were organised to facilitate budget-related dialogues between people and their commune councils, attracting a total of 174 attendees, including 83 women.

Output 1.3: Enhanced transparent public revenue collection

Results: This output has been achieved. Studies and reviews have been conducted, aimed at increasing evidence for advocacy for effective public revenue management. In addition to increasing evidence, the BWG has conducted a number of advocacy activities to promote public awareness and foster demands for more transparent and effective public revenue management.

Activities implemented under Output 1.3:

Producing evidence through reviews and studies

The BWG conducted a comprehensive analysis of the draft 2025 national budget, which included a detailed review of various revenue streams as a specific focus area. This review aimed to assess the effectiveness and diversity of the government's revenue generation mechanisms, highlight potential areas for improvement, and provide recommendations for enhancing fiscal sustainability and accountability. By examining the different sources of revenue, the BWG sought to better understand

their implications for public finance management and the overall economic health of the country. The findings will be used as evidence for advocacy.

As noted in Output 1.1, a review of national income from property taxes has been completed. While the findings are not yet published, they will provide valuable evidence to support future advocacy efforts aimed at promoting transparency and effectiveness in public revenue collection.

A study on increasing special taxes on sugary food, tobacco and alcohol, is also underway and expected to be finalised in early 2025.

The overdue Fair Tax Monitor Study is taking longer than anticipated due to a number of challenges including finding a qualified and committed consultant and obtaining input from the government. The research aims at reviewing the tax system in Cambodia in order to promote pro poor fiscal policy. The research thoroughly deeps into six chapters of 1) Distribution of the tax burden and progressivity; 2) Revenue sufficiency and illicit financial flows; 3) Tax competition and corporate incentives; 4) Effectiveness of tax administration; 5) Government spending; and 6) Transparency and accountability. Currently, the data collection is underway, while six key areas of tax governance have been assessed and scored based on the research methodology.

Conducting advocacy activities

A social media campaign on 2024 Citizen Budget booklet was conducted. A special focus of the campaign was given to raising awareness and understanding of state revenues and expenditures. In the campaign, six posts were run on TI Cambodia's FB page and Tres Ris FB page. The posts received 250,895 reaches, 3,123 engagements and 427,070 views in total.

Another online campaign was launched to raise public awareness about revenues from special taxes on luxury and hazardous products, including tobacco, alcohol, and sweetened beverages. The campaign visualised trends of revenue collection from the special taxes and government expenditure and addressed related social issues. The campaign achieved 27,846 reaches and 1,558 engagements.

Output 1.4: *Improved participation and coordination of budget preparation and monitoring at sub-national administration*

Results: The activities under this output were not implemented.

Sector 2: Public Procurement

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

Result: This outcome has been achieved. Since 2023 TI Cambodia has been providing input to the Ministry of Interior's Technical Working Group in its review of the Guidebook on Commune/Sangkat Fund Project Implementation, focusing on sub-national procurement procedures. The updated guidebook was initially set for finalisation in 2024. However, in 2024, the initiative expanded to thoroughly address sub-national administrative challenges, conducting a detailed review of the manual, engaging in inclusive discussions with stakeholders across multiple provinces, identifying key challenges, and gathering valuable input for further refinement. Finalisation of this improved manual is expected in 2025. Once adopted, it is expected that transparency and accountability in the procurement practices at Commune-Sangkat levels will be significantly enhanced.

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 has been achieved. Two advocacy activities were implemented as planned, contributing to increased public awareness of the public procurement law and engagement from citizens and youth in discussing public procurement issues.

Activities implemented under Output 2.1:

Since the adoption of the 2023 Law on Public Procurement, TI Cambodia has conducted social media campaigns to raise awareness of the law. In 2024, four online posts were published with the contents from the law, focusing on explaining in simple terms what public procurement is, the procedures, and the key principles for transparency. The posts received 9,671 reaches and 229 engagements.

In partnership with CSO Access to Information Working Group, a video vlog competition was held to raise awareness of the critical role of the access to information law in fostering transparency and accountability in various sectors including budget and public procurement.

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

Result: This output has been achieved. Three reviews were undertaken, resulting in a series of tailored recommendations and input developed and presented to the government. These recommendations focused on procurement in three distinct sectors: sub-national procurement, government (Build-Operate-Transfer) projects, and climate change governance. These initiatives aimed to enhance procurement frameworks and promote more effective and sustainable project implementation.

Activities implemented under Output 2.2:

Review on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) projects: TI Cambodia reviewed government's BOT projects, examining corruption risks and social impacts. The study revealed significant concerns about transparency in project procurement, highlighting potential deterrents to foreign investment. The findings emphasised how corruption and lack of transparency create an unstable investment environment, underscoring the need for a collaborative approach involving government, civil society, and international stakeholders. Key recommendations included mandating public disclosure of project details, enhancing civil society engagement, and creating provisions for local employment and technology transfer. The primary objective was to improve project integrity, attract sustainable investments, and promote more balanced economic development in Cambodia by creating a more transparent and accountable investment ecosystem.

Review on Mol's Guidebook on the Implementation of Commune/Sangkat Fund Project: In 2023, TI Cambodia began working with the Ministry of Interior's (Mol) Technical Working Group to revise the Guidebook on the Implementation of Commune/Sangkat Fund Project, with a specific focus on sub-national procurement procedures. The goal was to update the guidebook, which was expected to be disseminated in 2024. In 2024, the activity continued with a more comprehensive approach. It has evolved from a simple manual to a more in-depth examination of sub-national administrative challenges. A working group includes NCDD, Department of Municipal, District, Commune, Sangkat, and Provincial Administrative Affairs, the Department of Capital, District, and Provincial Administrative Affairs of the General Department of Administration, Mol, and TI Cambodia. The working group has conducted a detailed review of the manual, held inclusive discussions with stakeholders from multiple provinces, identified six major challenges in sub-national administration, and collected significant inputs for further refinement.

Recommendations from the Climate Change Governance Integrity Assessment: In TI Cambodia's assessment of Climate Change Governance Integrity (detailed in Output 1.3 under Priority 3 – Business Integrity and Level Playing Field), procurement management is rated by a small percentage of respondents as "weak" or "very weak" across several indicators, including transparency, accountability, integrity, fairness, efficiency, professionalism, prevention, enforcement, and education. These areas necessitate improvement to the procurement processes in climate governance. The study has been finalised but is not yet published. Following its publication, recommendations will be presented to the government, urging for enhanced efforts.

Sector 3: Accountable Mining

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

Result: The outcome has been delayed.

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

Result: This output is still in progress. One research and one policy brief are being produced, expected to be finalised and disseminated in early 2025. These two documents will serve as a basis and add to the limited sources of information on extractive industry in Cambodia.

Activities implemented under 3.1:

Conducting a research study (still underway):

The research project titled "Mapping on Gold Mining Companies/Projects and Their Contributions to the State Budget" is set to be completed by 2025. This study was launched with an aim to provide a comprehensive mapping on gold mining projects in Cambodia and their contributions to the national budget. Utilising a combination of secondary and primary data collection and analysis, the research adopts a broad and inclusive approach. Due to a lack of information, progress has been significantly affected. Nonetheless, the research team has persevered and successfully produced a draft report, while further input from relevant stakeholders is being collected. Preliminary findings suggest that the gold mining sector has significantly contributed to economic growth, generating millions in royalties, taxes, and other forms of revenue for the country. Based on the findings, key recommendations include strengthening the regulatory framework by updating existing laws to ensure transparency, comprehensiveness, and effective enforcement. Additionally, the monitoring mechanisms should be improved through increased capacity development and meaningful collaboration with stakeholders, including development partners, NGOs, and the private sector, to foster sustainable practices. Engaging with communities and indigenous peoples is also crucial to minimising concerns and mitigating the impact on local communities.

Developing a policy brief (still underway)

TI Cambodia is developing a policy brief titled "The Need for Greater Transparency in Mining Revenues, 2020-2024". This policy brief aims to address the critical issue of transparency in mining revenues, specifically focusing on gold, cement, sand, gems, and rocks. However, its development has faced a delay due to a severe lack of information. Some companies approached by the research team have been unable to provide detailed figures, citing concerns that disclosing such data could compromise their competitive advantage and potentially benefit rival businesses. However, the research persevered and could obtain helpful input from big companies and associations in the industry as well as the government. The research team aims to finalise this policy brief in early 2025.

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

Result: This output has not been achieved, as all activities were delayed.

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 has not been achieved, as all activities were delayed.

Output 3.4: Fostered multi-stakeholder dialogues on extractive industry

Result: This output has been partly achieved due to inactiveness of EISEI during the year.

Activities implemented under 3.4:

A dialogue on mining issues took place at a workshop organised by EISEI, bringing together stakeholders to address critical concerns regarding the transparency of national revenue collection from the extractive industry. The workshop provided a platform for open discussions on the challenges and opportunities related to revenue management, fostering collaboration among

participants to enhance accountability and ensure equitable distribution of resources generated from mining activities.

Sector 4: Oversight

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

Result: There was no planned activity in 2024.

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

Result: There was no planned activity in 2024.

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

Result: There was no planned activity in 2024.

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 has been partly achieved. Collaboration with other CSOs in anti-corruption has been enhanced. As a result, a joint statement by TI Cambodia and the CSOs Working Group on Anti-Corruption in Cambodia, was submitted late last year as part of the CSO input to Cambodia's Fourth Cycle Universal Periodic Review. Three recommendations in the joint statement were submitted to the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review for its 46th session from April 29 to May 10, 2024. The recommendations include: 1) strengthening the independence and accountability of the Anti-Corruption Unit; 2) establishing a whistle-blower regime with provisions to ensure adequate protection for whistle-blowers, in line with international best practices; and 3) addressing the public perception that the judiciary is one of the most corrupt institutions in Cambodia, despite its guaranteed independence under the constitution and relevant statutes.

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

Result: This output has not been fully achieved.

Implemented Activities under Output 1.1:

Due to ALAC's internal staff movement, ALAC work has experienced disruptions and slow progress in the reporting year. As a result, ALAC could provide legal consultations to only five cases. Among them, two individuals contacted ALAC for advice but did not proceed with a follow-up meeting, while other three reached out to ALAC for general consultations that were not related to any corruption issues.

Output 1.2: *Relevant anti-corruption legal and regulatory framework drafted, adopted or amended in partnership with relevant stakeholders and government institutions*

Result: This output has been achieved. Through four collaborative initiatives including submission of a joint statement on access to information, organisation of national workshop on internet freedom, a public and youth engagement digital campaign for the National Anti-Corruption Day, and producing and publishing corruption-related articles on media, ALAC has contributed to fostering a multistakeholder environment that promote anti-corruption and support the drafting or adoption of anti-corruption legal frameworks.

Activities implemented under Output 1.2:

ALAC continued its collaboration with the Southeast Asian Network for Transparent and Accountable Governance (SEANTAG) to promote anti-corruption initiatives and good governance across the region. At the same time, it worked in partnership with the local Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Anti-Corruption Working Group and other key CSO groups, including those focused on Access to Information and Digital Rights, to advocate for the development of effective legal frameworks and rights that bolster wider anti-corruption efforts. During the reporting year, ALAC, through TI Cambodia, endorsed a joint statement urging the adoption of the draft Law on Access to Information. Additionally, it supported the CSO Working Group on Digital Rights in organising the Phnom Penh Internet Forum, aimed at raising public awareness about digital rights and promoting stronger legal protections.

ALAC additionally organised a virtual event for the National Anti-Corruption Day. The fully digital event centred on youth engagement and empowerment. Running for nearly a whole month, starting from early December until late December, the campaign engaged hundreds of audiences. It featured inspiring quotes and testimonials from TI Cambodia's youth participants, voxpop videos, and a live talk show with youth leaders, discussing the nature of corruption and the role of youth in promoting transparency and accountability. The initiative aimed to inspire and mobilise young people to drive meaningful change and anti-corruption reform.

TI Cambodia also collaborated with a local media partner to produce 10 articles related to corruption and governance issues. These articles were published on their media outlets, focusing on raising awareness about the impact of corruption and promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability. The initiative aimed to educate the public, inspire action, and support the global fight against corruption through accessible and impactful content.

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 has not been achieved due to delay in implementation.

Activities implemented under Output 1.3:

Although the ALAC team did not organise any training during this reporting year, it worked in close collaboration with TI Cambodia's programme teams to enhance youths' understanding of ALAC and anti-corruption frameworks. This was achieved by including dedicated short sessions on ALAC within other training initiatives, such as Youth Camp. The post training assessment indicated increased awareness and understanding among the participants.

Sector 2: Access to Information

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

Result: This outcome has been achieved through the efforts of the CSO Access to Information Working Group (A2IWG). The A2IWG has been actively working to ensure that the draft Access to Information Law (A2I) aligns with international standards by providing input and recommendations to the government while advocating for the law's urgent adoption.

In 2024, the A2IWG's ongoing advocacy efforts have yielded positive results. During one of its advocacy dialogues, a Minister attached to the Prime Minister verbally confirmed that the CSOs' input has been well received and partially incorporated into the latest version of the draft law. Furthermore, the draft is currently with the Council of Ministers and is expected to be adopted within the current government's seventh mandate.

However, it remains unclear to what extent the CSOs' recommendations have been integrated into the latest draft of the law. The A2IWG will continue its advocacy efforts to ensure that the draft law meets international standards.

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

Result: This output has been achieved. The CSO A2IWG had regular meetings and discussions on A2I draft law and matters throughout the reporting year. As a result, five coordinated activities of the A2IWG's members were conducted, demonstrating strengthened advocacy and collective actions.

Activities implemented under Output 2.1:

The CSO A2IWG maintained ongoing collaboration and enhanced joint efforts to promote access to information, with a focus on pushing for urgent adoption of the A2I law. Five advocacy activities were conducted by the A2IWG including:

Three campaigns on access to information: Several campaigns were run to promote access to information and the importance of the draft A2I law adoption. The activities include:

- 1) a video vlog competition on the three topics such as the importance of the draft Access to Information Law, the importance of access to information on economics, environment, and climate change, as well as the importance of access to information in budget and public procurement. 6 videos were produced, highlighting the public viewpoints on the draft of the Law on A2I and submitted in public in partnership with CCIM, TIC, and the API
- 2) four radio shows that raised awareness about the A2I law's importance
- 3) a joint statement advocating for the draft A2I law submitted to the Prime Minister.

National workshop on International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI): the A2IWG, the government and relevant stakeholders co-hosted a national workshop to commemorate IDUAI, engaging 245 participants, including representatives from the National Assembly, government ministries, development partners, CSOs, local communities, youth, and media. The event aimed to reactivate the stalled legislative process for the draft Access to Information (A2I) law, which has been a focal point of advocacy by Cambodian civil society since 2005. The workshop included three roundtable discussions that focused on best practices, historical advocacy efforts, and current challenges related to accessing public information. These discussions garnered support for the law's passage from both the National Assembly and the government, as represented by H.E. Ty Sokun of Commission 5 of the National Assembly and H.E. Preap Kol, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister. The forum concluded with a joint statement by CSOs containing several recommendations aimed at enhancing access to information, as well as accelerating the legislative process of the draft law.

Dialogue with the government: the A2IWG met with H.E. Preap Kol, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister, to discuss the progress of the draft A2I law. During the meeting, the A2IWG also raised concerns regarding the clarity of specific articles in the draft. H.E. Preap Kol welcomed these comments and encouraged further collaboration, proposing a high-level dialogue involving diverse stakeholders to refine the draft law. In June, the A2IWG met with the Minister Attached to the Prime Minister again, informing about the Australian Ambassador's interest in co-hosting the dialogue, and requesting a latest draft of the law which had now been submitted to the Council of Ministers by the Ministry of Justice. H.E. Preap Kol informed that some of the input from civil society organisations had been incorporated in the draft law and reminded that the draft be moved forward to avoid further delay. He also expressed optimism for the law's approval within the 7th mandate of the current government.

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

Result: This outcome has been realised. Information regarding the draft Law on Access to Information was broadly shared with the public, especially among youth, through a range of engagement activities, including youth debates and digital campaigns.

Activities implemented under Output 2.2:

Youth debate on Fundamental Freedom and Access to Information

In collaboration with the Advocacy for Public Information (API), two youth debates on access to information and freedom of information were organised in Phnom Penh, engaging a total of 83 (55 females) youths including participants and audience.

The first debate in March involved 39 youths (25 females) and included an orientation on access to information. Participants debated key topics related to the rights to information and its impact on public service and youth involvement. In the final round, participants engaged in critical discussions on the Law of Access to Information and its role in Cambodia's economic development.

In August, the second debate attracted 44 youths (30 females) and began with a full-day orientation on advocacy and access to information. Participants were divided into groups to debate topics such as the relationship between the right to information, public service, and economic growth. The final round focused on democracy and corruption. Pre- and post-test assessments indicated a 38% improvement in participants' understanding of access to information.

Running a digital campaign on fundamental freedom and access to information

TI Cambodia produced two interactive videos to raise awareness of the draft Law on Access to Information. The videos include an **influencer spotlight** which provides an overview of the draft law presented by a popular influencer, and an **engaging animation** highlighting the challenges of accessing information and the law's role in promoting transparency and democratic governance.

Both videos, each lasting 3-5 minutes, incorporate the latest legal recommendations. Released on TI Cambodia's Facebook page in September, they achieved 1,865 organic reaches and 152 engagements, although no paid advertising was used due to legal restrictions from the Meta group on law-related content.

Other activities contributing to this output include the national workshop on IDUAI, the video vlog competition, and the four radio shows which were implemented under Output 2.1 above.

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: This outcome has been achieved. Through their involvement in TI Cambodia's various empowerment initiatives, youth have been successfully empowered to participate in social and political affairs. With their skills enhanced and access to opportunities and resources provided, they have actively tackled community and social issues during their engagement with TI Cambodia. A sample survey conducted with participants from youth camps, young leadership programs, and the young budget tracker shows that even after their participation with TI Cambodia, these young individuals continued to act at least once in various social and political domains. This includes researching commune budgets, contributing to commune development budgets, attending village meetings, voicing concerns, reporting issues to local authorities, monitoring public service delivery, expressing opinions on social media, participating in social work and volunteer activities, and implementing initiatives to raise awareness within their communities.

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 has been achieved. Numerous initiatives have been developed/enhanced to engage youth in learning and discussing democracy, good governance, leadership, transparency and accountability. Throughout the reporting year, a total of 11 engagement platforms were created, engaging over 500 youth.

Activities implemented under Output 3.1:

Two youth camps:

In February, TI Cambodia's 14th edition of Youth Camp, under the theme "Shaping the Future of Democracy: The Role of Youth in Enhancing Political Integrity," was successfully conducted in Monduliri province, attracting 115 participants, including 55 females, 7 LGBTQ+ individuals, and 2 monks. The camp aimed to create an inclusive platform for youth to engage with concepts of democratic governance, transparency, integrity, and accountability. It encouraged active civic participation in democratic processes and inspired attendees to take initiatives addressing community issues. Throughout the event, participants benefited from a series of informative presentations covering critical topics, including the context of democracy in Cambodia, the importance of free and fair elections, anti-corruption frameworks, political finance transparency, and the role of youth in the regional economy. Engagement was further enhanced through a youth panel discussion and sector-focused discussions on relevant topics such as technology, gender equality, and climate change. Additionally, participants presented their youth-led initiative proposals, with all proposals receiving preliminary approval for small grants. The camp served as a vital forum for youth voices, facilitating meaningful discussions and networking opportunities, ultimately underscoring the importance of youth in promoting political integrity.

The 15th Youth Camp, themed "Building a Culture of Integrity: The Roles of Youth and Women in the Fight Against Corruption," took place in November in Kampong Speu province and welcomed 43 young changemakers, including women and LGBTQ+ participants. The camp actively involved these young people in intensive sharing sessions and in-depth discussions on crucial topics such as the importance of youth and women in combating corruption, the challenges and opportunities for young people in fostering a transparent society, digital safety basics, money laundering, and their engagement in anti-corruption efforts and climate change. This engagement led to the development of several solution-oriented initiative plans by the participants.

Four batches of Young Leadership Programme (YLP)

The Young Leadership Programme (YLP), a series of intensive training sessions, was conducted successfully with different youth groups in Siem Reap, Kampot, Banteay Meanchey, and Preah Vihear, engaging a total of 103 participants, comprising 58 females, 1 LGBTQ individual and 2 individuals with disabilities. The programme focused on strengthening leadership skills among women and youth while fostering dialogues about democratic governance, integrity, and anti-corruption at the grassroots level. In Siem Reap, YLP engaged 31 participants (16 females, 1 LGBTQ). In Kampot, the programme was attended by 21 participants (13 females). In Banteay Meanchey, the programme trained 28 participants (16 females, 2 individuals with disabilities). In Preah Vihear, YLP took place in May, engaging 23 participants (13 females).

The programme covered key topics such as personal development, democratic governance, and anti-corruption. Pre- and post-training assessments indicated a marked improvement in participants' understanding of these topics. Compared with previous years, enhanced engagement levels were observed, as a result of a more simplified training structure, a stricter selection process, and a better allocation of resources.

Three sub-national youth forums:

In March 2024, three sub-national youth forums were held in Takeo, Kampot, and Sihanoukville, focusing on the theme "Fostering Active Citizenship: Informed, Engaged, and Empowered Communities." These forums aimed to enhance awareness among women and youth regarding their rights and responsibilities, while empowering them to actively participate in their communities' development. A total of 203 participants attended across the three forums, including 149 females and representatives from vulnerable groups.

The first forum took place on March 25, 2024, in Takeo, attracting 66 participants, with an impressive 83.33% being females (55). The panel featured potential female leaders, including H.E. Sot Khun, the Deputy Governor of Kampot, and local youth activists.

The second forum was conducted in Kampot on March 27, 2024, with 110 participants, of which 73.64% (81 females) were female, alongside representatives from vulnerable communities. The panel included H.E. Eung Chay, Deputy Governor of Kampot and local youth and CSO representatives.

The final forum occurred on March 29, 2024, in Sihanoukville, drawing 27 participants, 48.15% of whom were females (13). Notable speakers included H.E. Cheav Vicheak, the Deputy Governor of Sihanoukville, and active youth from local communities.

The three forums successfully engaged youth and guest speakers, and participant feedback indicated a positive understanding of the discussed topics. Each province provided encouraging feedback regarding the overall management and impact of the forums.

Youth training on Op-Ed writing:

A training on Youth Writing Op-Ed was launched in February, attracting 26 applications from youths. After reviewing, 10 applicants were selected to attend the four-day training in March. The selected group included 4 females and 1 LGBTQ+ indigenous individual. The training covered topics such as "Understanding Op-Eds," "Crafting Your Argument," "Writing with Clarity and Persuasion," and "Polishing Your Op-Ed and Pitching It." Training assessments showed a knowledge increase from 67% to 80%, before and after the training. The participants also applied their acquired knowledge by producing their own Op-Ed article. Five articles were produced and will be disseminated on TRES RIS's platform.

One video competition on youth in democratic process

Another video competition under themed "The Role of Youth in the Democratic Process" was also conducted to encourage discussions surrounding the challenges and solutions related to youth rights and the significance of citizen participation in democratic processes. The competition received 29 applications which were initially reviewed by TI Cambodia's internal committee. 17 videos were then shortlisted and forwarded to an external committee for final evaluation. Eight finalists (3 winners and 5 runner-ups) were selected.

Other created platforms as reported across different outputs include:

- Young Budget Tracker and Young Journalist Training as reported under Priority 1, Sector 1: PFMR and Budget Transparency, Output 1.2
- two youth debates conducted in partnership with API as reported under Priority 2, Sector 2: Access to Information, Output 2.2
- A series of online youth talks as reported under Priority 2, Sector 3: Citizen and Youth Empowerment, Output 3.3
- A series of face-to face youth discussions by Politikoffee as reported under Priority 2, Sector 3: Citizen and Youth Empowerment, Output 3.4

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 indicator was met. A total of 7 youth influencers were promoted through the youth influencer video project which showcases youth role models and highlights their experiences and achievements, inspiring others to engage in community initiatives and pursue their goals.

Activities implemented under Output 3.2:

Producing Youth Influencer videos:

Since 2023, TI Cambodia has been in collaboration with Chenla Media to create Youth Influencer videos. Despite challenges in identifying truly influential youth who have made significant changes in their communities, 11 videos were completed in 2023. In 2024, Chenla Media has been assisting TI Cambodia with the postproduction of seven more videos featuring youth from various provinces, including Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Mondulhiri, Ratanakiri, Preah Vihear, Kratie, and

Steung Treng. This series of videos aims to highlight the valuable contributions of youth in their communities. The topics of these videos include:

1. A young woman combating communal discrimination.
2. Youth promotion of cybersecurity.
3. Youth empowering indigenous women in the community.
4. Youth advocacy for child rights.
5. Youth involvement in promoting health and wellbeing.
6. Young women engaged in environmental conservation.
7. Youth participation in cultural activities.

Conducting youth video competitions:

A video competition under the theme “Promoting Awareness and Advocacy on Human Rights in Cambodia,” was organised, aimed at addressing issues such as land rights and displacement, natural resources and environmental sustainability, freedom of expression and assembly, indigenous rights and cultural preservation, and activism in human rights protection. The competition attracted 36 applicants, among which 26 videos passed an initial screening process. An internal committee subsequently shortlisted 14 videos, which were then evaluated by external committees. After evaluation, the committees identified 8 winners, including 3 winners and 5 runners-up. The event successfully highlighted the critical importance of these issues and the role of youth in advocating for human rights in Cambodia.

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

Result: This output has been achieved. TI Cambodia recognises the need for online platforms for youth to freely express their opinions and share their thoughts. In the regard, TI Cambodia utilised its existing “I AM CLEAN” Facebook page, and developed a new platform called “TRES RIS” for online youth and citizen engagement. Through these two platforms, 67,734 engagements were achieved.

Activities implemented under Output 3.3:

The activities implemented on the two engagement platforms consisted of online quizzes, online youth talks, and dissemination of educational and informative posters:

Online quizzes:

Four quizzes were conducted on the “I AM CLEAN” page, reaching a total of 15,059 social media users and generated **3,800 engagements**, including reactions, comments, shares, and clicks. Through this approach, TI Cambodia aimed to create a supportive environment where youth voices thrive and actively contribute to the meaningful dialogue.

Organising online youth talks:

A series of seven online youth talks were hosted and livestreamed on the “I AM CLEAN” page, featuring 14 youth (9 females) as guest speakers and moderators, garnering over **47,000 engagements** including likes and views in total. These discussions aimed to empower both women and youth to voice their thoughts on social issues and propose viable solutions. Each talk featured two youth speakers who engaged in meaningful conversations about various topics, including youth participation in national development, gender equality in politics, and the significance of women's roles in high political positions. The discussions also focused on the contribution of young people and women to an inclusive democratic society and highlighted the importance of youth participation in promoting political integrity and democratic governance, as well as environmental justice. Notable discussions examined the challenges facing young people, such as limited access to information, difficulties in expressing their ideas, and inadequate support from institutions. The speakers also addressed cultural and social barriers hindering women's attainment of leadership roles, as well as the autonomy of youth as a catalyst for civic engagement. The talks identified various barriers to

youth representation in government and called for collaborative efforts among stakeholders to create supportive environments for youth and women to engage fully in democratic processes.

Developing “Tres Ris” Channels

“TRES RIS” meaning “Critical Thinking” in English, is TI Cambodia’s digital content platform that leverages various social media channels to share informative and engaging content about civil and political rights, particularly with youth audiences. TRES RIS is currently available on Facebook.

During this reporting year, nine posters were published on Tres Ris Facebook page. The posters cover key topics including Civic and Political Engagement, Economic Perspectives, Gender Issues in Health and Education, Youth Policies and Strategies, Accountability and Rights Compliance, generating **6,142** engagements. Nine quizzes were also conducted on Tres Ris Facebook page, covering topics such as Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, State Responsibilities to Promote Rights and Freedoms, and Youth Engagement in Democracy, Transparency, Accountability and Social Development, generating **10,792** engagements.

Media and Information Literacy training

Additionally, a capacity-building training session was conducted for youth to improve their understanding of the connections between media, digital security, freedom of expression, and civic engagement. In partnership with Politikoffee, the training, titled "Media and Information Literacy," took place in June with 17 participants, of whom 13 were female. The group comprised university students, representatives from civil society organisations, private sector employees, and journalists in Phnom Penh. During the training, participants engaged in various activities such as quizzes, debates, and focus group discussions, which enhanced their comprehension of the role of media in society. Pre-test and post-test evaluations indicated a notable increase of 82.4% in the participants' knowledge and confidence. As a result of the training, participants collaborated in teams to produce three video blogs (vlogs) containing their opinions on issues such as cyberbullying, climate change, and women's empowerment. These vlogs were also posted on social media platforms.

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 has been achieved. A significant success has been made in empowering youth leaders and social activists in Cambodia to effectively mobilise their peers and engage with relevant stakeholders at both national and sub-national levels. Through the implementation of 16 targeted activities, including six face-to-face discussions, seven online talks, and three training sessions, TI Cambodia and partners have facilitated learning and fostered informed dialogue on socio-political and socio-economic issues among diverse youth groups, equipping them knowledge and skills to engage their peers and participate in democratic governance and development at various levels.

Activities implemented under Output 3.4:

Six face-to-face discussions among youths:

In partnership with Politikoffee, a total of six youth discussions were conducted in Phnom Penh, successfully fostering a culture of informal dialogue among youth on pressing socio-political and socio-economic issues in Cambodia. In total, 60 participants (including 27 females) attended these discussions, representing university students, NGO members, activists, and journalists.

The first discussion, held in February, focused on the "Funan Techo Canal Project". The second discussion, in late February, revolved around "Transformative Shifts in Indonesian Democracy". In March, an open dialogue was held and encouraged through a discussion centred on "The Demise of a Nation". In the fourth discussion, held in the same month, participants examined "The Evolving Dynamics of Cambodia-Thai Relations". Feedback from these four sessions indicated that 68% of participants understood the topics discussed, while 80% expressed satisfaction with the overall management and content. Following this, two additional discussions were held later in 2024. The

fifth, held in late June, focused on "US-Cambodia Relations of Post-Lloyd Austin & William Burn's Visits". This session drew 20 young participants and garnered positive feedback, with 68% reporting a strong understanding of the topics and 80% satisfied with the event's management and content. In September, the final discussion centred on "Assessing the Impact of Hun Manet's First Year as Cambodia's Prime Minister." 75% of participants found the discussion engaging and comprehensible. Collectively, participants across all the discussions demonstrated an increased awareness of the importance of dialogue and actively engaged in meaningful discussions and networking opportunities.

Despite these successes, challenges remain. Participants noted that, while they gained valuable insights, the current political atmosphere in Cambodia poses difficulties in securing voices for discussions, limiting outreach and hindering the variety of perspectives shared. Moving forward, Politikoffee and TI Cambodia aim to enhance engagement with both guest speakers and participants, whilst continuing to create safe spaces for youth dialogue.

Seven online youth talks:

As mentioned in Output 3.3 under this Sector – Citizen and Youth Empowerment and Action, a series of seven online talks provided a robust engagement among youth in civic discourse. This series complemented the face-to-face discussions and engaged a wider audience online, helping to educate youth on social and political issues and encouraging further civic engagement.

Three youth capacity building sessions:

With support from TI Cambodia, Politikoffee conducted a training on youth capacity building and online debate in June, with 25 youth participants (17 females, 2 monks, 1 LGBTQ individual), including high school and university students, NGO representatives, and others. This training focused on enhancing debating skills, fostering discussions among participants on social issues, and thereby empowering them to actively engage in civic discourse.

TI Cambodia collaborated with two other established youth networks—E-Robot and STEAMIE—to implement projects aimed at empowering young leaders. The "Sprout of Idea" initiative at Coconut School in Kirirom National Park, led by the E-Robot group, successfully engaged 50 students, including 26 females. This project addresses the critical issue of dropout rates among children living in poverty by enhancing essential skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving. Concurrently, the STEAMIE group conducted a short course on STEAM education for 50 students (32 females) at Hun Sen High School Chamkar Dong, in Phnom Penh. This initiative not only increased awareness of STEAM disciplines but also encouraged students to embrace leadership roles in their educational journeys. Together, these initiatives reflect our objective of fostering informed and engaged youth who are equipped to participate in their communities and advocate for democratic governance.

Complementary initiatives such as the sub-national youth forums (reported under Priority 2, Sector 3, Output 3.1) and the International Youth Day forum (Priority 2, Sector 3, Output 3.8) have further enriched this outcome by providing valuable platforms for youth to voice their opinions, engage in dialogues and interact with civil society and government.

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

Result: This output has been successfully achieved. Youth groups have received training to empower them to lead their own initiatives aimed at enhancing local governance and fostering community development. As a result, these groups have developed and implemented a total of 13 projects, showcasing their ability to make a positive impact in their communities. Furthermore, eight youth-led projects are anticipated to be completed in 2025, alongside the completion of 19 complementary initiatives from other Programme Outputs.

Activities implemented under Output 3.5:

13 initiatives from Young Leadership Programmes (YLP):

Following YLPs, 13 Youth-Led Initiatives (YLIs) were implemented by youth groups across Kampot, Siem Reap, and Banteay Meanchey provinces. Below is a summary.

Kampot Youth Groups:

1. Group 1 conducted a training and public forum on "Promoting Local Gang Prevention" with 118 participants (69 females), to disseminate information about safety policies at the village and commune levels, particularly regarding drug use impacts on youth.
2. Group 2 organised a forum on "Promoting LGBTQ Rights and Gender Equality" with 242 participants (154 females) to raise awareness of gender equality issues and reduce discrimination against LGBTQ individuals.
3. Group 3 held a public forum on "Rights and Information Packages for Citizens" with 40 participants (26 females) and distributed leaflets to inform citizens about their rights and duties for effective social development.
4. Group 4 conducted a forum on "Dissemination of Safe Village, Commune Policy" with 39 participants (10 females) and distributed 600 leaflets on safety policies to raise community awareness.

Siem Reap Youth Groups:

1. Group 1 implemented a project on "Enhancing LGBTQ Rights" including training for 54 participants (43 females) and a public forum for 37 (22 females), aimed at raising awareness and promoting education on LGBTQ rights in communities.
2. Group 2 organised a training on "The Rights to Education in Response to Gender Equality" with 94 participants (51 females), addressing educational rights and the importance of gender equality.
3. Group 3 conducted a project on "Promoting the Fundamental Rights of Citizens in Understanding the Commune/Sangkat Budget" with 85 students (48 females) and a public forum for 49 participants (38 females), focusing on financial transparency.
4. Group 4 carried out "Enhancing the Understanding of Environmental Protection Rights" project, providing training for 89 students (63 females) and a public forum for 48 citizens (28 females), aiming to educate about environmental rights and the impact of plastic waste.

Banteay Meanchey Youth Groups:

1. Group 1 implemented the "Importance of Youth Participation to Promote Good Governance" project, with a training session involving 92 participants (30 females) and a panel discussion with 70 participants (20 females) focused on transparency and good governance.
2. Group 2 conducted a project titled "Enhancing Good Governance and Disseminating the Rights of Citizens to Participate in Commune/Sangkat Funds" with training for 30 participants (12 females) and a public forum for 45 participants (20 females), aimed at empowering citizen engagement in budget planning.
3. Group 3 organised "Promoting the Rights of Women and Youth to Participate in and Stand for Commune/Sangkat Council Election," which included a training for 30 participants (19 females) and a public forum for 86 (62 females), enhancing political participation at the community level.
4. Group 4 implemented "Improving Citizens' Right to Attend Commune/Sangkat Council Meetings," with a training session for 24 participants (20 females) and a public forum for 56 participants (11 females), promoting civic engagement.
5. Group 5 carried out a project on "The Importance of Youth in Promoting Good Governance in the Community," involving a training for 68 participants (48 females) and a panel discussion with 51 participants (34 females), focusing on youth engagement in governance.

8 youth-led projects (underway) received small grants through a grant portal:

To empower youth by providing the resources needed to implement their initiatives, a dedicated web portal was developed for this purpose, and a call for proposals for small grants was announced on the portal in 2024, resulting in 19 applications submitted, and 8 projects selected to receive funding. However, these 8 projects are being finalised and will be implemented in 2025.

Other 19 youth-led initiatives resulted from the Young Budget Tracker programmes as reported in Priority 1, Sector 1: PFM and Budget Transparency, Output 1.2.

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

Result: No activity plan in 2024.

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

Result: This output has been realised. TI Cambodia in close collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has continued to work toward improving public service delivery, through capacity development for MoI's officials and public service providers, development of a digital mechanism to access public service information and report/receive complaints, as well as public awareness raising initiatives. In the reporting year, a total of 9 activities by MoI have been successfully implemented, contributing to enhanced transparent, accountable and responsive public service delivery.

Activities implemented under Output 3.7:

TI Cambodia has been providing capacity support to the Ministry of Interior to enhance public service delivery. In the reporting year, TI Cambodia and MoI conducted the following key activities:

- **An update** to the mobile app "Meta Yerng" has been made to link it with the central database system of the Ministry of Interior (MoI). Reports submitted through the mobile app will be directly entered into the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) complaint management database, ensuring proper logging and centralised management of the complaints. This integration allows for more efficient tracking and handling of reported issues. Following this update, a pilot implementation of the app has begun in 10 provinces. If no issues arise with the updated app, it will be rolled out nationwide. To raise public awareness of the mobile app and its functionalities, a quiz with prize rewards was organised on social media, and IEC materials for the mobile app were also developed, including leaflets and branded water bottles, and utilised to enhance public understanding and usage.
- **Two training sessions** were conducted for the Department of Field Relations (DFR) working group. These courses aimed at enhancing DFR team's skills to manage the mobile app and the complaint handling database system crucial for the effective operation of the mobile app.
- **Three public forums** were held in targeted communes (two in Boeung Pram and one in Chi Kreng) in Siem Reap and Battambang to discuss citizen concerns related to public services and to clarify the roles of District Ombudsman Offices (DOs) in managing complaints. The forums attracted 300 attendees, including 75 women, along with local authorities. Key topics discussed included birth registration, land titles, tax obligations, and social security, with some issues effectively resolved by local authorities.
- **Three reflection meetings** were facilitated by DFR with target Provincial and District Ombudsman Offices to discuss their progress, challenges, and outcomes related to the mobile app and the complaint handling mechanism.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, TI Cambodia and key CSO partners, a new project titled "The Triangle Partnership for Local Development (TPLD)" has been initiated. The TPLD project built on the lessons learnt from other initiatives such as ISAF, aims to empower communities, enhance transparency and accountability, and drive sustainable local development through participatory approaches. As part of the inception process, two key groups—the Steering Committee and the Technical Working Group—have been established to oversee project direction, evaluate target areas, and facilitate coordination among partners. Local Development Groups will be formed in

selected communes to promote grassroots participation in local development efforts. The project currently focuses on four pilot communes in Kampot and Siem Reap, specifically selected for their active community engagement and leadership commitment to improving local livelihoods, following field visits and research. Consultation meetings were held with the target communes, involving participants from the commune council, relevant technical units, youth representatives, private entities, religious representatives, and NGOs/CSOs, leading to the successful establishment of Local Development Groups (LDG) in each target commune. More field visits and further dialogues with the four LDGs are expected to happen in 2025.

The Steering Committee is composed of the following members:

- Director of the National School of Local Administration (NASLA)
- Representative of the General Department of Administration, Ministry of Interior (Mol)
- Representative of the General Secretariat of the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD)
- Directors of all NGO partners

The Technical Working Group includes:

- Expert from NASLA
- Expert from the General Department of Administration, Mol
- Expert from NCDD
- Representative of all NGO partners

The Local Development Group comprises:

- Commune Chief, Commune Clerk and Village Chief
- CSO and CBO Representatives
- Religious Representatives
- Private Business Representatives
- School Principal
- Director of Health Centre

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

Result: This output has been successfully achieved. TI Cambodia's regional offices received enhanced support through strategic guidance provided by the Advisory Citizens Committees and capacity-building initiatives targeted at youth in the provinces. During the reporting year, seven meetings were held with the Advisory Citizens Committees, which offered valuable advice to the regional offices on project implementation. Furthermore, four capacity-building training sessions were conducted for youth networks in the provinces, aimed at enhancing their knowledge and skills to promote greater engagement in social issues within their communities. TI Cambodia also strengthened its coalition with other CSO stakeholders through support in the organisation of major events.

Activities implemented under Output 3.8:

Two quarterly meetings were held for each Advisory Citizens Committee in Battambang and Siem Reap, while three quarterly meetings were organised for the Committees in Kampot. Each meeting provided an opportunity for TI Cambodia's regional offices to update the committees on the previous quarter's achievements, discuss challenges, and explore effective approaches for promoting integrity, good governance, and anti-corruption in the regional provinces. In total, this resulted in seven meetings across the three regions.

Four youth capacity-building sessions were organised by the regional offices, engaging a total of 159 youths (including 109 females and 1 LGBTQI individual) from Siem Reap, Battambang, Kampot and Pursat provinces. The training aimed to raise local youth understanding of good governance and

different forms of corruption, enhance their leadership skills, promote their engagement, and prepare them for job seeking. The first three training sessions were conducted in person, while the fourth session was conducted online, to allow greater accessibility for youth in different provinces to participate.

TI Cambodia's coalition with relevant CSOs was also enhanced through support to the organisation of key events and celebrations including:

On 11 August, the 2024 **International Youth Day** event was held with the theme "Strengthening Youth Capacity and Empowerment Towards Better Social Justice", bringing together 300 participants (157 females) from diverse stakeholders including youth. The event reinforced the importance of youth engagement in Cambodia's future, encouraging young people to take a proactive role in advocating for their rights. It also emphasised the need for continued collaboration between youth, civil society, and government institutions to promote a just, equitable, and progressive Cambodia. The day included four breakout sessions on essential topics such as fundamental freedoms, environmental rights, digital literacy, and youth perspectives on corruption in Cambodia. Subsequently, a press conference was held on 15 August, where key findings and recommendations were shared, highlighting the critical need for enhanced youth participation in decision-making processes and better access to opportunities.

On the 138th Anniversary of International Labour Day, led by the Cambodian Labour Confederation with TI Cambodia's support, a big gathering took place at a public park near the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) in Phnom Penh, bringing together 1,348 participants (733 women) from trade unions, NGOs, and media outlets. The event provided a platform for participants to voice their demands for labour rights, resulting in a joint petition with 18 specific requests submitted to the National Assembly for government action.

TI Cambodia and CSO Digital Rights Working Group co-hosted the **Phnom Penh Internet Forum (PPIF)** on October 17-18, 2024, focusing on digital rights and security. The event engaged 174 participants, including 74 women, from various sectors, including journalists, students, LGBTQ+ individuals, and government representatives. The forum addressed challenges in digital rights and security through expert presentations on the Cambodian Digital Government Policy (2022-2035) and included workshops on online fraud, harassment, and freedom of expression. Key outcomes included a call for stronger legal frameworks for artificial intelligence governance and the need for increased public awareness about digital rights, particularly for marginalised communities. The event fostered collaboration among stakeholders focused on advancing digital rights in Cambodia.

Sector 4: Political Corruption and Electoral Integrity (cancelled)

Output 4.1: *Enhance electoral integrity in Cambodia through event-based advocacy.*

Results: This output has been cancelled.

Sector 5: Anti-corruption and democratic ecosystem: to build and support different CSO actors in the fight against corruption and promotion of democratic governance

Specific Objective/Outcome: *to build and support different CSO actors in the fight against corruption and promotion of democratic governance*

Results: This outcome indicator of the percentage of youth participating in civic engagement activities following life/soft skills training or initiatives, will be captured next year.

Output 5.1: *Empowered, engaged and protected human rights defenders (2EP-HRD)*

Results: This output has been achieved. Under the USAID/Cambodia Human Rights' Annual Program Statement, TI Cambodia received funding to support to the human rights works of seven prominent CSOs including Business and Human Rights Law Group (BHRLG), Cambodian Institute for Democracy (CID), Cambodian Youth Network (CYN), Equitable Cambodia (EC), Highlanders Association (HA),

Ponlok Khmer (PKH), and Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT). In partnership with these CSO partners, human rights defenders and community members have been engaged, empowered and supported.

Activities implemented under Output 5.1:

Business and Human Rights Law Group (BHRLG)

BHRLG assisted in formation of the Security Advisory Group (SAG) as part of the 'Protect the Good Guys' Programme, overseeing security and protection matters within the 2EP-HRD Programme alongside partners like TI Cambodia, EC, and STT. The first SAG meeting was held among CSO partners in September to address concerns about crackdowns on CSOs and surveillance of partners. BHRLG is also developing a 'Security and Protection Plan' that includes policy reviews, security assessments, and the potential relocation of at-risk human rights defenders (HRDs). BHRLG has met with several international partners to seek collaboration in enhancing support for HRDs. BHRLG has implemented digital security measures such as VPN accounts and CCTV installations for partners in vulnerable areas. Legal consultations have been provided to 497 NGO partners (250 females), focusing on environmental laws, Indigenous Peoples' protections, and legal risks associated with activism. BHRLG also offered legal representation in serious cases such as incitement charges, and provided crisis support to six human rights defenders facing threats, including food provisions for their families to sustain their advocacy efforts under duress.

Cambodian Institute for Democracy (CID):

CID has organised a five-day intensive training called the "Human Rights and Democratic Leadership Academy," engaging 61 youth participants (33 women) from across Cambodia to enhance their understanding of human rights and democracy. Following the Academy, 10 youth-led initiatives received financial support for implementation, with 7 already implemented and 3 planned for 2025. These projects addressed themes such as civil rights, freedom of expression, digital rights, women's rights, and the rule of law, reaching further 593 participants (315 females) in various provinces.

Additionally, CID hosted the "Youth Ambassador for Freedom of Expression" camp with 51 youth participants (31 females). This camp focused on civic engagement and advocacy, resulting in the creation of educational videos and commentary on social issues in Cambodia.

Cambodian Youth Network (CYN):

CYN has delivered legal training to 20 young human rights defenders (15 females) in Phnom Penh, enhancing their understanding of human rights principles, legal frameworks, and youth activism focused on environmental protection and social justice in Cambodia. This training equipped them to advocate for human rights in their communities. CYN also supported five initiatives led by these young defenders and community members aimed at raising environmental and human rights awareness, including a campaign against the export licence of Angkor Plai Wood Co., Ltd., involving 24 participants; an educational tour on mangrove conservation at Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary with 18 youths; a World Environment Day celebration that attracted 160 participants; an algae shirt campaign to honour activist Keut Saray, and the celebration of International Human Rights Day engaging 174 participants including 86 women. Participants in these initiatives represent various groups such as the Prey Lang Community Network, commune and village chiefs, government representatives, women, youth, and citizens.

Furthermore, CYN has organised a Young Human Rights Defender Forum in late 2023 with 80 participants (34 females), and the same forum in late 2024 with 89 participants (37 females) who are human right defenders and affected community members to discuss legal frameworks, challenges in safeguarding human rights, and to produce recommendations for the Royal Government. Key recommendations included promoting public participation in natural resource protection, reviewing Extractive Industry Licences (EILs) with community consultations, halting judicial actions against human rights defenders, and improving educational initiatives on human rights. In partnership with 11 CSOs, CYN has hosted the 2nd Cambodian Youth Forum in Phnom Penh, welcoming 300 youths

(157 females) to discuss mental health, social justice, and environmental rights. This was followed by a Youth Press Conference to communicate the forum's recommendations aimed at enhancing freedom of expression, environmental rights, and encouraging active youth participation in governance. CYN successfully conducted the 4-day Youth Activist Camp and Youth Learning Forum in October, in Mondulkiri Province, under the theme “Empowering Youth Activists to Promote Better Social Justice.” With 35 participants, including 27 females and 1 LGBTIQ+ individual, the program effectively strengthened the capacity of youth activists. Participants gained valuable skills in organising youth activism networks, conducting contextual analyses, and performing legal analyses for impactful advocacy. The camp fostered collaboration and networking among active citizens, social activists, and young human rights defenders, ensuring their voices are amplified and heard by decision-makers in an inclusive manner.

Equitable Cambodia (EC):

EC has made significant strides in advocating for land tenure rights and enhancing community capacity across Cambodia. EC has hosted a successful radio talk show, promoting advocacy of vulnerable communities for land rights, reaching 6,800 views. A training session on the “Do No Harm” approach, was also conducted for 27 participants, increasing their understanding of the principles particularly in advocacy activities. Several community-led initiatives were also supported, including a youth camp in Koh Kong, a library project in Kampong Speu, and commemorations for International Forest Day and Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Additionally, EC supported ten community representatives in drafting a petition for land resolution and empowered women to voice their concerns in a Women’s Day celebration in Stoeng Meanchey. EC’s 13th Democracy Summer Camp attracted 27 participants eager to strengthen their understanding of civics and human rights, while exposure visits and echo training sessions were held and fostered deeper community engagement, resulting in participants’ increased knowledge on key issues related to rights and advocacy.

Highlander Association (HA):

With support from HA, the Indigenous Peoples Working Group (IPWG) has implemented several initiatives aimed at enhancing community resilience and promoting collective ownership among indigenous groups. Notable initiatives include supporting collective farming for the Kreung community, savings groups for the Jarai community, and ecotourism projects, which have fostered income generation and strengthened community ties. In their latest meeting, the IPWG proposed expanding its membership to 72, with 21 members actively involved in supporting indigenous initiatives. A training session for 20 indigenous community members (6 females) was also conducted, enhancing their understanding of land and forest laws, particularly focusing on the registration process for collective land ownership to secure land tenure and protect rights. Additionally, a digital security training attended by 18 participants (8 females) educated them on safe social media use and increased awareness of online threats. Another training session for representatives of various indigenous groups in Ratanakkiri province focused on negotiation skills and legal awareness, highlighting the importance of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for protecting ancestral lands. Furthermore, six village meetings engaged 977 participants, including 437 indigenous women and 114 youths who are affected by HAGL, a Vietnamese agribusiness firm, to discuss land rights violations and strategies for negotiating with HAGL. These discussions aimed to foster solidarity, address grievances, and consider outreach to international media in pursuit of their rights. Despite challenges, the communities remain dedicated to advocating for their land and resource rights.

Ponlok Khmer (PKH):

PKH implemented a series of activities aimed at empowering community activists and human rights defenders. **A series of two training sessions** were conducted, benefiting a total of 32 participants, including 20 females, who enhanced their understanding of human rights and developed advocacy techniques to strengthen natural resource governance. **Another cohort of 19 participants**, which included 11 females and 6 indigenous individuals, participated in leadership capability development,

gaining practical knowledge and theoretical insights from expert trainers. Additionally, 24 community leaders hosted **14 awareness meetings**, successfully reaching and empowering 480 individuals, local community members and leaders to assert their land rights and engage in forest protection initiatives. 64 activists led **five advocacy initiatives** centred on land and natural resources, attracting a total of 3,667 attendees, including 2,158 females. 28 community activists and human rights defenders (14 women, 14 Indigenous Peoples (IPs), and 13 youth), in Preah Vihear province, successfully advanced human rights advocacy by applying their skills to secure approval and support from local authorities to organise the **International Human Rights Day**. Furthermore, 62 activists engaged in seven dialogues and consultation sessions with local authorities, in monthly meetings and conflict resolution activities that enhanced collaboration between communities and local authorities in managing natural resources. Another notable achievement was in Reak Reay commune, Rovieng district, where 4 community activists and human rights defenders (1 woman), successfully influenced the commune authority to support the construction of a 50-meter-long Ecotourism Pathway within their community forest, marking a tangible step toward promoting sustainable ecotourism and enhancing local livelihoods.

Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT):

STT undertook a variety of initiatives to empower urban poor communities and enhance their capacity for advocacy. Through community mapping efforts, STT produced and distributed two community maps to 94 households, aiding land occupation advocacy. Youth engagement was also a focus, with two exposure visits for 52 youths and internships at STT for five youths, helping them better understand community challenges and opportunities. Despite delays in research on public land appropriation, STT successfully organised 1,520 sub-decrees and made progress on data entry, adapting by utilising internal resources after initial recruitment setbacks. Community capacity development was another significant highlight as STT conducted six community training sessions covering essential topics such as land laws, housing rights, citizen journalism, ICT, digital and physical security, and advocacy strategies, including a Training of Trainers (ToT) on participatory community mapping, resulting in a substantial increase in knowledge levels (from 39% to 89%). A photography consultant was recruited in July to train youths for a photo exhibition as part of advocacy. Since then, four training sessions were held, involving young people from various communities and universities, and these youths have been actively collecting photographs from at least 11 communities.

Output 5.2: Empowered Cambodian youths to understand and exercise their civic and political rights

Results: This output has been achieved. Through partnership with (ACT), Banteay Srei (BS) and (YCC), Cambodian youths, particularly at the grassroots levels have been empowered to exercise their civic and political rights.

Activities implemented under Output 5.2:

Alliance for Conflict Transformation (ACT):

A youth camp was held at the Preaek Tnaot Fishery community in Bokor City, Kampot province, engaging 64 young participants from Takeo, Kampot, and Mondulkiri provinces, including a diverse representation of females, indigenous Bunoung, Khmer Krom, LGBTIQ individuals, and monks. Following the camp, a community capacity training was conducted in Mondulkiri province, involving 61 community members, where youth representatives facilitated discussions on leadership, morality, conflict analysis, gender issues, and gender-based violence.

ACT also supported its youth network's activities. A meeting in Banteay Sloek village brought together 43 participants, primarily females, to discuss topics such as Good Governance, Youth Development, and gender-related issues, led by youth representatives from local villages. Another session took place at Trapeang Ropov community, organised by the youth network team, focusing on Youth and Morality and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, attended by 36 participants. A session in Peani village was conducted by the youth network team from several villages, attracting

74 participants and covering subjects on Youth, Leadership, Social Protection, and gender issues. A meeting in Pu Tuet Village involved 41 indigenous members, discussing various topics related to youth, peace, and social protection, while another training session in Pu Lu Village engaged 36 participants, all from indigenous backgrounds, focusing on similar themes. The youth network team conducted a session in Preaek Tnaot Village for 84 participants, sharing lessons on youth empowerment and encouraging positive community contributions while addressing leadership, peace, and gender issues.

Banteay Srei:

Banteay Srei has conducted a Youth-led Participatory Action Research (YPAR) training session in Battambang, involving 24 participants (21 females), and another session in Siem Reap with 14 youths (10 females). The training aimed to empower youth to identify and research relevant issues, leading to the formation of three groups in Battambang and one in Siem Reap. The Battambang groups interviewed 183 community members across five communes, while the Siem Reap group interviewed 94 people in three communes, uncovering critical issues such as high dropout rates in education, poor environmental management, violence, and social insecurity. Banteay Srei supported these youth groups in engaging with local authorities through regular meetings to share their research findings with stakeholders, including commune councils and school principals.

In addition, Banteay Srei co-organised the “One Billion Rising (OBR) Campaign – Rise for Freedom from Gender-Based Violence” in Siem Reap, attracting 212 participants, including eleven youth leaders who promoted respect for diversity and non-discrimination. The campaign focused on addressing gender-based violence and empowering women, girls, and the LGBTQI+ community. Furthermore, a research launch on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice regarding gender-based violence and sexual harassment was organised, attended by 86 participants from various NGOs and communities, reinforcing the need for action on these pressing issues. Lastly, a Transformative Youth Camp in Siem Reap was successfully organised, enhancing civic and political rights awareness of 50 youths participating.

Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC):

YCC has organised a Youth Democracy Camp in Kampot province, attended by 59 young people (20 females), where participants engaged with governance experts to enhance their understanding of civic rights and good governance. Following this, YCC conducted two Youth Networks Capacity Building Trainings in Koh Kong and Stung Treng provinces, focusing on critical thinking, negotiation skills, and public speaking, with participants expressing increased confidence to pursue community development projects.

In the second quarter, YCC hosted another capacity-building training in Koh Kong for 25 participants (14 females), which resulted in a 24% increase in knowledge. Additionally, two inclusive commune dialogues were facilitated to encourage discussions between local authorities, youth, and NGOs, leading to actionable commitments for improved civic engagement. YCC held two provincial youth forums focusing on local governance and community development, attracting a total of 104 participants (57 females). The quarter concluded with two quarterly youth meetings reflecting on achievements and challenges related to youth-led initiatives, emphasising gender equality and inclusivity.

In the third quarter, YCC implemented five training courses under the Young Leader Mentorship (YLM) programme for 125 youth (86 females) in Koh Kong and Stung Treng, focusing on leadership development, advocacy, and problem-solving. Significant increases in knowledge were reported across various training sessions. A provincial youth forum brought together 62 participants (34 females) to discuss youth involvement in community development. YCC also conducted quarterly youth network meetings to reflect on progress and strengthen ties between youth and local authorities, fostering enhanced engagement in local governance and development initiatives.

Khmer Youth Association (KYA):

KYA has conducted three two-day training activities in Battambang province, empowering 62 youths who are members of Child and Youth Club (40 females, 2 people with disabilities) on different topics including Youth in Society Action, Foundations of Rights, Public Service, Good Governance, and Leadership Skills. Pre- and post-test evaluations indicated an increase in knowledge among participants. Following the training, three new youth groups were formed, each with clear structures and roles. In addition to regular reflection meetings with them, KYA provided on-site coaching three times to the groups to enhance their engagement with decision-makers on community issues.

KYA planned a mock Sangkat in Preah Prehsdach Sangkat to help youth practice critical thinking and speaking regarding community issues; however, this has been postponed at the request of the Sangkat chief, allowing additional time for research and preparation. KYA also aimed to produce 12 "I Know We Know" videos with youth leaders, as part of the initiative to promote youth learning and engagement in discourse. However, only eight videos have been completed and published, generating 3,343 total engagements.

Output 5.3: Enhanced support and engagement key events to promote governance, human rights and democracy

Result: This output has mostly been achieved. TI Cambodia has supported a total of 3 key events that promote governance, human rights and democracy.

Activities implemented under Output 5.3:

Over 1,000 participants from CSOs, workers, informal sector businesses, minorities, indigenous people, marginalised groups, and seven political parties attended a half-day people's forum to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the **Paris Peace Agreements** on Cambodia. The event's theme was "Uphold the Political Freedom for the Constitutional Multi-Party Policy and Fundamental Rights." It was held on 20 October 2024 instead of the original date of 23 October which was a working day to facilitate worker participation. The forum was attended by representatives from the French, Japanese, and US Embassies, with the US Embassy representative making a joint opening remark. The event was co-organised by 20 organisations, including TI Cambodia and its partners CID, CYN, STT and was coordinated by CHRAC.

Additionally, TI Cambodia supported the 113th **International Women's Day celebration** on 8 March 2024, alongside various CSOs, taking part in statement and negotiation committees. Held at Freedom Park, the event aimed to highlight women's contributions to Cambodia's social and economic development. A total of 733 attendees, including 415 women, participated in the celebration.

On 10 December, over 20 non-governmental organisations, associations, and unions, organised a celebration marking the 76th anniversary of **International Human Rights Day** under the theme "Our Rights, Our Future Now: Promoting Freedom of Expression for Equality and Justice." The event was held at Democracy Square and drew more than 1,000 participants, including representatives from the embassies of the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, and various other international development partners. During the celebration, approximately 700 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were distributed to raise awareness about human rights.

Output 5.4: Enhanced governance system and practice for CSO partners

Result: This output has been partly achieved. Enhancing the governance system and practices for CSO partners requires time, preparation and commitment by the partners. In the reporting year, TI Cambodia introduced the Corporate Integrity System (CIS), a comprehensive framework that helps companies reduce corruption risks and improve integrity levels once it is in place, to Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC) and its affiliated unions who have showed interest in adopting it. CIS self-assessments were then conducted for them to identify areas for improvement to enhance their

governance system. With findings from the assessments, TI Cambodia will assist them in setting up CIS within their unions in 2025.

Activities implemented under Output 5.4:

TI Cambodia's BIP has facilitated an online CIS self-assessment orientation for seven CLC-affiliated unions, including the CLC itself, and has shared the CIS self-assessment tool for their evaluation. The completed self-assessments have been collected and are being analysed by the BIP team. Following this, TI Cambodia will review all relevant documents and offer recommendations for their improvement.

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: The expected outcome of enhanced corporate integrity and a level playing field has been successfully achieved. Joint advocacy with TI Australia on anti-money laundering has culminated in the adoption of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Amendment Bill 2024. Although this initiative is primarily focused on Australia, it is likely to positively impact business integrity in Cambodia by increasing scrutiny of financial flows, thereby encouraging local companies to adopt more transparent practices. Improved collaboration between authorities and the pressure from Australian businesses for compliance can foster better governance, ultimately contributing to a more favourable investment climate and a strengthened regulatory environment in Cambodia. As a direct result of TI Cambodia's Business Integrity Programme efforts, Home Food Delivery, previously known as Green Business Development Company Limited, has expressed interest in adopting the Corporate Integrity System (CIS). The BIP team is currently reviewing the company's policies, including its internal statutes and financial regulations. Additionally, following a sub-national dialogue, So Ngoun Banana Company has shown interest in collaborating with TI Cambodia and civil society organisation partners to strengthen supply chains and cultivate responsible business relationships with small and medium holders.

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

Result: This output has been achieved. A study is currently underway in partnership with TI Australia. Once published, it will significantly strengthen the evidence regarding money laundering and the mechanisms for secret payments and asset concealment.

Activities implemented under Output 1.1:

Follow-up research on money-laundering and illicit flow of dirty money

In collaboration with TI Cambodia, TI Australia has conducted an investigation research study titled "Stopping dirty money in Australia and Cambodia" which started in 2023 and published in May 2024. The goal of the research was to establish support for the augmentation of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF) frameworks in Cambodia and Australia, thus contributing to a regional financial landscape, hardened against financial crime. The research explores Australia's visibility of the funds flowing from Cambodia through its regulated channels as well as emerging typologies conducted through entities not currently captured under the AML/CTF regime ('unregulated channels'). Research indicates that the current levels of criminal activity, money laundering, and corruption in Cambodia present significant challenges that could have broader implications for the ASEAN region. To tackle these issues, it is essential for Cambodia to enhance cooperation between its reporting entities, law enforcement agencies, and relevant organisations, alongside effective supervision of the regulated entities. Therefore, the recommendation is for Cambodia to strengthen the effectiveness and capabilities of its AML/CTF regime.

Following the study, TI Cambodia is supporting TI Australia in ongoing follow-up research that aims to delve deeper into the nature of AML, specifically focusing on its processes and mechanisms.

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

Result: This output has been achieved. Four joint advocacy activities were conducted, contributing to a more favourable investment climate and a strengthened regulatory environment, promoting integrity within Cambodian businesses.

Activities implemented under Output 1.2:

Joint advocacy efforts with TI Australia

TI Cambodia supported TI Australia's advocacy for anti-money laundering, including organisation of **two** report launch events for the "Stopping dirty money in Australia and Cambodia" study, held in May in Melbourne and Sydney, where the report findings and recommendations were presented to relevant stakeholders. Additionally, a **lobby dialogue** was held with the Australian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and **submission of recommendations** were made to the Parliament of Australia. As a result, the advocacy efforts have contributed to the adoption of the Australia's long overdue [Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Amendment Bill 2024](#). The Australian Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Amendment Bill 2024, while primarily aimed at strengthening Australia's domestic frameworks, can have several indirect but significant effects on enhancing business integrity in Cambodia. Increased scrutiny on financial flows from Cambodia could lead to greater accountability among local companies, prompting them to adopt more transparent practices. Enhanced collaboration between Australian and Cambodian authorities could improve the detection of illicit financial activities, while pressure from Australian businesses for compliance with higher standards may encourage better governance in Cambodia. These factors can contribute to a more favourable investment climate and a strengthened regulatory environment, promoting integrity within Cambodian businesses.

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

Result: This output has been mostly achieved. One of the key indicators for this output involved capacity building for CSOs and youth. During the reporting year, a training session on responsible business conduct and climate change was successfully held for local NGOs and fishing communities across four provinces. Another indicator was to initiate at least three actions promoting responsible business conduct and a level playing field, TI Cambodia in collaboration with key CSOs conducted six initiatives including three sub-national dialogues, one national dialogue, and two field visits, to enhance understanding and implementation of responsible business practices. The last indicator involved production of a piece of evidence, which TI Cambodia did not accomplish yet.

Activities implemented under Output 1.3:

Capacity building on responsible business conduct:

A two-day training programme on Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) and Climate Change was successfully conducted by TI Cambodia in July at the Trapeang Sangke Eco-Tourist Community in Kampot Province. Participants included representatives from Community Fisheries (CFi) across four provinces: Koh Koh, Sihanouk Ville, Kep, and Kampot. The training focused on highlighting the consequences of climate change and business practices that infringe upon human rights and the environment within their communities.

During group discussions and presentations, participants emerged with a clearer understanding of the challenges they face due to climate change and human rights violations. They noted that prior to the training, many were unaware of their rights and fearful of asserting them. However, they now recognise themselves as rights holders, with the government bearing the responsibility to protect,

respect, and fulfil those rights. One participant expressed a strong resolve to instigate change upon returning to their community, particularly as they had faced significant restrictions on activities such as building infrastructure and cultivating crops over the past year.

The training also enabled participants to identify the links between environmental impacts and various rights violations, which had previously been difficult for them to articulate. With newfound knowledge of international mechanisms and successful case examples, there is a burgeoning curiosity among participants regarding the specific companies implicated in human rights abuses and environmental degradation. They are motivated to uncover this information, as they believe it will empower them in their advocacy efforts.

Participants voiced a desire to enhance their advocacy strategies, recognising that relying on authorities for timely responses has proven ineffective. They are keen to engage well-known journalists to raise awareness of their community issues, thus seeking to amplify their voices and demands for action.

Supporting businesses in adopting Corporate Integrity System (CIS)

TI Cambodia assisted in the establishment of the business when it was known as Green Business Development Company Limited, prior to its rebranding as Home Food Delivery. Home Food Delivery has shown interest in adopting CIS. The BIP team is now reviewing various policies for Home Food Delivery, including its internal statutes, staff policies, internal regulations, as well as accounting and finance policies.

Three sub-national multistakeholder forums:

In September, Oxfam, NGO Forum, and TIC organised a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the banana value chain in Kampot Province. The event gathered private companies, local communities, and government representatives to address challenges and opportunities in the banana sector. Key challenges included rising fertiliser costs, limited production capacity, and insufficient technical and financial support. However, opportunities were identified, such as higher market demand for bananas and government tax incentives for agriculture. Recommendations included strengthening support for small and medium-sized producers, enhancing technical assistance from private companies, and promoting collaboration among civil society organisations. By the end of the dialogue, So Ngoun Banana Company connected with TI Cambodia for future collaboration, while the organising team noted lessons for improving future dialogues.

In October, a second multi-stakeholder dialogue focused on inclusive value chains in the banana and rubber sectors was held in Kampong Cham. Organised by the NGO Forum in Cambodia alongside TI Cambodia, this event saw the participation by workers from both industries, NGOs, and representatives from provincial government departments. The dialogue aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices regarding fiscal policy accountability, with an emphasis on responsible taxation and investment in inclusive supply chains. Discussions were held to identify actionable steps and the participants also visited a local rubber plantation to engage with small-scale rubber farmers, further enhancing the dialogue's focus on inclusivity and community engagement.

Finally, another sub-national dialogue was held in Ratanakiri, organised similarly to the earlier event in Kampong Cham, with participants including local government officials and representatives from the banana and rubber sectors. The discussions focused on fiscal policy accountability and knowledge sharing. The deputy provincial governor, H.E. Ngin Nell, played a significant role in initiating fruitful conversations amongst stakeholders to promote collaborative efforts in addressing issues within the sectors.

National multistakeholder forum:

A national multistakeholder dialogue was held to discuss the root causes of issues and obstacles in promoting equitable tax collection, accountable tax governance, responsible investment, and

sustainable value chains in trade. The forum proved very successful, characterised by active participation and extensive discussions surrounding tax policy, customs procedures, and technical aspects of supply, production, value, and market chains.

The private sector is keen to see fair competition and the eradication of informal payments. There lies a significant opportunity to bolster economic growth for communities and families in Cambodia through technical support and affordable agricultural inputs. Collaboration among the government, communities, companies, and civil society is essential for improving the conditions faced by farmers.

By identifying innovative methods to assist rubber-producing farmers, it is crucial to prepare for the increasing intensity of competition in the future and to explore strategies aimed at reducing input costs. Furthermore, in light of environmental and profitability considerations, the European Union has implemented regulations pertaining to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria, which have transitioned from being voluntary to mandatory for companies seeking to export and adhere to ESG standards.

Two field visits:

A study visit was conducted to the Phnom Tontorng Community Forestry and O Rey Community Protected Area, with facilitation from Oxfam Cambodia and partners. The visit aimed to assess the interactions between local communities and agro-industrial estates, specifically the Thagrico Yellow Banana Plantation and Krungbuk Ratanakiri Rubber Plantation. The delegation praised Krungbuk Ratanakiri for its commitment to environmental responsibility and its close engagement with local communities, particularly indigenous groups. Emphasis was placed on the plantation's initiatives to support worker welfare through healthcare and educational opportunities. Nevertheless, the delegation also urged improved collaboration between the two plantations to better address any potential negative impacts on the surrounding communities.

TIC has joined a field visit with AAC to assess the community capacity need and monitor the responsible business conduct at four fishery communities in Kep including Ou Kror Sa, Phoum Thmey, Kampong Trolach, and Lork community and two fishery communities in Kampot Province including Preak Thnout and Changhaon with arrangement supported by CWDCC.

Conducting case studies (delayed):

The BIP team, along with CSO partners such as the NGO Forum, AAC, and Oxfam, has identified potential risks facing target communities in coastal areas. In response, TI Cambodia and the three CSO partners plan to collaborate with a consultant to carry out case studies focused on responsible business practices for advocacy purposes. Two important cases have been selected: the SS Gold Company in Andoung Tuek commune, Koh Kong Province, and the TP Moral Company in Dong Korl Commune, Kep Province. The case studies are scheduled for 2025, with an additional case in Preah Sihanouk Ville identified during consultations with CNRO, which will be developed in 2026. The findings from NGOF's Social and Environmental Impact Review report will be integrated to support the creation of these case studies.

Output 1.4: Enhanced climate governance integrity

Result: This output has been almost achieved. All planned indicators have been met, except the development of policy papers. Through initiatives such as a youth camp programme, painting contest, journalist training, policy paper development and investigative journalism, youth and journalists have been empowered to advocate for enhanced climate governance integrity.

Activities implemented under Output 1.4:

Empowering youth through youth camp and painting contest:

TI Cambodia organised a four-day Youth Camp in April in Kampot, under the theme “Building a Green Future: Youth Leadership in Climate Governance.” The camp aimed to raise awareness about the impact of corruption on climate governance and empower 60 young participants (55% female) from

diverse backgrounds, selected from 264 applications. Attendees engaged with experts, activists, and motivational speakers, focusing on topics such as corruption and youth activism. The programme included practical skills development through interactive sessions, resulting in participant plans to share their learnings with over 500 additional youths in their communities. The camp culminated in a collective effort to plant 500 mangrove trees, contributing to local ecosystem restoration.

Additionally, TI Cambodia launched a Youth Painting Competition in early June to promote awareness of climate governance integrity. The campaign on social media generated significant interest, with nearly 1,000 likes and 70 submissions by the 25th July deadline. A panel of judges is currently evaluating the entries to select winners. The winning artworks will be exhibited, and a compilation of selected works will be published in a booklet.

Capacity building for journalists:

The "Training-Workshop and Dialogue on Reporting on Environmental Issues" course was successfully completed late last year, with 30 professional and student journalists (including 14 females) from various media outlets and educational institutions. The training took place in two sessions on 21st-22nd and 28th-29th October 2023 in Phnom Penh, focusing on enhancing skills and knowledge in environmental investigative reporting.

Led by two distinguished trainers, the course adopted a student-centred methodology to encourage active participation. It covered contemporary environmental issues, physical and digital investigative tools, and included sessions on press ethics and professionalism. Participants practised article writing with guidance from the trainers while exploring tools such as geospatial data, QGIS, satellite imagery, corporate records, Global Forest Watch, and risk assessments. Feedback from evaluation forms was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the training's effectiveness and the value of the content provided.

Following the completion of the training, a network of 34 professional and student journalists has been established. The network's main goal is to promote the exchange of information on environmental issues and encourage collaboration among its members.

Producing policy papers and investigative stories:

TI Cambodia planned to conduct a five-day training for young junior researchers to empower them to do research on climate and produce at least five policy papers, advocating for climate governance. Due to delay in implementation, the training has been rescheduled for early 2025. However, preparations have been completed, with 10 candidates shortlisted and selected, and the consultant teams successfully recruited to lead the training – including coaching and coordinating the compilation of a booklet of the participant's policy briefs. While policy papers have yet to be produced by participant, in collaboration with the Overseas Press Club, TI Cambodia issued a call for proposals from independent journalists to produce five investigative stories. In the reporting year, two stories were produced and disseminated. The first investigative story, titled *How Microloans Exacerbate Deforestation in Cambodia*, was published on Dialogue Earth, a leading online platform dedicated to environmental journalism and sustainability, in April. The second story on "Green bonds, red flags: Cambodia's microfinance crisis deepens amid sustainability push" was also published on Dialogue Earth, in early October. The two stories were also widely shared on the platform's Facebook page. TI Cambodia has also led the development of two policy briefs that discuss the risks of undue influence and conflict of interest in climate decision-making in Cambodia, and on the need to promote transparency and accountability in climate action, particularly climate finance, is being finalise.

TI Cambodia has assessed the climate governance in the country. The study titled "BUILDING TRUST, MITIGATING RISKS: Assessment of Climate Change Governance System in Cambodia" aims to identify key stakeholders and institutional frameworks involved in climate governance and finance management, particularly scrutinising the connection between undue influence, conflicts of interest,

and corruption risks. Employing a mixed-method approach that included desk reviews, interviews, and an online survey, the investigation assessed laws, policies, and institutional arrangements related to climate finance. It received input from 22 climate change experts, government officials, NGOs, development partners, donors, and academia.

The findings revealed a nuanced perspective on Cambodia's climate finance governance, with a survey indicating a positive perception of government policies and budgeting among participants. While 32% acknowledged the inclusivity of the climate initiatives, 34.6% were skeptical about their real impact. Trust in the government's management practices was moderate, with concerns about financial and asset management effectiveness. More than half of the respondents viewed monitoring and auditing practices as inadequate. Overall, the assessment suggests that while Cambodia's climate finance governance practices show progress, there remain significant areas for improvement to ensure a more equitable and efficient governance transition.

4. Risks and Challenges

The following table presents a risk status report for the year 2024, comparing the risks that were experienced (as detailed in the "Status" column) with those identified prior to and during the implementation phase (in the "Risk Description" column). Additionally, the table includes information on when each risk was recognised, the type of risk, its potential impact and probability, as well as the proposed mitigation strategies.

#	Risk Description	Date Identified	Type	Risk Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mgt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
OVERALL RISK: ALL PROGRAMMES									
1	Administrative burden in some target areas	Jan 2024	External	Impact: Medium Probability: Medium	To foster stronger local collaborations with the local authorities and communities; Develop a clear communication plan to keep stakeholders informed about TI Cambodia's work and goals in order to build trust	Director of Programmes	Programme Coordinator	Dec 2024	Some local authorities were initially unaware of TI Cambodia's activities, leading to a lack of engagement and occasional refusal to cooperate effectively. In response, TI Cambodia took proactive steps to showcase our work and objectives, ultimately earning their trust and fostering smoother collaboration.
2	With Sida funding concluding at the end of 2024, TI Cambodia anticipates financial challenges in 2025	Jan 2024	External	Impact: High Probability: High	Exploring and securing funding from multiple sources such as USAID, EU, TIS and other donors to reduce sole reliance	Executive Director	Senior Management Team	Dec 2024	In response to the identified risk, TI Cambodia's management has been actively pursuing additional funding sources, and have successfully secured financial support from major

	and in the years that follow				on a single donor source				donors, including the EU and USAID, for the next five years. TI Cambodia remains committed to exploring further opportunities to diversify its funding sources.
3	The Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle Area initiative has sparked protests among citizens and youth, prompting government crackdowns and arrests. This situation poses a significant risk to TI Cambodia's youth engagement activities, potentially hindering their activism.	July 2024	External	Impact: High Probability: Medium	Enhance communication strategies to provide clear, transparent information about TI Cambodia's objectives and actions. This can help dispel misinformation. Continuously monitor the political landscape and public sentiment, allowing for timely adjustments to engagement programmes based on emerging risks.	Executive Director	Director of Programmes	Dec 2024	Through strong collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, TI Cambodia proactively engaged relevant local authorities to ensure they were fully informed about all interventions. This included detailed communication of the objectives and activities associated with each initiative, fostering transparency and trust to mitigate potential risks. Despite these efforts, TI Cambodia found it necessary to delay some activities to closely monitor the situation.

5. Cross-cutting issues

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

While TI Cambodia's work focuses on anti-corruption, good governance, transparency, and accountability, it also integrates cross-cutting issues like diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) throughout its programming. Key initiatives include:

Youth and Young Women Engagement: Many initiatives such as youth camps, Young Leadership Programmes, debates, and other youth capacity building trainings actively engage underrepresented groups, including youth and young women from rural areas, indigenous youth, LGBTQ youth, and youth with disabilities. These programmes ensure representation and empower participants with the knowledge and tools to address community challenges.

Fostering Gender Equity: Female youth and young women are a key focus of TI Cambodia's activities, with efforts made to ensure that they comprise at least 40% of all attendees. They are actively engaged and provided with training to strengthen their participation in local civic and public affairs and further promote civic issues among peer youth and women in their communities.

Commitment to Safety and Respect: TI Cambodia implements a strong PSEAH policy, ensuring a safe environment for all staff and participants, and emphasising the organisation's dedication to preventing harassment.

Environment Sustainability

TI Cambodia is committed to preventing unexpected harmful environmental impacts from its activities by taking proactive measures to minimise waste and promote sustainable practices.

Office Practices:

- **Waste Reduction:** For most events, we opt for LCD projectors to display backdrops instead of using single use printed materials. This significantly reduces waste.
- **Paper Consumption:** Staff are encouraged to minimise paper usage by utilising online tools for reading and note-taking, printing double-sided documents, and using recycled paper when necessary.
- **Sustainable Materials:** We prioritise environmentally friendly or durable materials for our publications and public relations materials, ensuring they can be recycled or have a long lifespan. We also support local producers to boost the livelihoods of local communities.

Project-Level Initiatives: TI Cambodia actively collaborates with relevant stakeholders to promote accountability and environmental sustainability in the mining and climate change sectors. This collaboration ensures that all stakeholders—including the government, companies, and affected communities—benefit from the responsible management and utilisation of resources, thereby safeguarding against depletion and fostering long-term environmental sustainability. Our activities integrate discussions on environmental issues alongside our core focus areas. A notable initiative launched in 2023 was a training workshop for journalists, aimed at enhancing their skills and knowledge in environmental investigative reporting. This project continued in 2024, further strengthening the capacity of youth and journalists to address climate issues in Cambodia.

Commitment to Sustainable Finance: TI Cambodia continue to be an active member of Fair Finance Cambodia which work in collaboration with the government and other stakeholders to promote sustainable finance that supports social and environmental well-being, especially for vulnerable groups.

Human Rights-Based Approach

The human rights-based approach is prominently reflected in the programmes implemented during the reporting year. By prioritising themes such as democratic space, anti-corruption, youth engagement, leadership development, and the empowerment of marginalised groups, TI Cambodia's activities are firmly aligned with human rights principles. Our commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and empowerment underscores the dignity and rights of all individuals, including young women, LGBTQ+ community members, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities. Moreover, fostering dialogue on accountability, transparency, and

freedom of expression, contributes significantly to the establishment of a more rights-respecting and inclusive society. As such, TI Cambodia's programmes adopt a holistic approach, seamlessly integrating human rights principles into civic empowerment and leadership development efforts. As we look forward to 2025, we are dedicated to building upon these achievements, further amplifying the voices of the most vulnerable groups and ensuring their rights are upheld and championed.

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. The results of the synergised collaboration are evident in improved procurement and public financial management over the years, strengthened advocacy for access to information and digital rights, and an increased likelihood of the government considering inputs from CSOs. In efforts to maximise the synergy among CSOs, TI Cambodia continued to foster the synergy platform where key CSO working groups meet and discuss their work, ensuring diverse perspectives.

Partnerships with media and journalists: the collaboration with media outlets allowed TI Cambodia to tap into their rich expertise and journalist network, through which TI Cambodia could upskill young journalists to report more accurately on the trained topics, ensuring accurate and relevant information for a broader audience.

Multi-sectoral involvement: 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 2024

TI Cambodia is making continuous efforts to diversify its funding sources. For 2025 and the coming years, the organisation has secured funding from two major donors: the EU and USAID, ensuring that its mission remains well-supported. Additionally, TI Cambodia has received grants for shorter projects from other donors, including DRL, TIS, IFES, and Oxfam. While funding appears to be secured for the current strategic phase, TI Cambodia is actively seeking to expand its sources through further grants. The Executive Director and the management team hold frequent meetings with development partners and donors to cultivate relationships and stay informed about potential funding opportunities. Collaborations with both domestic and international organisations have also been enhanced, positioning TI Cambodia to better implement strategic interventions and achieve financial sustainability. Currently, TI Cambodia is developing a proposal to TIS for financial support related to various components of its strategic plan.

6. Lessons Learned

Areas that need additional efforts

Despite maintaining a positive rapport with the national government and implementing an enhanced communication strategy that aligns the organisation with government priorities, some local authorities still held misperceptions about TI Cambodia. However, in 2024, TI Cambodia made a concerted effort to address this challenge by increasing engagement with local authorities and communities, strengthening the capacity of local government through targeted support, and adopting more nuanced language in the interactions. While progress has been made in shifting perceptions, some residual misperceptions persist. The organisation continues to work towards building trust and understanding with local authorities and communities, ensuring that its efforts remain aligned with the government's priorities and contribute to a more effective anti-corruption agenda.

TI Cambodia has achieved many positive outcomes through its youth outreach and empowerment activities at local levels in 2024. The organisation has recognised that the impact of these initiatives was maximised by

maintaining stronger collaborations with grassroots organisations. Despite these successes, a challenge has emerged: some of our CSO partners face limited monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacities. This hampers their ability to effectively assess the impact of their initiatives and make data-informed decisions for future programmes. To address this challenge, TI Cambodia aims to invest in targeted M&E capacity-building efforts. By providing training and support, we can help our partners enhance their evaluation processes, thereby enabling them to demonstrate the effectiveness of their work and identify areas for improvement.

This issue is common among CSOs that work with many youth. Similarly, in 2023, TI Cambodia identified the need to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation processes to regularly assess the impact and effectiveness of our initiatives, to identify areas for improvement, ensure efficient allocation of resources, and track our progress effectively. In 2024, the organisation has taken significant steps to address these challenges. Capacity building for our staff has been prioritised, equipping them with the necessary skills and tools to enhance our monitoring and evaluation practices. We have implemented more rigorous evaluation frameworks and set clear performance indicators for our initiatives. This ongoing commitment to improving our monitoring and evaluation processes has reinforced our ability to adapt our strategies and programmes, ensuring that we can achieve our goals more effectively. The experience has taught us the critical importance of continuous improvement in our assessment methods.

Effective strategies/activities

The success of TI Cambodia's work in 2024 underscores the vital importance of collaboration among various stakeholders, particularly between CSOs and the media. By leveraging each other's strengths, resources, and networks, stakeholders can more effectively achieve common goals. In 2024, the reinforced cooperation among key CSO coalitions notably increased public awareness, enhanced the capacity of stakeholders, and contributed to improvements in the legal framework. This demonstrates the necessity of continuing to invest time and resources in maintaining and strengthening such collaborations for ongoing and future interventions.

Capacity-building workshops and training programmes play a crucial role in equipping youth participants with essential skills and knowledge. Engaging youth in diverse activities fosters a culture of transparency and accountability from an early age, empowering them to become active agents of change and promoting good governance and democratic participation within their communities. As evidenced in 2024, youth demonstrated a proactive approach to seeking knowledge and engaging with social and political issues. TI Cambodia will persist in offering learning opportunities, particularly targeting youth in remote areas with limited access to education, ensuring they are informed, empowered, and capable of participating in democratic and governance-related matters.

The use of social media and online platforms has proven to be an effective tool for reaching a wide audience, raising awareness, and encouraging discussions on various topics. By utilising these platforms, TI Cambodia was able to connect with and communicate effectively with individuals who were previously inaccessible through physical initiatives. This approach facilitated the exchange of information and mobilised their support to drive positive change.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, despite encountering some delays in project activities, TI Cambodia has made remarkable strides in promoting anti-corruption, good governance, transparency, and accountability. These significant advancements can be attributed to the strengthened partnerships established not only with civil society organisations but also with key government agencies and stakeholders across various sectors. The empowerment of relevant stakeholders and the active engagement of youth have been pivotal in driving these developments.

Through robust engagement with the demand side, TI Cambodia has cultivated strong, collaborative relationships with several government bodies, including the Anti-Corruption Unit, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and the Ministry of Environment.

These partnerships have been instrumental in fostering an environment conducive to increased transparency and accountability within their respective areas. Noteworthy outcomes from these collaborations include:

1. **Enhanced Legislation:** The year 2023 witnessed the adoption of critical legislative frameworks, including the Public Financial Management Act and the Public Procurement Act. This year, TI Cambodia, in collaboration with civil society organisations (CSOs), continued to provide essential input and recommendations for ongoing Public Financial Management (PFM) reform initiatives. Our contributions included valuable insights into budgetary laws and public revenue collections, aimed at enhancing fiscal transparency and accountability. One significant development on the horizon is the likely adoption of draft Law on Access to Information within this government's mandate. This law is expected to further empower citizens by ensuring greater transparency and facilitating informed civic engagement. Although not all suggestions from CSOs have been fully integrated or recognised, the government has increasingly opened channels for communication, acknowledging the vital contributions of civil society to improving access to information. These efforts are crucial for fostering a more transparent and accountable governance framework, ultimately benefiting the broader community.
2. **Responsive Public Service Delivery:** TI Cambodia's support has led to tangible actions from the Ministry of Interior aimed at bolstering the transparency and accountability of public services. Notably, the Ministry implemented nine key actions intended to enhance public service delivery. The ongoing support has empowered the Department of Resources and Functions, responsible for overseeing the One Window Office Units and Provincial and District Ombudsman Offices. Through targeted capacity-building efforts and innovative strategies, these bodies have made significant improvements in their functionalities and performance, ultimately leading to enhanced public service outcomes.

On the supply side, TI Cambodia has successfully nurtured and expanded collaborations with a diverse array of stakeholders, including CSOs, media partners, businesses, citizens, and youth groups. Key achievements in this domain include:

1. **Increased Youth Capacity and Participation:** A total of 13 impactful actions were spearheaded by youth groups, focusing on essential themes such as democracy, transparency, accountability, youth and women's leadership, community development, gender rights, and governance. Moreover, youth involvement in discussions surrounding environmental issues and climate change has also gained momentum, reflecting a growing awareness of their role in societal accountability.
2. **Amplified Efforts with CSOs and Media:** with increased partnerships with more 10 CSOs and media partners, TI Cambodia has expanded the reach of our youth engagement initiatives and enhanced the support and resources available for youth empowerment and leadership development in communities. The value of collective action and the importance of leveraging local partnerships has clearly led to sustainable impacts.
3. **Enhanced Responsible Business Practices:** TI Cambodia has played a pivotal role in promoting responsible business conduct by actively providing capacity-building initiatives and tailored support to enterprises, particularly within the Banana and Rubber value chains. By engaging with businesses that are committed to compliance, TI Cambodia has facilitated a deeper understanding of ethical practices, sustainability, and corporate social responsibility. Through workshops, training sessions, and one-on-one consultations, we have equipped these businesses with the knowledge and tools necessary to implement responsible practices throughout their operations. This includes guidance on environmental sustainability, fair labor practices, and transparency in supply chains.

The successes of TI Cambodia's interventions in 2024 underscore the power of collective action in driving meaningful change. The fostering of collaboration among diverse stakeholders—be it youth, civil society organisations, journalists, government agencies, or the private sector—creates a conducive environment for open dialogue and active democratic participation.

Looking ahead, the momentum gained through these partnerships and the increased engagement of youth are essential for building a more transparent and democratic society. By fostering an informed and engaged citizenry, TI Cambodia envisions a future where the government operates with greater openness, and communities are empowered to shape their destinies. This shared commitment to transparency and good governance will not only strengthen democratic institutions but also enrich the societal fabric of Cambodia itself.

Annexes

Annex 1: Visibility Report for 2024

This report has been reviewed by:



Name:

Pop

Position:

Chairwoman