

Transparency International is a global movement with one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption. With more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we are leading the fight against corruption to turn this vision into reality.

Read about our mission, vision and values



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this report. All information is correct up until April 2025. Nevertheless, Transparency International cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of its use for other purposes or in other contexts.

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Thank you to our supporters

HIGHERAS HIGHERS

In 2024, through a global movement supported by a Secretariat in Berlin, Transparency International:

Guided the UN to better protect development and human

rights, including by integrating anti-corruption measures into its Financing for Development agenda. **See page 13**

Enhanced transparency and fairness in public procurement

across the EU by embedding Integrity Pacts.

See page 14

Made it easier for communities affected by climate change to submit complaints under the UN Climate Change framework by removing financial barriers.

See page 18

Closed loopholes for money laundering in the EU by winning civil society and media access to information on company owners.

information on company owners and securing an anti-money laundering authority. **See page 21**

Ignited global discussions on the enablers of illicit financial

flows and advanced policy solutions for regulating professionals, such as lawyers and accountants. **See page 22**

Established new standards for political finance transparency

to address both long-standing and emerging risks.

See page 27

Secured stronger lobbying guidelines from the OECD to **prevent undue influence by special interest groups.** *See page 27*

Shaped EU proposals to harmonise political finance and anti-corruption measures, and to strengthen laws on prosecuting corruption, protecting victims

and securing corporate accountability. *See pages 28 and 35*

Launched an anti-corruption toolkit for small and mediumsized enterprises (SMEs) with the World Economic Forum to support ethical business practices. See page 31

Ensured anti-corruption voices were included in key UN discussions, securing stronger commitments to civic engagement. See page 41

Blocked a restrictive "foreign agents" law in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

See page 42

Brought together 2,200+ representatives from civil society, governments, businesses and international organisations in a major, global anti-corruption event. See page 46







Transparency International's 112 independent chapters and partners around the world create and implement their own national strategies, while also joining forces on critical issues to form the leading movement in the fight against corruption. This report showcases the work of the Transparency International Secretariat, which coordinates the broader movement worldwide, spearheads global and joint advocacy, gathers best practices, conducts world-class research, and provides financial and technical support to our chapters.

53

Countries where our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres (ALACs) provided free, confidential advice to victims and witnesses of corruption.

156,700

media articles highlighting our movement and emphasising to millions worldwide the need to fight corruption.

10,000+

People supported through our ALACs.

32,250

People who used our Integrity Watch platforms to get data on EU politicians' integrity.

111

Corruption-related legal submissions, made to hold wrongdoers accountable.

4,750,000+

People reached by worldwide media coverage on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), covering stories on corruption and injustice.

MESSAGE FROM UR

We are living in an era when tackling corruption and ensuring those with power are accountable to the common good is more important than ever. Corruption is jeopardising action to solve many of the biggest problems we see today – from corrosive inequality and polarised societies to the climate crisis and conflict. Around the world, we are seeing examples of vested interests influencing policies and a concerning shrinking of democratic processes and civic space. Recently, another chapter of our global movement was forced into operating in exile – Transparency International Venezuela. Many others are operating in a context of disinformation, harassment and limited resources.

In the face of these challenges, I'm proud that in 2024 Transparency International, collaborating with allies, helped drive forward some important steps in our joint mission to shape a world free from corruption.

Following years of campaigning, we were pleased to see the European Union (EU) introduce new laws to tackle money laundering that included many of our recommendations. From revealing the real identity of company owners to establishing a new Anti-Money Laundering Authority – with powers to police high-risk banks and take over from national supervisory authorities that fail to do their jobs – these measures will make it harder for illicit financial flows to enter the EU. Going forward, we'll keep pushing for action to close remaining loopholes, including those that allow dirty money to flow into real estate.

As billions of people voted in elections, we designed and launched new global integrity standards for political financing to curb the undue influence that the super-rich and corporations can have on political "

We will continue calling for governments, businesses and multilateral institutions to adopt the highest standards that protect the public interest, including on new realities like artificial intelligence.

decisions. Authorities in 15 EU countries have committed to embed Integrity Pacts – our key tool for good governance in public procurement – in EU-funded public investments. This will help shield millions of euros from potential misuse.

We also helped raise standards for business, working with the World Economic Forum to launch practical guidance to support small and medium-sized enterprises to operate ethically, mitigate corruption risks and improve integrity across supply chains.

We made sure that tackling corruption was high up the agenda in major international forums. With partners, we brought anti-corruption measures into the United Nation's Financing for Development agenda. Our creative stunt at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil sent a powerful visual reminder to G20 leaders that corruption must become a priority issue.



In this critical decade for mobilising climate action and resources at scale, it was deeply disappointing to see fossil fuel interests dominate the conversation at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. We are committed to improving how governments and businesses approach climate negotiations by pushing for greater transparency and tighter rules around lobbying and conflicts of interest, so that policies reflect the common good and resources needed to mitigate and adapt are safeguarded from corruption. It is also vital that the voices of those already affected by climate impacts are heard at the highest level, and our work helped to unblock financial barriers to enable communities to seek justice.

Transparency International is a global movement, and we know that together we can be more than the sum of our parts. I'd like to highlight the work of our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres, which provide free, confidential advice to victims and witnesses of corruption, and this

year supported more than 10,000 people in 53 countries. And I am inspired by the courage and commitment of colleagues from our 112 national chapters who work tirelessly to push for real change in their countries and beyond.

We are also part of a wider international community of diverse corruption fighters dedicated to creating a better future. This was particularly clear at the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania where we brought together more than 2000 policymakers, business leaders, experts and activists to guide worldwide action against corruption.

It is an honour to be leading Transparency International at this time, and I am hugely grateful for the unwavering trust and support from our donors, partners and supporters everywhere. Our work would not be possible without you. This year, we will continue calling for governments, businesses and multilateral institutions to adopt the highest standards that protect the public interest, including on new realities like artificial intelligence. Together, we will continue to empower communities to stand up against corruption and build a more equal, just and democratic world.

Maíra Martini

Chief Executive Officer, Transparency International

Our global reach means we create change at all levels, while learning and innovation that emerge from our activities on one place can quickly be shared through our network to increase impact in many other parts of the world.

Independent national chapters and partners around the world

International Secretariat in

EU regional liaison office in Brussels



Americas

Argentina Brazil Canada Chile Colombia Costa Rica

Dominican Republic

Ecuador El Salvador Guatemala Guyana Honduras Jamaica Mexico Panama Peru

Trinidad & Tobago

Venezuela (Operating in exile since 2025)



Europe and Central Asia

Armenia Austria Azerbaijan **Belarus** Belgium Bosnia & Herzegovina

Bulgaria Czech Republic Denmark Estonia **Finland** France Georgia Germany Greece Greenland Hungary Iceland Ireland

Italy

Kosovo

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyz Republic Latvia

Lithuania Malta Moldova Netherlands North Macedonia

Norway Portugal Romania

Russia (Operating in exile

since 2023) Serbia

Slovak Republic

Slovenia Spain Sweden Switzerland Türkiye Ukraine

United Kingdom



Middle East and **North Africa**

Bahrain Israel Jordan Kuwait Lebanon Morocco **Palestine** Tunisia



South Africa

Togo

Uganda

Zambia

Zimbabwe



Sub-Saharan Africa

Benin Burundi Cameroon

Cote d'Ivoire

Democratic Republic of Congo

Ethiopia

Ghana

Kenya

Liberia

Madagascar

Malawi

Mali

Mauritius

Mozambique

Niger

Nigeria

Republic of Congo

Rwanda

Senegal

Seychelles

Sierra Leone

5

Asia Pacific

Australia

Bangladesh

Cambodia

Fiji

Indonesia

Malaysia

Maldives

Mongolia

Nepal

New Zealand

Pakistan

Papua New Guinea

Solomon Islands

South Korea

Sri Lanka

Taiwan

Vanuatu



Corruption does not just enrich bad actors and waste public money; it erodes governments' ability to mobilise and spend funds effectively, provide basic services and ensure all people have a decent standard of living.

This year, Transparency International protected public resources and investments, including bringing attention to corruption in development agendas like Financing for Development, increasing transparency in procurement processes, preserving access to public services, and defending rights, as well as opening channels to report on corruption.

LINKING ANTI-CORRUPTION TO DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2024, as countries across the world gathered to discuss the mobilisation of new resources to support sustainable development and reforms to financing at all levels, we ensured that anti-corruption was not overlooked. When preparations for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development began, anti-corruption, transparency and accountability measures were notably absent. Working alongside civil society allies and national chapters, we successfully convinced governments to recognise corruption as a cross-cutting issue that must be addressed. But we didn't stop there. We proposed concrete measures to close loopholes in debt management, and prevent illicit financial flows and the loss of domestic public resources. Our recommendations were included in the elements paper that will shape the outcome document of the 2025 conference. This will ultimately influence how countries and international financial institutions mobilise, prioritise, and invest resources for sustainable development.

Maintaining our momentum in international fora, the 2024 report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also drew extensively on Transparency International's recommendations. Crucially, the report recognised the need to monitor corruption in public resourcing more closely to ensure all people have access to critical public services, such as health and

education. With these guidelines in place, we are in a strong position to follow up with countries and ensure they implement the recommendations sufficiently.

In another important step for equality, we built on a UN Convention on Corruption (UNCAC) resolution under the acknowledging ways in which corruption exacerbates inequality and undermines access to services, land and political representation for women, girls and other disadvantaged groups. This resolution paves the way for countries to implement steps that address these issues. At the 15th session of the Implementation Review Group of UNCAC, we made a written submission outlining such steps, and we will continue to promote mitigation measures.



Corruption drives discrimination and disproportionately affects the most marginalised. It exacerbates inequalities and undermines access to services, land and political representation, among other social and economic opportunities, for women and other at-risk groups, including young people, LGBTQ, ethnic, racial and religious minorities, persons with disabilities, and refugees. This kind of corruption often leads to resources being allocated based on bias or the refusal to provide goods or services based on discrimination.

Transparency International's submission to the UNCAC Implementation Review Group

ADVOCACY AND LEGAL ADVICE CENTRES

For more than two decades, Transparency International's Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres (ALACs) have been a lifeline for individuals and communities seeking justice against corruption. Since 2003, ALACs have provided free-support for over 350,000 individuals and investigated more than 85,000 corruption-related cases. Their work goes far beyond resolving individual complaints – it strengthens accountability systems, builds public trust, and empowers citizens to demand integrity from those in power. In 2024 alone, ALACs supported over 10,000 clients in over 53 countries.

EMBEDDING INTEGRITY PACTS INTO EU PROCUREMENT

Transparency International has pioneered civil accountability tools in public procurement and integrated them into projects around the world for years. In 2024, we expanded across the EU our most powerful solution to procurement corruption – Integrity Pacts.

WHAT IS AN INTEGRITY PACT?

Countries spend vast sums - up to a fifth of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - on public procurement, but without proper monitoring, at least 10 per cent of this money is lost to bribery and other forms of corruption. Integrity Pacts are an agreement between government authorities, the companies bidding to carry out a project, and a civil society monitor overseeing the process often a Transparency International chapter. The results of such agreements where they have been implemented are striking: increased transparency during bidding, improved risk mitigation during execution, and projects delivered on time and under budget. Moreover, data gathered by civil society partners led to reforms in laws and regulations, ensuring stronger procurement frameworks for the future.

In collaboration with the European Commission, we set up a helpdesk and a community of practice, which offer technical assistance to relevant authorities and help civil society organisations build their capacity to monitor EU-funded projects. They will support the implementation of Integrity Pacts in 15 member states in the coming years and will also be channels for countries to learn from each other.

At least seven Member States (including Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Romania and Spain) are now using Integrity Pacts in their EU-funded projects. Spain is pressing forward with a Green Integrity Pact, and, outside the EU, two Kosovan municipalities are piloting them with support from the local Transparency International chapter.

At the end of the year, we launched a new global Integrity Pact blueprint that explains how to develop and implement Integrity Pacts as a collective action initiative. Drawing on over two decades of knowledge and experience from Transparency International chapters across the world, the blueprint reflects recent trends, includes concrete examples of good practice, and explains how to adapt Integrity Pacts to different circumstances.

EXPOSING CORRUPTION IN MEDICINE PROCUREMENT

In parts of Africa, women and girls face multiple barriers when accessing education and health care, with corruption further limiting their access to these vital services. Through our *All 4 Inclusive Service Delivery Africa* project, we work to eliminate corruption that prevents them from exercising their rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

In 2024, for example, our chapter in Zimbabwe exposed corruption in the country's publicly funded medical supply chain. While the country's public health service is meant to provide certain medications free of charge to eligible patients, many are forced to seek treatment elsewhere – often at inflated prices on the black market.





Despite state investment in procuring these medicines, they are frequently unavailable in public health facilities when patients need them most.

Our groundbreaking report, Left Behind: Corruption in Health and Education Services in Africa, revealed just how widespread these issues are in this continent. It identified corruption as a major risk at every stage of the medical supply chain, particularly in public procurement, where opaque contracting processes allow suppliers to win government tenders without sufficient oversight. But the problem does not stop there. The report also uncovered severe weaknesses in inventory management at health facilities and dispensing pharmacies, where medicines meant for patients too often disappear, only to resurface for sale in informal markets.

The exposure of such systemic failures has already led to action. The findings gained media attention in Zimbabwe, sparking public debate and calls for accountability. Following advocacy from our Zimbabwe chapter and various partners, the Medicines Control Agency took steps to address the issue, including confiscating unregistered medicines sold illegally. Meanwhile, the Vice President of Zimbabwe publicly backed the introduction of an electronic procurement system to improve transparency in medical supply purchasing.

By bringing these issues to light, we increased scrutiny on the system, putting pressure on authorities to strengthen oversight and ensure life-saving medicines reach those who need them most. However, exposing corruption is just the first step – by driving reform and holding those in power accountable, we are working toward a future where health care is not a privilege, but a right that no one is denied.

MAKING LAND OWNERSHIP MORE JUST AND TRANSPARENT

Land is an essential resource for survival, yet it remains highly susceptible to corruption. Disadvantaged people are hit hardest by corruption in land management, resulting in the infringement of rights and the loss of homes and livelihoods. Our land project in 10 Sub-Saharan African countries takes various approaches to overcoming land corruption, from informing and empowering citizens to keep their property and demand integrity from decision-makers, to ensuring that public and private organisations have procedures in place to sanction offenders and bring about justice for affected citizens. Advocating for solutions that address the needs of women, youth and other marginalised groups is a key part of our work. We are also establishing networks at the national and regional levels to advocate for justice.

ENABLING MEDIATION ON LAND RIGHTS IN CAMEROON

After many years of dispute, Transparency International was instrumental in establishing a mediation process between the local communities of Cameroon and the rubber company Sud-Cameroun Hévéa (Sudcam). In 2008, the company took control of 45,000 hectares of forest – which included Baka hunting grounds and burial sites – to build a factory and create a rubber plantation.

During a three-month campaign, our chapter collaborated with the community to produce a petition demanding action and to develop a report detailing the problem. They also worked with journalists to ensure accurate reporting. These efforts helped ensure the company is now willing to support communities with development projects and is training staff to ensure such violations do not happen again.

UNCOVERING CORRUPTION IN COVID CONTRACTS

Cronyism and corrupt procurement are a problem everywhere. Transparency International UK's report on COVID procurement found that almost 10 per cent of all the money that Britain spent on the pandemic response went to people with connections to the then party of government in Westminster. In all, two-thirds of all COVID contracts were handed over with no competition. The Department of Health eventually had to write off nearly £15 billion (US\$19 billion) worth of goods as unusable.

An inquiry into how the UK government handled the pandemic is underway, and our report was used as the basis for evidence in the module on procurement, which began in early 2025.

IMPROVING INTEGRITY IN CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

In a welcome step, governments are now dedicating large sums of money to vital climate mitigation and adaption – but this huge and rapid influx creates significant risks of corruption. Transparency International is working to protect funds from fraud and bribery, as well as campaigning to prevent undue influence from obstructing climate policy.

During the year, the Secretariat ran capacity-building sessions with Transparency International chapters to better equip them to work on climate governance. This led to decisive action around the world. For example, our Pakistan chapter visited Sukkur-Sindh, which was badly affected by flooding in 2022, and provided guidance on how to use right to information requests to hold the government accountable for climate action, especially at the local level.

The Great Green Wall is a major climate project. It aims to combat desertification by planting vegetation along an 8,000-kilometre stretch of the Sahel, from Senegal to Djibouti. The African Union published a new 10-year strategy for the wall in 2024, reflecting Transparency International's contributions from our stakeholder meetings in nine of its findings and the recommendations to better safeguard the project.

We also lobbied for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to remove the US\$30,000 fee it planned to impose on those local communities that use the Paris Agreement Article 6 appeals and grievance procedure. The UNFCC lifted the fee in May, opening the door for poorer communities – many of which are most impacted by climate change – to make complaints.







DISRUPTING CORRUPT MONEY FLOWS

Corruption can no longer just be tackled within a country's borders alone. Loopholes in the global financial system allow corrupt actors to hide and launder billions they steal from people around the world.

Our efforts to expose and close such gaps gained significant ground in 2024, especially in the European Union (EU). Crucially, civil society and the media will now be able to track down dirty money more easily in the EU, and a new agency in the bloc will directly supervise high-risk banks' anti-money laundering activities. At the global level, we have brought to the fore the role of enablers such as lawyers and real estate agents in cross-border corruption, and sparked new interest in the fight against illicit financial flows.

ENSURING SCRUTINY OF THE REAL OWNERS OF COMPANIES IN THE EU

Public beneficial ownership registers are an invaluable tool for journalists and civil society activists to uncover the real owners of companies and trusts when investigating money laundering. These investigators suffered a setback in late 2022, when the Court of Justice of the EU ruled that only those with a "legitimate interest" had a right to access the registers, and eight EU members immediately shut down access.

In the aftermath, we focused on helping journalists and civil society activists who work on anti-money laundering and related issues to gain comprehensive access to the registers, to ensure these vital groups could continue their work. Our Secretariat and Transparency International EU identified areas for improvement in the draft 6th EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive and advocated for amendments. An early draft, for example, could have allowed authorities managing the registers to share details with companies about who was looking at them. After we drew attention to the problem, safeguards were introduced to prevent the risk of tipping off and retaliation.

Our efforts paid off in 2024, when the European Parliament and the European Council adopted the new directive and related regulation. Now, civil society and members of the media involved in the fight against money laundering will gain generalised – rather than case-by-case – access to beneficial ownership registers. Additionally, foreign companies with investments across different member states, including in real estate, will have to declare their beneficial owners – preventing the use of overseas entities to remain anonymous and hide illicit gains.



We commend both the Council and Parliament for ensuring that no EU Member State can lock journalists and activists out of beneficial ownership registers. It is particularly welcome that they will be granted generalised access, without having to demonstrate legitimate interest in every single case.

Maíra Martini

CEO, Transparency International

A NEW EU ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AUTHORITY

The EU also created a new Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) to directly supervise both high-risk financial institutions and national supervisory authorities. This will ensure coordinated standards and guidelines across the bloc, giving the AMLA the power to take over supervision of a financial institution if a particular country proves itself unable to address breaches.

We were among the first to call for an EU AMLA, back in 2019. Our analysis had exposed how banks enabled money laundering in the Azerbaijani and Troika Laundromat cases, through failures at both the national and EU level, justifying a new supranational authority. After the EU proposed the AMLA, we continued our advocacy to ensure a strong institution. Notably, we successfully argued for the inclusion of small banks in its scope, and for a focus on high-risk financial institutions. This will make it easier to monitor cross-border transactions, and activity in any kind of bank that can be an EU entry point for dirty money will be scrutinised more closely.

HIGHLIGHTING THE KEY ROLE OF ENABLERS IN TRANSNATIONAL CORRUPTION

Professionals in the non-financial sector – from real estate agents and accountants to company formation agents and lawyers – provide essential services that make cross-border corruption schemes possible. By drawing attention to this, Transparency International has begun to transform how the international community thinks about the problem. Instead of a sectorby-sector approach, we have emphasised the importance of comprehensive government regulation focused on services with specific money laundering risks.

We have backed up these concepts with research, such as our recent study, Loophole Masters: How Enablers Facilitate Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. We presented the paper at a workshop organised during the UNCAC Conference of States Parties (CoSP) in Atlanta, driving productive discussions on how to strengthen regulatory frameworks.

THE NEW LEGISLATION IN NUMBERS

EU countries will have to provide generalised access to beneficial ownership registers to civil society and journalists from around the world.

high-risk banks will become subject to EU-level anti-money laundering supervision



In March, we were a "knowledge partner" to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at the 2024 Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum, where we organised a workshop on enablers, further highlighting the issue on the global stage. We also partnered with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, organising a session on accountability of enablers at the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC).

The UN is taking these concepts on board, echoing our insights in a Secretary General's report on international coordination and cooperation to combat illicit financial flows. Similarly, the elements paper published ahead of the 4th Financing for Development conference reflected our submission and included strong commitments to stop those who enable illicit financial flows.

ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY OF ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING REFORMS IN THE UAE

For many years, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been regarded as a place where politically exposed

SPARENCY SPARENCY ATTONAL VESCAR SCAR

persons (PEPs) can launder their money with impunity. Based on data leaked in 2018 showing Dubai's role, we outlined serious gaps in the Emirates' anti-money laundering framework. This increased pressure on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to place the UAE on its list of countries with strategic anti-money laundering deficiencies in 2022.

Yet early in 2024, FATF decided to remove the UAE from the list, because it had made "significant progress" in tackling money laundering. We conducted a review and found that while the government had announced or undertaken several reforms, it was too early to tell whether they had been adequately implemented. We also followed up the cases that had been exposed in 2018 and found no evidence that the UAE authorities had taken any action against suspicious real estate assets. We shared our findings with FATF to argue that delisting would be premature.

UAE DIRTY MONEY IN NUMBERS

100

PEPs named in the 2018 leak

58

PEPs or more still hold property in Dubai, despite not appearing to have official sources of income to justify their purchases.

200

persons of interest – including alleged criminals, fugitives, political figures and sanctioned individuals – have owned more than **1,000** properties in Dubai, according to a May 2024 investigation.

While our efforts unfortunately did not deter FATF, our response to their decision earned widespread media coverage. This spurred members of the European Parliament to protest against a similar decision being considered by the European Commission. Together with our EU office, we provided answers to their questions about the issue, which were mirrored in their formal objection in April. The Parliament subsequently rejected the Commission's proposal, maintaining scrutiny on the UAE and enhanced due diligence by EU banks and other gatekeepers.



With numerous PEPs, and other shady people still appearing to own property in the UAE unencumbered and uninvestigated, the country still has a long way to go in proving it's capable of diligently tackling financial crime.

Maíra Martini CEO, Transparency International

NEW MOMENTUM TO FIGHT CORRUPT MONEY FLOWS

Together with partners across Africa, we worked on a new standard for beneficial ownership transparency to be considered by the African Union. A more detailed standard would help African countries implement the FATF recommendations in a way that reflects the region's unique context.

The United States is one of the easiest places in the world to launder money – partly because the real estate and private investment sectors have been "temporarily" exempted from anti-money laundering rules for 20 years. This changed in August, when the US Treasury agreed on new rules for these sectors, following our chapter's advocacy. While the real estate change applies only to residential and non-commercial real estate, this remains a significant step in fighting money laundering not only in the US but globally, given how attractive the US real estate market has been to corrupt actors worldwide.

In many countries, "golden visa" schemes allow the wealthy to buy residency in exchange for a large investment – an opportunity for criminals and corrupt people to launder money with little risk of investigation. Transparency International Spain published a paper with policy recommendations and advocated for an end to the country's scheme. In late 2024, the Spanish Congress of Deputies approved its abolition.

Our Swiss chapter has been lobbying for improvements in the country's anti-money laundering framework. Following their advocacy, draft legislation to introduce a central beneficial ownership register clarified the obligations for legal persons and foreign legal entities to disclose their ownership information, while also expanding the scope of the Anti-Money Laundering Act to include advisors.

Norway launched a new beneficial ownership register, in part due to efforts by our chapter. Transparency International Norway took part in consultations and direct advocacy, and their 2023 report exposing Norwegian real estate as a safe haven for money laundering generated considerable public attention.

PUSHING THE G20 TO TACKLE CROSS-BORDER CORRUPTION

The G20 brings together leading and emerging economies – many of which still allow the flow of illicit funds – and has considerable influence over bodies like FATF. This makes it a key forum for addressing cross-border corruption.

When the Brazilian presidency nominated sustainable development and inequality reduction as the G20 priorities for 2024, we made clear the connection between transnational corruption, environmental degradation and inequality, advocating for immediate action.

Throughout the year, we engaged directly with governments and coordinated our chapters to influence the G20. In June, we organised a roundtable discussion at the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in Paris, where our recommendations were well received. G20 officials also appreciated the opportunity to hear from civil society in countries other than their own. We followed up with a position paper – Financial Integrity for Sustainable Development and Inequality – which outlined how the G20 can best contribute to the fight against corruption while advancing sustainable development and efforts to reduce inequality.

Yet countries remained resistant to action. The Anti-Corruption Ministerial declaration in October failed to offer a way forward on the most critical anti-corruption measures. We criticised the declaration and, together with our chapters, called on G20 leaders to rescue anti-corruption commitments during the Leaders' Summit in Rio in November.

Realising that conventional advocacy tactics alone would not be enough, we also collaborated with the advertising agency INNOCEAN Berlin to carry out a guerrilla marketing stunt and make corruption impossible to ignore in Rio.

Forty-eight hours before the Leaders' Summit, we filled Rio's sky with giant dollar bills to call attention to the G20's failure to address corruption. Six paragliders with canopies depicting US\$100 bills flew over the city. They landed on a public beach in the Barra da Tijuca neighbourhood, touching down on a banner which read: "How obvious should corruption be before it's a G20 priority?" The spectacular stunt immediately captured headlines in Brazilian media and started a public conversation on social media. As part of our campaign, we also released a video of the stunt, which was watched more than 61,100 times across Transparency International's global channels.

We will harness this heightened public awareness to build pressure on the G20 to take decisive action against transnational corruption in the years to come.





Around half the world's adults were eligible to vote in elections in 2024. Yet in most countries holding elections, voters could not cast their ballots knowing who funded the parties and candidates of their choice, allowing vested interests hidden behind opacity to maintain their influence on power. And in too many countries, incumbents wasted public resources to manipulate elections.

This underscores the paramount importance of political integrity, which Transparency International worked hard to strengthen in 2024 – both at the international level and within individual countries.

SETTING THE STANDARD

A key step was the release of Transparency International's updated Standards for Integrity in Political Finance in December. Informed by input from over 100 key stakeholders, this global policy position outlines strategies to ensure transparency, gender equality, clean money, a level playing field, accountability and state neutrality in the funding of politics.



Vibrant, pluralistic democracy requires political finance rules to be properly monitored and enforced.

Standards for Integrity in Political Finance

In the coming year, we will advocate for these standards to be adopted within national and international laws and policies. They are guiding our recommendations to leaders – for example, through the Open Government Guide – and with electoral observation organisations from

Europe, Asia and the Pacific initially, and then across the globe. Integrity in political finance is an essential corruption-prevention tool in the UN Convention Against Corruption. That is why we are encouraging parties to the Convention to adopt a resolution to accelerate transparency of political finance at their next Conference of State Parties in December 2025. An UNCAC CoSP Resolution on political finance could guide legislators and oversight agencies everywhere to close the loopholes that allow dirty money in politics. In a boost to our efforts, at the 2024 IACC in Vilnius the government of Norway invited governments and the anti-corruption community to provide ideas for such a resolution. In 2024, we worked with a growing number of governments party to the Convention to develop a consensus.

IMPROVING OECD LOBBYING RECOMMENDATIONS

The OECD Ministerial Council's revised Recommendation on Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying incorporated many of our proposals to restrict undue influence on policymaking. Among our key contributions was the definition of private-sector participation in government delegations to international negotiations as lobbying itself, therefore subjecting it to disclosure - which should bring to light, for instance, conflicts of interest in the negotiations of UN-related agreements critical to accelerate climate action and sustainable development. Going forward, we are advocating for disclosures of lobbying spending, wider access to public consultations, ensuring legislative footprints map out all influence activities, and the elimination of confidential lobbying for consultants and lawyers to become internationally recognised standards.

In 2024, we took an active part in OECD-sponsored dialogue with governments and businesses to reshape the international standards for responsible corporate lobbying and political engagement. We advocated for stronger protections against undue influence in "revolving door" staff movement between the public

and private sectors, as well as broadening the disclosure of political engagement activities and spending to companies' stakeholders. Our recommendations aimed at also reducing misalignment between companies' public policy positions and what they actually lobby for.

CALLING FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY IN BRUSSELS

As the EU finalises drafts of its directive on combatting corruption, the European Parliament's position paper contains many of Transparency International's recommendations to prevent undue influence on politics. These would harmonise the transparency of party finances, asset and interest declarations, and lobbying, and include a wide range of further measures to prevent undue influence on public decision making across the bloc. (See page 35 for more about the directive – which enters the final stage of negotiations in 2025.)

We also fought for important changes to be implemented in the meantime. A landmark report by our EU office showed how the world's seven largest fossil fuel companies spent recently €64 million to arrange over 1,000 lobbying meetings with the European Commission, securing hydrogen as a linchpin of the Commission's energy transition plans. Based on years of advocacy by Transparency International EU and key recommendations from our report, the Commission has since made it easier to identify such efforts by requiring nearly all officials involved in drafting legislation to publish their meetings and corresponding minutes.

OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD

As part of the EU-funded Citizen Engagement for Public Integrity project, Transparency International assessed governments' capacity to fight corruption across the Western Balkans and Türkiye. The resulting National Integrity System reports identified how key institutions are performing and exposed their vulnerabilities, allowing chapters to advocate for the specific reforms needed in each country.

KOSOVO'S CIVIL SOCIETY TRIUMPHS: NEW LAW TRANSFORMS PARTY FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Parliamentary parties in Kosovo receive over €4 million annually in public funds. Yet for years, there was virtually no financial oversight of this money. Officials did not appoint auditors, parties' annual financial reports were hugely delayed and sanctions were rare.

In 2018, widespread calls for new legislation to strengthen oversight led to a promising draft endorsed by the EU's Venice Commission for democracy through law, but legislators undermined it. In response, our chapter, the Kosova Democratic Institute (KDI), united more than 100 civil society organisations in a "Rejection March" against the amendments, forcing the thenprime minister to withdraw the flawed draft.

Since then, KDI has played a pivotal role in supporting the passage and implementation of a new and better law, which was passed in 2022. In addition to its advocacy, KDI organised a visit for legislators to the Czech Republic to learn about models for transparency and accountability. The subsequent law ensures independence and transparency in the oversight of party finances – influenced by learning from this and previous trips.

By 2024, the results were transformative. Under the new regulations, the Office for Financial Control (OFC) carried out audits more quickly and imposed an unprecedented €82,000 in fines – the highest sum recorded since political financing laws were introduced in 2010.

The legislation remains imperfect, with loopholes for self-financing, online campaigning and third parties creating challenges – but the impact of the law to date proves our chapter has identified an effective model for change.

After years of advocacy from Transparency International and our partners for a more comprehensive approach against corruption, Albania adopted a new anti-corruption strategy in 2024. Importantly, it promises efficiency in addressing corruption, prioritising the development of strong regulations to prevent conflicts of interest, monitor lobbying and political party financing, and protect whistleblowers over the next two years. The findings and recommendations of the National Integrity System assessment will improve the quality of these legal and institutional reforms that the government has committed to.

Our Zambia chapter helped convene dialogue among 35 political parties and members of parliament. This is building a consensus on a draft bill on political party and campaign financing, which will be introduced in 2025. Our chapter also engaged key government institutions, including the National Assembly and the Ministry of Justice, to secure support for the bill.

Once passed, the bill will allow wider participation in elections through measures to curb illicit funding and protect public resources used in campaigns.

In March, Germany tightened its rules on lobbying with an updated Lobby Register Act. This brings third-party lobbyists within the scope of the act, making it mandatory that they disclose financial information and clarify which legislation they are trying to influence. The changes reflect the new OECD lobbying recommendation that Transparency International campaigned for.

In Indonesia, our chapter successfully advocated for the prioritisation of a political party bill in the new parliament's legislative agenda for the next five years, after highlighting discrepancies between reported and actual party funding during the last election. The subsequent law should close loopholes that allow funding from illicit activities, as well as improving oversight, enforcing donation and spending limits, and ending the use of "puppet" donors, to establish more transparent and fairer political financing. Emphasising

the importance of these measures, Transparency International Indonesia and five civil society organisations formed a coalition to push for more accountability and transparency during the 2024 elections, leading to extensive media coverage of our recommendations around political finance.

Panama's Electoral Tribunal signed a memorandum of understanding on political finance, providing our chapter with more comprehensive data on candidates and party finances, and allowing them to suggest improvements to the disclosure platform. The tribunal has already accepted our recommendations to improve data accessibility and is now assessing their feasibility.

Transparency International US helped members of the United States Congress draft the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act, which came into force at the beginning of 2024. This makes it a crime for any foreign official or member of their family to ask for or to accept a bribe from any American individual or company. Under earlier legislation, only US citizens or companies could be punished for seeking or accepting bribes. While it will take some time for cases to be investigated and brought, the US Department of Justice is already receiving numerous tips from around the world on potential violations of the landmark law.



The Foreign Extortion
Prevention Act is arguably
the most sweeping and
consequential foreign bribery
law in nearly half a century.

Scott Greytak

Director of Advocacy for Transparency International US



Public-sector corruption is not the only threat to lives and livelihoods – businesses are also responsible for ensuring their operations are ethical and transparent. Transparency International works on the ground to help companies implement effective processes, meet sustainability commitments and protect employees who report corruption and unethical practices.

A NEW INTEGRITY TOOLKIT FOR BUSINESSES

In collaboration with the World Economic Forum, we launched an integrity toolkit for small and medium-sized businesses. The toolkit outlines the economic benefits of business integrity – companies that prioritise ethics gain a competitive edge. They are more likely to attract customers and partnerships, integrate into supply chains and access new markets.

However, with limited resources, small and mediumsized enterprises often face challenges in implementing strong integrity policies and making other necessary changes. Our toolkit provides practical strategies and advice to help simplify this process, enabling businesses to operate more transparently and ethically, which ultimately protects people's lives and livelihoods by reducing the harmful impact of corruption.

Central American multinational companies were among the first to pilot the toolkit in a project aimed at strengthening integrity models across their value chains. As part of the Partnership for Central América, the companies Agroamerica, Ficohsa, AG Group and Mariposa Group are collaborating on the Act Central America collective action project, working together to learn from each other and support the implementation process.



This practical guide empowers medium-sized enterprises with the knowledge and resources to embed integrity at the core of their operations. By doing so, they can not only protect their reputation, but also enhance their competitiveness, and increase their resilience in a demanding global market.

Alois Zwinggi

Managing Director of the World Economic Forum

UPDATING ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE STANDARDS TO COUNTER CORRUPTION

As companies embrace stakeholder capitalism and increasingly adopt environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards, there is a rising focus on combatting corruption in business. Transparency International is actively involved in discussions to update anticorruption standards and integrate them as a key metric for the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), an organisation that helps companies navigate their sustainability and ESG commitments.

More broadly, we stress to ESG professionals that corruption, bribery and political engagement are critical sustainability issues, and we offer guidance on how to identify these factors during evaluations. In a report published in May, Transparency International UK reviewed the GRI disclosures and sustainability reports of 190 Financial Times Stock Exchange listed companies in the UK, to assess whether they consider the impact of corruption and political engagement on their businesses. They also provided recommendations for how they can address these issues more effectively.



PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

After several years of campaigning by Transparency International Netherlands, the Dutch government passed the Whistleblower Protection Act in 2023. In 2024, as part of our Safe for Whistleblowers project, the chapter assessed whistleblower protection at 70 of the country's largest companies. While they found significant improvements compared to earlier reports from 2017 and 2019, there is still work to be done. Only 20 of the companies surveyed achieved a benchmark score of 75 per cent or higher. This highlights the need for further strengthening of whistleblower protection to ensure more companies meet higher standards.

PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES TO LARGE COMPANIES IN SPAIN ON BUSINESS INTEGRITY

An independent evaluation of our Business Integrity Forum in Spain concluded that it offered great value for money and served as an excellent source of advice for the seven large companies involved (Redeia, Ecoembes, Abertis Autopistas España, Iberdrola, Telefónica, LaLiga and FIDE). Funded by the Siemens Integrity Initiative, the insights gained through the forum enabled us to propose improvements to businesses' international compliance as well as public contracting processes. For instance, companies in the Forum strengthened internal due diligence processes, conflict, gifts and anti-corruption guidelines.

An open "speak up" corporate culture and supportive procedures do not only help to detect fraud, they also pave the way for open discussions, better leadership behaviour and, ultimately, influence the financial performance of the company.

Lousewies van der Laan Director of Transparency International Netherlands

Businesses interviewed praised 77 the forum as great value for money, as they get the chance to discuss the latest compliance issues with likeminded professionals, plus ad hoc advisory services from Transparency International Spain to boost corporate compliance policies and practices. [They] also mentioned that the forum provided global [and] national know-how, as well as the chance to discuss compliance issues with forums across Europe.

Aleph Strategies Evaluation of Transparency International's Siemens Integrity Initiative Projects



When corruption goes unpunished, it encourages further wrongdoing and emboldens bad actors who believe they can act with impunity. Transparency International files submissions to bring perpetrators to justice and advocates for justice for victims, while also campaigning for the establishment and enforcement of effective anti-corruption laws.

After years of our advocacy exposing corruption and promoting unified legislation, the EU made significant progress in 2024 toward a robust Anti-Corruption Directive. On the international stage, we took important steps to achieve recognition of cross-border corruption, and in several countries, we secured the enforcement of measures against corrupt people.

FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CORRUPTION IN THE EU

Despite numerous scandals and high-profile cases, the EU and its member states have been slow to prosecute cross-border corruption. They have made no progress even when presented with evidence, for example that provided by The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the League for Human Rights (Belgium – Ligue des droits humains) and UNIS (Pan-African Anti-Corruption Network) suggesting a passport scheme by the Belgian company Semlex, or the well-documented investigations of alleged bribery by Dutch-based Shell and Italian-based Eni to gain control of oilfields in Nigeria.

In 2023, the European Commission finally introduced a new directive to combat corruption, aiming to standardise regulations across the EU and enhance coordination and enforcement. This year, the European Parliament put forward an even stronger position, which is now nearing the final stage of negotiations. We submitted nine policy recommendations to the parliament focusing on enforcement and justice, six of which were accepted.

If our recommendations are adopted, the draft directive will make significant progress in several areas, including

victims' rights and accountability of perpetrators. It would require member states to identify victims of corruption and inform them about anti-corruption cases, appoint a victim coordinator, provide remedies and allow victims to challenge decisions. The directive would also empower civil society to represent these victims, which is crucial as many lack the resources to act on their own. Importantly, as most foreign bribery cases are now resolved outside the courts, the directive would mandate member states to report such non-trial resolutions transparently. Additionally, it would hold companies criminally liable for the actions of all individuals associated with them, not just the person in leading position in the company. This is very important – as demonstrated in the recent Airbus bribery case - where companies used intermediaries to pay bribes on their behalf. Under the new directive, companies without measures in place to prevent corruption would be liable.

WHAT IS GRAND CORRUPTION?

Grand corruption is the abuse of high-level power that benefits the few at the expense of the many. It involves senior officials, is carried out on a large scale, and causes serious and widespread suffering across societies.

LEADING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF GRAND CORRUPTION

The Transparency International movement has been at the forefront of exposing the devastating impact of grand corruption on its victims. Thanks to this unwavering commitment, we are now seeing tangible progress, as governments, international organisations and policy analysts are increasingly recognising the issue and integrating our recommendations into their efforts to address it.

In April, we co-organised the Leiden Roundtable, which brought together legal experts, practitioners and policy-makers from government, civil society, the UN and the OECD to build consensus on key measures to address grand corruption. Our proposals are now being refined based on the feedback received during the meeting, with some participants advancing these proposals in the policy discussions they are engaged in.

Beyond this, our work is already being incorporated into broader global efforts. A comprehensive draft of the US anti-corruption legislation package for 2024 aligns with several of our recommendations. As a result of our own efforts and those of the coalition we are part of, victims' rights are emphasised in a UN General Assembly 3rd committee resolution, a G20 prosecutors' declaration and the new EU Asset Recovery Directive. Additionally, two significant books released this year, *Grand Corruption: Curbing Kleptocracy Globally* and *Fighting Grand Corruption*, build on our reports and recommendations.

CONVICTING PANAMA'S CORRUPT EX-PRESIDENT

In 2024, Transparency International's sustained efforts to hold former Panama President Ricardo Martinelli accountable for corruption proved successful. In February, the supreme court upheld his conviction for money laundering, rendering him ineligible to run for president again. Martinelli sought asylum in the Nicaraguan embassy, evading a 10-year prison sentence and additional criminal charges for bribery.

In our first cross-border corruption case, Transparency International called for Martinelli's prosecution in 2015, a year after he left office. We submitted a legal brief to US prosecutors in support of his extradition and made a submission to have his assets frozen and his US visa revoked under the Global Magnitsky law. These efforts ultimately paid off, and Martinelli was charged with using public funds to acquire a media conglomerate in Panama.

CHARGES AGAINST GERMAN POLITICIANS IN THE AZERBAIJAN LAUNDROMAT CASE

Following Transparency International's years-long campaign for accountability, German prosecutors pressed charges against two former parliamentarians, Axel Fischer and Eduard Lintner, for allegedly accepting bribes as part of the Azerbaijan Laundromat scheme. Both are accused of breaching their duties as parliamentarians to support the Azerbaijani regime's interests, with Lintner allegedly receiving around €4 million and Fischer accused of accepting more than €84,000. In 2019, Transparency International filed a criminal complaint regarding Lintner's involvement, along with that of another parliamentarian, Karin Strenz (who has since passed away). As we have been the only organisation to consistently pressure for action in this case, our efforts played a big role in encouraging prosecutors to proceed.

HOW DID THE AZERBAIJAN LAUNDROMAT SCHEME WORK?

The full scale of the Azerbaijan Laundromat – initially reported as *Caviar Diplomacy* – is still being uncovered. At its core, a secret slush fund controlled by Azerbaijan's country's ruling elite funnelled money to politicians, businesspeople and journalists who endorsed the regime while the country's leaders imprisoned dozens of opposition figures, journalists and activists.



EXPOSING GRAND CORRUPTION IN HUNGARY

Under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, corruption has thrived in Hungary, and our chapter there has been at the forefront of exposing and investigating corrupt public procurement practices and loopholes in Hungarian private equity law. This year, we made significant progress when the European Commission held the country accountable for its anti-money laundering failings.

A study by our Hungarian chapter revealed that private equity funds have enabled the wealthy to conceal their assets while securing public money through no-bid processes with state-owned enterprises. Hungary's anti-money laundering laws fall short of EU standards by not requiring private equity funds to register beneficial ownership information. For instance, during the pandemic, the Hungarian Development Bank, a state-owned financial institution, invested 400 billion forints (€1.1 billion) in new private equity funds, nearly half of which went to fund management companies connected to István Tiborcz, Orbán's son-in-law, the study finds.

We highlighted this loophole in a submission to the European Commission as part of the EU's Supranational Risk Assessment and subsequently engaged with the Commission directly. In July, the Commission initiated an infringement procedure against Hungary for its failure to properly transpose the EU's anti-money laundering directive into domestic law, specifically highlighting the issue with private equity funds.

This was not the first time Tiborcz came into contact with public spending. A company he co-owned, Elios, completed 35 projects primarily funded by the EU, totalling €43.7 million. Procurement for most of these projects was handled by Tiborcz's business partner, Endre Hamar, leading to tenders with identical wording and bids just below the maximum threshold. These irregularities were flagged by the European Anti-Fraud Office, but the Hungarian investigations were inadequate, and the tendering went unsanctioned in Hungary.

In addition, based on information revealed by Transparency International Hungary through successful litigation, it became clear that by signing pre-emptive contracts, the government legally committed to purchasing office space worth 600 billion forints (€1.5 billion) in a no-competition bid. These transactions involved companies co-owned by private equity funds connected to Tiborcz and other oligarchs closely affiliated with the Orbán regime.

Building on the investigative reports of its non-profit partner Átlátszó.hu, our Hungarian chapter submitted a demand for accountability regarding further connections to Elios. This led to a significant victory for enforcement in the country, with the Public Procurement Arbitration Board this year fining several contracting authorities mentioned in the submission.

PRESSING BRITAIN TO ACT IN A MALAWIAN COR-RUPTION CASE

Zuneth Sattar, a UK citizen born in Malawi, was arrested in 2021 by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) on suspicion of corruption-related to three public contracts with the Malawian government. After years without formal charges, our Malawian partners, Youth and Society, and Spotlight on Corruption, wrote to the NCA urging it to consider compensation for the Malawian victims and reminding it of the UK's obligations under UNCAC. In response, the NCA reiterated its commitment to recovering and returning stolen funds. The letters received widespread coverage in Malawian media, and we are now making direct recommendations to the NCA.

INVESTIGATING THE ASSETS HELD BY BANGLADESH'S CORRUPT FORMER REGIME

Transparency International's UK chapter contributed extensively to a Bloomberg article on Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, a former Bangladeshi land minister under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's regime, who invested heavily in UK property without declaring it. After Hasina was ousted in August, the UK chapter collaborated with Transparency International Bangladesh and The Observer to investigate the network of UK properties purchased by people close to the government.

This partnership led to the revelation that the former land minister owned over £166 million (US\$210 million) worth of properties in London. With support from Transparency International UK, Transparency International Bangladesh reported that the minister had failed to disclose these assets in his sworn wealth statement, violating electoral law. This was part of the "Know Your Candidates" report, published in December 2024, which highlighted the growing wealth of numerous election candidates.

The report sparked extensive media coverage in Bangladesh, followed by Bloomberg and Al Jazeera reports.

It fuelled public outrage against the kleptocratic regime, which was eventually toppled by an unprecedented student-led movement.

Following this, our chapters in the UK and Bangladesh, in collaboration with other UK-based NGOs such as Spotlight, helped generate momentum for concrete action to freeze stolen assets held by other Bangladeshi politically exposed persons, as a step towards repatriation. Thanks to these efforts, we secured a hearing with the UK Parliament's All-Party Parliamentary Group and are now jointly exploring sanctions. This made important contributions to investigations begun in Bangladesh and the UK.

PURSUING RUSSIAN KLEPTOCRATS' ASSETS IN FRANCE

In 2022, we highlighted how Russian kleptocrats could still easily launder and hide their money in eight Western countries, including France. Even after Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered crackdowns on Russian assets abroad, we found that governments were investing too little in enforcing new sanctions, allowing kleptocrats to exploit loopholes and retain ownership of property. As part of the Global Anti-Corruption Consortium, Transparency International France filed a legal complaint with French prosecutors over this inaction.

In 2024, it was reported that French authorities had seized three properties, one of which is owned by the husband of Vladimir Putin's ex-wife. We continue to push for swift criminal procedures and the eventual confiscation of these assets so they can be used to compensate victims of corruption.



Governments do not always want to hear what civil society organisations have to say. In many countries, the state hinders their work through laws affecting funding or operations, limits public participation in decision-making or spreads disinformation about their activities. In some cases, campaigners face intimidation and violence. Transparency International works to ensure that civil society can operate safely and independently, holding those with power to account and giving voice to the voiceless.

This year, Transparency International made progress in creating an enabling environment for civil society to thrive globally, enhancing its resilience against attacks, securing whistleblower protection and pushing back against restrictions.

STRENGTHENING CIVIC SPACE THROUGH THE UN ANTI-CORRUPTION CONVENTION

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) safeguards civil society's right to engage in anti-corruption efforts. It has been ratified by almost all UN member states, yet restrictions on civic space in countries worldwide hinder its ability to fight corruption. Transparency International worked this year with partners and supportive governments to ensure that the challenges facing anti-corruption groups due to limited civic space were addressed in UNCAC discussions.

We presented our recommendations for how UNCAC can support an enabling environment for civil society at national level, including at UNCAC Day for Non-Governmental Organisations held during a meeting of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group, which saw a record 240 participants. We also urged governments to include civil society representatives in future national delegations to UNCAC.

INVOLVING CIVIL SOCIETY IN EUROPEAN ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

As highlighted in other sections, we successfully influenced the European Parliament's draft EU Anti-Corruption Directive to incorporate stronger provisions for civil society. Key amendments were included to reinforce civil society's role in anti-corruption efforts, ensuring it can operate safely and without undue restrictions.

In the initial draft, EU member states were merely required to "take measures to promote the participation" of civil society in anti-corruption efforts "where appropriate". Through our advocacy, this was strengthened to a clearer commitment to "actively and regularly engage with and consult" civil society. Crucially, in response to recent attempts to silence civil society in some member states, the revised draft directive now mandates national governments to "establish an enabling environment for civil society to work" on anti-corruption measures.

NEW PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS IN ESTONIA, GREENLAND AND POLAND

In 2019, the EU adopted a directive to protect whistle-blowers, which incorporated many of Transparency International's recommendations on the legal protection of whistleblowers. Since then, we have been advocating for its full transposition into national law.

Following campaigns by our chapter in Greenland and our partner in Poland, their parliaments passed whistleblower protection laws. In Poland, the law identifies the Ombudsman as the independent central authority to which whistleblowers can make their reports, avoiding the fragmentation of reporting channels through multiple authorities that exist in other member states. In this country, the Ombudsman is not only responsible for providing help directly to whistleblowers, but also monitors the law, reports to the parliament, and assists other public institutions receiving external reports from whistleblowers. In Greenland, the parliament



nominated the Ombudsman as the independent authority to provide advice to whistleblowers. In July 2024, the European Commission announced that all member states had incorporated the directive's main provisions into their national laws.

PUSHING BACK AGAINST REPRESSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In early 2024, Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed a draft law that would label non-governmental organisations receiving foreign funding as "foreign agents". Originating in Russia, such laws have been used by authorities in many countries – most recently, Georgia – to silence critics in civil society and avoid accountability. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the proposed law would have granted the Ministry of Justice the power to monitor the activities of organisations and even ban them if their work was seen as political.

Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina successfully led the opposition to the bill, working alongside civil society groups and international organisations. The bill was withdrawn in May, and in October the European Commission's report on Bosnia and

Herzegovina's progress towards EU membership warned that it should not be reintroduced. Unfortunately, the victory in 2024 was short-lived, as the bill was reintroduced in early 2025. Along with our chapter in the country, we will continue to oppose it.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY IN LEBANON

Transparency International works with local civil society organisations to campaign for better governance, transparency and reform by providing both financial and technical support. This year, we assisted several Lebanese organisations, enhancing their capacity to advocate for legal reforms and support groups that face discrimination.

One such organisation, Arc En Ciel (AEC), focused on the right of people with disabilities to work, organising roundtables to identify effective policy solutions. Building on these recommendations, AEC submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Labour advocating for legal reform to improve accessibility, inclusion and equal opportunities for people with disabilities across various sectors in Lebanon.

HOW LEBANESE LAW DISCRIMINATES AGAINST WOMEN

Lebanese law often denies women the right to make decisions about marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody. Cases are handled by six different religious courts, which operate independently of the state. These courts are slow, costly and difficult to navigate, with rulings often varying significantly depending on the sect. For instance, one court grants separated women custody of their sons until the age of three. This system forces women to remain in abusive marriages, fearing both financial hardship and the potential loss of their children.

The Lebanese "Women on Board" law aims to enhance governance by increasing female representation in CSO leadership, leading to better decision-making and accountability. However, its lack of implementation keeps women underrepresented, limiting their influence and reinforcing inequality. The Lebanese League for Women in Business, a civil society organisation, advocates for this reform through policy work and stakeholder engagement supported by sub-grants that we provide through our Building Integrity and National Accountability in Lebanon project. Though endorsed by over 20 CSOs and recently by the Minister of Social Affairs, the law is not yet approved, requiring further political action for full adoption and enforcement.

COUNTERING ATTACKS ON OUR CHAPTERS

As disinformation spreads globally, our chapters are being increasingly targeted. To address this growing threat, we are drawing lessons from each incident and strengthening resilience through training and resources. This year, we developed a disinformation handbook, offering chapters guidance on how to manage false claims, following a workshop with chapters from Cameroon, Ghana, Rwanda and South Africa.

In Ecuador, Madagascar, Mozambique and Pakistan, we organised security workshops to equip staff with the skills to handle a wide range of challenges and to implement organisational security plans.

In 18 countries where chapters faced serious threats or security concerns, Transparency International's Secretariat provided rapid response support. This included conducting risk assessments, evaluating specific threats, identifying effective mitigation strategies, and providing both financial and technical assistance to enhance security at offices and homes. We also prepared for potential relocations and offered legal, advocacy and communication support.

Our methods proved effective. In Brazil, Supreme Court Justice Dias Toffoli ordered an investigation into Transparency International one week after Transparency International Brazil published an annual review report along with the 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index, drawing attention to his invalidation of evidence of corruption. Recognising our argument that the order was based on false claims, Brazil's Prosecutor General requested a dismissal in October due to a lack of evidence, but Justice Dias Toffoli kept the investigation ongoing.





People all over the world, particularly young people, are striving for a fairer, more transparent future and are eager to take an active role in fighting corruption. By working with Transparency International, they gain the knowledge and tools to expose wrongdoing, push for integrity and drive change in their communities.

In 2024, interest in our bootcamps and transparency schools surged, particularly among young people keen to make their voices heard. While they account for a significant share of the billions eligible to vote in recent elections, representation of young people in public office remains low. With young people set to make up more than 20 per cent of the global population by 2030, their leadership in anti-corruption efforts today is all the more essential to building a fairer and more transparent future.

Through our training, mentorship and support, young activists are equipping themselves with the skills and confidence to step up. Working alongside us, they are learning to investigate corruption, advocate for stronger laws and hold those in power accountable.

Whether in government, business or civil society, they are preparing to shape a future rooted in integrity and transparency.

Our work isn't just about education – it's about empowerment. By investing in young people, we are helping build a world where integrity wins.

EMPOWERING YOUTH AGAINST
CORRUPTION: INTEGRITY SCHOOLS AND
BOOTCAMPS LEAD THE CHARGE FOR
TRANSPARENCY AND JUSTICE

In countries where systemic corruption thrives unchecked, young people experience its direct impact disproportionately – hindering their access to essential services such as health care, education and justice. Our integrity schools and bootcamps provide solutions, bringing together world experts to develop mechanisms and transparency tactics that actively prevent corruption.





UNITING GLOBAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTIVISTS IN LITHUANIA

Our biennial International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) is the largest event of its kind, bringing together heads of state, civil society leaders, business figures and investigative journalists from around the world. The IACC 2024, held in Vilnius, featured high-profile speakers, including the President of Lithuania, the US Coordinator on Global Anti-Corruption, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Vice President for integrity at the OECD and the Vice President of the World Bank. We welcomed thousands of delegates and organised over 100 sessions, tackling the biggest challenges in anti-corruption and driving forward solutions.

Through our Journalists for Transparency (J4T) initiative, young reporters worldwide are strengthening their investigative skills and are uncovering corruption and social injustices. By working with us, they gain the support, training and resources needed to hold power to account.

In 2024, we welcomed 21 journalism fellows to the IACC, where they covered key anti-corruption sessions and built their investigative capacity. Following four days of training and knowledge exchange at the conference, fellows now have the opportunity to apply for J4T reporting grants to launch their own corruption investigations.

J4T's impact extends far beyond the conference. In 2024, journalism fellow Neha Wadekar published It's Dirty Water in collaboration with The Intercept. The investigative piece, now gaining traction, examines the role of multinational corporations in Africa, highlighting the urgent need for stronger environmental safeguards and corporate transparency.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AWARDS 2024: INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS

In 2024, Liantsoa Rakotoarivelo from Transparency International Madagascar was announced as the winner in the Inspiring Young Leaders category of the Transparency International Movement Awards for her pioneering work in tackling sexual corruption in schools and universities. She developed the Pact for Bodily Integrity in Education and Higher Education, an innovative moral contract between teachers, parents and students, designed to reduce opportunities for sexual corruption and empower victims and witnesses to speak out.

WHY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SEXUAL CORRUPTION

While the term "sextortion" brought valuable attention to this insidious form of corruption, Transparency International has adopted sexual corruption as a more accurate term. Sextortion primarily focuses on extortive situations, while sexual corruption encompasses a broader range of abuses – always involving three key elements: abuse of power, a favour or advantage granted and a sexual act. This shift ensures that cases where a public official abuses their power in exchange for sex – regardless of who initiates it – are fully recognised as corruption.

Rakotoarivelo's fight against sexual corruption is deeply personal. Having experienced gender-based violence within her own family, she was met with silence and dismissal when she tried to speak out. Her determination to address these injustices led her to write a university thesis on sexual corruption, which ultimately became the foundation for her groundbreaking project.

As she continued her work, Rakotoarivelo investigated cases at a university's faculty of medicine and uncovered systemic abuses – students were pressured into



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This award motivates me to continue [taking action] in the fight against sexual corruption and for respect for the right to education. I hope it inspires other young people to believe in their power to change

Liantsoa Rakotoarivelo

Education Project Officer at Transparency International Madagascar

having sex with professors in exchange for internships. Despite facing dismissal, social taboos and even direct threats, she persisted. Over time, awareness grew and more students began speaking out. "Young people started talking about it more, and associations reached out to understand what sexual corruption truly is and how to tackle it. That awareness was a turning point," she recalls.

SUPPORTING YOUNG ACTIVISTS

Young people worldwide trust and collaborate with us to build their skills, strengthen their leadership and use our expertise to drive change on the issues that matter to them.

Committed to challenging democratic backsliding, we work alongside young people through our national chapters as they deepen their understanding of their democratic, political, legal, civil and human rights. By collaborating with us, young people gain firsthand experience in political participation and many aspects of democracy, which is particularly crucial in countries where a significant portion of the electorate is under 30.

In November, Transparency International Zimbabwe brought together 10 integrity ambassadors from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Rwanda and Zimbabwe as part of our Inclusive Service Delivery in Africa project. These young leaders, committed to improving health and education for women, girls and marginalised groups, used the forum

to exchange knowledge, strengthen their advocacy efforts and foster cross-country collaboration.

Through peer-to-peer learning and engagement with anti-corruption experts, they explored best practices for promoting transparent, accountable and inclusive health and education services. They also built their capacity in anti-corruption strategies and fundraising to drive their own social accountability initiatives.

Integrity ambassadors left the event having forged valuable connections, gained practical tools and become better equipped to push for meaningful reforms in their countries.

In March, young activists from our Indo-Pacific partnership for Strong, Transparent and Responsive Networks for Good Governance took centre stage at the third Summit for Democracy in South Korea. As part of the programme, the young activists led a panel that amplified their voices and provided international exposure. Five participants shared their work and challenged established organisations to engage more meaningfully with younger generations.

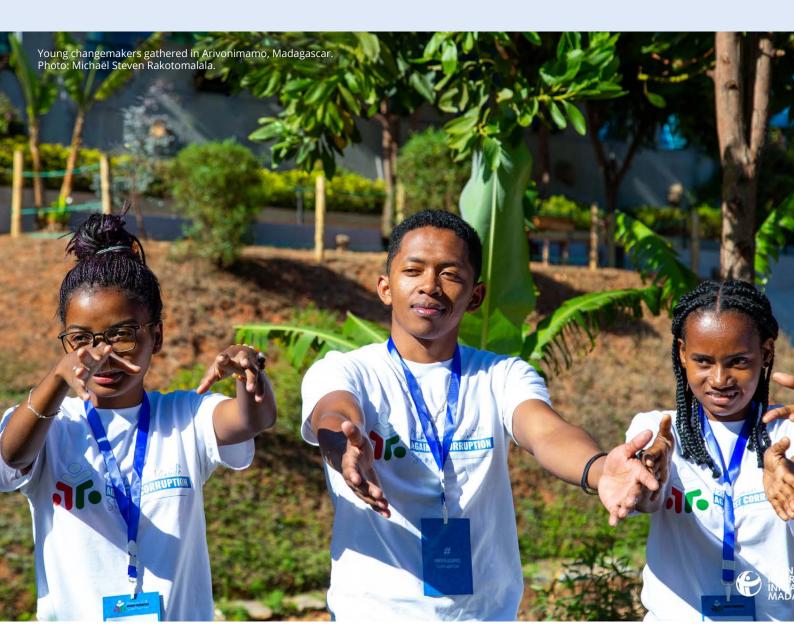
In the Solomon Islands, young leaders played a key role in safeguarding democracy. Our chapter launched a clean election campaign, mobilising the Youth for Democracy Network as election observers across 27 constituencies and 80 polling stations. From the opening of polling stations to ballot casting, sealing and counting, their vigilance helped ensure transparency and integrity throughout the process.

INTEGRITY BOOTCAMP: HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE FIGHT CORRUPTION IN MADAGASCAR

Since 2022, young activists have worked with Transparency International Madagascar through integrity bootcamps to develop the skills and knowledge needed to fight corruption. Many participants have since organised peaceful protests and awareness campaigns, including the creation of Youth and Citizens for Integrity, an association dedicated to promoting good governance in Madagascar.

In 2024, as part of the Herintsoa project, 24 young people took part in the latest integrity bootcamp

organised by our Madagascan chapter. They left with a deeper understanding of corruption, electoral integrity and the role of democratic institutions, strengthening their commitment to civic engagement. As a result, many participants went on to take action in their communities – some launched initiatives to promote political integrity, while others organised awareness campaigns on the importance of informed voting. The experience empowered them to engage directly in the democratic process, ensuring citizens are better prepared to make constructive choices in the upcoming municipal elections.









Above: In February 2024, Transparency International Madagascar trained 24 young people on anti-corruption and civic engagement ahead of the legislative elections. Photo: Vatsy Rakotonarivo.

To the left: Children who are part of the "impact clubs" participate in community activities with parents and local leaders in Honduras.
Photo: Dirección de Comunicaciones ASJ.



Above: In communities with high rates of violence, our Honduran chapter implements programmes for the prevention of violence, child sexual abuse, citizen training and social oversight in schools and health centres. Photo: Dirección de Comunicaciones, ASJ.

To the left: A participant explores Transparency International Australia's report *What does the energy transition mean for the mining sector?* during the Climate Integrity Dialogue, part of our Accountable Mining Programme in Melbourne. Photo: Eva Gorobets.

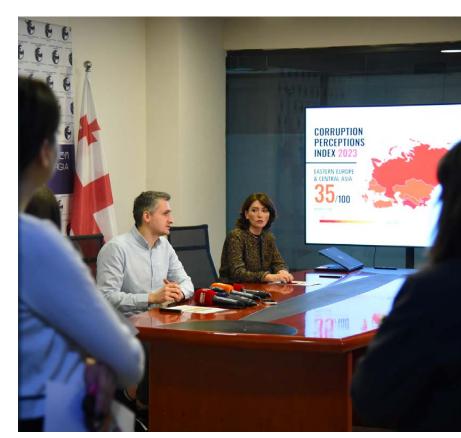




Above: The European Commission's second plenary meeting of the EU Network Against Corruption in Brussels. Photo: EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

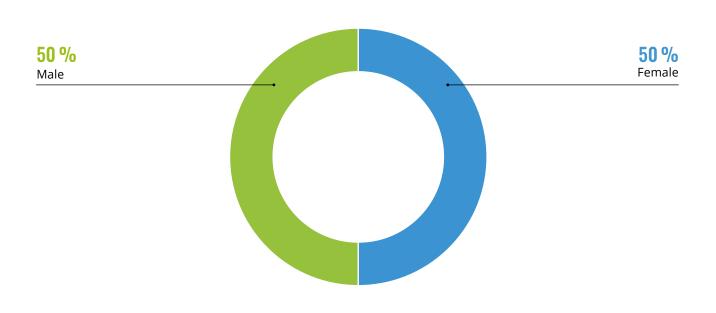
To the left: Transparency International Kenya's Integrity Walk. Photo: Transparency International Kenya.

Below: Transparency International Georgia's leadership team at a January 2024 press conference presenting the country's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) score, sparking national conversations on corruption and governance challenges. Photo: Transparency International Georgia.

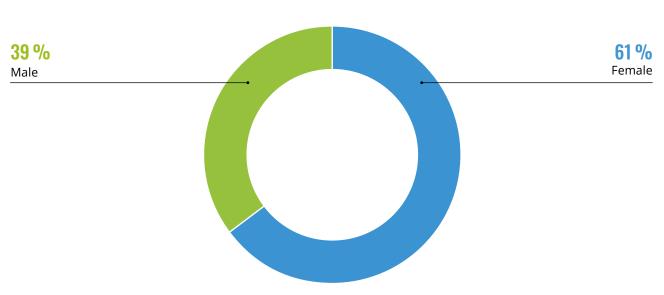


THE SECRETARIAT TEAM

LEADERSHIP TEAM GENDER BREAKDOWN*



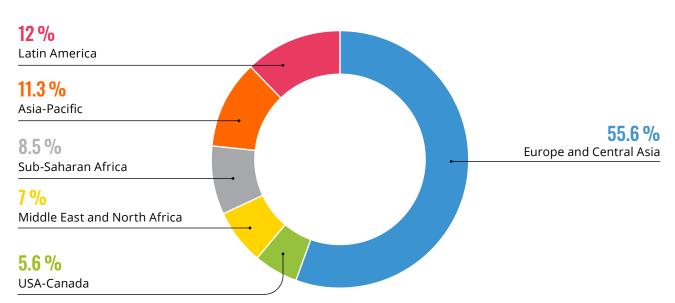
ALL STAFF GENDER BREAKDOWN*



* December 2024



REGIONAL DIVERSITY OF EMPLOYEES*



* December 2024

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION

Transparency International is a German-based non-profit association with 103 members, comprised of 98 national chapters and 5 individual members. Eight national chapters in formation are on the way to becoming national chapters and six national partner organisations support Transparency International's mission in their countries.

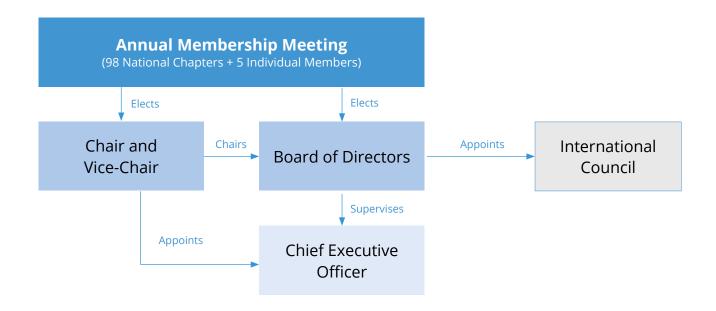
Our Annual Membership Meeting is the highest decision-making organ of Transparency International. The meeting elects and controls our Chair, Vice-Chair and Board of Directors. It also passes resolutions and discusses critical issues.

Our Board of Directors is the supervisory body of the association, while our Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the operations of Transparency International.

Our International Council is a body of experts providing advice to the whole Transparency International movement. Members of the International Council are appointed by the Board of Directors and can run for Chair, Vice-chair and Board elections.

In 2024, two new Board members were elected in the Annual Membership Meeting for three years: Dion Abdool from Transparency Trinidad and Tobago, and Apollinaire Mupiganyi from Transparency Rwanda. Christina Margaryan from Transparency Armenia was elected to the Membership Accreditation Committee.

The Annual Membership Meeting 2024 adopted three resolutions, changing the charter for enhanced clarity and foreseeability, asking for integration of occupation as a factor exacerbating corruption, and establishing our new global collaboration framework. The latter will smoothen network collaboration among National Chapters and Partners and allow for agile ways of working together on topical issues on a global level.



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

We remain committed to making the most of our financial resources. In 2024, we developed new, more in-depth budgeting tools and updated policies to keep in line with revised donor requirements and funding instruments. We revamped our financial risk management with increased reliance on technology to ensure thorough data collection and analysis. We increased our capacity building with dedicated visits to chapters and partners and a global workshop to facilitate exchanges of best practices in November.

Below we present a summary of our income and expenditure for 2024.

INCOME

Our operating income in 2024 reached €23.7 million, with a €2.4 million or 12 per cent increase compared to 2023. The increase mostly comprises restricted income, which increased by €2.2 million or 12 per cent as our project portfolio increased, and other income, which increased by €0.4 million or 186 per cent due to the registration fees earned by the International Anti-Corruption Conference, (a bi-annual event which was not held in 2023). Our project portfolio is expected to remain strong in 2025.

Recognised unrestricted income decreased by €0.2 million in 2024. Total availabilities from donors remained stable. However, results from fee income and financial gains were strong enough to cover a large portion of operating costs, making it possible to carry part of the contributions from institutional grants over to 2025. The deferral of €0.6 million in unrestricted income is considered in the approved operating budget for 2025 and is important for breaking even in the face of an expected decrease in financial gains and other income.

In 2024, financial gains were significant at €0.4 million, mainly due to the strong interest rates earned on cash deposits denominated in euros.

EXPENDITURE

Our operating expenditure totalled €23.9 million, with an increase of €2.5 million or 11 per cent, reflecting the changes in income. Transfers to national chapters and other partners increased by €1.1 million to €10.4 million, representing 44 per cent of total expenditure.

Other expenses increased by $\[\]$ 0.7 million or 20 per cent, driven by travel, consultancy costs and inflation. Consultancy costs increased as more project activities are outsourced to prevent an excessive growth of the headcount, which would not be sustainable in the long term. In any case, staff costs increased by $\[\]$ 0.7 million or 8 per cent to $\[\]$ 9.5 million, reflecting the greater size and number of projects implemented.

For more detail, see our full annual financial statements on our website.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Operating income					
Unrestricted	5,400	4,660	3,059	3,172	2,924
Restricted	16,969	12,681	16,501	17,873	20,058
Other	21	24	894	235	673
Total	22,390	17,366	20,454	21,280	23,655
Operating expenditure					
Total	22,316	17,332	20,996	21,397	23,907
Financial result	-41	-20	20	184	348
Surplus / Deficit	32	13	-522	67	97

Figures in thousands of euros.

These figures are for the Transparency International Secretariat. They do not include Friends of Transparency International and Transparency International EU, which are covered in the full audited financial statements.

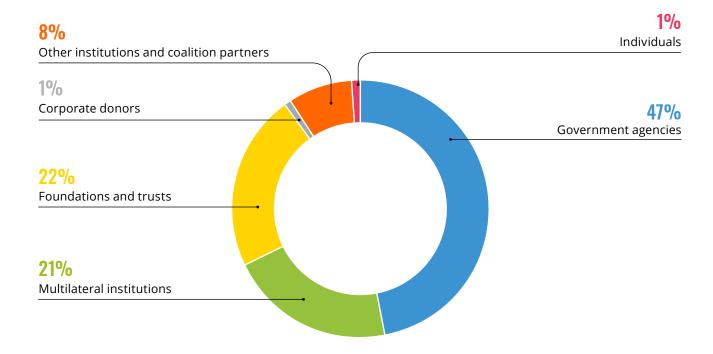
Financial result includes gains and losses, such as foreign exchange differences and interest.

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Staff	34%	41%	36%	41%	40%
National chapters and other partners	41%	43%	40%	43%	44%
Other	25%	16%	23%	16%	17%

Due to rounding of numbers, the percentages for each year may not add up exactly 100 per cent.

INCOME



TO OUR SUPPORTERS, THANK YOU

Thanks to your commitment, we have been able to achieve significant milestones in 2024. From empowering communities with the tools to demand accountability to advocating for stronger anti-corruption policies, your support has made a tangible difference. Together, we have shone a light on injustices and worked tirelessly to create a fairer, more transparent world.

Your belief and trust in our cause inspires us to continue our efforts with renewed vigour and determination. As we move forward, we remain committed to upholding the values of integrity, transparency and justice that we all hold dear.

To find out more about how you can support us, please contact us at fundraising@transparency.org or visit www.transparency.org/donate to make a gift towards a future free of corruption.



2024 DONORS

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Auswärtiges Amt
- Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
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- Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)
- Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- · Government of Liechtenstein
- · Government of the Republic of Lithuania
- Irish Aid
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand (MFAT)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Danida)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation (Sida)
- U.S. Department of State

FOUNDATIONS AND TRUSTS

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- Open Society Foundations
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- Roussev Family Fund
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Stichting Adessium
- Stichtung Hivos Netherlands
- · Swedish Postcode Foundation
- Waverley Street Foundation

COALITION PARTNERS

- · Corruption Watch (RF) NPC
- Kosova Democratic Institute (KDI)

MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS

- European Commission
- INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI)
- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

CORPORATES

- · Amazon, Inc.
- · Siemens AG (Integrity Initiative)

INDIVIDUALS

- · Baron Daniel Janssen
- · Gary Geoghegan
- · Johann Peter Jessen
- Julien Caubet
- · Laurenz Reichl
- · Nicolas Nemery
- Patrice PalmeroPatrick Kinsch
- Igor Volzhanin

We are also very grateful to all the other individuals who generously support our work in the fight against corruption.

OTHER DONORS

- CASE Coalition
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- Network For Good
- · Schwab Charitable
- The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
- The Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness ASBL
- · Vanguard Charitable



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Your donation will help us provide support to thousands of victims of corruption, develop new tools and research, and hold governments and businesses to their promises. We want to build a fairer, more just world. With your help, we can.

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