

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



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FOREWORD

Greetings from Transparency Maldives!

As we conclude another unprecedented year, we have learned to better navigate challenges, re-strategise how we engage with communities and explore new areas and sectors to focus our advocacy efforts. Our portfolios of projects increased to ten working across areas from election observations, climate governance, strengthening accountability and transparency of duty bearers, building closer and more engaging relationships with other CSOs and promoting resilience and social cohesion in the Maldives.

Some of the key milestones achieved during 2021 include:

- Independent Monitoring and Observation of the 2020 Local Council and Womens' Development Committee Elections with the support of 55 observers across 19 atolls, and the publication of the Election Observation Report
- Concluded the research on the public procurement system in the Maldives and launching the first publicly available research study on the Maldives Public Procurement System
- Publication of the Global Corruption Barometer survey with key findings that include public perception of government corruption and how direct experiences of corruption, through bribery, sextortion, or vote-buying, affect the lives of Maldivians.
- Drafted a Bill on Asset Declaration, currently being debated at the Parliament
- Awarded sub-grants to six civil society organisations supporting their efforts in building a more resilient and cohesive community.
- Concluded three pieces of researches to better understand the vulnerabilities of young people and communities to violence, crimes and radicalisation.

The work we do with the communities remains at the heart of what we do. We believe our voices are stronger together, and we are humbled to have been part of Haa. Alif Filladhoo's "Save Dhapparu" campaign. We also continued our awareness programs on Right to Information and Whistleblower Protection to contribute to the elimination of corruption in the Maldives.

Our work would not have been possible without the generous support and trust of our donors, the commitment of our staff members, board of directors and the invaluable time and contribution of our volunteers and interns who continue to believe in our cause. In 2022, we hope to further our efforts in holding the State to account while strengthening our engagements with communities. We plan to continue our work towards increasing community resilience and promoting transparency and advocating for good governance.

Asiath Rilweena
Executive Director

PART 1 – PROJECTS

1. Promoting Resilience in the Maldives (PRIME) Program

Promoting Resilience in Maldives (PRIME) is a 4-year project implemented by Transparency Maldives (TM), with support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The overall purpose of PRIME is to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations by addressing the barriers to social cohesion and resilience that prevent young people from achieving their full potential as economically and socially contributing citizens of Maldives. PRIME will foster community resilience and social cohesion to address social issues of concern to youth and their communities, thus, making them less vulnerable to violent extremist forces.

Under PRIME Project, TM has established partnerships with the key CVE stakeholders. As such, TM has signed Memorandum of Understandings with Maldives Polytechnic, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Education.

Additionally, the Project has convened an Advisory Committee in 2021 consisting key CVE stakeholders. A total of 3 meetings of the Committee was held in 2021. The Project also convened an Editorial Board in 2021 to provide technical support to develop PRIME's digests and CVE handbook.

Programmatic Updates:

Objective 1: Improved understanding of radicalization and violent extremism in Maldives

Under this objective, PRIME Project has worked on multiple studies and assessments to understand the CVE context in the Maldives including. As such the following 3 researches were finalized.

1. Study to understand the process of radicalization in prisons, juvenile detention centers and state care facilities
2. Situational analysis of pathways to social reintegration for inmates; and publication of CVE digests for target audiences
3. Mapping study to identify and characterize P/CVE programming in the Maldives

PRIME Project also aims to build technical knowledge and capacity of CVE actors of the Maldives to increase the effectiveness of their respective CVE efforts.

Objective 2: Enhanced agency and social cohesion of vulnerable populations

This objective of PRIME focuses on; (1) increasing prevention and response measures that address youth drug addiction, substance abuse, and youth involvement in criminal gangs, (2) Increasing prevention and response measures that address radicalization in prisons, and (3) addressing issues relating to sense of purpose and identity within the education system.

Under this objective, local NGOs have been sub-awarded to deliver the approved grants. As such, Dhivehi Masverin, Huvadhoo Aid, Journey, and Maldivian Red Crescent has been working on this objective since 2021.

Objective 3: Improved career prospects and employment opportunities for vulnerable youth

TM has worked closely with stakeholders including Maldives Polytechnic, Maldives National Institute of Sports, Maldives National Skills Development Authority, and Business Center Corporation to deliver the activities under this objective.

In 2021, TM conducted project scoping visits to the Cities of the Maldives, and have identified vocational trainings that needs to be conducted in target locations to meet the overall objective. Additionally, a 2-day Career Guidance event was conducted in Male' from 21st to 22nd December 2021 in collaboration with Maldives Polytechnic. The 'Vocational Career Fair 2021', provided participants the opportunity to learn from Polytechnic lecturers about vocational training courses and career opportunities available in the country in a hands-on environment where they were able to experience training instruments. Maldives Polytechnic, Maldives National University, Ministry of Higher Education, and Business Center Corporation conducted information sessions on career guidance, higher education opportunities, and job and business opportunities. A total of 11 schools of Greater Male' area, and 352 participants (167 Male and 185 Female) participated in the fair.



2. Climate Integrity Project

Climate Integrity Project (CIP) is a multi-year project funded by the German Ministry of Environment (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety). Given that climate change is one of the biggest problems facing the world today, large sums of money are being invested in adaptation and mitigation projects across the world. The fear is that with the fast-track arrangements and the billions of dollars that are being pledged to the climate cause, this 'climate money' may be lost to corruption, if governance and capacity deficit exists.

Undertaken simultaneously in 7 climate vulnerable countries and led by Transparency International, the overall aim of this project is to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in the governance of climate finance policy globally and nationally. In doing so, it is hoped that it will contribute to more effective, efficient, and equitable climate finance which meets adaption and mitigation objectives as well as achieve greater climate policy legitimacy and better achievement of related poverty reduction and development goals.

The project engages with climate governance stakeholders to raise awareness, capacity build and to better understand and contribute to the development of good governance standards in the institutions and processes that are responsible for climate finance.

Programmatic Updates:

Panel Disussion

A panel discussion under “Dhagana Series” was organized to mark the World Environment Day on June 5th. The panel aimed to spread awareness about the various crimes against the ecosystems in the Maldives and the urgency there is to protect them. With 4 panelists the session was held online via zoom as well as live on Facebook. The session reached 845 views and the discussion was picked up by a local news outlet.

RTI session for Ha. Filladhoo council and community

During a visit to Ha. Filladhoo, TM conducted an RTI session for the 5 council members aiming to create awareness on RTI and promote the culture of proactive disclosure by the local council.

Additionally, an information session was conducted open to the public. 36 participants were given an overview of the the RTI law including the RTI submitting process and appeal process at the review committee stage, Information commission appeal and appeal to High Court. Throughout the session, the discussion also extended on how citizens can use the RTI as a tool to hold government institutions accountable.

Workshop on Circular Economy for Noonu Atoll

A workshop on Circular Economy was conducted in N. Maafaru on October 2, under the partnership of ZeroWaste Maldives. With 50 participants from the islands of Noonu atoll attended the workshop including councillors, WDC, and waste management committee members. The workshop importance of efficient waste management which will aid in the drafting of the action plan towards the circular economy.

Radio interview for a French Radio

TM was requested for an interview by a visiting journalist from Radio France and discuss environmental governance and the negative impact of unsustainable tourism development. Throughout the interview, TM was able to raise concerns on the difficulty in tracking climate finance and the lack of public consultation in the processes of a development project which leaves a destructive impact on the environment. The first part of the interview was aired on 5th November along with an article piece.

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Dive Club Maldives

5 June 2021 | 4:30 - 6:00 pm
ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 939 7931 5793

Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed, Deputy Director General, EPA Specialist in environmental social science related to climate change adaptation focused on small low-lying islands. His research interests are on climate change impacts on small island communities and adaptation for post sea-level scenarios.

Abdulla Masrath (Haththu), Managing Director, Dive Club Maldives Diving since 1993 as a professional diver. His professional dive career started in 1993. Within the time period of 1993 to 1996, he obtained experience diving different regions of Maldives on multiple dive safaris.

Humaida Abdul Gafoor (Humay), Volunteer, Save Maldives Campaign Volunteer for the Save Maldives Campaign, a citizen-led initiative which began its environmental activism in 2017. She is a social researcher and has been working with citizen advocates and CSOs in the Maldives and elsewhere for a number of years.

Mohamed Shumais He is completing a PhD programme in Energy Economics & Policy from a South Korean university. He has engaged in research and projects related to waste management, energy, biodiversity, and livelihood.

Moderator: Shazilya Ali, Grants and Outreach Manager, TM
Strong advocate for climate finance transparency and inclusive governance


**TRANSPARENCY
MALDIVES**
Accountability Integrity

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WASTE TO ENERGY: CAN IT EVER BE CALLED CLEAN OR RENEWABLE ENERGY?

31 March 2021 | 4:30 - 6:00 pm



Ahmed Afrah Ismail
Co Founder of Zero Waste Maldives, Mechanical Engineer and Open Data Advocate.



Aisha Niyaz
Sustainability Consultant and advocate for urgent action to address the climate crisis, with 20 years of hands-on experience across all the atolls of the Maldives.



Aimon Latheef
Right to Information activist with a background in environmental management and social advocacy.



Shaziya Ali
Grants and Outreach Manager at Transparency Maldives and advocate for climate finance transparency and inclusive governance.

Moderator





3. Strong Transparent, Responsive and Open Networks for Good Governance (STRONGG) Project

With support from the TI-Indo Pacific Partnership for Strong, Transparent, Responsive & Open Networks for Good Governance (TI IPP STRONGG) 2020-2023 funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), TI Maldives aims to strengthen anti-corruption actors' capacity to tackle corruption issues and enhance good governance in the country. Through the SEEDD project, TI Maldives is working towards improving the national anti-corruption legal framework, increasing the compliance capacity of both public and private sectors, and encouraging people's use of social accountability mechanisms to take action against corruption. The SEEDD project will contribute to enhanced state of governance in the Maldives and increased public trust in institutions.

Programmatic Updates:

Conduct an SDG16 Gap Analysis – A local consultant was hired to conduct a national Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 16) analysis. The study was conducted over 4 months and will be published in April 2022.

Conduct a Study on Corruption in the Health Sector – A team of international consultants were hired to conduct a study in the Maldives health sector. A first of its kind, this study is being conducted with the involvement of all major stakeholders in the sector. The consultants will be producing two deliverables; an advocacy paper and a white paper. Both documents will be translated from English to Dhivehi. The study will be published in June 2022.

Conduct UNCAC Gap Analysis – Similar to the SDG16 Gap Analysis, an analysis of the Maldives' compliance with United Nations Conventions against Corruption (UNCAC) is being conducted. This study is being conducted in-house.

Lobby for a robust Asset Declaration Bill – A national consultant was hired to draft bill on the declaration of financial and other interests. The bill has been drafted, finalised, and shared with the Deputy Speaker of the Peoples Majlis. On 7th March 2022, the Peoples Majlis accepted the Bill and is now in the Committee Stage.

4. Enhancing The Practice of Business Integrity (EPBI) Project

Enhancing The Practice of Business Integrity (EPBI) Project is a 2-year project implemented by Transparency Maldives with support from The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE). The key objectives of the project are: 1) to improve transparency and accountability of state-owned enterprises' management and governance; and 2) to enhance awareness of effective business integrity practices within civil society and the private sector

To improve transparency and accountability of SOEs' management and governance is to develop a Corporate Governance Index to measure the practices of SOEs existing transparency and accountability practices in comparison to the best practices of OECD Guidelines on corporate governance for SOE. Public outreach and engagement activities includes a social media campaign to raise awareness, publishing articles and opinion pieces and short videos. A Webinar will be created on how to read and use the Corporate Governance Index and the webinar will be used to engage and empower local councils. During the course of the project government-focused advocacy will be used to report findings and recommendations.

Programmatic Updates:

Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Training (Online) was conducted for project and MEL staff of TM during the final quarter of 2021. The training was organized and facilitated by the MEL team from CIPE and consisted of 3 sessions focusing on MEL findings, MEL planning, data management, ethics and standards for better MEL. A total of 8 staff from TM joined the sessions.

Business Integrity Training (Online) In-line with the project objective to enhance awareness of business integrity and ethics, EPBI team coordinated with CIPE to facilitate 2 live sessions focusing on business integrity and 1 recorded session focusing on Anti-corruption Compliance. A total of 11 staff from TM joined the sessions which were held during November 2021.

5. Strengthening Accountability Networks Among Civil Society (SANCUS) Project

The Strengthening Accountability Networks among Civil Society (SANCUS) Project, managed by Transparency International, helps ordinary citizens in 21 countries to call for greater accountability from governments and the institutions responsible for overseeing them.

The objective of the Project, implemented by Transparency Maldives from June 2021 to November 2023, is to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for the operation and functionality of SOEs as well as improving the governance, functions and operations of SOEs in the Maldives.

Programmatic Updates:

Monitored two standing committees of the Parliament which has oversight responsibilities pertaining to SOEs: State Owned Enterprises Committee and Public Accounts Committee. Issues submitted to the Committees and reports worked by the Committees were monitored and reviewed from May 2019 until November 2021.

The work of the Anti-Corruption Commission was monitored for the past five years (2015-2020).

Work of Privatization and Corporatization Board was monitored. As information on PCB's work was not available via the Ministry of Finance's website, RTIs and email communication were used to collect information for monitoring purposes.

Reviewed the quarterly audit reports by the Auditor General's Office from first quarter of 2014 to second quarter of 2021.

Preparatory work for the Anti-Corruption Conference 2022.

Prepared concept note for Journalist training.

Conducted an implementation review of SOE governance related outcomes in the SAP.

6. Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC)

The Advocacy & Legal Advice Center (ALAC) is a free legal advice center for victims and witnesses of corruption and human rights violation. ALAC acts as a platform for citizens to voice out their grievances and assists them in pursuing their complaints. It is hoped that with the help of ALAC, citizens are also empowered to translate their complaints into structural change.

In addition to legal aid, ALAC also undertakes advocacy on broader reform for enhanced transparency, accountability and integrity of public institutions such as its work on right to information, and whistleblowing. Public campaigns highlighting individual stories, outreach programs to create citizen demand for social accountability and capacity building institutions on good governance through trainings are some of the activities that ALAC undertakes amongst a host of others.

Programmatic Updates:

Provide free legal advice and assistance to victims and witnesses of corruption – To mark international migrants day, ALAC took part as a legal partner at the health and legal camp organized by Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC).

Provide over the phone free legal advice and assistance to victims and witnesses of corruption – This activity is conducted throughout the year



7. Civic Education Project

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) – an independent and non-partisan organization – is implementing its “Strong and Inclusive Maldivian Democracy (SIMD)” program in the Maldives. Under SIMD, IFES is working with government stakeholders as well as civil society partners to build more sustainable, accountable and effective governance mechanisms in the Maldives. A key objective of the program is improved civic education and engagement with government.

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Programmatic Updates:

Introduction to Human Rights

TM met with and gave a presentation on introduction to Human Rights to grade 6-9 students of Thaajudheen School’s Human Rights Club. This was part of a series of these presentations planned by the Civic Ed team to start garnering interests of school students in participating in future civic education youth camps that will be organized by TM.

8. Public Finance Management (PFM) Project

The PFM project is funded by the USAID and implemented by the Ministry of Finance. TM has been subcontracted to perform one component of the project, related to the strengthening of the public procurement system. This component includes activities such as assisting in the conduct of a baseline assessment of current levels of disclosure against the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative Infrastructure Data Standard, working through the National Tender Board to support compliance with international contracting data disclosure, and working to establish a new technical committee to promote improved transparency and competitiveness of public procurement, involving civil society representatives.



The component is designed such that TM would provide support to the international expert to be recruited for the project, and will work with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure.

In order to provide the support required from TM for the project, a local expert was hired in the 2nd quarter of 2021. Work was undertaken to gather all relevant documentation that would assist the project and do research to support the project. However, there were significant delays on the part of the Ministry of Finance and the subcontractor of the project, DAI, in recruiting an international expert for the project, and therefore, no project activities were undertaken during the year 2021. During the 1st quarter of 2022, USAID informed TM of their decision to terminate the component of the project due to a funding realignment on their part. Given this decision, TM proceeded to terminate the employment contract with the local expert, and closed the project.

9. Elections Project

Advancing the values of transparency and integrity in electoral processes is a core part of TM's work as the only organization that conducts nationwide election observation in the Maldives. In addition to election observation efforts, TM also conducts advocacy and lobbying on electoral legal reform and nationwide civic and voter education programs.

The objectives of 2021's Elections Projects were 1) To mobilize citizen voice and participation for free, fair, and inclusive electoral processes in the Local Council and WDC Election 2021, 2) To assess the quality of women's inclusion and participation in all the stages of electoral processes and 3) To assess whether the voting rights of any vulnerable groups were impacted as a result of the pandemic

Observer and volunteer training

The observers and volunteers underwent a one-day training which covered election day processes, roles and responsibilities of the observers and volunteers among other things. The observers and volunteers signed a pledge code of conduct. An election handbook was compiled and distributed to the observers. A total of 55 observers were recruited and accredited for the election day observation.

LTOs were trained virtually in two batches

Long term Observer introductory training was held on 7th March 2021 with 34 long term observers. The training was conducted to give a general idea of the electoral process and observer roles and ethics. The second one was held on 16th March 2021 with 50 observers.

Civic education trainings

Civic Training was held virtually on 21 March 2021 for CBOs, observers, and TM staff. A total of 47 participants took part in the training. The training mainly covered two sessions, decentralization and inclusivity.

Door to Door activity

TM mobilised the LTOs to disseminate civic education materials through door to door activities. A total of 4500 leaflets that included information on the role of councils, their responsibilities, characteristics of a good leader, and how to hold the councils accountable were distributed by our observers to the general public.

Panel discussions - Muraka Vaahaka

Due to restrictions on holding physical activities, TM utilized its existing online platforms such as 'Dagana' panel discussions to reach out to the general public with important local election related information. In this regard, on 24th March, the first panel 'Muraka Vaahaka' was organized in line with World Forest Day. The panel was aimed to spread awareness on the role of local councils in managing local resources and ecosystems, and the importance of electing capable candidates for the local councils and WDCs. The session was held online via zoom and simultaneously lived on Facebook. The session was attended by 27 participants via zoom, 17 via Facebook live and the recording reached 2.2k views.

Panel discussions - Energy to Waste: Can it ever be called clean or renewable?

The second panel discussion was held on March 31 on the Global Day of Action initiated by GAIA. The discussion was designed around a mega waste management project, highlighting the role of voters and local councilors to ensure successful completion of development projects, and hold the central government accountable if the project fails to deliver as planned. Furthermore, the session highlighted the issues around policies and implementation of waste management projects, and the importance of RTI in understanding the issue and holding the authorities accountable. The session was held via Zoom and lived on Facebook. The session was attended by 19 participants via zoom, 12 via Facebook live and the recording reached 3k views.

TV and Radio programs

As the election was held in the midst of a pandemic majority of the campaign activities were done online or/and covered by the TV/Radio stations. Hence, only very few civic/voter education related programs were produced by the stations, limiting the opportunity for TM to continue our usual election advocacy and awareness work via Television. However, the TM participated in an interactive live radio show along with Election Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission representatives and an interactive TV program with Election Commission Staff. While Radio show focused on civic education components, the TV program had a focus on voter education and information.

Roundtable discussion on Local Council and WDC Election 2020

Election observation report was released on 15th of August at 9:30 am to 12:00 pm at 9th flr, Solite Restaurant, Ameer Ahmed Magu. The event started with a session to present the findings of the observation followed by a Q & A session.



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WASTE TO ENERGY: CAN IT EVER BE CALLED CLEAN OR RENEWABLE ENERGY?

31 March 2021 | 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Ahmed Afrah Ismail
Co Founder of Zero Waste Maldives, Mechanical Engineer and Open Data Advocate.

Aisha Niyaz
Sustainability Consultant and advocate for urgent action to address the climate crisis, with 20 years of hands-on experience across all the atolls of the Maldives.

Aimon Latheef
Right to Information activist with a background in environmental management and social advocacy.

Moderator

Shaziya Ali
Grants and Outreach Manager at Transparency Maldives and advocate for climate finance transparency and inclusive governance.

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MURAKA VAAHAKA

24 March 2021 | 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Shaziya Saeed, Saazu
Founder, Save Our Waves Maldives

Shaha Hashim
Project Manager at Maldives Resilient Reefs/ Blue Marine Foundation

Aminath Ahmed, Aunty
Sh Kanditheemu Council President

Moderator

Shaziya Ali
Grants and Outreach Manager, Transparency Maldives

10. Maldives: Amplifying New Entrepreneur Voices

In February 2020, Transparency Maldives and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the right to information regime through providing technical support, exchange programs and building capacity of the institution. As part of the ongoing effort, Transparency Maldives has already delivered a performance evaluation framework, a monitoring guideline to evaluate information officers and institutional compliance, and provided feedback on key regulations such as open hearings and gift registry policy to the Information Commission.

Programmatic Updates:

RTI Pilot Training

The RTI pilot training was held virtually via Zoom on 23 and 24 March 2021. The first day of the training covered the background information regarding the RTI and the RTI process, while the second day focused around the exemptions and proactive disclosure obligations under the RTI Act. As this was the pilot training, TM aimed to conduct the training with a small group in order to be able to get detailed feedback on how we can improve for future trainings. The training was facilitated by TM's Project Coordinator, Hassan Hamoodh, and Project Officer, Aisha Rafha Mohamed. In addition, RTI activist, Ahmed Aimon Latheef shared his experience in accessing information under the RTI Act. Ten participants signed up for the training, seven attended the first day of the training (4 female and 3 male) and four attended the second day (2 female and 2 male).

LGA Councilors Orientation – RTI Session on Proactive Disclosure

TM conducted an online session on proactive disclosure obligations under RTI on 25 May 2021, as part of the orientation for newly elected Councilors and Women's Development Committee members. The orientation was organized by Local Government Authority with collaboration with International Republican Institute. The presentation covered the main provisions of the RTI Act and focused on the proactive disclosure obligations that councils are required to meet.

RTI Session with Family Protection Authority

TM conducted an online session on RTI for the employees of the Family Protection Authority on 14 June 2021. The session highlighted the basics of the RTI as well as the proactive disclosure obligations imposed upon the State Institutes under the RTI Act.

RTI Training for University Students

TM conducted an RTI training targeted towards university students who could benefit from using the RTI in conducting their research.

Eight students (8 female) from three local universities participated in the training. The training was conducted over four sessions on 19th June 2021 via Zoom, where the primary focus of the sessions was on the process of requesting for information and exemptions under the RTI Act.

RTI Training for Information Officers & Review Committee members of Councils in HDh. Atoll

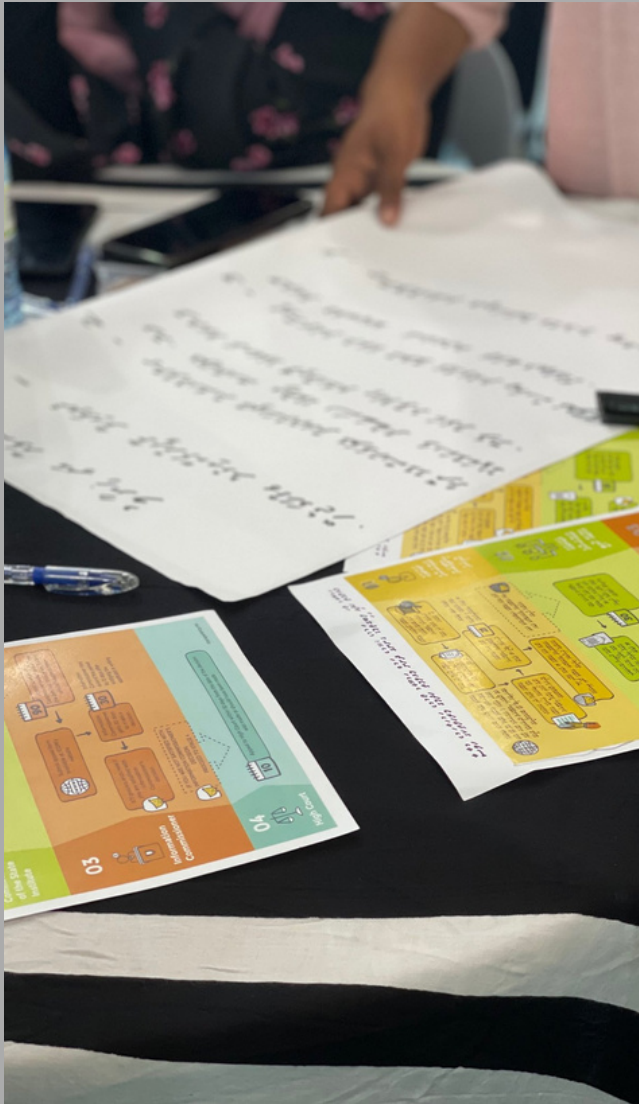
RTI Training was conducted the Information Officers and Review Committee members of Councils in Haa Dhaalu Atoll. The training was held via Zoom on 5th July 2021, where 14 staff (6 female and 8 male) attended the training. The training focused specifically on the duties of Information Officers and members of the Review Committee, as well as obligations that State Institutes are required to fulfil under the RTI Act. One of the primary focus of the training was therefore the importance of proactively disclosing information and the proactive disclosure obligations imposed on the State Institutes under the RTI Act.

RTI Training for State Institutes in Greater Male' Area

TM conducted an RTI training at Hotel Jen in Male' on 9 September 2021. This was the first in-person training as Covid-19 cases subsided towards the end of first half of 2021 and the movement restrictions were lifted. The training was targeted for the Information Officers and members of Review Committee of the State Institutes in greater Male' area. 24 staff (16 female and 8 male) from 14 State Institutes attended the full-day training. The training was targeted to create awareness and practice on important provisions of the RTI Act including exempted information and proactive disclosure obligations. During the training, a short Q&A session was facilitated by ICOM where the participants had the opportunity to ask questions and clarifications regarding the obligations imposed on State Institutes, including Information Officers and members of the Review Committee, under the RTI Act.

RTI Training for State Institutes in Noonu Atoll

An RTI training was held on 30 September 2021, in Noonu Atoll Holhudhoo. The training was aimed at Information Officers and members of Review Committee of the State Institutes in Noonu Atoll. A total of 22 participants (7 female and 15 male) attended the training from the Councils and other State Institutes. The first half of the training covered an introduction to RTI, the importance of ensuring access to information and the RTI process under the RTI Act. The second half covered exempted information and proactive disclosure obligations under the RTI Act which was followed by discussion of case laws and an assessment of proactive disclosure obligations by the State Institutes.



PART 2 – SOCIAL MEDIA ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

Social media campaign for elections project

TM kicked off the social media messaging by launching a comprehensive video done on 'decentralisation and roles of councils' (reached 27.4k and generated 270 engagements) under a LCE/WDC 2021 3 local governance strengthening project funded by the EU. Additionally, 15 graphic posts and two videos were produced under this subaward. Video 1 focused on public participation (reached 4.1k and generated 55 engagement) and Video 2 was on promoting women to leadership roles (reached - 19.9k and generated 105 engagement) Furthermore, a Viber community was created to disseminate information related to civic components and election day. The Viber community reached over 330 members. A Viber sticker pack (12 stickers) was made available for election day related messages. The stickers were shared on the Viber community groups in addition to the graphic.

#MageyHissa - Social media campaign for EPBI and SANCUS,

To create awareness on governance of SOEs, project teams commenced a SOE social media campaign, where TM launched the hashtag (#mageyHissa; loosely translated to "my share, my say"). Campaign aims to disseminate continuous social media messaging on creating awareness and highlighting and advocating for SOE related issues.

#SaveDhapparu Campaign – Climate project

Following a community-led campaign in Ha. Filladhoo after changes were brought to the island following a presidential decree, the campaign team reached out to TM looking to amplify the campaign calls further. A team from TM travelled to Ha. Filladhoo on September 6 and actively shared advocacy messages on social media under the hashtag #SaveDhapparu kickstarted by Filladhoo community. These messages made demands to consult public on matters concerning their community, land and resources. Furthermore, with the information gathered from locals regarding the historical importance of Dhapparu,

TM launched a website under the name storiesfromdhapparu taking the stories of the locals to the broader public. The website includes a curation of photos and videos taken in Ha. Filladhoo during September 2021.

TM also joined the SaveDhapparu campaign team in submitting the petition to the parliament and the President's office on September 21. The campaign was well received by the public and gained ample media coverage throughout. Following the successful campaign, the president's office revoked the decree and reinstated Dhapparu as part of Filladhoo jurisdiction.



PART 3 – FINANCE UPDATES

Overview of Finance

Over the recent two years, it surfaced a need for Transparency Maldives (TM) to ensure good internal controls were in place, such as making sure all processes are documented and knowledge is transferred, so that entity is prepared for transition process if a long-term employee were to leave.

2021 was specially a year of transition of key employees in finance, which has led to an initiation of review of the existing system to identify the gaps in the system which needs to be addressed.

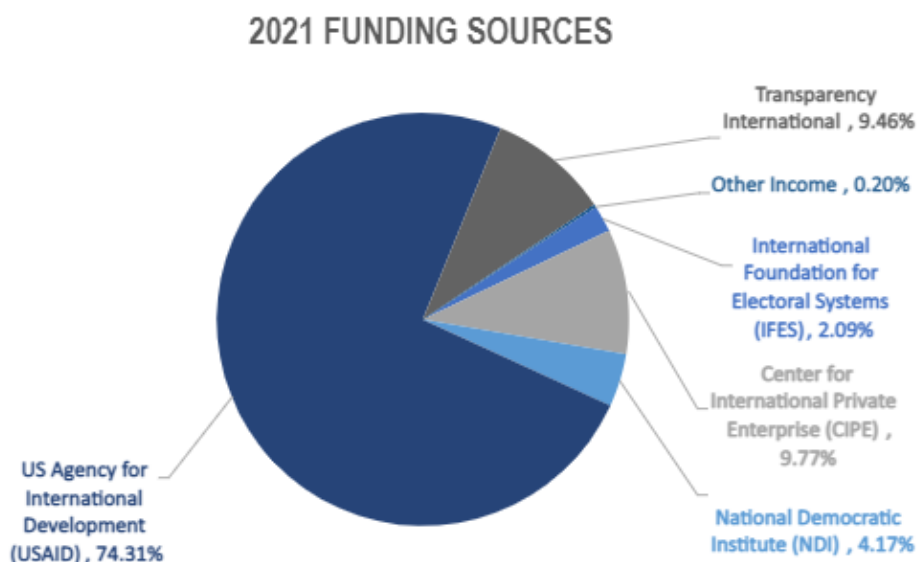
Below is a summary of our income and expenditure for 2021.

INCOME

Our operating income in 2021 was USD 912,012. This was an increase of more than double the amount of operating income in 2020, which was USD 400,745.

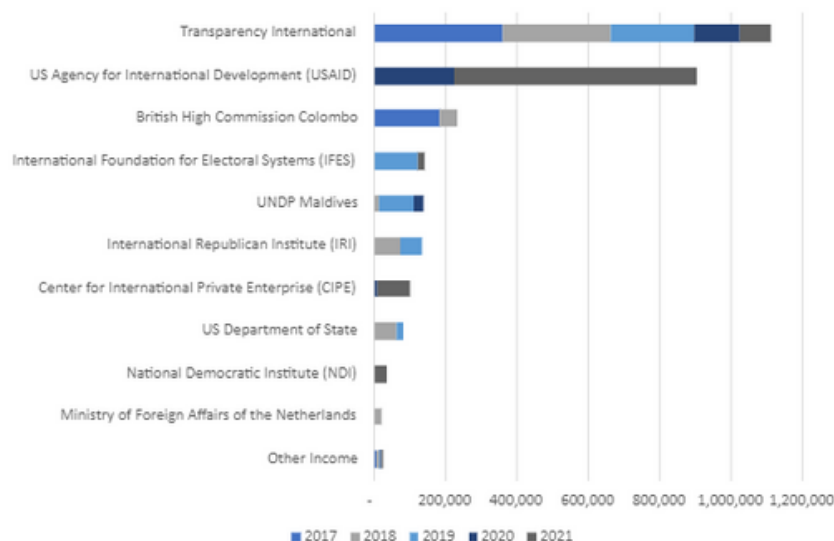
The increase was mainly due to more activities being carried out than the previous year, after the recovery from covid-phase which had slowed down operational activities of all projects handled by TM.

Major component of operating income was contributed by USAID which amounts to USD 677,736, around 74% of the total income received for the year.



PART 3 – FINANCE UPDATES

DONATIONS RECEIVED OVER TIME (USD)



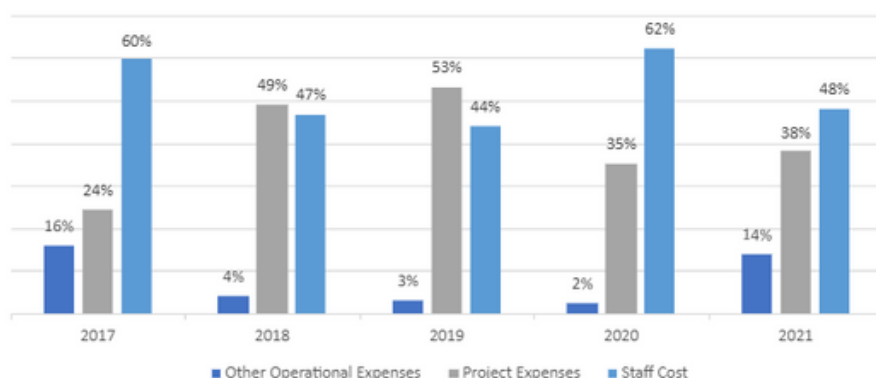
EXPENDITURE

Our operating expenditure in 2021 totaled USD 936,954. This is a significant increase from previous year expenditure of USD 375,942. The increase was due to same factors which has led to the increase in income, that is more projects being implemented which had previously faced delays due to the pandemic.

The major component of expenditure was staff expenses, which amounts to USD 449,746, around 62% of the total expenditure for the year. Staff cost had increased from USD 233,979 in 2020 to USD 449,746, almost 92% increase. The increase resulted majorly from hiring for new roles which has been created for project management.

The combined project expenditure and other operational expenses amounted to a total of USD 487,208, around 52% of the total expenditure. These costs had a significant increase from USD 141,963 in 2020 to USD 487,208. The changes were mainly resulting from more activities being carried out after almost a halt due to the pandemic.

CHANGES IN EXPENDITURE OVER TIME



PART 3 – FINANCE UPDATES

Statement of Financial Position (Audited)

All currency is in United States Dollars unless otherwise stated

This is TM's financial position for 2020 and 2021 and the audit was done by MHPA LLP.

	Notes	31 December 2021	31 December 2020
ASSETS			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	3	58,409	280
		<u>58,409</u>	<u>280</u>
Current Assets			
Prepaid Expenses	5	8,522	5,586
Receivables	7	100,203	103,581
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4	204,609	309,029
Advances & Deposits	6	8,800	28,141
		<u>322,134</u>	<u>446,337</u>
Total Assets		<u>380,543</u>	<u>446,617</u>
EQUITY & LIABILITIES			
Capital & Reserves			
Reserves		212,394	232,646
		<u>212,394</u>	<u>232,646</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables	8	93,963	38,887
Deferred Income	11	74,186	175,084
		<u>168,149</u>	<u>213,971</u>
Total Equity & Liabilities		<u>380,543</u>	<u>446,617</u>

PART 3 – FINANCE UPDATES

Statement of Comprehensive Income

All currency is in United States Dollars unless otherwise stated

	Notes	31 December 2021	31 December 2020
Income	9	912,012	400,745
Total Operating Income		912,012	400,745
Operating and Administrative Expenses	10	(936,954)	(375,942)
Net Operating Income		(24,942)	24,803
Finance Income		-	-
Net Surplus / (Deficit)		(24,942)	24,803

PART 4 – KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER & EXCHANGE

- 9 June 2021 - Diplomatic World Roundtable Discussion on Sustainability by Diplomatic World Institute, Virtual
- 11 June 2021 - Workshop on Gender Climate Change and Corruption by TI-S, Virtual
- 3 - 4 August 2021 - Workshop on Enhancing Climate Policy Engagement by Transparency International, Virtual
- 17 August 2021 - Media Literacy and Disinformation Awareness by NDI, Salt Cafe', Male'
- 19 August 2021 - SANCUS MEL Framework by SANCUS Project, Virtual
- 24 August 2021 - Information Session on Impact of Climate Change and Environmental Policy in the Maldives by UN Climate Change Conference of the Youth-Maldives, Virtual
- 25 August 2021 - SWA Virtual Multi-Stakeholder Self-Assessment Meeting by Watercare, Virtual
- 25 August 2021 - Session on Environmental Democracy by Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Virtual
- 26 August 2021 - Using digital tools to support anti-corruption initiatives by SANCUS project, the Asia Pacific Knowledge Exchange Initiative (KEI), and the ALAC network, Virtual
- 31 August 2021 - Training on protecting information and systems by USAID, Male'
- 17 September 2021 - "Best Practices of K-Monitor: Red Flags Tool to Monitor Risky Tenders in Hungary" & Best Practices of EconLab: ZINDEX Public Buyer Rating by Transparency International - Ukraine, Virtual
- 27 September 2021 - Strategies and Tools to Detect and Counter Disinformation by National Democratic Institute (NDI), Salt Cafe, Male'
- 5, 13 & 27 October 2021 - Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Training by CIPE, Virtual
- 20 - 21 October 2021 - The fifth Asian Electoral Stakeholder Forum (AESF 5) by The Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL), Virtual
- 2 - 4 November 2021 - Business Integrity Training by Center for International Private Enterprises (CIPE), Virtual
- 10 November 2021 - SANCUS Mastermind Session: Engaging Reluctant Duty Bearers by Transparency International, Virtual
- 14 - 17 November 2021 - Dirty Money Advocacy Training by STRONGG Team of TM, Virtual
- 18 - 22 December 2021 - Climate Resilience Youth Camp by the Climate Resilience Team of Transparency Maldives , K. Himmafushi

PART 5 – PUBLICATIONS, PRESS STATEMENTS & GOVERNANCE UPDATES

14 January 2021: Position Paper on Political Finance Transparency

<https://transparency.mv/publications/position-paper-political-finance-transparency/>

5 January 2021: Position Paper on Good Practice Procedure on Appointment and Dismissal of Members of Independent Institutions

<https://transparency.mv/publications/position-paper-good-practice-procedure-on-appointment-and-dismissal-of-members-of-independent-institutions/>

5 January 2021: Position Paper on Unsolicited Proposals in a Nutshell

<https://transparency.mv/publications/position-paper-unsolicited-proposals-in-a-nutshell/>

14 January 2021: Review of the Electoral Legal Framework of the Maldives

<https://transparency.mv/publications/review-of-the-electoral-legal-framework/>

29 April 2021: Handbook on Proposal Writing for Grants

<https://transparency.mv/publications/handbook-on-proposal-writing-for-grants/>

3 June 2021: Press Statement on Proposed Amendments to the Penal Code on Criminalizing Hate Speech

<https://transparency.mv/publications/press-statement-on-proposed-amendments-to-the-penal-code-on-criminalizing-hate-speech/>

5 June 2021: Position Paper on Understanding Environmental Crimes and Ecocides in the Maldives

<https://transparency.mv/publications/position-paper-on-understanding-environmental-crimes-and-ecocides-in-the-maldives/>

14 December 2021: Position Paper on Promoting Integrity in Public Procurement

<https://transparency.mv/publications/position-paper-promoting-integrity-in-public-procurement/>

10th April 2021: Press release - Opening of the Polling Centres

<https://transparency.mv/downloads/press-statement-opening-of-polls-of-the-local-council-and-womens-development-committee-elections-2021/>

10th April 2021: Press release - Closing of the Polling Centres

<https://transparency.mv/downloads/press-statement-closing-of-the-polling-stations-for-the-local-council-and-womens-development-committee-elections-2021/>

15th August 2021: Election Observation Report

<https://transparency.mv/downloads/election-observation-report-local-council-and-womens-development-committee-election-2020/>

PART 6 – BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD MEETINGS HELD

Chairperson: Mr. Ahmed Muizzu

Financial Controller: Mr. Mohamed Inaz

General Secretary: Ms. Hazrath Rasheed Hussain

General Board Member: Ms. Najiya Hameed

Meeting #	Date	Main Discussions
Meeting 1	7th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation and discussion of board policies
Meeting 2	11th March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation and discussion of board policies• PRIME and Elections project updates
Meeting 3	3rd May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of AGM date and agenda• Discussion regarding employee health insurance• Presentation on 2020 Audited Financial Report
Meeting 4	25th November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on EU systems audit findings