



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - PAKISTAN

Combatting Corruption: Changing Perceptions



“At the end of the day we are accountable to ourselves - our success is a result of what we do”

Catherine Pulsifer

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“It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do.”
Moliere



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Cover Story: Climate Financing-the next big move

We do not inherit this world from our ancestors, we have borrowed it for our children. It's resources are a debt on us, and we must manage it safely for our future generation. The increasing toll on human and physical capital due to climate change-induced disasters has been well documented with adaptation and mitigation costs running into millions of dollars with every passing day.

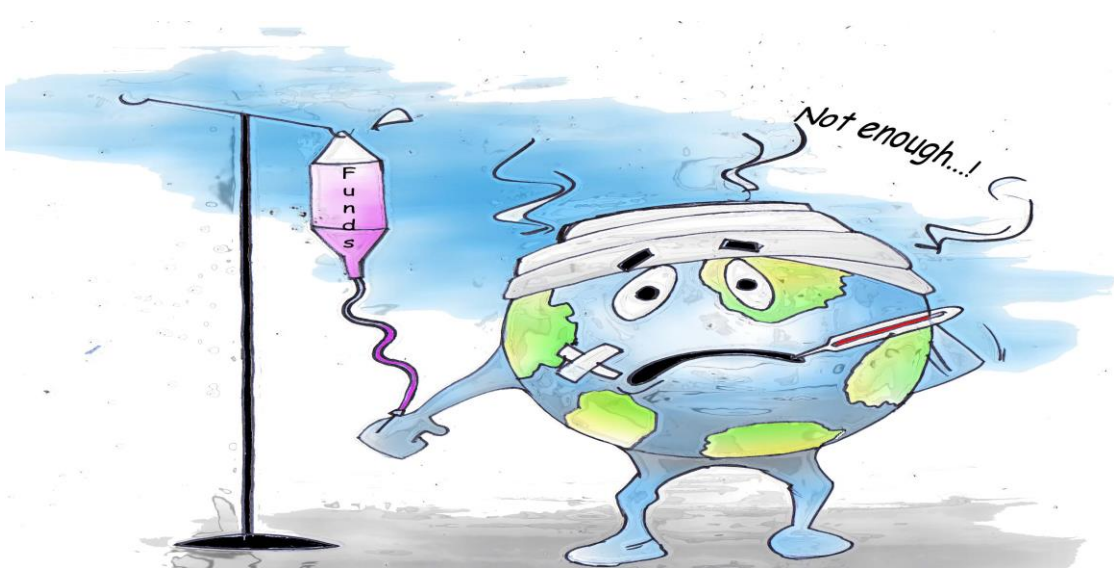
It's an alarming fact that people from the developing countries which are least-equipped to cope with natural calamities will be its prime casualty. Pakistan occupies a unique position in the climate chart as it contributes to less than 1% in global carbon emissions but surprisingly ranks among the top 10 most vulnerable countries to be affected by the climate change, as per the Climate Risk Index 2019.

The recent wave of nationalism in the developed world has change the realities of climate change as

many resourceful countries have placed this issue on the back burner. But still a powerful majority, through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is committed to finance the climate concerns with "new and additional financial resources towards the developing countries" as set out in the framework. In 2010, the United Nations managed to set up the Green Climate Fund (GCF) under Goal 13 i.e. Climate Action and has raised US\$ 10.3 Billion so far. GCF is essentially aimed at mobilizing funds from the developed countries earmarked to enhance capacities of developing world to undertake low emission and climate resilient development.

Hence there exists a silver lining, that these funds will match the wants of the developed countries to the needs of the developing nations but only if institutional

mechanisms of accountability can be strengthened to safeguard against leakages. Similar initiatives such as the Least Developed Country Fund and Special Climate Change Fund are good, but they also lack strong monitoring frameworks thus questioning their effectiveness. Ensuring transparency and accountability in the climate funds holds the key to tackle the climate crisis. The World Bank has already set out six composite indicators for effective governance, holding accountability as the epicenter for its Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGIs). It underlines the fact that strong institutions are the pre-requisite to gain access to these funds. If such conditions are not ensured, then countries like Pakistan will continue to suffer from glacier melts in its Himalayan belt, breath-choking-smog in Lahore, ecological murders of peacocks in Thar, heat waves in Karachi, all in all, endangering lives in the mountainous north to the coastal south.



Editor: Mr. Shamail Adnan Khan

USAID Anti-Fraud Hotline

The culmination of this quarter results in the completion of the successful journey of ninth year since the inception of Anti-Fraud Hotline. During the preceding nine years Anti-Fraud Hotline has played a pivotal role in ensuring transparency and prevention of corruption, a key global issue. Subsequently, the activities of AFH help in facilitating and empowering citizens and beneficiaries of USAID funded projects to comprehend the significance and magnitude of the instances involving fraud and corruption in any USAID-funded programs across Pakistan while ensuring that relief reaches the intended beneficiaries.

Since its inception critical information and insight have been provided to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding alleged corruption cases in various USAID projects across the country.

In this quarter, AFH received over 2405 calls and as a result 104 complaints were registered. Since its inception in January 2011, AFH has effectively handled over 113324 calls which have resulted in the successful formulation of around 8,659 complaints. Over the years, these complaints have provided USAID/OIG with useful and informed insight into corrupt practices in a number of USAID funded projects. The investigations by OIG into these complaints have helped USAID to retrieve millions of dollars.

AFH Public Outreach Campaign 2019

A new marketing initiative was also employed by the Anti-Fraud Hotline in January 2019 i.e. Public Outreach Campaign to extend and connect with the beneficiaries of USAID funded projects throughout Pakistan by providing AFH labeled giveaways to recipients of designated USAID projects. The campaign's objective was to creating awareness regarding the AFH which facilitated the beneficiaries of USAID funded projects to ascertain whom to contact in case if they are a witness or victim of multiple aspects of corruption like procurement, theft of goods, service delivery issue, conflict of interests, etc.

The investigations carried out by OIG led to recovery of development funds worth millions of U.S. Dollars along with the subsequent termination of corrupt employees of respective organizations.

The ultimate success of Anti-Fraud Hotline blossomed as one of its kind projects and sustained the association between USAID and TI-Pakistan over the period of nine years since 2017.

Proficient and trained multilingual complaint management officers of AFH received complaints via toll free hotline, SMS, WhatsApp, email, website, and walk-in complainants. After a careful analysis and evaluation, the complaints are sent to the only authorized agency USAID, Office of Inspector General via online database while ensuring the integrity of the complainant's information.

FRAUD AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

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USAID Anti-Fraud Hotline

The AFH successfully conducted multiple distribution events across 7 districts namely Khairpur, Dadu, Jacobabad, Sukkur, Kashmore, Karachi and Qamber-Shahdadkot among the beneficiaries of USAID-funded Sindh Community Mobilization Program (SCMP) being implemented by Blumont. The distribution ceremony comprised of an orientation briefing on the purpose and accessibility of AFH along with AFH giveaways comprising of 1 laptop bag/ hand bag, 1 Notebook, 1 Anti-Fraud Pocket Guide and 2 Bookmarks (1 Sindhi & 1 Urdu) that were given to the participants attending the event. The beneficiaries who received the AFH-branded Giveaways comprised of mentors based in public schools from different districts in Sindh where SCMP has been actively working. In total, 818 beneficiaries received the AFH Giveaways.

AFH Public Outreach

Province	Districts	Beneficiaries reached
Sindh	Qamber-Shahdad Kot	14
	Karachi	36
	Kashmore	68
	Sukkur	214
	Jacobabad	46
	Dadu	95
	Khairpur	345
	Total	818



Strengthening Citizen Engagement in Governance



Under its Citizens Voice Against Corruption (CVAC), TI Pakistan has been proactively strengthening citizens' engagement in governance matters by empowering them on the usage of Right to Information laws.

In this quarter, three Mobile ALACs were organized in Lasbella (Balochistan), Buner (KPK) and Toba Tek Singh (Punjab) where citizens were provided with free legal advice by local lawyers.

The key purpose of these workshops pertained to spread awareness regarding the provision of public information, the process of filing an RTI and the role of Public Information Officer. The workshop highlighted the

significance of RTI law as an important tool in ensuring transparency and social accountability with respect to public service delivery. The participants were common citizens, teachers, journalists and students.

Towards the conclusion of the information session, TI Pakistan representative was approached by locals for redressal of their common problems. Most of the complaints were related to service delivery issues i.e. unavailability of clean drinking water, lack of medicines in public hospitals, unavailability of public parks, and roads. A total of 88 male and 02 female citizens sought legal advice from mobile ALAC camps.



Citizens Participation in Local Governance

During this quarter, TI Pakistan organized five information workshops between citizens and local government representatives across Pakistan. These sessions were held in Tando Adam (Sindh), Nawabshah (Sindh), Chishtian (Punjab), Mirpurkhas (Sindh) and Ziarat (Balochistan). In Punjab where new local governance system has been operationalized, multiple concerns were raised about its effectiveness in ensuring efficient delivery of government services to the public. Alternatively, during the sessions held in Tando Adam and Nawabshah, LG representatives blamed shortage of funds and lack of delegated powers as the main reasons why they could not resolve citizens' concerns to their satisfaction. The sessions provided

citizens with a critical platform where they could exercise their democratic right and played their part in holding the public administration accountable for taxpayers' money. A total of 141 male and 31 female citizens participated in these sessions & appreciated TI Pakistan's efforts on undertaking this initiative on social accountability.

Two CRC studies were also conducted; one on health in two districts of Punjab; Mandi Bahauddin and Hafizabad and the other on local government in two districts of KPK; Mardan and Swabi. Moreover, three FGDs were also arranged in Mandibahauddin, Hafizabad, and Mardan to gather citizen feedback on these key issues.

