

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

## Bhutan Transparency Initiative

Opposite to Central Plaza  
Olakha, Thimphu: Bhutam Post Box No.01592  
Thimphu, 11001, Bhutan  
Tel: +975-2-340921  
Phone: +975 17127887  
Website: [www.bhutantransparency.org](http://www.bhutantransparency.org)



**BHUTAN TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE**

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BTI

BHUTAN TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**BHUTAN TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE**

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**Bhutan Transparency Initiative (BTI)**

Bhutan Transparency Initiative (BTI) is a registered CSO (Public Benefit Organization) with a mandate to promote Accountability, Transparency, and Integrity in the country. BTI is committed to contribute towards building a just and equitable society in which communities thrive and there is no space for corruption to function.

**Contact Address:****Bhutan Transparency Initiative**

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Tel: +975-2-340921

Phone: +975 17127887

Website: [www.bhutantransparency.org](http://www.bhutantransparency.org)

**Editorial Team:**

Dr. Rinzin Rinzin, Executive Director

Dechen Lhadon, Program Officer

Pema Lhamo, Assistant Program Officer

Pemba Tshering, Adm/Finance Officer

Samdrup Dema, Intern

**Designed and Printed by:** Bhutan Printing Solutions, Thimphu

**Publisher:** Bhutan Transparency Initiative (BTI)

# CONTENTS

<b>Acknowledgment</b>	<b>i</b>
i. Institutions	i
ii. BTI Board Members	i
iii. Members and Committees	iii
iv. BTI Management Team	iii
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Project Objectives	4
2.2 Total Funding of the year 2024	5
2.3 Challenges	5
2.4 Lesson Learned	5
2.5 Project Outcome	6
2.6 Activities Supported by EU:	8
2.6.1 Launch of EU funded CSO Project by the Leaders of the Parliament	8
2.6.2 Development of Parliament-CSOs Engagement Guideline	9
2.6.3 Training on Research & Evidence Generation and Monitoring and Evaluation	10
2.6.4 Sensitisation Workshop for the National Council of Bhutan	11
2.6.5 Workshop on Issue Identification	12
2.6.6 Capacity Building on Financial Management	13
2.6.7 CSO Quarterly Meeting	14
2.6.8 CSOA-CSO Annual Conference	15
2.7 Activities supported by the CFLI	16
2.7.1 Consultative meeting with stakeholders	16
2.7.2 Awareness Program on the Principles of Good Governance and Public Service Delivery at Trashi Yangtse College of Zorig Chusum (TCZC)	17
2.7.3 Training on Civic Engagement for Capacity building and Social Accountability tools in TCZC	17
2.7.4 Consultative meeting with the Local Governments of Lhuntse	18
2.7.5 Training on Civic Engagement for Capacity building and Social Accountability Tools to Community Member and Representatives Local Government in Khoma, Lhuntse	18
2.7.6 Institution of Civic Harmony Advocates (CHA) Group	19
2.8 Activities supported by TAF	20
2.8.1 Activities under TAF SAGP Phase II	20
2.8.1.1 Developed User Manual on BCAS 2023 for CSOs	20
2.8.1.2 Training on Enhancement of Good Governance through Civic Engagement	20



2.8.1.3	Awareness workshop on enactment of Witness Protection Act to the Parliament	21
2.8.2	Additional Activity under TAF Phase II	22
2.8.2.1	Assessment of the impact of implementation of BCAS 2023 on the internal governance mechanisms of CSOs in Bhutan.	22
2.8.2.2	Conducted 'Follow-Up Study on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Citizen Report on the Quality of Justice Services Provided by the Justice Sector in Bhutan'	22
2.8.3	Small Grant	23
2.8.3.1	Civil Society in Bhutan: "Journey and Opportunities"	23
2.9	Award of Certificate	24
3.	<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>26</b>
3.1	BTI's ED Attended The Asia Foundation's South Asia Governance Program	26
3.2	Visit by BTI's Honorary Member, Mr. Jakob Stark	26
3.3	Visit by TAF Delegates	27
3.4	Visit by His Excellency the Ambassador of Canada	28
3.5	Visit by Finance Director and Finance Manager from Save the Children Nepal	28
3.6	Workshop on Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA)	29
3.7	BTI's Chairperson and Executive Director Meet with President and Former President of the Society Switzerland Bhutan	29
3.8	The Commemoration of the first National Anti-Corruption Day (NACD)	30
3.9	Validation Workshop on Assessment of Bhutan's Public Procurement System using MAPS (Methodology for Assessing Procurement System)	30
4.	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>32</b>



## INSPIRATION

“I will not corrupt and I will not tolerate corruption in others.”  
- His Majesty The King of Bhutan



## VISION

A Small Country of GNH with a Government and People Free from the  
Fear of Corruption.

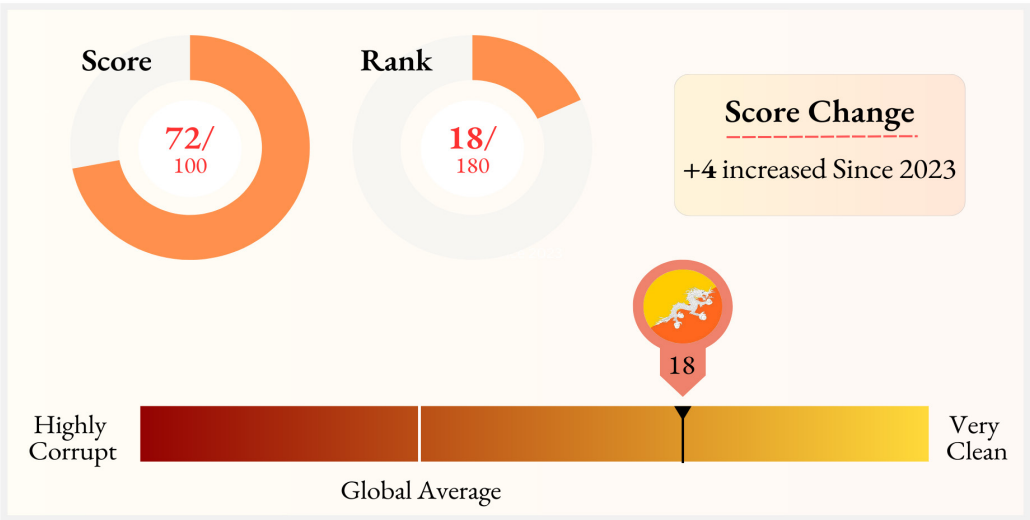


## MISSION

- To foster collaboration and partnership to promote good governance in the country;
- To strengthen participation from society and the public to promote Transparency, Accountability, and Integrity;
- To build a strong social fence against corruption; and
- To contribute towards creating a just and harmonious society.

# Country Data (2024)

From 2019 to 2023, Bhutan maintained a steady position in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) with a score of 68. However, in 2024, the country made a notable improvement, rising to a score of 72 and securing the 18th position among 180 countries (*Transparency International*, 2024).



**Figure 1:** Bhutan's Corruption Perception Index

## Acknowledgment

BTI would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following major supporters:

### i. Institutions

- ☸ Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)
- ☸ Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI)
- ☸ Canada Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI)
- ☸ Civil Society Organization Authority (CSOA)
- ☸ CSO partners
- ☸ Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management (DLGDM)
- ☸ Dzongkhag Administration of Trashiyangtse, Trongsa, Tsirang, Mongar, Bumthang and Lhuentse
- ☸ European Union (EU)
- ☸ International IDEA (IIDEA)
- ☸ Helvetas Bhutan
- ☸ Royal Audit Authority (RAA)
- ☸ Save the Children (SC) Bhutan
- ☸ The Asia Foundation (TAF)
- ☸ Thimphu Thromde.

### ii. BTI Board Members



LYONPO DR. KINZANG DORJI  
CHAIRPERSON



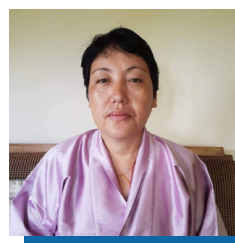
MS. SONAM YANGDEN



AUM TSHEWANG TASHI



MR. RINZIN WANGCHUK



AUM KESANG CHODEN

iii. Members and Committees

BTI submits our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our members, partners and individuals who have continued to support our work as resource persons, volunteers, interns and facilitators. Our heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Committee of Legal Experts, and Social Accountability Practitioners Groups (SAPGs)/Civic Harmony Advocates Groups (CHAGs).

iv. BTI Management Team



DR. RINZIN RINZIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AUM PEMA LHAMO  
GOVERNANCE ADVISOR



MR. PEMBA TSHERING  
OPERATION MANAGER



MS. DECHEN LHADON  
PROGRAM OFFICER



MS. PEMA LHAMO  
ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
OFFICER



MS. SAMDRUP PEMA  
INTERN



# INTRODUCTION



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Bhutan Transparency Initiative (BTI) is a registered civil society organization (CSO) committed to enhancing transparency, accountability, and integrity in Bhutan through the provision of policy-oriented research, development of training tools, and facilitation of policy dialogues. Thus, we continue to formulate suitable research strategies that contribute to a more effective generation of knowledge on the corruption situation in the country. BTI places great emphasis on advocacy programs at various levels. One notable endeavor is scaling up social accountability (SA) initiatives in local governments and formalizing accountability mechanisms within Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). BTI, as a CSO, has carried out meticulous activities over the years to build a just and harmonious society and will continue to contribute significantly to the overall development of the country by strengthening democratic values.

In 2024, we conducted various capacity-building training programs on social accountability, civic engagement, research and evidence-based decision-making, and project management. These initiatives engaged a diverse range of stakeholders, including academic institutions, CSOs, and local government officials. All the participants of these training programs were awarded certificates to recognize their commitment and achievement.

BTI also organized awareness sessions on the importance of civic engagement in promoting civic responsibility, accountability, transparency, and integrity, and therefore, good governance in local governance with emphasis on the use of social accountability tools for local governments in Lhuentse and Trashiyangtse in collaboration with the ACC of Bhutan. These initiatives set the ground and got the stakeholders' buy-ins for the training on civic engagement in promoting good governance in Lhuentse Dzongkhag and College of Zorig Chusum at Trashiyangtse.

Further, BTI played an active role in strengthening the networking of the CSOs in the country in collaboration with CSO Authority (CSOA) and co- and other implementers of the five European Union (EU) projects, like Save the Children Bhutan (SCB), Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women (RENEW), Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD), Bhutan Media Foundation (BMF), Handicrafts Association of Bhutan (HAB), Helvetas Bhutan, International IDEA and so on by supporting CSO Quarterly Meet, Annual CSO Meet, and the CSOA-CSOs Annual Conference. This helped to continue to provide the much needed platforms for the CSOs to network with each other, discuss issues of wider interest, enhance collaboration and cooperation, needless to mention the provision of the platform for the CSOA and the CSOs to connect with each other.

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To enhance knowledge sharing, we published three major reports during the reporting period. The report ‘Civil Society in Bhutan- Journey and Opportunities’ highlights the history of civil society in Bhutan, the growth of CSOs and the challenges faced by them. The report can be used as a reference book on civil society in Bhutan. The report ‘Assessment of the impacts of Bhutan CSO Accountability Standards 2023 (BCAS 2023)’ provides valuable information on how the implementation of the standard has helped CSOs buff up their internal governance mechanisms as well as some of the challenges faced by them in implementing the standard. The report ‘Advancing Justice in Bhutan’ provides interesting results on the actions/inactions of the seven justice service providers (ACC, Bar Council of Bhutan (BCB), Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI), Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Royal Audit Authority (RAA), Royal Bhutan Police (RBP)), and Royal Court of Justice (RCJ)) on the recommendations of the ‘Citizen Report on the Quality of Justice Services Provided by the Justice Sector in Bhutan.

BTI also developed a user manual for BCAS 2023 to help CSOs implement the standard with ease. Furthermore, we developed the Parliament-CSO Collaboration Guidelines in collaboration with International IDEA and the Parliament of Bhutan.

Last but not the least, we welcomed delegates from The Asia Foundation (TAF), the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), and the European Union (EU) thereby, further strengthening international partnerships. We also attended numerous workshops and capacity building workshops and took part in Bhutan’s first-ever National Anti-Corruption Day.

# PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS





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## 2. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

**BTI** had a remarkable year filled with impactful initiatives that strengthened our commitment to promoting society-wide civic responsibility, accountability, transparency and integrity, and therefore, good governance at all levels of governance. We promoted civic engagement, especially at the local government levels as one of the major tools to deter corruption.

With the generous support of three esteemed donors, viz.: the EU, CFLI, and TAF, we successfully implemented programs that created lasting change, strengthening our mission and empowering communities across Bhutan.

### 2.1 Project Objectives

- i. EU-funded projects: To empower Bhutanese CSOs as independent actors of good governance and inclusive development.
- ii. CFLI-funded projects: To empower youth and citizens through civic engagement to promote transparency and accountability for a vibrant democracy.
- iii. TAF-funded projects:
  -  To build the capacity of CSOs in institutionalizing and implementing the BCAS 2023 to enhance their credibility.
  -  To enhance social inclusion in public service through effective partnership among the service users and public service providers.



## 2.2 Total Funding of the year 2024

For the reporting period, BTI managed to mobilize a total budget of Nu. **10,562,843.13** only as shown in the table below.

**Table 1:**

Total fund from three esteemed donors

Sl.	Esteemed Donors	Total Budget (Nu.)
1	EU	4,364,375
2	CFLI	2,247,886
3	TAF	2,986,694.13
4	TAF - Small Grant	9,63,888
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>10,562,843.13</b>

## 2.3 Challenges

- ☁ Lack of resources to build the capacity of staff.
- ☁ Shortage of technical experts and manpower.
- ☁ Poor networking with international and regional anti-corruption organizations.
- ☁ High risk of employee turnover.
- ☁ Low participant turnout for events held within Thimphu. Therefore, most of the events have to be organized outside Thimphu. This drastically increases the logistics costs.

## 2.4 Lesson Learned

- ☁ Strengthening collaboration among CSOs, government agencies, and international partners improves governance and transparency efforts. The Parliament's involvement in the EU-funded project showed how CSO participation can be integrated into policy processes.
- ☁ Community participation is essential for accountability and transparency. The initiatives in Trashiyangtse and Lhuentse showed that local ownership and collaboration with governments and academic institutions strengthen good governance.

- ☁ Transparency builds trust. The assessment of the implementation of BCAS 2023 showed that clear accountability mechanisms boost CSO credibility and foster stronger partnerships with government and donors.

## 2.5 Project Outcome

BTI trained 200 individuals from various groups (Table 2), with the highest participation from CSOs and CBOs, followed by youth. Additionally, 254 individuals attended workshops or orientation sessions organized by BTI. During the year, BTI conducted 181 meetings, facilitating stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and networking.

This is a testimony of BTI's efforts in driving positive change through capacity-building training, workshops, orientations, and meetings to strengthen networking and collaboration.

**Table 2:**

Total number of people trained, categorized by agency and gender

Training								
Project	CFLI		TAF		EU		Grand Total	
Agency/Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
CSOs and CBOs	5	3	3	0	20	32	28	35
Citizens	9	5	25	17	0	0	34	22
Local Government	18	2	9	0	0	0	27	2
Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth	26	26	0	0	0	0	26	26
Civil servants	22	7	9	4	0	0	31	11
<b>Total</b>	80	43	46	21	20	32	146	96

**Table 3:**

Total number of people who attended workshop/orientation, categorized by agency and gender

Workshop/Orientation								
Project	CFLI		TAF		EU		Grand Total	
Agency/Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
CSOs and CBOs	3	1	39	43	51	29	93	73
Citizens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parliament	0	0	38	12	0	54	23	66
Media	0	0	11	11	0	0	11	11
Youth	20	18	0	0	0	0	20	18
Civil Servants	9	3	8	8	0	0	17	11
<b>Total</b>	32	22	96	74	51	83	179	179

**Table 4:**

Total number of people who attended meeting, categorized by agency and gender

Meeting								
Project	CFLI		TAF		EU		Grand Total	
Agency/Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
CSOs and CBOs	3	5	0	0	99	71	102	76
Citizens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Parliament	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	1
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civil servants	14	2	0	0	5	8	19	10
<b>Total</b>	24	7	0	0	107	80	131	87

## 2.6 Activities Supported by EU:

The 42-month project, “Towards Empowering Bhutanese CSOs for Good Governance and Inclusive Development,” is supported by the European Union and led by Save the Children, BTI, and RENEW. The project seeks to create structured mechanisms for CSO participation in legislative processes, improve financial sustainability, and promote inclusivity, particularly for marginalized communities such as women, youth, and LGBTQI+ groups. The following key activities were carried out in the first year of the project.

### 2.6.1 Launch of EU-funded CSO Project by the Leaders of the Parliament

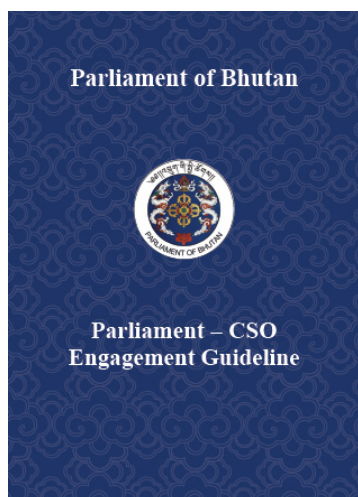
The EU-funded project “*Towards Empowering Bhutanese CSOs for Good Governance and Inclusive Development*” was launched on 14th February at Terma Linca by Hon’ble Lungten Dorji, Speaker of the National Assembly, and Hon’ble Sangay Dorji, Chairperson of the National Council. The project aims to strengthen Bhutanese CSOs through collaboration with Parliament, CSOs, and media houses. Co-led by RENEW, BTI, and SCB, the project will work with key stakeholders to promote good governance and inclusive development in Bhutan.



**Figure 2:** The launch of the EU-funded CSO project at Terma Linca Resort, marking the beginning of collaborative efforts to strengthen civil society engagement and governance

## 2.6.2 Development of Parliament-CSOs Engagement Guideline

The CSO-Parliament Engagement Framework Guidelines were developed in close consultation with the Parliament. These guidelines were crafted to strengthen collaboration between the Parliament and CSOs and to ensure their effective implementation, fostering a more structured and impactful partnership.



To operationalize the guidelines, a consultative workshop with parliamentarians, key committees, and CSOs was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May to gather feedback and ensure inclusivity. A validation workshop on 22<sup>th</sup> May finalized the guidelines, ensuring they are practical and aligned with the needs of CSOs and the parliament as shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4 below.

**Figure 3:** Developed a Parliament - CSO Engagement Guideline to enhance the engagement of CSOs with the parliament and government



**Figure 4:** A consultative workshop where representatives from the parliament, key parliamentary committees, and CSOs engaged to gather inputs and feedback for strengthening collaboration and policy engagement





**Figure 5:** A validation workshop conducted to ensure that the guidelines are practical, implementable, and aligned with the needs of both CSOs and the parliament

### 2.6.3 Training on Research & Evidence Generation and Monitoring and Evaluation.

BTI carried out training on research and evidence generation followed by monitoring and evaluation training from 26-31 May. The training was provided with an aim to enhance CSOs' capacities for effective parliamentary engagement.



**Figure 6:** The training on Research & Evidence Generation was conducted in Haa, providing participants with essential methodologies and tools to strengthen data-driven decision-making



**Figure 7:** The training on Monitoring & Evaluation was conducted in Haa, where participants were equipped with essential skills and knowledge to enhance project assessment and accountability

#### 2.6.4 Sensitisation Workshop for the National Council of Bhutan

The CSO Sensitization Workshop for the National Council of Bhutan was a landmark event, marking the highest parliamentary participation in a CSO-led initiative. Held from July 15–17, the workshop aimed to strengthen collaboration between CSOs and Parliament by highlighting the vital role of CSOs in governance and development.

Discussions focused on addressing challenges, promoting transparency and inclusivity, and identifying policy gaps. The workshop also encouraged meaningful partnerships to enhance CSO engagement and align efforts with Bhutan’s national priorities and the principles of Gross National Happiness (GNH).



**Figure 8:** A three-day sensitization workshop conducted in Paro, aimed at enhancing awareness and understanding among participants on CSO



## 2.6.5 Workshop on Issue Identification

BTI conducted a one-day Issue Identification Workshop on 29<sup>th</sup> August, to identify the issues of wider interest that need to be submitted to the Parliament for action. The workshop provided a platform for CSOs to present their concerns to the CSO fraternity and deliberate on them. If the floor decided that an issue warranted the attention of the Parliament, the presenter was offered the opportunity to refine the writeup and submit to BTI for onward submission to the Parliament.

In total three issues were submitted by two organizations: the Handicraft Association of Bhutan (HAB) and the Disabled People's Organization (DPO). HAB raised two concerns: "Private Sector Development (PSD) in Bhutan and Streamlining" and "Harmonization of Business Regulations." Meanwhile, DPO highlighted the need for "Social Protection for People with Severe Disabilities in Bhutan." These concerns were formally submitted to the Secretary Generals of both the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council (NC) through hard copies as well as email.



**Figure 9:** The Issue Identification workshop, which provided a platform for CSOs to share and discuss pressing issue

### 2.6.6 Capacity Building on Financial Management

BTI successfully conducted a dynamic Project Management Training from 21-23 October in collaboration with SCB, aimed at empowering vulnerable groups and enhancing the capacity of CSOs. The training focused on equipping participants with practical skills and knowledge in project planning, execution, and monitoring to improve their effectiveness in implementing social initiatives.



**Figure 10:** A Project Management training carried out by Save the Children to strengthen the capacity of CSOs and CBOs



## 2.6.7 CSO Quarterly Meeting

BTI, collaborated with BCMD, Helvetas and IIDEA in organizing the CSO Quarterly Meet that continued to facilitate networking, collaboration, and coordination among the CSOs.



**Figure 11:** The Second CSO Quarterly Meeting, fostering dialogue and collaboration among civil society organizations



**Figure 12:** The Third CSO Quarterly Meeting, fostering dialogue and collaboration among civil society organizations



### 2.6.8 CSOA-CSO Annual Conference

To strengthen collaboration and foster effective partnerships between CSOA and CSOs in line with the Guidelines on Government-CSO Collaboration, the second CSOA-CSO meeting was successfully held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Organized in partnership with BTI, BCDM, Helvetas, and IIDEA, the meeting served as a vital platform for dialogue and improved coordination among stakeholders.



**Figure 13:** The second CSOA-CSO meeting, to strengthen collaboration and foster effective partnership

## 2.7 Activities supported by the CFLI

The project titled *“Enhancing Democratic Governance in Educational Institutions and Local Governments through Citizens’ Participation,”* was signed with CFLI on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 with a duration until 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. It aimed to strengthen civic engagement and promote transparency and accountability in Bhutan’s democracy.

### 2.7.1 Consultative meeting with stakeholders

A consultative meeting with DLGDM, ACC, and RAA was convened on 1st August to foster collaboration toward building a transparent and accountable society. The discussion centered on coordination, resource-sharing, and capacity-building to improve public service delivery. Stakeholders recognized BTT’s key role in promoting good governance and committed to collective action for greater transparency, efficiency, and equity.



**Figure 14:** A consultative meeting with the stakeholders to foster collaboration





## 2.7.2 Awareness Program on the Principles of Good Governance and Public Service Delivery at Trashi Yangtse College of Zorig Chusum (TCZC)

An awareness program was carried out on 26<sup>th</sup> September at TCZC with an aim to educate students and faculty on the importance of social accountability and good governance. It provided an opportunity to engage the college community in meaningful discussions about their roles in promoting transparency, responsibility, and positive societal change.



**Figure 15:** The first-day awareness session, conducted with the faculty and students of TCZC

## 2.7.3 Training on Civic Engagement for Capacity building and Social Accountability tools in TCZC

A four-day training from 27-30 September was carried out, focusing on promoting citizen participation by strengthening accountability and transparency. The training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools needed to engage effectively in governance processes.



**Figure 16:** A four-day interactive training session, engaging participants in hands-on learning and discussions to enhance their knowledge and skills

## 2.7.4 Consultative meeting with the Local Governments of Lhuntse

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, a consultative meeting was held in Lhuntse, bringing together 18 participants, including representatives from all the 8 Gewogs and the Dzongkhag Administration. The meeting focused on highlighting the importance of civic engagement and social accountability to enhance good governance at all levels, especially at the local government level.



**Figure 17:** A productive consultative meeting with the local government of Lhuntse district

## 2.7.5 Training on Civic Engagement for Capacity building and Social Accountability Tools to Community Member and Representatives Local Government in Khoma, Lhuntse

From 23-26 December, a training on civic engagement and social accountability tools was carried out in Lhuntse Dzongkhag to empower community members and local representatives, enhancing civic engagement and public participation in governance. The training also strengthened public monitoring for greater transparency and accountability.



**Figure 18:** The first-day awareness session, conducted with the community members and local representatives.



## 2.7.6 Institution of Civic Harmony Advocates (CHA) Group

A CHAG Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed to provide clear guidance for both the organization and CHAG members regarding their roles and responsibilities, as well as the criteria for forming a CHAG group. To kick off this initiative, we established two CHAG groups in Trashiyantse and Lhuntse Dzongkhag.



**Figure 19:** The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of TCZC CHAG with the ED, BTI



**Figure 20:** The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Lhuntse CHAG with the ED, BTI

## 2.8 Activities supported by TAF

The project, “*A Vibrant Civil Society for a Vibrant Democracy*,” was implemented with funding support from TAF. It aimed to strengthen CSOs by building their capacity to institutionalize and implement BCAS, enhancing their credibility. Additionally, the project promoted social inclusion in public service delivery through effective partnerships between service users and providers. It was a 12-month initiative 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to 10<sup>th</sup> to January 2025.

### 2.8.1 Activities under TAF SAGP Phase II

#### 2.8.1.1 Developed User Manual on BCAS 2023 for CSOs

BTI successfully developed and published the BCAS 2023 manual to provide Civil Society Organizations in Bhutan with a clear set of accountability standards. It serves as a benchmark for all CSOs to follow, ensuring they meet consistent criteria while undertaking initiatives that benefit the Bhutanese community.

#### 2.8.1.2 Training on Enhancement of Good Governance through Civic Engagement

A four-day training on *Enhancement of Good Governance through Civic Engagement* was held from 5-8 February in Mongar Gewog and Mongar Thromde. The program aimed to strengthen civic participation in governance by equipping participants with skills to promote accountability, transparency, and effective service delivery.



**Figure 21:** During the Training on Enhancing Good Governance through Civic Engagement at Mongar



### 2.8.1.3 Awareness workshop on enactment of Witness Protection Act to the Parliament

The workshop, held on 28<sup>th</sup> February at Paro, brought together 77 participants from the Parliament of Bhutan, including members of the NC and NA, the Bhutan National Legal Institute, media houses, and CSOs working with vulnerable groups. The event was organized by BTI in collaboration with the ACC of Bhutan on the status of corruption in the country.

Following this training, *“Impacts of Implementation of BCAS 2023”* report was developed and published highlighting the changes in performance before and after BCAS implementation, aiming to refine standards and enhance accountability within the sector.



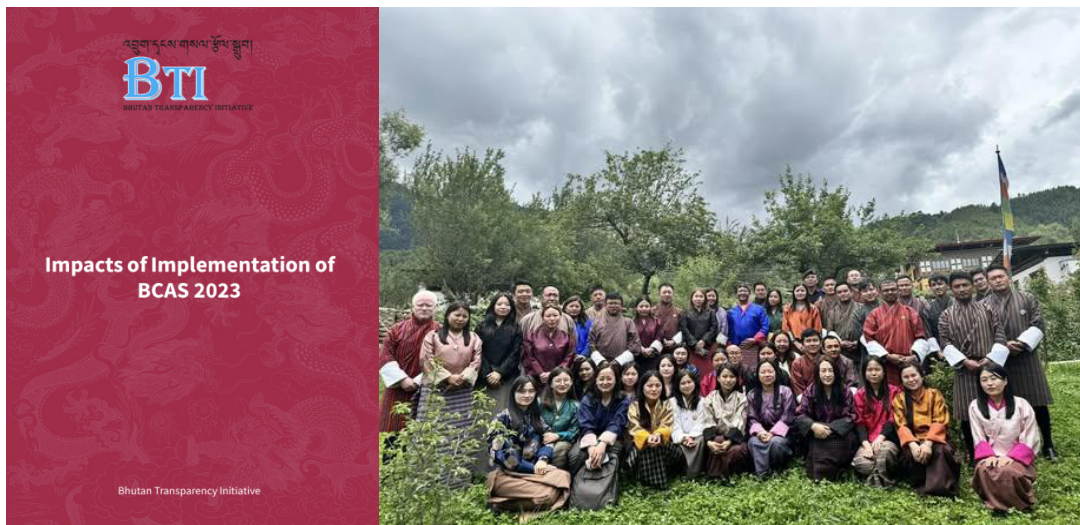
**Figure 22:** Awareness workshop on enactment of Witness Protection Act to the Parliamentarians



## 2.8.2 Additional Activity under TAF Phase II

### 2.8.2.1 Assessment of the impact of implementation of BCAS 2023 on the internal governance mechanisms of CSOs in Bhutan.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, assessment was carried out to evaluate the effects of implementing BCAS 2023 on the internal governance mechanism of CSOs in Bhutan and to identify areas that may need to be improved to facilitate the seamless execution of the standard.



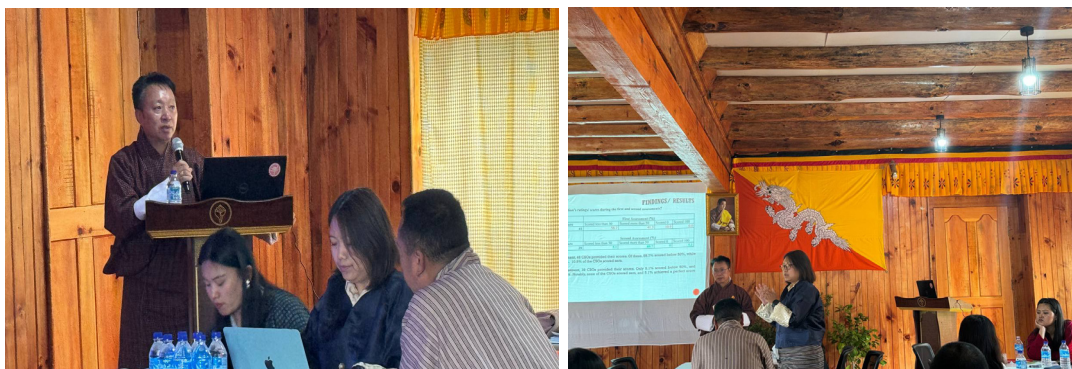
**Figure 23:** During the assessment of BCAS 2023

### 2.8.2.2 Conducted ‘Follow-Up Study on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Citizen Report on the Quality of Justice Services Provided by the Justice Sector in Bhutan’



From 25-26 June, “*Follow-Up Study on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Citizen Report on the Quality of Justice Services Provided by the Justice Sector in Bhutan*” was carried out with a aim to ensure that all required measures are implemented in compliance with the citizen report’s recommendations in order to enhance the quality of justice services delivered by justice institutions.

With this a report “Advancing Justice in Bhutan” was published to improve the accessibility, efficiency, and effectiveness of justice services for the people of Bhutan. The report focuses on the execution of recommendations by the seven justice bodies of Bhutan.



**Figure 24:** Follow -up study on the recommendation of the CR on the Quality of Justices services

## 2.8.3 Small Grant

### 2.8.3.1 Civil Society in Bhutan: “Journey and Opportunities”

With grant support from TAF, BTI led the development of a special report titled “*Journey and Opportunities*” from 21-24 August. This document highlights the evolution of CSOs, outlining the challenges they have faced, their current status, and the opportunities ahead, offering valuable insights into their progress and potential.



**Figure 25:** Development of the Special Report on “Journey and Opportunities”



## 2.9 Award of Certificate

For every training we conduct, we provide certificates to participants as a token of appreciation and to reinforce their understanding of their roles and responsibilities.



Figure 26: Awarding of certificate

# EVENTS



### 3. EVENTS

Throughout the year, we actively engaged in high-level dialogues, capacity-building workshops, and strategic collaborations to strengthen governance, transparency, and institutional capacity. These engagements fostered meaningful exchanges with international partners, reinforced our commitment to accountability, and contributed to strengthening public procurement systems and organizational development. Notably, our participation in the first-ever National Anti-Corruption Day underscored our dedication to promoting integrity and good governance.

#### 3.1 BTI's ED Attended The Asia Foundation's South Asia Governance Program

On 6th December, BTI's Executive Director attended The Asia Foundation's South Asia Governance Program Delegation. The delegation was participated by civil society organizations across South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, along with members from The Asia Foundation.



**Figure 27:** Our Executive Director attended The Asia Foundation's South Asia Governance Program

#### 3.2 Visit by BTI's Honorary Member, Mr. Jakob Stark

On 8th November, BTI had the honor of welcoming our esteemed honorary member, Mr. Jakob Stark. During his brief visit, BTI presented an overview of our initiatives and the progress achieved thus far. Mr. Stark expressed his appreciation for BTI's efforts and



was highly impressed by the impactful work being carried out to promote transparency and good governance.

## Gratitude for Our Honorary Member's Contribution

We extend our heartfelt appreciation for your invaluable contribution to BTI. Your support has given new life to our initiatives, enabling us to continue our work and drive meaningful change in the country.



**Figure 28:** Visit by our Honorary Member on November 8 at BTI's office

### 3.3 Visit by TAF Delegates

On 24<sup>th</sup> September, BTI had the privilege of hosting a team from TAF for a project assessment. This engagement provided an excellent opportunity to share our journey, highlight key achievements, and align our future objectives with TAF's invaluable support. BTI has made remarkable progress, driven by the encouragement and collaboration of our valued partners and stakeholders.



**Figure 29:** Delegates from The Asia Foundation (TAF) visiting BTI

### 3.4 Visit by His Excellency the Ambassador of Canada

On 25<sup>th</sup> June, BTI had the honor of hosting His Excellency Cameron MacKay, Ambassador of Canada to Bhutan. BTI shared its efforts in promoting good governance and combating corruption, while expressing gratitude for CFLI's invaluable support. His Excellency praised BTI's impactful work and strong partnership with CFLI. The visit concluded with the signing of a Contribution Agreement for a new project, further strengthening collaboration towards a corruption-free society.



**Figure 30:** Visit by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Canada

### 3.5 Visit by Finance Director and Finance Manager from Save the Children Nepal

We were delighted to have hosted the Finance Director and Finance Manager from Save the Children Nepal, along with the Finance Manager from Save the Children Bhutan, at our office on the morning of June 25. This meeting fostered collaboration and strengthened our shared mission.



**Figure 31:** Visit by the Finance Director and Finance Manager from Save the Children Nepal on 25<sup>th</sup> June



### 3.6 Workshop on Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA)



On 6<sup>th</sup> June, BTI's ED and staff attended a two-day virtual Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) workshop, facilitated by Ms. Ratna Tandukar with support from The Asia Foundation. The workshop provided valuable insights for BTI to enhance its capacity, standards, and credibility.

**Figure 32:** BTI's Staff attending workshop on Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA)

### 3.7 BTI's Chairperson and Executive Director Meet with President and Former President of the Society Switzerland Bhutan



On March 2nd, Lyonpo (Dr.) Kinzang Dorji, Chairperson of the BTI Board of Trustees, and the Executive Director of BTI, met with Mr. Claudio Zingg and Mrs. Marianne Frei, President and former President of the Society Switzerland Bhutan (SSB). During the meeting, the Executive Director briefed the guests on BTI's key achievements over the past year and expressed gratitude to SSB for their invaluable support.

**Figure 33:** Meeting Between BTI Leadership and Society Switzerland Bhutan Representatives

### 3.8 The Commemoration of the first National Anti-Corruption Day (NACD)

On 21<sup>st</sup> February, the Executive Director of BTI attended the first National Anti-Corruption Day organized by the ACC alongside key representatives from the RAA, Office of the Attorney General, and the media, where BTI expressed gratitude to the ACC for this historic initiative and reaffirmed its unwavering support as a close partner in combating corruption.



**Figure 34:** BTI's Participation in the First NACD

### 3.9 Validation Workshop on Assessment of Bhutan's Public Procurement System using MAPS (Methodology for Assessing Procurement System)



On 13<sup>th</sup> February, BTI's Executive Director participated in the MAPS Steering Committee meeting followed by a validation Workshop organized by the Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan. During the meeting BTI was encouraged to collaborate with the ACC, RAA, MoF, and development partners to enhance transparency, accountability, and integrity in public procurement.

**Figure 35:** Participation in validation workshop on the Assessment of Bhutan's Public Procurement System Using MAPS

# CONCLUSION



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## 4. CONCLUSION

Throughout 2024, the BTI remained steadfast in its mission to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity across Bhutan. Through strategic partnerships, capacity-building initiatives, and impactful advocacy, BTI has significantly contributed to strengthening democratic governance and social accountability.

Key achievements include fostering civic engagement, enhancing collaboration between civil society organizations and government institutions, and implementing social accountability tools at various levels. Our engagement with stakeholders such as the ACC, RAA, and DLGDM has reinforced efforts to improve public service delivery and governance. Moving forward, we remain committed to deepening our engagement with communities, enhancing institutional capacities, and driving meaningful policy reforms to create a more just and accountable society.

With continued dedication and collaboration, BTI will further its role as a catalyst for positive change, ensuring that Bhutan progresses towards a governance system that upholds integrity and empowers its citizens.