



IPPR research associates and board members at the 20th anniversary of the Institute celebrated on 11 November 2021

Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)

Annual Report

2021

Windhoek
NAMIBIA

IPPR - Annual Report 2021

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

The IPPR continued to develop the scope and impact of its work in 2021 despite the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which directly affected several research associates, limited public events and activities, and forced the temporary closure of the office for several periods. The functioning of the IPPR was hit particularly hard during the third wave of the pandemic between May and August 2021.

The growth of the Institute was demonstrated by an 80% increase in funding in 2021. In addition, the number of research associates working on projects and publications increased from 12 in 2020 to 16 in 2021. Media citations almost doubled in 2021.

The IPPR celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2021. Although potential activities to mark this occasion were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a celebration was held in tandem with the HSF year-end gathering on November 11 2021. In addition, the IPPR received in the region of 25 congratulatory messages from other CSOs, diplomats, development partners, politicians, academics and other partners and supporters.

The IPPR signed a contract with the Embassy of Finland for the renewal of its Democracy Report project which monitors and analyses the work of parliament. The project runs from June 1 2021 to the end of 2022.

A funding application to the US Embassy for a three-year anti-corruption project was approved. The project started at the end of 2021.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation signed new Memorandum of Understanding with the IPPR for institutional support in 2021 and for project support covering Namibia Fact Check, Procurement Tracker, the Quarterly Economic Review, the annual Public Enterprise Index as well as several one-off publications.

The IPPR also started work on a new project funded by Global Partners Digital called 'Mainstreaming Human Rights in Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Policymaking Processes' which runs until September 2022.

Deutsche Welle Akademie extended its funding for the IPPR's Namibia Fact Check project until the end of March 2022, with the possibility of renewal.

The IPPR continued its longstanding partnerships with the International Budget Partnership for the Open Budget Survey (expected to be published in 2022) and FHI360 for the annual Civil Society Organisations Sustainability Index.

The IPPR completed the Public Participation & Fiscal Oversight project focussing on the Office of the Auditor-General. The project was funded by the US Embassy.

The IPPR began consultations with the International Lawyers Project in the UK regarding the impact of the Fishrot scandal - with a view to measuring losses including human rights impacts, seeking action against international actors including Icelandic suspects involved in the scandal, and investigating the possible return of assets.

RECOGNITION AND ENGAGEMENTS

The IPPR was again recognised as being in the top 50 think tanks in sub-Saharan Africa in the University of Pennsylvania's global think tank rankings. The IPPR remained at 36th in the 2020 rankings released in early 2021. The IPPR is the only Namibian institution listed on the sub-Saharan African index. The IPPR moved up two places on the rankings of the think tanks with the best integrity and quality assurance policies in the world - from 55th to 53rd.

In September 2021, the IPPR became full members of the UNCAC Coalition, a global network of 350 civil society organisations in over 100 countries committed to the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The UNCAC Coalition commissioned the IPPR to complete a report on UNCAC implementation in Namibia which will be published in 2022 with HSF as a co-funder.

The IPPR convened and facilitated a pre-budget civil society consultation on February 4 2021 with the Minister of Finance, Nipumbu Shiimi. The online meeting was attended by 27 civil society representatives and 7 officials from the Ministry of Finance and National Planning Commission. Later in the year similar consultations were also held with the Minister of Finance on the Sovereign Wealth Fund and the Mid-Year Budget. The online meetings were organised in partnership with CIVIC +264.

The IPPR was invited to join the steering committee of the EU-funded Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia (EPDN) programme. The IPPR Executive Director spoke about the state of civil society at EPDN's first event at parliament on 2 June 2021.

In September 2021 at a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, the IPPR was elected to serve as the Namibian representative on the newly established APRM Network of Non-State Actors - comprising of institutions with a common interest in improving governance in Africa. This is a continent-wide body and an official part of the African Peer Review Mechanism structures.

Through its membership of the ACTION Coalition, the IPPR gave evidence at a public hearing on the Access to Information bill organised by the National Assembly standing committee on Information, Communication, Technology and Innovation on November 29 2021.

The IPPR continued to serve on the Board of CIVIC +264 - an information sharing network for civil society set up by the IPPR, the Namibia Institute for Democracy, the Legal Assistance Centre, and the Namibia Media Trust. During the year the CIVIC +264 website was established - <https://www.civic264.org.na/>

FUNDING

Overall, the IPPR received N\$ 4 795 820 from 12 donors in 2021 as per the table below. In the 2020 calendar year the IPPR received N\$ 2 667 383 from donors from ten donors. Therefore, funding received increased by 80% year on year.

Description	Donor	Funds received N\$
Institutional support	HSF	732 600
HSF Projects*	HSF	514 255
Anti-corruption	US Embassy	1 458 657
Democracy Report	Embassy of Finland	840 000
Cybersecurity & Human rights	GPD	357 758
Namibia Fact Check	DW Akademie	274 146
Political economy papers	Irish Embassy	170 050
CSO Sustainability*	FHI360	150 976
Guide to Namibian Economy	B2 Gold	150 000
Open Budget	IBP	85 885
Executive Opinion Survey*	WEF	34 259
Fact Check columns*	The Namibian	20 000
Digital rights*	AFDEC	7 234
Total		4 795 820

*Completed projects

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

The IPPR's following on social media continued to grow. On Facebook, the number of followers grew from 6 890 at the end of 2020 to 7 023 people by the end of 2021 (a 2% increase). On Twitter, the number of followers grew from 13 907 followers at the end of 2020 to 15 560 at the end of 2021 (a 12 % increase). The IPPR's Instagram account had 595 followers by the year's end as compared to 472 followers at the close of 2020 (a 26% increase).

On Facebook, the Namibia Fact Check account had 2 866 followers by the end of 2021 while the Namibia Fact Check Twitter account had 2276 followers by the close of the year.

2021 statistics for ippr.org.na:

49 385 page views during the year (6% increase on 2020)

The most viewed publications in 2021:

1. Explainer - The Office of the Ombudsman (blog) - 544
2. The Right to Freedom of Expression - 495
3. Namibian Governance Report - 458
4. Landscaping GBV - 450
5. Quarterly Economic Review - Q4 2020 - 431
6. Countering the Disinfectemic - 424
7. Civil Society Sustainability Index - 388
8. Quarterly Economic Review - Q1 2021 - 385
9. Pandemic Procurement - Red Flags - 329
10. Public Enterprise Governance Rankings - 309

PUBLICATIONS

HSF-supported publications:

1. Quarterly Economic Review (QER) Oct-Dec 2020 - with special focus on the main economic developments of 2020.
2. Quarterly Economic Review (QER) Jan-March 2021 - with special focus on the 2021/22 national budget.
3. Quarterly Economic Review (QER) April-June 2021 - with special focus on the tourism and COVID-19,
4. Quarterly Economic Review (QER) July-September 2021 - with special focus on the basic income grant.
5. Procurement Tracker bulletin: The PSEMAS Conundrum
6. Procurement Tracker bulletin: Compliance Concerns
7. Procurement Tracker bulletin: Procurement Data

8. Procurement Tracker bulletin: System Problems
9. Regional Government in Namibia - Is Decentralisation A Reality (briefing paper)
10. Public Enterprise Governance Rankings

Democracy Report publications:

1. Briefing paper: Mid-Term Budget Review Analysis
2. Perspectives on Parliament bulletin: Party Political Finance
3. Perspectives on Parliament bulletin: COVID-19 and Parliament

Other:

1. Research Report: Keep Your Eyes On The Money: Fiscal Oversight & Public Participation In Namibia
2. Civil Society Sustainability Index – Namibia - 2020
3. The Right to Freedom of Expression in Namibia (IPPR contributed chapter in the publication 'The Struggle for the Realisation of the Right to Freedom of Expression in Southern Africa')

IPPR Blogs:

1. The 4IR in Namibia Faces Fundamental Issues (also published as an opinion piece in *The Namibian*)
- 2.. Time To Reward The Vaccinated (also published as an opinion piece in *The Namibian*)
3. The Role & Responsibilities of the Ombudsman

NAMIBIA FACT CHECK

Namibia Fact Check was funded by both the Hanns Seidel Foundation and DW Akademie. From the start of 2021 until December 31, Namibia Fact Check published a total of 39 articles. These are broken down into 19 fact-checking reports and 20 news items. Many of the articles focused on dispelling false information about COVID-19, COVID-19 vaccines and related issues. In addition to articles on the Fact Check website, the following were also produced: 16 podcasts (on SoundCloud), 12 short videos on monthly COVID-19 trends, 20 podcasts broadcast by community radio stations countrywide, and 42 educational graphics for use on social media. Namibia Fact Check also supplied *The Namibian* with 20 newspaper columns on COVID-19 related issues in 2021.

The Fact Check project also conducted five training workshops on fact checking & social media verification for civil society activists and journalists.

The IPPR also collaborated with HSF on the organisation of a dialogue event on May 26 with Dr Armid Azadeh. This event focused on Debunking COVID-19 Vaccination Myths

and utilized Frederico Links and McElory Maletsky of the Fact Check projects as discussants.

On June 19 2021, the First Lady praised the IPPR's fact-checking efforts on COVID-19 during an interview on NBC TV, saying: "I'm very impressed with civil society organisations like the IPPR ... who are aggressively pushing out the right information on COVID, on vaccines, on treatment. And I think more CSOs ... must do exactly that."

Later in the year the Director of the Legal Assistance Centre, Toni Hancox, submitted this comment: "Some of the conspiracy theories are really 'out there'. I'm very happy when I read Namibia Fact Check because it gives me ammunition [to fight misinformation]."

STAFFING

During 2021, the IPPR had three institutional staff funded by the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Executive Director (full-time), Administrator (Accountant) (part-time), and Office Assistant (part-time)) and 16 part-time research associates working on various projects.

Staff:

Graham Hopwood - Executive Director

Johanna Wolf - Administrator (Accountant)

Ndeshi Fikameni - Office Manager

Research Associates:

Toini Amaambo (Procurement Tracker)

Tia-Zia Garoes (Namibia Fact Check)

Titus Haiduwa (Anti-corruption)

Frederico Links (Namibia Fact Check, Democracy Report, Cybersecurity, Procurement Tracker)

McElory Maletsky (Namibia Fact Check)

Kitty McGirr (Regional Governance)

Tileni Mongudhi (Anti-corruption)

Martha Nangolo (Open Budget Survey, Fiscal Transparency)

Roswitha Ndumbu (Namibia Fact Check, Anti-corruption)

Dietrich Remmert (Fiscal Transparency, UNCAC review, Tourism & COVID)

Esther Shakela (Democracy Report)

Nangula Shejvali (Open Contracting)

Nestor Shekunangela (Procurement Tracker)

Robin Sherbourne (QER, Public Enterprise Rankings, budget reviews)

Salmi Shigwedha (WEF survey)

Bradley Tjongarero (Democracy Report)

MEDIA COVERAGE

Media	No. of articles/reports
Print/online:	
The Namibian	67
New Era	22
Namibian Sun	18
Republikein	7
Allgemeine Zeitung	17
Economist	1
Other	10
Sub-total	142
Television:	
NBC TV	11
One Africa	9
Sub-total	20
Radio:	
Eagle FM	14
Future Media	20
NBC National Radio	9
Rapids FM	9
Oranjemund FM	7
Omaheke FM	7
Otji FM	5
Kunene FM	4
Other	4
Sub-total	79
TOTAL	241

Overall, there were 241 media reports, interviews, and citations featuring the IPPR in 2021. In 2020, 125 media reports, interviews, and citations were recorded - indicating an increase of 93% in 2021. The increase is partly due to improved monitoring in 2021 enabled by the creation of the Office Manager post

OUTLOOK FOR 2022

The IPPR expects to be more active than ever in 2022 with a busy programme of activities and publications supported by the Hanns Seidel Foundation. In addition, the IPPR's new US-supported anti-corruption project will see the organisation of several regional conferences

and meetings as part of efforts to establish a national coalition against corruption made up of non-state actors countrywide. The project will also establish its own whistleblowing platform.

The IPPR's parliamentary work will continue until the end of 2022 through its Democracy Report project supported by the Embassy of Finland. The Perspectives on Parliament bulletin will appear on a bi-monthly basis while several briefing papers on legislative issues are planned. The IPPR will also be making interventions on planned cybersecurity legislation through a project supported by Global Partners Digital. In addition, the IPPR will continue its participation in surveys on budget transparency, civil society sustainability, and economic competitiveness through its collaboration with the International Budget Partnership, FHI360, and the World Economic Forum respectively.

The IPPR will continue its cooperation with HSF on established projects such as Namibia Fact Check and Procurement Tracker as well as a number of new initiatives and publications covering topics ranging from local and regional governance to climate change.

Graham Hopwood

IPPR Executive Director

January 21 2022