IDLO
International Development Law Organization

Rule-of-law responses to transnational organized crime

Strengthening institutions, enabling cooperation, and protecting people

COUNTRIES OF ENGAGEMENT

Bolivia
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Kenya
Liberia
Mozambique
Philippines
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Tanzania
Uruguay

A growing global threat

Transnational organized crime thrives where institutions are weak, corruption is high and impunity prevails – leaving vulnerable communities most affected. Its financial reach is immense: an estimated 2 to 5 per cent of global GDP, or €700 billion to €1.8 trillion, is laundered globally each year, illustrating the vast scale of illicit proceeds moving through the global economy. Its impact erodes security and stability, drives corruption and violence, and holds back development, creating risks that spill across borders.[1]

Rule-of-law solutions

Strong legal frameworks limit opportunities for criminal activity, while independent justice systems reduce impunity through effective investigation, prosecution and asset recovery. Accessible and trusted legal services further protect victims and reinforce community resilience, reducing the vulnerabilities that transnational organized crime seeks to exploit.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) supports partners' efforts to fight transnational organized crime through the rule of law with a holistic approach that combines programming, research and policy advocacy.

- **Strengthening legal and policy frameworks and building institutional resilience**

  Transnational organized crime exploits regulatory weaknesses, fragmented coordination and limited technical capacity. IDLO works with national partners to strengthen legal and policy frameworks and align them with international standards, as well as introducing digital tools that improve detection and case management. We also build the skills and operational capabilities of prosecutors, judges, investigators and oversight bodies, all while promoting interagency coordination and participatory approaches that enable institutions to respond more effectively and transparently.

- **Promoting regional cooperation**

  IDLO serves as a trusted convener, bringing together states, justice institutions and regional networks to dismantle cross-border criminal operations. Our work supports harmonized policies, shared legal frameworks and cooperative digital practices for evidence, data and case exchange. By fostering participatory regional dialogue, we strengthen collective action and ensure timelier, more coordinated responses to transnational threats.

- **Enhancing community engagement and victim support**

  Reforms are most effective when they build public trust and address the needs of those most affected. IDLO combines institutional support with community-driven initiatives, improves access to trusted legal services and strengthens victim-centred protections, ensuring that survivors receive the assistance they need to pursue justice. We also advance legal empowerment and targeted outreach in at-risk communities, helping to reduce vulnerabilities, prevent recruitment by criminal groups and build resilience against violence and exploitation.

- **Advancing evidence-based reform through research and policy advocacy**

  IDLO produces legal and policy research that informs national reforms, strengthens institutions and guides evidence-based programming. We also advance policy dialogue on crime prevention and justice reform in major international forums, including the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, linking local realities to global advocacy.

1 UNODC, "Money Laundering: Overview.

Results at a glance (2021-2025)

4,300+
institutional actors trained

24
Legal and policy reforms developed and/or enacted

9
digital solutions integrated

Combatting the financing of terrorism in Somalia

With support from the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, IDLO has strengthened Somalia's Financial Reporting Centre and the Attorney General's Office to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. Between 2017 and 2025, IDLO:

- Developed a five-year strategic plan for the reporting centre and advanced critical reforms, transforming it into an intelligence-driven institution
- Enabled the reporting centre to refer **332 cases** to law enforcement and disrupt illicit financial flows by deactivating **753 bank accounts**
- Supported prosecutions led by the Attorney General's Office resulting in **€844,000** frozen**, €326,000** confiscated and Somalia's first-ever civilian conviction for terrorism financing

Regional cooperation to disrupt criminal networks in East Africa

With support from the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, IDLO strengthened cross-border responses to transnational organized crime in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. Between 2022 and 2025, IDLO:

- Assisted Mozambique's full implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Action Plan, resulting in its removal from the task force's "grey list" of countries under increased monitoring
- Developed the strategic framework for the East Africa Association of Prosecutors and enabled bilateral cooperation on mutual legal assistance and case transfers
- Supported landmark cross-border prosecutions, including a heroin trafficking case between Kenya and Tanzania

About IDLO

The **International Development Law Organization** (IDLO) is the only global intergovernmental organization exclusively focused on advancing the rule of law to promote peace and sustainable development. Founded in 1983, IDLO holds United Nations Observer Status and has experience in some 100 countries. Headquartered in Rome, with offices in The Hague, Geneva, and New York, and operations across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa, IDLO is a trusted partner to governments, civil society, and multilateral actors. Its vision is a world in which every person lives with dignity and equality under the rule of law.

Why IDLO

Proven track record:
€25+ million in transnational organized crime programming since 2020

Trusted convener:
Brings together governments, civil society and communities to build locally owned solutions

Whole-of-justice-chain expertise:
Experience working across investigation, prosecution, adjudication and corrections, strengthening both institutions and coordination

People-centred approach:
Victims' rights and public trust at the core of reform

Experience in complex settings:
Proven ability to deliver programming in fragile, conflict-affected and transitional contexts

"IDLO's support has strengthened the capacity of Liberia's security institutions to identify and investigate human trafficking, while enhancing inter-agency coordination and collaboration with local communities. These efforts have contributed to stronger investigations, improved cooperation across law enforcement agencies, and greater public trust and community engagement."

Gregory O. W. Coleman
Inspector General of Police, Liberia

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