ANTI-CORRUPTION

Corruption presents barriers to sustainable development and prosperity. If the rule of law and development are to take hold, good governance is a necessary condition.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) is working to promote good governance, fairness and equality through the rule of law. While corruption negates the benefits of development, strengthening the capacity and integrity of institutions promotes economic prosperity and increases citizens’ confidence in public administration, justice and the rule of law.

Through its programs, IDLO is working to combat all forms of corruption by making justice institutions cleaner and more responsive, reducing conflicts of interest in procurement and public life, and enhancing the capacity of institutions and justice actors to fight fraud and economic crime.

IDLO is currently implementing programs in the following countries:

UKRAINE

Since the Maidan Revolution of 2013-2014, Ukraine has embarked on a wide-ranging reform program determined to create the momentum to overcome a legacy of bureaucratic stagnation, arbitrariness and corruption. The government has created new law enforcement agencies specifically devoted to fighting corruption of high-level officials and has launched an initiative on decentralization and regional policy reform. Notwithstanding these promising beginnings, many challenges remain, and many initiatives are still required in order to complete Ukraine’s transformation and transition to a modern and prosperous democracy.

IDLO is working in Ukraine to support justice, rule of law and anti-corruption reforms by strengthening capacities and increasing the efficiency, transparency and fairness of public institutions.

Supporting criminal justice reform

Contributing to institutional reform efforts, IDLO is implementing a project to build the capacity of the Prosecutor General’s Office to handle criminal cases in line with international standards. With an emphasis on strengthening good governance and efficiency, IDLO is advising the National Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office on public communication and management strategies and building the capacity of newly appointed detectives and prosecutors.

Public Service Centers

At the regional level, IDLO is supporting anti-corruption and public administration reform by providing advice on the design and operations of Public Service Centers in Odesa, Kharkiv, Mariupol and some of the war-affected cities in eastern Ukraine. The Centers are established to provide a wide range of public services to the general public under the umbrella of a one-stop administrative facility. Likewise, the project works together with regional governments, state actors, civil society and business community to implement the new system of electronic public procurement, which is obligatory for use by all state entities.

Strengthening civil society

Taking into consideration that civil society plays a key role in enforcing reform, IDLO is providing grants to civil society organizations that advocate for and monitor justice, rule of law, anti-corruption and public sector reforms.

Advocacy for an independent and fair anti-corruption court

IDLO is implementing a project that seeks to enhance the legal and policy framework of investigation, prosecution and trial of top corruption crimes in Ukraine. With an implementing partner, the Anti-Corruption Action Centre (ANTAC), the project is supporting advocacy efforts for the creation of a Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office by developing new provisions to amend the draft Law on the Anti-Corruption Court. ANTAC is also supporting an active civil society, performance monitoring of the anti-corruption system and a social media awareness-raising campaign.
INDONESIA

Electronic evidence and management in corruption trials

Corruption cases handled by Indonesia’s Corruption Eradication Commission that involve electronic evidence, such as e-mails or social media posts, subsequently allowed in court, have had a conviction rate of 100 per cent. Yet, judges do not always allow electronic evidence in courts, and standard operational procedures providing guidance on electronic evidence handling and a digital forensic lab that meets international standards are lacking. Moreover, existing laws in relation to electronic evidence handling often contradict one another.

In response to these challenges and opportunities, the Partnership for Governance Reform Kemitraan is implementing a project together with the Institute for Study and Advocacy for Judicial Independence under the IDLO-managed Indonesia-Netherlands Rule of Law Fund to improve the admissibility of electronic evidence in corruption trials in Indonesia. The project focuses on strengthening the regulatory framework in Indonesia in line with international standards. Efforts also aim to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and justice actors by improving guidelines for the digital forensic laboratory, increasing knowledge and skills, and enhancing access to international networks on electronic evidence handling.

PHILIPPINES

Enhancing the capacity of prosecutors

The criminal justice system in the Philippines faces a number of challenges which significantly limit its ability to effectively hold criminal offenders to account. A chronic shortage of prosecutors, despite efforts to appoint new prosecutors by the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman, overburdening of those in function and a lack of professional training often result in long delays, and poor rates of conviction. In addition, newly appointed prosecutors are often immediately deployed, and can feel overwhelmed with heavy caseloads and insufficient trial experience.

IDLO is implementing a project in the Philippines that aims to, inter-alia, strengthen the capacity of the prosecutors at the National Prosecution Service within the Department of Justice to conduct improved criminal prosecutions and build the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsman prosecutors to better resolve complaints of corruption against public officials, including increasing the capacity of both institutions to design and deliver interactive training.

SOMALIA

Capacity building of the Financial Reporting Center

Concerns over the lack of a basic, functioning, regulated financial sector and weak financial regulation and oversight, including customer identification measures, have eroded international confidence in Somalia’s financial firms. Over time, de-risking practices have resulted in banks discontinuing the facilitation of money transfer services for Somali remitters, leading to a crisis that severely complicated vital financial flows to Somalia.

IDLO is implementing a project that aims to build a soundly regulated financial sector in Somalia that can operate in a professional manner consistent with international standards. The project seeks to strengthen the recently established Financial Reporting Center’s capacity to function as an effective and high-performing financial intelligence unit capable of detecting, preventing and deterring money laundering and terrorist financing in Somalia’s financial systems.

IDLO has previously engaged in additional projects in the following countries:

TUNISIA

Strengthening capacity to fight financial and economic crimes

IDLO worked to strengthen the capacity of examining magistrates and public prosecutors to deal with financial and economic crime related cases. IDLO also worked with civil society to strengthen its capacity to participate in the fight against these crimes. The project also provided training on banking practice and procurement for members of the Pôle Judiciaire Financier and selected judges. Finally, a brochure and guidebook for magistrates on the practice of international mutual assistance in criminal matters were produced.

KYRGYZSTAN

Judicial strengthening program

To improve the independence of the Kyrgyz judiciary, IDLO implemented a project to support reforms, develop the human resource capacity
within the judiciary, and restore judicial integrity in the Kyrgyz system. Among other activities, the project supported the Supreme Court to develop a communications strategy, provided training to the press service within local courts, and developed and piloted a TV-series, *Aichyk-Aikyn*, which focused on raising public awareness on the role and work of the judiciary and citizens’ legal rights. IDLO also provided IT support to the judiciary in the development, launch and independent maintenance of a website to publish all court decisions.

**Assistance and cooperation with the General Procuracy**

IDLO worked to build the capacity of prosecutors in the General Procuracy to more effectively combat and reduce crime and corruption. The project supported the development of a Strategic Plan and budget, focused on mainstreaming gender considerations for female prosecutors, and built the capacity of the Prosecutors’ Training Center.

**MONTENEGRO**

**Regional forum on judicial cooperation in criminal matters**

IDLO organized a regional forum in the Balkans focusing on anti-corruption and judicial cooperation mechanisms needed to foster effective cross-border criminal investigation. The forum identified the strengths and weaknesses of coordination among different legal actors, as well as encouraged the creation of regional networks working for the promotion of the rule of law.

**AFGHANISTAN**

**Justice Training Transition Program**

Acknowledging the importance of individual development and institutional ownership of continuing professional development as an instrument for strengthening the performance of justice sector professionals and the sector overall, IDLO implemented the Justice Training Transition Program. The program worked to build the capacity of Afghan criminal justice professionals of the Supreme Court, Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice through training and coaching, and supported these institutions to progressively take responsibility for professional development with the aim of making capacity building efforts sustainable in the long term.

IDLO's work on anti-corruption has been supported by the Government of Italy, the Government of the Netherlands, the United States Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).