



Democracy and Governance

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Strengthening the Rule of Law

Chemonics implements a wide range of projects to strengthen the rule of law. Grounded in an understanding of domestic structures, practices, and norms, our project activities promote the rule of law by improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and accessibility of justice systems. Our approach also utilizes expert analysis, capacity-building training, technology, process streamlining, and public education. We partner with governments as well as civil society organizations (CSOs) that build awareness, advocate for the rule of law, and serve a watchdog role vis-à-vis the justice sector. In addition, Chemonics implements security sector governance projects and provides technical support for alternative dispute resolution, justice sector reforms, and case management systems.

Below we describe programs that illustrate our experience and expertise promoting the rule of law in democracy and governance programs

Program Highlights

Dominican Republic Criminal Justice Sector Strengthened (DR CJSS)

The DR CJSS project improves the quality and effectiveness of the country's criminal justice systems. We designed project activities to strengthen the capacity of key justice organizations to expedite prosecution and resolution of cases so they better align with professional standards for due process and speedy justice. The project also supports efforts to expand local community access to justice services, providing assistance for initiatives that cover a variety of topics: community justice houses, conciliation and mediation services, and other community justice violence and crime prevention initiatives. With a focus on vulnerable groups — for example, victims of gender-based violence; the lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and intersex community; disabled persons; and migrants — the project also emphasizes equity and impartiality with respect for due process and human rights.

Enhanced Palestinian Justice Program (EPJP)

EPJP is working to develop more effective and capable justice sector institutions that are accountable to the public and responsive to citizen needs. The project focuses on improving service delivery, strengthening institutional capacities, and increasing citizen engagement and respect for the rule of law. Project interventions are designed to achieve short-term gains in the efficiency, fairness, and responsiveness of legal institutions while promoting sustainable and long-term improvements in service quality. For example, EPJP collaborates with justice sector institutions to support strategic planning and improve information technology systems, e-services, archiving capacity, and social media capacity. Other activities are improving procedures in family courts so they more effectively incorporate safety, access, optional work flow, and gender and family visitation considerations.

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To increase public awareness of the rule of law, the project also collaborates with local grantees to communicate the rights available to marginalized groups through TV drama series, radio shows, and interactive court monitoring

Security Sector Governance (SSG)

The SSG program operates in support of the August 2014 Presidential Security Governance Initiative, intended to improve security sector governance and capacity to address threats around the world. The program enables USAID and the U.S. government to respond to requests for SSG assistance in key partner states, particularly countries in Africa where SSG is improving security sectors' capacity to protect civilians and confront challenges and threats. Demand-driven support includes technical studies, workshops and training, assessments and technical advice, and pilot programming. In 2015, SSG developed a paper on the applicability of traditional Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration approaches to reintegration of former combatants or members of violent extremist organizations. SSG has also provided support to the development of a results framework for the Security Governance Initiative interagency working group as well as to Mali's Joint Country Action Plan.

Ukraine Fair, Accountable, Independent, and Responsible Judiciary Program (FAIR)

The FAIR Program supports legislative, regulatory, and institutional reform of judicial institutions to boost accountability and transparency in Ukraine. The project provides training programs for the judiciary and works with local partners to develop a framework for judicial reform that complies with European and international norms. To strengthen the role of civil society as advocates for and monitors of judicial reform, the program has also led targeted programming to 46 civil society organizations and has engaged 20,800 citizens in monitoring and oversight of court performance since 2011. In addition, FAIR developed 12 legal courses and curricula for courts around Ukraine, including a court administration certificate program – the first of its kind in the country.