

EVALUATION BRIEFS

FINAL INDEPENDENT PROJECT EVALUATION

NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR ETHIOPIA SUB-PROGRAMME II: CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND INTEGRITY (2013-2019)

Region: Ethiopia

Duration: Nov 2012 – Dec 2022

Donors: Governments of
Netherlands, Sweden and Norway

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Full report:

[https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/
evaluation/reports_year_2022.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/reports_year_2022.html)

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Sub Programme (SP II) was intended to strengthen the criminal justice system in order to operate more effectively within the framework of the rule of law, while promoting human rights and protecting vulnerable groups. The SP II was running from November 2012 to 30 September 2022 with an overall budget of 6,000,000 USD. The partners and direct beneficiaries are the Federal Office of the Attorney General (now the Ministry of Justice), the Federal Police Commission (FPC), the Federal Prison Association (FPA) and the Federal Supreme Courts (FSC). Other international partners are the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Centre for Justice and UN Agencies: UNICEF, UNDP, OHCHR, UNWOMEN.

MAIN FINDINGS

The evaluation finds that the SP II is highly relevant since Ethiopian institutions maintain its interest in cooperating with UNODC and criminal justice in a context of leadership changes and crises such as the seven declared states of emergencies. In terms of efficiency, they use of the institutional training platforms of the police, judges and prosecutions avoids parallel programmes and reinforces the internal institutional capacities. However, human resources in the programme team are not enough to address 7 different outcomes and follow upon their implementation. The coherence should also be reinforced for a better design of the SP II with the participation of other UN and international agencies, and in order to deploy its full effectiveness it must be developed at the regional level as well. The small number of staff of UNODC in the country office and the lack of funding for core and program support to civil society organisations in the regions also hinder its effectiveness. There are signs that the government will enable more sustainable capacity building and information management in the future strengthened by new policies and changes in the political context. The Ministry of Justice has created specialized areas on crime prevention, and the full UNODC support is evolving in specialized sections that will last. Although SP II was involved in the development of gender and child-oriented policies, but institutions still need more specific training on how to protect the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups, including minorities, refugees, persons with disability.

LESSONS LEARNED

Electronic information management systems are of crucial importance in defending the rights of the vulnerable, including prisoners whose sentences have expired but may remain in custody due to inaccurate or missing records. However, the support for electronic systems needs to include strategies that include all prisons across the country and require ongoing technical support



Delivery of equipment to key criminal justice
institutions in Ethiopia, 2021

Source: UNODC Programme team



Education for Justice: training materials
Source: UNODC Programme team

to maintain them. Another lesson that can be drawn is that experts from civil society and academia can make a significant contribution to developing government policy and legislation if provided with support from donors. Those experts can provide a particular expertise and focus that is unavailable from government sources.

GOOD PRACTICES

Training on international standards and best practices such as the Nelson Mandela Rules for prisons were greatly appreciated. Additionally, creating “child friendly benches” in courts is crucial, including video and sound equipment that can protect children and women victims from direct contact with alleged perpetrators during court proceeding. It has been observed that most law graduates from regional backgrounds leave those areas to seek more lucrative jobs in cities. The plan to provide much needed legal aid services for women, children and vulnerable groups through drawing on the experience and education of retired civil servants who live in those regions and will remain living there is innovative.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology was based on qualitative research. Primary data sources included up to 21 in-depth interviews (15 male and 6 female) developed both remotely and in person. The sample includes members from the civil society, government, penitentiary institutions, judiciary branches, and other beneficiaries of the Sub Programme, as well as the Project Management Unit and other regional programmes. Data collected via interviews had been used for qualitative analysis and the triangulation was undertaken with documentary review and contrasted with different informants. The evaluation also involved observation techniques through a field visit to the Amhara region. Due to political and security sensitivities, the selection of stakeholders and the way the interviews were conducted in the region were informed by those priorities identified by the experts and the management team.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. UNODC’s National Office Capacities: The Programme team in Ethiopia should strengthen its management capacities for the development of an M&E Plan, baselines, targets and indicators in a multi-year and result oriented cooperation framework.

2. Partnerships: The Programme team in Ethiopia should provide institutional support funding in the next programmatic phase to trusted civil society partners operating in regions outside the capital

3. Training manuals: The Programme team in Ethiopia should seek follow-up funding for training manuals and training of trainers for police and prison officers in early 2023.

4. Legal aid for women, children and vulnerable groups: The Programme team in Ethiopia in coordination with UNODC’s Regional Section for Africa and Middle East (RSAME) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section (CPCJS) in Vienna should seek opportunities for technical assistance on legal aid support for the poor and vulnerable.

5. Pilot Criminal Justice Programmes: The Programme team in Ethiopia in coordination with UNODC’s Regional Section for Africa and Middle East (RSAME) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section (CPCJS) in Vienna should seek partnership opportunities with other UN Agencies, local authorities and specialized CSOs for developing pilot programmes in the regions.

6. South to South cooperation: The Programme team in Ethiopia should provide opportunities for key personnel in the criminal justice systems to be exposed to experience and lessons from other regional and international jurisdictions.

7. Integrating national experts from CSO and Academia: The Programme team in Ethiopia should support key areas of the criminal justice system that includes both international experts and national experts drawn from civil society and academia.