German Development Cooperation´s Support for the Fight against Illicit Financial Flows, for Civil Society and Investigative Journalism in Developing Countries

IFF in developing countries: Stolen Assets and the Role of the Media and Civil Society (CSOs)

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Fight against Illicit Financial Flows (IFF)

- **Aim:** Improvement of conditions to effectively prevent and combat IFF
  - In partner countries
  - Across sectors and regions
  - Through activities at national, regional and International level

- **Holistic Approach, covering:**
  1. Prevention
  2. Financial investigation
  3. Recovery of illegal assets
Areas of Intervention I

Prevention

• Implementing global **Anti Money Laundering and financial transparency standards** to make it more difficult to hide stolen assets and enjoy the proceeds of crime.

• **Support Activities:**
  • Implementation of international standards (Financial Action Task Force, FATF)
  • Anti Money Laundering risk analyses
  • Strengthening regional networks to combat money laundering and terrorist financing
Areas of Intervention II

Financial Investigation

- Building the capacities **needed for efficient investigation** of IFF

- **Support Activities:**
  - Fostering interagency cooperation
  - Capacity development for financial investigation agencies
  - Support to investigative journalists
Areas of Intervention III

Asset Recovery:

- Supporting **successful freezing, confiscation and return** of assets to their rightful owners

**Support Activities:**
- Capacity development for financial investigators and public prosecutors
- Support to CARIN-style asset recovery networks
- Improving Mutual Legal Assistance through law enforcement networks
- Support for civil society and investigative journalists
Support for Civil Society

**Aim:** Strengthening civil society forces in developing countries

- Stressing importance of *enabling environments* in the political dialogue with partner countries.
- **Mainstreaming** civil society participation cooperation projects
- **Improving conditions** for civil society actors as component of good governance approach
Support for Civil Society

Civil Society:

• Civil society has **key role** in fight against IFF, creating demand for **transparency and accountability**

• **Support to civil society activities, especially:**
  • Awareness and information campaigns
  • Sustainable structures at grass-roots level
  • Advocacy and lobbying for anti-corruption laws
  • Extra-judicial complaint mechanisms and provision of legal advice
Support for Civil Society

Examples:

• ‘eData’, ‘ProZorro’ and ‘eInvestigation’ in Ukraine

• ‘Game Changers Initiative’, ‘Young Journalists’ and ‘J4T’ at the IACC

• ‘Deutsche Welle Akademie’

• ‘Investigate the Mediterranean’ and CiFAR