



International Institute for Justice and Development

Overview of Programs

International Institute for Justice and Development

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INTRODUCTION TO THE IIJD

In 2001, the International Institute for Justice and Development (IIJD) was founded as an international not-for-profit, consulting, and educational organization that specializes in justice and development issues. The mission of the IIJD is to fight global poverty by promoting justice and providing innovative development solutions for long-lasting positive change in poor communities and developing countries. The IIJD believes that justice and development programs have focused on short term aid relief for too long. As a result, the underlying causes of the development crisis and persistent poverty in poor communities around the world are ignored or even exacerbated.

The IIJD seeks to alleviate poverty in Africa by dismantling systemic barriers and addressing those institutional weaknesses that create an environment of corruption, exclusion, repression and economic stagnation. Our approach to development is a top-down and bottom-up strategy. Our programs create the space at the top to allow for institutional and systemic reforms, while we address civil society building through a bottom-up approach. Emphasizing community participation, these projects include working with grassroots organizations and local experts, such as universities and a diversity of professionals, on sustainable development projects. The IIJD firmly believes that poverty can be alleviated and development sustained only by combining systemic or institutional reforms, infrastructure building, and civil society strengthening through local and community-based organizations.

The IIJD is committed to making a difference with its excellent understanding of international development issues and an advanced knowledge of the legal, political, cultural, social and economic environment of most African countries. Rather than speculating on the needs of communities and imposing generic solutions, the IIJD provides communities with the necessary resources and tools for defining problems, prioritizing change, and implementing solutions, with the active participation of local citizens.

Based on participation, empowerment, self-reliance, and local sustainability, the IIJD looks at the big picture of poverty, underdevelopment, and insecurity. Our work goes beyond the mere treatment of the symptoms of poverty to confront the causes and contributors to the problem. We seek to tap the human potential and leverage the power of individuals and communities to unleash a force for change and progress. We focus on creating tools, opportunities and accessible services that help the less fortunate get on their feet to start more productive and joyful lives, while helping to advance sustainable change.

By assisting the efforts of local communities, bringing together members of civil society and government to address relevant issues, and by building an international constituency of citizens dedicated to reform, the IIJD promotes peace, understanding, justice, and development for a better and safer world.

IIJD is a tax exempt 501(c) (3) organization.

JUSTICE PROGRAM

Through the *Justice Program*, the IIJD addresses the need for systemic institutional change. We place special emphasis on the development of free and fair legal institutions and the creation of transparent, independent, reliable and accessible justice systems. The IIJD *Justice Program* is designed to develop judicial systems that protect citizens' rights, guarantee accountability, ensure transparency and honesty in government and enterprise, and provide confidence and consistency for domestic and foreign investors. The *Justice Program* is dedicated to investigating and developing solutions to fundamental institutional weaknesses.

There are two initiatives of the *Justice Program*: the *Justice System Reform Initiative*, and the *International Justice Initiative*.

A- The Justice System Reform Initiative:

The *Justice System Reform Initiative* is designed to reform justice systems based on the rule of law with independent judiciaries that promote democratic governance, security, and protection for all. Where justice systems conform to international standards on civil, economic and political rights and where they are fair, transparent, reliable and accountable, states and their people thrive. Strong justice systems provide the security necessary for business and investment to grow; give citizens the power to challenge their government and leaders; respect individual rights; and, support democratic governance through the electoral process. This initiative involves both an assessment phase to evaluate the current state of justice systems and a subsequent analysis and reform phase.

Program Goals

- To reform governmental institutions
- To establish independent judiciaries and facilitate transparent administration of the courts
- To facilitate access to justice systems and increase people's trust in justice institutions
- To promote judicial independence, transparency, accountability, impartiality/fairness, accessibility, efficiency, predictability, and legitimacy and the rule of law

Program Objectives

- Increase awareness of justice systems' impact on economic development by assessing judicial independence and evaluating its impact
- Improve the administration of justice systems by providing training seminars and sponsoring fellowship programs
- Reform justice systems through expertise

The two assessment projects in this program are:

1. The Justice System Reform Toolkit Project

The IIJD has created the Justice System Reform Toolkit (the Toolkit) to guide our investigation into the current state of justice systems. The Toolkit examines the institutions that comprise justice system; the judiciary, police force, prison system, and the mechanisms of alternative dispute resolution. It identifies characteristics necessary for a healthy and efficient justice system, such as

transparency, accountability, impartiality, efficiency, accessibility, predictability and reliability. In addition, the central facet of judicial independence is examined due to its fundamental importance in developing a well functioning legal system that supports democratic governance. These objective qualities and practices of judiciaries, prison systems and the police force have been translated into carefully developed indicators and parameters that determine to what extent the justice systems we study possess these characteristics.

The Toolkit data is being used to develop the National Justice System Index, in which each country is rated based on the indicators in the Toolkit. These evaluations will be made public through our website, www.ijjd.org.

2. The Justice Surveys Project

To complement the results of the toolkit, the IJJD has created two comprehensive opinion surveys to gather first-hand perceptions of African justice systems from both Africans on the continent and Africans living abroad in the diaspora.

The *African Justice Survey* is a nationwide survey conducted in African states to measure the opinions and perceptions of Africans concerning the state of their justice systems. The survey is conducted in all regions and among all ethnic, social, religious, professional and political groups. It incorporates the opinions and experiences of people from all strata of society regarding their reflections on justice in their community. The data collected is compiled using the Statistical Program for the Social Sciences (SPSS), the leading program used to analyze opinion data.

To further incorporate the voices of Africans into our evaluation of justice systems, we are also conducting the *African Diaspora Justice Survey*. This is a survey of Africans living outside of their native country. This survey will provide the perspective of individuals who have gained the privilege of distance in evaluating characteristics of their native justice systems.

B- The International Justice Initiative:

The *International Justice Initiative* compliments the efforts being done by the *Justice System Reform Initiative*. This initiative seeks to strengthen the international legal system by developing educational projects and materials to raise awareness about international legal systems' development. Global education of international justice issues is key to raising awareness of breaches of justice and the promotion of the rule of law around the world. An increased global awareness is instrumental to security for all and for ending impunity for the worse crimes. This initiative works to end impunity and crimes against humanity by conducting studies and evaluations to encourage the effective implementation and development of international justice mechanisms throughout the world. The IJJD promotes and advocates fairness and ethical standards of behavior in all international monetary and trade transactions and international relations.

Program Goal

- To increase the international community's awareness of injustices in economic exchange and violations of basic human rights, propose solutions, and stimulate action

Program Objectives

- Assess the impact of international economic regulations on populations in poor countries by conducting research and surveys and then publishing the results
- Advocate for fairness in international exchanges
- Advocate for independent judiciaries around the world
- Facilitate access to international conventions and regulations to researchers in developing countries

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The IIJD *Development Program* advocates reorienting international development efforts away from subsistence relief measures, which often filter through corrupt and unaccountable governments, toward sustainable initiatives for meaningful reform that incorporate the will of the people. To this effect, we emphasize institutional reform and capacity-building at the community-based or grassroots level.

The *Development Program* has three interdependent components: the *Election and Political Process Reform Initiative*, the *Legislative Reform Initiative*, and the *Civil Society Strengthening and Citizen Participation Initiative (CSSCPI)*. All these components, while different in approach, work to improve local quality of life to allow for creative of a vibrant civil society and effective development solutions. Through the work of the *Development Program*, Communities are involved in creating specific and well-designed solutions to poverty which, in turn, empower them and allow them to become more active participants in their local governments.

A- Election and Political Process Reform Initiative

The first component of the *Development Program* is the *Election and Political Process Reform Program*. Elections are an essential way to increase citizen participation in the government. Through fair and transparent elections, organized by an independent electoral body, citizens are able to choose local representatives and national leaders. In many countries, institutional reform that allows for free and fair elections is needed to make governments sufficiently participatory, reactive and accountable to the electorate. The underlying focus of the IIJD is to assist in establishing an independent and transparent electoral body, as well as to help draft and review electoral laws that strengthen democratic development. The IIJD also contributes by observing elections and offering advice and training about organizing and carrying out free and fair elections to governments as well as NGOs involved in the process.

Program Goal

- To establish a system of governance where free and fair elections are the norm and societies where political and civil rights of people are respected and protected.

Program Objective

- Offer expertise and logistical assistance in organizing free and fair elections
- Drafting and reviewing election laws
- Assisting in the establishment of independent and transparent electoral bodies
- Advising civil registries on their development and management
- Advising and training officials on elections administration and logistics

B- Legislative Reform Initiative

The *Development Program's* second initiative, the *Legislative Reform Program* assists in the process of drafting new laws that create and maintain new structures and institutions to effectively aid development. The central aim of the *Legislative Reform Program* is to build the capacity of people engaged in the process of drafting and implementing legislation (in both governmental and non-governmental organizations) to translate policies into clear and precise laws that help implement development projects effectively, in ways consonant with democratic governance.

Program Goal

- To build reliable legislative institutions that promote sustainable development in the area of law drafting and the incorporation of the rule of law into domestic legislation

Program Objectives

- Offer seminars or training to local government officials and civil society leaders on management of public resources
- Incorporate good governance requirements in all of the IIJD's sponsored projects
- Build the capacity of people engaged in the drafting and law-making process, whether in governmental or non-governmental organizations, to translate policies into precise and understandable laws that then help to effectively implement development projects in ways consonant with good governance
- Provide the necessary tools to improve legislative processes and procedures, and improve communication with and responsiveness to constituents vis-à-vis the executive and judicial branches

C- Civil Society Strengthening and Citizen Participation Initiative

Underlying the first two components of the *Development Program* is the fundamental need to increase citizen capacity to participate in these reforms. The *Civil Society Strengthening and Citizen Participation Initiative* of the *Development Program* is designed to help people increase their standard of living so that they are able to take part in civil society. This partnership spans from small groups of people in rural communities to well-established national NGOs. The IIJD works with organizations on both ends of the organizational spectrum to increase their capacity and effectiveness in addressing their communities' problems. The IIJD focuses its partnerships on groups working to address community problems that impede citizens' abilities to take part in the well being of their society and government. The IIJD also acts as an intermediary organization, enhancing networking and expertise among its partners. These initiatives offer important skill-sets to NGOs and local community leaders. Ultimately, through these initiatives, we aim to strengthen the civil society of African communities, improve locally-run organizational and governmental capacity, increase citizen involvement, collaborate effectively with each other and reduce local tensions.

Program Goals

- To enhance the management skills of government and civil society leaders
- To encourage citizen participation in the management of public affairs and resources
- To strengthen the administration, program design and management of NGOs and CBOs
- To initiate reforms conducive to job creation and sustainable and durable development
- To stimulate increased participation in regional and international economic exchanges

- To build the capacity of local partners to efficiently provide basic life necessities such as food, potable water, healthcare, agricultural and technological developments and education

Program Objectives

- Stimulate the creation and growth of small businesses in order to decrease unemployment and facilitate economic independence
- Stimulate microfinance in rural areas and encourage funding for farmers
- Develop seminars to train people on the basic requirements of international trade
- Develop and realize local communities' infrastructure projects
- Develop a curriculum improvement program to incorporate the features needed by students to help build sustainable economies and make poverty history in their own communities and countries
- Encourage and increase women's participation by ensuring that they are represented in all phases of sponsored projects
- Strengthen local governments by, reforming public administration and civil service
- Promote citizenship and civil society participation
- Develop local NGO and CBO management and program capacities

1. The Spiders' Webs Initiative

The African Spiders Webs Project is an IIJD Initiative stemming from the resolutions and recommendations of the ICSAA, organized by the IIJD in October 2006. One of the primary recommendations called for Africans living abroad and those in the Diaspora to participate in the development of the continent of Africa and for the governments of African Countries to create favourable environments for them to do so.

The goal of this initiative is to provide the opportunity for Africans living out of the continent to participate in an organized way in the development of Africa.

The project consists of initiating a competition-like process to solicit projects conceived and designed by Africans living abroad in collaboration with local beneficiary communities in their respective country or community of origin in the African continent.

The IIJD will establish partnerships with international NGOs or individuals who are willing to be part of this initiative and who can contribute to the realization of specific projects. The aim of those partnerships will be to avoid duplication of efforts and to allow well meaning organizations to contribute their expertise to the realization of projects. Partnerships will also be established with universities, corporations, development agencies and/or international organizations.

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

To complement and support the goals of the *Justice and Development Programs*, the *Education and Advocacy Programs* raise awareness and perspective about current African events and issues. The *Advocacy Program* monitors pivotal events in Africa in which development stands at a crossroads and offers analysis of the situations to the international community. There are four main initiatives in the *Advocacy Program*: the bi-weekly IIJD Newsletter, Calls for Action, *The African Prospect*, and IIJD sponsored conferences and Task Force Group. The *Education Program's* goal is to help raise awareness about international justice and development issues and foster further study and research. Together, and in conjunction with the other IIJD programs, these efforts enable the IIJD to fight more effectively for justice and development in Africa.

A. Bi-weekly Newsletter

The IIJD publishes a newsletter every two weeks to alert and update the general public about pressing African justice and development issues. The newsletter is distributed both on our website and through an e-mail mailing list. In addition to informing the public of African issues, the newsletter is also an opportunity for the IIJD to offer its own input and perspective, thereby remaining relevant and current.

The newest section of the newsletter, "A Spotlight on NGOs in the Field," focuses on the stories of individual NGOs that are working in important areas throughout the region. These stories add a more intimate element to the IIJD Newsletter, and are stories that would not necessarily be reported by the media. Through this section, the IIJD also emphasizes the importance of NGOs, including the IIJD's partners that are actively working in the field in areas that the IIJD supports.

B. Calls for Action

The IIJD periodically responds to current events in Africa that we feel have the potential to destabilize the state or region in which they occur. We call upon local, national, and international actors to meet the continent's most pressing needs and to find sustainable solutions to the continent's most urgent tragedies. The purpose of the Call for Action letters is threefold: (1) to alert world leaders, particularly those in the United States government, the G8, the IMF, the World Bank and the United Nations body, of urgent world matters that constitute a probable breach to the global peace and security that require their immediate attention; (2) to make strong, specific, and timely recommendations concerning how to deal with the issues in both the short and the long term; and (3) to propose concrete and innovative solutions, and represent the IIJD as a serious partner organization willing to contribute in resolving the pressing issues.

C. The African Prospect

The African Prospect is a journal that was created by the IIJD to foster increased discussion of the underlying causes of global poverty and insecurity, and to enhance the debate of possible solutions. It is committed to fostering diverse academic dialogue that draws on original research and first hand experience. A high level of diversity in contributions, we believe, is vital to the search for fresh and innovative solutions to the underlying causes of poverty in Africa.

D. IIJD Sponsored Conferences and Task Force Groups

The IIJD hosted the first International Conference on the State of Affairs in Africa (ICSAA) in Boston, Massachusetts on October 26, 27, and 28, 2006 in an

effort to address Africa's current development crisis. The purpose of the ICSAA was to reach a strategic consensus on the root causes of the development crisis and unrelenting poverty. Furthermore, the conference sought to establish priorities on how to resolve the crisis and to create a more collaborative and effective plan in this regard, emphasizing sustainable solutions for future development.

Following the completion of the ICSAA, a Task Force Group (TFG) was created to address the critical need for a holistic, well coordinated and proactive civil society engagement with policy makers in resolving the Africa development crisis and the continent's persistent poverty. The members of the TFG are committed to initiating actions with all the stakeholders and concerned parties to tackle the root causes of what appears to be an unending development crisis and poverty in Africa. The TFG also implements the advocacy activities of the IIJD, which has the responsibility to uphold the recommendations of the International Conference on the State of Affairs of Africa, and build an international constituency of citizens dedicated to African political, economic, and social reform.

E. The Education Program's Internship Initiative

The IIJD enjoys a close working relationship with dozens of universities and colleges both in the Boston area and throughout the United States. At our office in Boston, Massachusetts, we provide students, academics, and the general public with knowledge regarding poverty, security, development and justice issues in Africa. Some of our academic partners include Tufts University, Northeastern University, Suffolk University, Boston College, Cornell University, Emmanuel College, George Washington, Dartmouth College and Boston University among many others. Through these relationships we have developed an intensive internship program for college and graduate students alike. Students work with our staff on a variety of projects including legal development research and writing, writing development curriculum and research, communicating with our partner organizations and writing newsletter articles. Many of the IIJD's interns work to fulfill requirements for completion of their degree. In 2006, the IIJD welcomed 50 interns coming from eight different States.

CRITERIA FOR PROGRAMMING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Given the diversity of contexts and challenges that exist in various parts of the world, finding the right balance with the options available is less important than finding the right "fit" with the current issues and priorities in a particular country. Therefore, civil society groups' participation in the implementation of our reform program is essential.

These principles, approaches, and criteria are meant to guide the IIJD's programs. They are designed to advance the international targets for health, nutrition, water, and sanitation to make a real impact on the health and nutrition of the world's poorest people.

Addressing the root causes of justice and development issues: The IIJD supports programs that actively address the root causes of Africa's development crisis, its persistent poverty and insecurity. Some of these causes include, but are not limited to: weak institutions, dysfunctional and corrupt systems of governance; poor leadership; the debt crisis and the resulting international interventions; an unfair international trade system for developing countries; as well as the widespread lack of education, and discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, and social, economic and political group.

Responding to demand and demonstrated needs: IIJD programming focuses on those areas and populations where there is a demonstrated need based on a thorough analysis of country conditions including; government institutions, justice system and poverty indicators. When it comes to addressing the underlying causes of poverty, the IIJD development efforts are to support the participatory planning and development management in local communities while strengthening local formal and informal institutions by making them more inclusive, accountable and effective at meeting communities self-defined development needs. This approach includes the poor and marginalized in the definition and reporting of their needs. In this way, the IIJD focuses on countries and populations where the need is greatest and where it can expect to have the greatest impact.

Reinforcing local commitment and investment: The IIJD's programs concentrate on countries where the political will is clearly expressed by the leadership and where they have demonstrated their commitment toward making progress in priority areas for the poor and promising better chances for sustainability in the future. For example: willing to reinforce the democratic process; strengthening the Justice system; establishing more transparency and accountability in the administration; or the use of additional resources from debt relief at a country level for health and nutritional priorities demonstrates the country's commitment to sustainable health improvement and poverty reduction or the existence of political will to reform the system of governance for more transparency and accountability.

Concentrating on effectiveness, or "evidence-based practice": The IIJD supports initiatives on the basis of their effectiveness in preventing deaths or improving lives, such as those practices which have been proven through research and observed outcomes. On a small scale, the IIJD also supports selected research initiatives that explore new approaches in the priority areas, including community, government systems, and policy-level initiatives. This emphasis on knowledge-based development assistance includes the generation and dissemination of knowledge on good governance and institutional reform. The IIJD contacts and supports multilateral organizations that have a mandate to develop and produce the evidence-based policy work, norms, and

standards that must address the underlying challenges our world faces and to underpin all programming and decision-making.

Weighing cost-effectiveness: The IIJD prefers programs that have the greatest impact per dollar from the available safe and effective interventions. It is recognized, however, that there might be some tension between cost-effectiveness and sustainability. While short-term results are often easier to quantify and afford, comprehensive processes, which promote and ensure long-term sustainable outcomes, also need to be supported. The IIJD prefers long-term sustainability.

Promoting democracy, transparency and sustainability: The IIJD supports options that contribute to building the sustainable capacity of local, regional, and national systems, through such strategies as capacity building, preventative measures, and development of sound public policy. IIJD's objective is to institute democracy from bottom up in countries where serious abuses of office and top-down planning have been endemic. Empowered people can demand accountability from both the government and their neighbours while taking responsibility for the investment they deem important. The IIJD always relies on community processes and local organizations that interface with the civil administration. In some cases, local assemblies elected by communities participate directly in defining or selecting solutions to their development problems. By ensuring civil society participation, the involvement of local experts and the inclusion of community organizations, the IIJD embodies direct democracy where decisions are taken by all in the presence of all in the communities, guaranteeing the sustainability of the IIJD's initiatives.

Promoting capacity-building and training: Capacity-building, although not sufficient on its own, is a critical factor in building sustainable local programs and services. At the multilateral level, the IIJD supports initiatives that focus their attention on strengthening local capacities and joint initiatives that improve systems in developing countries.

Drawing from international expertise: The IIJD optimizes its contribution by building on comparative advantages and strengths. Where appropriate, the IIJD encourages others to share their world-class expertise in meeting key targets.

Encouraging global reach: Where support is sought for international efforts, the IIJD encourages efforts that are global in scope, that focus on priority needs for the poor, and that work in a coordinated and collaborative fashion with national and local systems to deliver needed services and build sustainable community capacity.

Fostering new and innovative partnerships: Wherever possible, the IIJD contacts and supports partnerships with a range of civil society, academic, and research organizations and institutions, as well as between the public and private sectors.

Using appropriate information and communications technologies (ICTs): As part of the IIJD's Strategy on Knowledge for Development, the use and promotion of ICTs for development is encouraged. The IIJD supports efforts to use existing, new, and innovative technologies in all areas of development. These technologies must be practical, sustainable, equitable, and affordable, and must increase opportunities for the poor and marginalized. Special emphasis is placed on citizens located in communities in rural and isolated areas.

MONITORING, EVALUATING, AND REPORTING

Along with local partners, community organizations, developing country governments, and the international community, the IIJD closely monitors the implementation of its reform efforts, tracking annual disbursements and results within individual projects and programs. The IIJD works with the rest of the donor community in determining progress towards achieving set international targets. The IIJD also supports strong governance in partner organizations to ensure that maximum resources, both human and financial, are invested on those who need them most.

Moreover, the IIJD ensures that all projects and programs include appropriate evaluation of the effects on justice and development. In addition to these activities, the IIJD reports on a regular basis to the stakeholders and the international community on the efforts that the IIJD and its partners undertake within the IIJD Action Plan and all programmatic work.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

The Top-Down/ Bottom-Up Approach

The IIJD's strategic approach for ending poverty, advancing democratic governance, and providing long lasting development solutions is based on strong partnerships, incorporation of local expertise, participation of local groups, and infrastructure and capacity building at the community level.

To address the underlying causes of poverty, our justice and development solutions encompasses: (1) reforming institutions, laws, policies, and customs that conspire to trap people in poverty forever; (2) dismantling systemic barriers that paralyze the ingenuity of people; and, (3) building infrastructure and local capacity while incorporating stakeholders in decision-making, project design, and project implementation.

Our programs are designed to create the space at the top to allow for institutional and systemic reforms while, we also address civil society building through a bottom-up approach which includes working with grassroots organizations and local experts on sustainable development projects with community participation.

The IIJD's Intermediary Role

Participatory community-based development depends on intermediary organizations with specialized skills and experience to provide links between CBOs and local NGOs on the one hand, and national, international institutions and funding sources on the other. The intermediary functions include facilitating communication between project beneficiaries and funding sources; helping to identify and voice community needs as well as helping to solve those needs; supporting participation and group formation; training and building the capacity of community's groups; and channelling resources to the most disadvantaged groups. Not many NGOs are participatory, and not all collaboration between funding sources and NGOs has been set up with the purpose of promoting participation.

Understanding the IIJD's Participatory Approach

The IIJD is neither a political party nor a lobby group. In promoting justice for a safer world and providing development solution for a better world, the IIJD always presents factual information in an unbiased manner, allowing the public to form its own opinions and to make its own decisions as to what actions should or should not be taken. Besides its educative, collaborative and participatory approach, the IIJD does not intend to participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Working across sectors

The fight against global poverty is more complex than many people may believe. Most of the problems faced by humanity are interconnected. However, beneath all of them, there are the problems of injustice (fairness), dictatorship (democracy), corruption (accountability), bad governance (transparency), and a lack of access to basic human needs. With this in mind, the IIJD's cross-sector programming promises better outcomes. Programs on institutional strengthening or reform, judicial independence, elections and political process, legislative drafting, *Civil Society Strengthening and Citizen Participation Initiative* and infrastructure building are integrated with efforts in other core sectors of development, including education, agriculture, health and the environment.



International Institute for Justice and Development

Promoting Justice and Development Solutions for a Better and Safer World

The International Institute for Justice and Development (IIJD), Inc is an international, non-partisan, independent consulting and educational non-profit organization. It was founded in 2001 to promote the principles of democratic governance and the rule of law for all people nationally and internationally. The IIJD actively advocates for systemic reform through its Justice System Program, and supports local capacity-building and community-based development through its Development Program.

The IIJD considers the development of an independent judiciary and access to a free and fair justice system to be among the most important factors in advancing democracy, protecting human rights, and assuring sustainable development. Only through the reform of these systems can we combat corruption, demand accountability, secure investments, and create an incentive for educated and capable citizens to stay and contribute to their countries' futures.

In addition to confronting the underlying causes of poverty at the international and national levels, the IIJD works at the local level to strengthen civil society. The IIJD partners with local grassroots organizations to address community-defined problems. Using local expertise to design and implement community-based projects, the IIJD reinforces the efforts of its partners with resources and expertise to achieve long-term solutions.

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