



Austrian

Development Cooperation

IMPACT OF AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (ADC) SUPPORT TO UGANDA'S JUSTICE, LAW AND ORDER SECTOR (JLOS)

May 2014

JLOS: www.jlos.go.ug

ADC: www.entwicklung.at

About JLOS

- JLOS is a sector wide approach adopted by Government **bringing together 17 institutions** with closely linked mandates of administering justice, maintaining law and order and human rights, to developing a common vision, policy framework, unified objectives and plan over the medium term (e.g. Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, Police, Prisons, Human Rights Commission, etc.).
- JLOS focuses on a **holistic approach** to improving access to justice through the sector wide approach to planning, budgeting, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- The **vision** of JLOS is to ensure that people in Uganda live in a safe and just society

ADC Support Overview

ADC support to JLOS is grounded in the ADC Uganda Country Strategy (2010 – 2015) under the following 3 strategic areas of intervention in Uganda:

- Access to justice
- Mainstreaming of gender and human rights standards in the administration and delivery of justice
- Promotion of alternative conflict resolution and reconciliation mechanisms

ADC Support Overview

- ADC support has been instrumental in the implementation of the **JLOS Third Strategic Investment Plan** (SIP III/2012 - 2017) in the key outcome areas of:
 - Creation of an enabling policy and legislative environment,
 - Enhancing access to justice,
 - Promoting human rights observance

ADC Support Overview

- Austria's current support to JLOS is channeled to the sector through
 - Sector budget support (EUR 6 Mio. for 3 years / 2012/13-2014/15),
 - Programme support,
 - Technical assistance/trainings
- Austria has supported JLOS since 1997 and is a highly appreciated partner of the sector.

ADC Support Overview

- Austria plays an active role in the JLOS Development Partners Group (DPG)
- Austria together with other Development Partners established a very well functioning dialogue with JLOS (e.g. Joint M&E Visits by Government and Development Partners; regular thematic meetings on M&E, Human Rights/Accountability, Access to Justice, Budget)

Policy and legal impact

Achievements:

- Improved legal regime for doing business with 40 out of 44 laws reformed, reducing the regulatory burden on businesses in Uganda and enhancing competitiveness of Uganda as an investment destination
- improvement in efficiency of legal framework for settling disputes (Uganda ranked 49th in the world)
- 29% public confidence in enforcement of existing laws
- 26% of cases in courts referred to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) resolved

Policy and legal impact (2)

Achievements:

- Transitional Justice Policy approved by JLOS Leadership Committee (yet to be tabled before cabinet)
- 52.6% of targeted population accessing updated laws
- Administrative service Delivery standards harmonized (Increase in JLOS institutions with service delivery standards from 5% to 41.2%; Training in Management for Development Results (MfDR); Strengthening the Monitoring & Evaluation function - M&E Plan published, regular joint M&E visits conducted)

Access to Justice

Achievements:

- Reduced crime rate by 43% over the 12 years cooperation with JLOS. Crime rate reduced from 532 for every 100,000 to 305 for every 100,000 in 2012/13. This is one of the lowest crime rates in the world. It is therefore now safer for investors to operate without fear of losing their investment
- Increase in districts with completed chain of frontline JLOS services from 30% to 34.8%
- 89.2% disposal rate of registered cases despite the 56% increase in rate of registration

Access to Justice (2)

Achievements:

- Rationalized physical de-concentration of JLOS services (12 new service points now in 71.4% of the districts, 14.5% increase in new courts constructed, 44.6% of ongoing construction projects completed between 2012 and 2013)
- Case backlog reduced from 35% to 32.3% in 2013
- Implementation of existing legal provisions under state brief and pro bono (legal aid policy)

Human Rights Observance

Achievements:

- Human rights complaints disposed of in 24 months on average
- Increase in disposal rate of registered human rights complaints from 22% to 29.6%
- 5 human rights desks established in Uganda Police regions
- 95% prison units have human rights committees

Human Rights Observance (2)

Achievements:

- 42.6% of prison units have access to good sanitary facilities
- 3.3% growth in prison holding capacity
- 235 human rights complaints disposed
- In 2013, 59.1% Human rights complaints disposed through mediation under the Human Rights Commission

Areas for improvement

- Access to JLOS services especially for the vulnerable - strengthen legal aid, adopt the legal aid policy, develop and pass a legal aid law and continue to de-concentrate JLOS service points to the rural areas
- Reduce the still high Case Backlog: implement the Case Backlog Strategy, promote ADR & performance management in JLOS institutions
- Internal and External Accountability => increase human rights observance by Police, Prisons and other JLOS Institutions and improve service delivery

Areas for improvement (2)

- Administrative red tape - Create one stop service points for service delivery, work on staff attitudes and develop client charters
- Integrity in JLOS - implement the JLOS anti corruption strategy
- Land administration - there is need to fully implement the land policy
- Transitional Justice Policy – needs to be approved by cabinet and further developed into law

Information Sources

- Annual JLOS Performance Report (2012/13)
- Semi-annual JLOS performance Report (2013/14)
- Third JLOS Strategic Investment Plan (SIP III)
- ADC Uganda Country Strategy (2010 – 15)
- www.jlos.go.ug
- www.entwicklung.at