



Launching the second phase of the Swiss-funded programme in Maputo, 2024.

Strengthening anti-corruption enforcement and asset recovery capacity in Mozambique

A ten-year programme to increase the capacity of Mozambique's institutions to investigate and prosecute corruption and related financial crimes and to recover stolen assets.

→ KEY FACTS



→ **Funded**
by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)



→ **Second five-year programme** launched in 2024, building on first phase 2019-2023



→ **Implemented**
by the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) of the Basel Institute on Governance, through our local team in Mozambique



→ **Partner agency:**
Procuradoria-Geral da República de Moçambique (PGR) – Mozambique's Public Prosecution Service



Training on asset recovery and international cooperation, Sofala, 2023.

What we do

We provide hands-on support to Mozambique's Public Prosecution Service in its efforts to investigate and prosecute corruption and other financial crimes, recover stolen assets, and improve the country's legal and institutional framework related to corruption.

A locally based team of experienced criminal, patrimonial and financial investigation and asset recovery specialists works with the Public Prosecution Service and other stakeholders in Maputo, travelling regularly to other provinces. Our support comprises case-based mentoring and advice, international cooperation, training, institutional development, and legal and policy advice.

Why we do it

Mozambique suffers from high levels of both poverty and corruption. The so-called tuna bond scandal of 2016 laid bare the negative effects of corruption in Mozambique. The USD 2 billion fraud ultimately cost Mozambique's economy USD 11 billion, or USD 400 per citizen, according to a study by the country's Centre for Public Integrity and the Norwegian Chr. Michelsen Institute. The same study concluded that the impact of that economic slowdown pushed almost two million people into poverty.

The scandal triggered a renewed commitment to anti-corruption and efforts by the country's Public Prosecution Service to recover assets funnelled away by corrupt acts.

By supporting Mozambique's efforts to build capacity to investigate and prosecute financial crimes and recover stolen assets, we hope to help the country obtain more convictions and to recover greater quantities of stolen assets that can be used for development objectives. A major focus is significant international cases. We also aim to contribute to strengthening the rule of law and the credibility of public institutions.



Phase II preparation seminar, Maputo, 2023.

The programme

1. We collaborate with authorities to enhance the legal and institutional frameworks for anti-corruption work, in order to combat financial and economic crime and increase asset recovery activity. This includes assisting with the approval and implementation of a civil confiscation law.
2. We strengthen institutions by supporting various bodies within the Public Prosecution Service, namely the Specialised Criminal Department, the Central Office for Combating Corruption and the Central Office for Asset Recovery. We also advise on the creation of further specialised entities within the Public Prosecution Service.
3. We enhance the skills of prosecutors, judges and criminal investigators to target corruption and financial crime and to recover assets, with an emphasis on training in provinces where such crimes are concentrated. To do this, we combine specialised training on topics such as financial investigations, money laundering and mutual legal assistance with ongoing mentoring.

Our work forms part of a wider anti-corruption programme funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation that seeks to reduce the political, economic and social costs of corruption on development for Mozambique. The programme focuses on creating an environment that deters engagement in corrupt practices by public servants, office holders, private companies and citizens. Other partners include the Ministry of Economy and Finance, UNODC and the non-profit organisation Centre for Public Integrity.



Central Asset Recovery Office Training, Macaneta, 2023.

About the Basel Institute

The Basel Institute on Governance is a hands-on centre of competence dedicated to promoting good governance and countering corruption for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. Established in 2003 in Basel, Switzerland, the Institute works with partners worldwide to advance knowledge, practice and policy on anti-corruption, asset recovery and business integrity.

The Basel Institute's International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) works hand in hand with partner countries to build long-term capability to investigate corruption and recover illicit funds.

www.baselgovernance.org