Areas of Intervention

We support our partners in increasing their compliance with international standards. Foremost, it is the anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism standard of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that guides our work.

The programme’s holistic approach covers three areas of intervention:

Prevention
To prevent IFF, the programme supports partner countries in strengthening their legislative framework in line with international standards. It systematically increases the traceability of the proceeds of crimes e.g. by supporting the establishment of transparency registers.

Financial Investigation
To successfully detect and prosecute illicit financial flows, authorities need to be able to conduct effective financial investigations. To this point, our programme has trained more than 400 financial investigators from more than 25 countries on state-of-the-art techniques to trace IFFs resulting from tax evasion, corruption, and other forms of crime.

Asset Recovery
After illegal assets have been identified, they need to be confiscated and given back to their rightful owners. We facilitate international dialogue fora and support regional networks like the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Eastern Africa to enhance information exchange and collaboration across borders.
Illicit Financial Flows and Sustainable Development

The term Illicit financial flows (IFFs) describes movements of capital that is illegally generated, transferred and/or utilised. It covers proceeds of organized crime, corruption, tax evasion, fraud in international trade or the financing of terrorism. IFF increasingly undermine international efforts to promote sustainable development. Developing and emerging countries have lost more money through illicit financial outflows than they have received in foreign direct investments and foreign aid combined.

Our Objective

The objective of the global programme “Combating Illicit Financial Flows” is to strengthen the systems for the cross-sectoral fight against IFF on the national, regional and international level.

We aim to enhance policy coherence both at the operational as well as the strategic level.

We focus on the proceeds of crime: Illegal activities can only be stopped if criminals are unable to hide stolen assets.

Economic Growth: The better countries prevent "dirty money" from entering their financial system, the easier their access to international finance. Thus, preserving the integrity of the financial system and complying with international anti-money laundering standards is a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth.

Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM): Preventing the outflow of IFF increases a country’s available resources. Resources that developing countries urgently need to invest in better education, healthcare and infrastructure.

Rule of Law & Security: Improved legal frameworks and effective law enforcement help combat IFF-related crimes, human or drug trafficking. This makes countries and regions more secure and increases citizens’ trust in state institutions.

Our Impact

The programme achieved considerable results in all its priority regions: Africa, Latin America and the Western Balkans.

One success story of our work was the institutionalization of the multi-agency investigation approach in Kenya. Due to this enhanced method of collaboration, the national Anti-Corruption agency more than doubled its conviction rate from 2016/17 to 2017/18. The agency recovered a record sum of over USD 27 million in the first four months of 2019 alone. Scaling-up: Owing to the positive effects of the approach, other countries in the region expressed their interest. The programme supports them in adapting the approach to their operational and legal framework.