

Supporting Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)

CISLAC, a leading civil society organization on anti-corruption in Nigeria, is a member of Transparency International's global movement

The Challenge

President Muhammadu Buhari's administration came to power in 2015 on the promise of tackling endemic corruption. The cost of corruption equated to 1,000 USD per capita in 2014. This figure will increase to nearly 2,000 USD per capita in 2030 if political leadership fails to deal with corrupt political, military and business elites. Endemic corruption fuels staggering levels of inequality and poverty, whereby 61% of Nigerians live on less than 1.25 USD per day (2010). In this context, the backing for the anti-corruption campaign has recently shifted from support of governmental anti-corruption agencies towards civil society organizations representing the public against the corrupt elite. Weak law enforcement institutions, ineffective legislators and a justice system prone to corruption and political interference have not been able to tackle grand corruption, high levels of illicit financial outflows and the penetration of organized crime into the state structures.

Our Approach

GIZ supports CISLAC through the secondment of an integrated expert, placed by the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), a collaboration between GIZ and the German Federal Employment Agency. The aim is to acquire Transparency International (TI) chapter status and become part of the largest non-governmental, anti-corruption movement based in Berlin, Germany.



Project Name	Supporting CISLAC to become Transparency International chapter in Nigeria
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing Organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project Area	Abuja (Federal Capital Territory)
National Partner	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)
Project Duration	April 2017 – March 2019

CIM primarily supports CISLAC in the fulfillment of criteria stipulated by the TI accreditation process to obtain official status as a TI chapter in Nigeria. Secondly, the CIM integrated expert leads the anti-corruption department to build up critical anti-corruption expertise within the organization. Lastly, management and organizational processes are supported to strengthen CISLAC's ability to execute international, large-scale development projects.

Impact in figures ...

CISLAC's analytical work on illicit financial flows and assessment of the management of asset recovery in Nigeria resulted in an invitation to the December 2017 Global Forum on Asset Recovery



Photo left: Mr Prusa Vaclav with other participants during the 73rd UN General Assembly in New York

Photo right: CISLAC meeting with the SDG Office, Abuja



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Photo left: Study visit to Ghana

Photo right: Opening of
CISLAC office in New York

in Washington, DC, where discussions on repatriation of confiscated assets to Nigeria occurred. A position paper on the same was prepared for the 30th African Union Summit in January 2018.

In April 2017, CISLAC has completed 80% of the TI accreditation requirements. The official application for the TI status will be submitted in 2018 to the TI managing board.

In June 2017, CISLAC approved its new 5-year strategic plan under the technical leadership of the integrated expert. The approval of this document signaled a milestone in focusing on public financial management, illicit financial flows, management of asset recovery, and political corruption as main subfields of interests under the anti-corruption agenda for 2018-2023.

The newly formed anti-corruption department in CISLAC presented a 'Shadow' report to the occasion of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) meeting in New York in June 2017. This assessment attempt provides an objective account of the progress made within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Nigeria, particularly on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which includes a global anti-corruption agenda. More specifically, targets 16.4 (illicit financial and arms flows), 16.5 (reduce bribery and other forms of corruption) and 16.10 (access to information) were analysed in depth and presented at the HLPF and the side-event to the 72nd UN General Assembly in September 2017.

... and in stories

The adoption of the Strategic Plan and the improvement of the managerial and organisational process has moved CISLAC closer to the approval of Transparency International status. As a result,

CISLAC has acquired new funding for a UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)/Interpol project analyzing institutional readiness in Nigeria to combat organized crime and for a project coordinating TI work in Africa on SDG 16. CISLAC also participated in the Annual Membership Meeting of TI in Berlin in September 2017 as an official Nigerian contact organization.

Improved advocacy capability has led to the signing of a series of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) at the national level and internationally. CISLAC has signed an MOU with the Nigerian Permanent Mission to the UN in New York and has established a cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) to advance SDG 16 in Nigeria.

This high-profile visibility has improved CISLAC's ability to advocate for the improvement of the anti-corruption legislative framework in Nigeria as a core mandate of the organization. CISLAC has provided crucial technical expertise to the Nigerian Senate and House of Representatives on a range of essential anti-corruption legislation.

CISLAC's input into legislative provisions such as the Proceeds of Crime Act (2014), proposed amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Law and the first-ever Nigerian Anti-Corruption Strategy has improved tools for law enforcers to fight grand corruption and politically exposed persons.

The passage of the Mutual Legal Assistance Law (August 2017) was a result of CISLAC-led advocacy and has already resulted in a modest repatriation of a fraction of the estimated 50 billion USD annually lost to illicit financial outflows from Nigeria.

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