

Annual Project Report (APR)

Project: 00043911 - [Strengthening Integrity and Capacity of the Judiciary in Mozambique]

Period covered: 24 June 2005 until 31 December 2005

SRF Goal: [2. Fostering Democratic Governance]

Strategic Area of Support: 2.7 Public administration reform and anti-corruption]

Outcome

Strengthening transparency, accountability and codes of conduct within the public administration

Update on outcome

The project aims at helping the judiciary in Mozambique to enhance the rule of law by strengthening integrity and capacity of the court system and thereby creating more favourable conditions for improving the country's economical, social and political situation. The results of the independent comprehensive assessment already conducted to judges, prosecutors and court clerks, will be used to the drafting of a national integrity action plan. This will provide the sector with a code of conduct which will contribute to strengthen transparency and accountability in the sector .

Annual outputs

1. Research instruments agreed and finalised
2. An independent comprehensive assessment conducted to cover district, provincial and national prosecutors, provincial sample of court personnel, court users and law students. The assessment documented in a report to be presented at the National Integrity Meeting.
3. Anti-Corruption Action Plan for the Judiciary is produced.
4. Donor assistance and improved donor co-ordination in supporting the full implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan both at the national and provincial levels
5. Progress reports and final project report produced.

Update on outputs

1. Research instruments have been finalized and agreed for prosecutors and court clerks;
2. Six (6) teams were created to undertake surveys to the above groups in all provinces. The teams paid special attention to the fact that a large number of court clerks have low level of education; therefore, a different methodology was applied to this group. Thus, the surveyed were guided throughout out the questionnaire (question by question). This way, they could understand what was required from them.

Reasons if progress below target

1. Late allocation of funds has delayed the beginning of project implementation. The DGTTF manager had been informed of the fact that this would originate delays on project implementation. At the end of 2005, the DGTTF manager agreed, exceptionally, that activities could be finalized in 2006.
2. Due to time constraints related to the delayed beginning of project, the survey for court users is currently carried out. The anti-corruption action plan for the judiciary will be discussed at a national seminar to take place in April 2006. The project's final report will be presented following the finalization of activities.

Update on partnership strategies

UNDP CO Mozambique and the UNODC regional office in Pretoria have further strengthened their partnership by jointly supporting the Justice Sector in Mozambique in the area of Judiciary Integrity. This partnership was started in 2002 when the UNDP CO benefited from its DGTTF and supported the Public Administration system in Anti-corruption on an initiative that included the organization of an international forum against corruption. From this period, the partnership has been strengthening and in 2005 it was further consolidated with the beginning of a comprehensive Justice project, where UNODC will play key role in providing technical assistance on anti-corruption and crime prevention.

Within the national institutions, through the Judiciary Integrity project, UNDP has opened doors for its close relationship, dialogue and collaboration with the Supreme Court.

Recommendations and proposed action

Due to late allocation of funds which led to the late beginning of project activities, and in face of the success the project has been enjoying within the judiciary, it is recommended that the project continue and complete its activities. This comes as the judiciary is perceived as one of the most corrupt sectors in Mozambique according to surveys recently conducted. Thus, the completion of activities of this project will bust the morale of the sector staff since they have large expectations of improving their working standards through the adoption and implementation of one of their first integrity action plans.

RESOURCES USED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

The project has used the total amount of US\$ 124.018,29 - a hundred and twenty four thousand, and eighteen dollars and twenty nine, of the US\$ 200,000 received

PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. The low level of education of court clerks, which prevented them from fully understanding the questionnaire. In face of this constraint, the team decided to adopt a new methodology which consisted of a guided survey filling. All court clercks were concentrated in one room (per province), and the team members explained the questionnaire in detail, including its objectives and each question. Thus, all doubts were clarified and for the first time the questionnaires were fully filled in.
2. Little time allocated to the project to implement activities. This has delayed activities and have made the team to request an extension of time to implement project activities

RATING ON PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

For outputs:

No (not achieved)

Partial (only if two-thirds or more of a quantitative target is achieved)

Yes (achieved)

WAYS IN WHICH DGTTF-FUNDED ACTIVITIES WERE CATALYTIC OR INNOVATIVE

The project is contributing to develop national capacities, as it is expected that the judiciary will adopt an independent tool to assess its performance in the area of combating corruption. Since one of the major outputs of the project is the adoption of an action plan on judiciary integrity, and the model and funding have come through UNDP and UNODC, these organizations may come to play a privileged role and position in their dialogue with the sector mainly in relation to issues of integrity.

LESSONS LEARNED

Although the methodology of guided filling of questionnaires was adopted to respond to the fact that a large number of court clerks has low level of education, this methodology has proved to be effective in terms of the number of questions answered, as well as better misunderstanding of questions. Thus, the team is considering applying it for the survey to court users and law students

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