



JUSTRAC+

JUSTICE SECTOR TRAINING, RESEARCH  
& COORDINATION PLUS PROGRAM

## *Symposium Series 2021*

*Dates: January, March 2021*

*Location: Virtual*

Corruption and transnational organized crime are inextricably linked worldwide. Both undermine licit economies, accountable governing, and democratic norms. They enable and reinforce one another, sustaining and expanding criminal and extremist networks. Together, they generate massive economic, political, social, and human costs and impede development goals across every aspect of human endeavor. The dynamics, causes, and impacts of corruption and organized crime are many and too often poorly understood.

Corruption saps the capacity of governments and businesses alike, upheaving the desired level playing field to replace certainty with uncertainty and supplant the rule of law with violence, impunity, and unaccountable money. Corruption's impact is pernicious and inexorable. Bribes or kickbacks pry customs or procurement officials from the normal course of their duties, and before long the systems meant to protect are not only ignored and ineffective, but often corrupted themselves. Delegated public responsibilities become rent-seeking perches as police officers and soldiers sell their blindness or complicity to criminality, rending public trust in government, and undermining public safety.

Organized crime is the malignant opposite of development. Lives otherwise prolonged by improved healthcare and enhanced by education are lost to impunity. Forests, oceans, fish and animal stocks, and other natural resources are pillaged rapaciously, hobbling livelihoods, destroying licit economies, and consuming public safety resources. Women, men, girls, and boys are lured or ripped from their homes to be subjected to abuse, exploitation, and violence.

Both organized criminal activity and corruption corrode the rule of law as a democratic norm and the functioning of the institutions that support it. The harms caused by corruption and organized crime are transnational, enduring, and profound. Yet, as both seek to exist and transact away from scrutiny, deliberately hidden in remote borderlands, dark corners of the worldwide web, or proudly secretive jurisdictions, they are threats too readily overlooked.

To aid the U.S. Government Justice Reform workforce to better meet these self-obscuring, mutually-reinforcing threats, the JUSTRAC+ program is organizing a Symposium Series focused on new tools, practices, and programs at the intersection of rule of law, anticorruption, and transnational organized crime. Developed by different actors using different methodologies, these emerging tools represent a significant advancement of the range and depth of approaches to confront these threats.

The Symposium Series on Transnational Organized Crime, Rule of Law, and Corruption will include at least three separate events. Each event will be similarly organized: an introduction by a U.S. Government representative, a presentation of a new tool or approach by the organization responsible for its development, and a question and answer session.



## **SYMPOSIUM SERIES SESSION 2**

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Strengthening Rule of Law Approaches to Address Transnational Organized Crime*

### **Summary:**

In 2018, the United States Agency for International Development began a two and a half-year analytical effort to strengthen rule of law approaches to address organized crime. The project included five roundtable discussions involving interagency partners, external experts, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The roundtables examined:

- ROL capacity issues, consequences of criminal justice responses to organized crime, and complicity of criminal justice actors and senior leaders ([capacity roundtable summary](#));
- Government complicity in organized crime, including criminal justice actors and senior leaders ([complicity roundtable summary](#));
- The role social norms play in compliance with the law, organized crime, and corruption ([social norms roundtable summary](#));
- The phenomenon of convergence in criminal markets and its relevance for USG programmatic responses ([market convergence summary](#)); and
- The role of the private sector in countering organized crime by promoting crime-free supply chains, crime-sensitive business, practices, and alternative livelihoods in crime-affected areas; also covered were the forces shaping private sector engagement, including rule-of-law approaches such as legislation and enforcement ([private sector summary](#)).

Building on the roundtables, the USAID team reviewed work in three missions: the Asia Regional Development, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Guatemala Missions. Drawing on the roundtables and corresponding white papers, the case studies, a catalogue of USAID programming and corresponding documents, key informant interviews, and a broader literature review, USAID identified lessons learned from programming addressing various forms of organized crime (e.g., illicit trafficking in people, wildlife and minerals) and/or addressing the overall operating environment in contexts with organized crime (e.g., anticorruption; rule of law; elections; peace and security). It also considered whether lessons from one programmatic area might be relevant to other types of programming and the extent to which different programming to address organized crime and/or the enabling environment are/could be coordinated.

In this symposium, USAID will introduce and discuss [Technical Guidance on the Development Response to Organized Crime](#) resulting from this line of effort.

**Date:** March 4, 2021

**Platform:** Google Meet (see below)

**Audience:** U.S. Government and invitation



## Meeting Information:

- To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/hkc-hdxy-nhy>.
- To join by phone, dial +1 216-505-9720 and enter this PIN: 113 547 864#.
- To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/hkc-hdxy-nhy?hs=5>.

## AGENDA:

09:15            **Technology Check and Login**

09:30 - 09:40   **Welcome**

Greg Gisvold, Senior Fellow, Rule of Law Collaborative, University of South Carolina  
Judith “JJ” Welling, Internal Training Team, Justice Training Programs Manager,  
Continuing Education and Training, Office of Knowledge Management, Bureau of  
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State

### **Opening Remarks**

Scott Cameron, Director, Office of Sustainable Development, Africa Bureau, United  
States Agency for International Development

09:40 - 10:30   **Presentation: Applied Research on Strengthening Rule of Law Approaches to  
Address Organized Crime**

Brooke Stearns Lawson, Senior Conflict, Governance, and Crime Advisor, Africa  
Bureau, United States Agency for International Development

Phyllis Dininio, Technical Director, Governance and Conflict, Management Systems  
International

10:30 - 11:00   **Questions and Answers**

**Moderator:** Greg Gisvold, Senior Fellow, Rule of Law Collaborative, University of  
South Carolina

11:00            **Adjournment**