

ON NIGERIA: CRIMINAL JUSTICE PORTFOLIO

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's On Nigeria program is to reduce corruption by supporting Nigerian-led efforts to promote an atmosphere of accountability, transparency, and good governance in the country. A thriving Nigeria—with its rich natural resources, young and growing population, and continental leadership—is one of the most important goals for the world today. Yet corruption, impunity, and lack of accountability have posed major governance challenges in the country, with far-reaching impacts on development and Nigerians' well-being.

Through targeted support, we aim to bolster the momentum around Nigerian-led efforts to strengthen accountability and reduce corruption. Our multifaceted strategy has the following complementary areas of focus:

- Reducing corruption in two sectors, education and electricity, to demonstrate tangible results that citizens can see when accountability and transparency are strengthened;
- Strengthening the criminal justice system through nationwide implementation and enforcement of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) and complementary laws and policies; and

- Supporting media and journalism to expose corruption and share information about anti-corruption efforts and success stories.

MacArthur has been making grants in Nigeria since 1989 and opened an office in Ibadan in 1994 before moving to Abuja in 2000, which is staffed by Nigerians and serves as the hub for the Foundation's work in the country.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PORTFOLIO

As a part of our On Nigeria strategy, we seek to bolster the government's efforts to reform the criminal justice system through implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, a national law enacted in 2015 that provides for more efficient management and speedy dispensation of criminal justice in Nigeria. As corruption cases often have national or international scope, it is increasingly important to pursue uniform and speedy application of the law to promote good governance nationwide.

The ACJA has the potential to significantly boost anti-corruption efforts through more effective investigations and prosecutions. Implementation of the ACJA can help to modernize the justice system, close loopholes, provide a common legal framework



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for the whole country, and create platforms for accountability while introducing new provisions, including protecting the rights and interests of the suspects and victims of crime. To date, only 13 out of 36 states in Nigeria have either adopted or are adopting local versions of the ACJA.

On Nigeria supports both civil society organizations and government agencies working to advance the ACJA at the federal and state levels. On Nigeria funds efforts to monitor compliance with the ACJA in corruption cases and training to improve the capacity to enforce key elements of the ACJA that support the anti-corruption agenda. The ultimate goal of On Nigeria's criminal justice grantmaking is uniform, widespread implementation of the ACJA, strengthening the criminal justice system, and deterring acts of corruption through long-term application of the ACJA.

REPRESENTATIVE GRANTS

- **CLEEN Foundation** (Abuja): Monitoring the implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act processes in Nigeria.
- **Nigerian Bar Association** (Abuja): Improving the administration of justice by promoting and supporting widespread implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act.
- **Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies** (Lagos): Developing tailored training modules, tools, and publications for judges and lawyers on the Administration of Criminal Justice Act.

MORE INFORMATION

www.macfound.org/onigeria

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ABOUT THE JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur is placing a few big bets that truly significant progress is possible on some of the world's most pressing social challenges, including over-incarceration, global climate change, nuclear risk, corruption in Nigeria, and significantly increasing financial capital for the social sector. In addition to the MacArthur Fellows Program, the Foundation continues its historic commitments to the role of journalism in a responsible and responsive democracy, as well as the strength and vitality of our headquarters city, Chicago. Organizations supported by the Foundation work in about 50 countries. In addition to Chicago, MacArthur has offices in India, Mexico, and Nigeria.

In the United States, private foundations are charitable organizations that provide grants to organizations or individuals, helping those in need or working to solve societal problems. Private foundations act independently of any private business and of the United States government; they receive no government support.

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