



DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOVERNANCE

For a state to be considered developed and economically robust, it must practice good governance via competent and accountable public bodies and agencies. Moreover, it should vividly enshrine and uphold the rule of law, adhering to principles of civil liberties and human rights protection. Nations, to accomplish this level of development, rely upon prudent public administration founded on evidence-based policy-making and a citizen-oriented civil service.

For governments, international organizations, funding institutions, and civil society organizations (CSO), we provide support to bolster both their transparency and accountability, while heightening CSOs' involvement in the making and implementing of policy. With the aim of realizing transformative results, we forge close relationships with all beneficiaries who feel a sense of ownership in our projects thanks to the "co-design" approach we take. Issuing valued and useful advice while boosting key competencies of our partners, to deliver progress we filter the best international practices into the local context.

Central elements to the sustainable development of not only countries but whole regions are, in our informed view, decentralization and growing the capabilities of local governments. In this vein, we routinely cooperate with municipalities in transitional countries to encourage them to emerge as catalysts and shining examples of economic growth, while at the same time advancing greater public engagement in local decision-making. This requires the dedicated engagement of not only CSOs, but also democratic organizations, govern-

ments, and the media. Furthermore, we cooperate with parliaments to improve their oversight as well as to ensure that laws are made on the basis of solid evidence.

A strong state depends heavily on public security and harmony. Today, amid an expanding variety of risks, strategic communications are critical for governments. With this in mind, we support state institutions in various countries in transition steadfastly as they undergo reforms on various important areas including civil justice.

For governments who seek to achieve tangible progress in their development, we provide invaluable practical assistance.

The areas in which we hold notable expertise are as follows:

- Policy development frameworks and coordination;
- Public service delivery;
- Accountability, anticorruption, and transparency;
- Local self-government / decentralization;
- Regional development policy;
- Public safety and security;
- Public administration;
- Civil service reform;
- Conflict resolution;
- Strategic communication;
- Civil oversight;
- CSO development;
- Parliamentary oversight; and
- Rule of law.



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PROJECTS:

Bolivia:

ASSISTING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (EUROPEAN COMMISSION; 2021-2022)

Bolivia's civil society is diverse and faces several challenges, including a lack of human and financial resources. The EU, along with the Swiss Cooperation Agency, has been cooperating with CSOs and NGOs here to strengthen cooperation with and amongst such organizations. Against this background, we, as part of a consortium led by B&S Europe, have been assisting the EU to implement the roadmap for engagement with civil society in 2019-2023. In 2021, the project team updated the roadmap document and conducted sectoral meetings with civil society stakeholders on environment and climate change, justice and human rights, gender, and indigenous people. A report was subsequently released, describing structural changes made and the legal and operational environment for CSOs, while identifying measures taken to mitigate ongoing crises. Several studies are also ongoing to analyze the current CSO dynamics in Bolivia.

UKRAINE:

GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY (HOVERLA) ACTIVITY (USAID; 2021-2026)

To support Ukraine, USAID launched the five-year "Governance and Local Accountability (HOVERLA) Activity" to institutionalize local self-governance and ensure its effectiveness, to contribute to more self-reliant subnational governance, and to enhance the role of citizens. As part of a consortium led by DAI Global, we identify gaps and challenges in the management of territorial community land and asset resources, build the capacity of relevant subnational government staff and local government associations, and coordinate HOVERLA staff on linking land management with economic development initiatives. We also assist with the digitalization of asset management processes and procedures, provide analyses on relevant national and subnational legislation, and assist in developing grant concepts and broaden the scope of activities.

Georgia:

HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (HICD) ACTIVITY (USAID; 2021-2023)

In 2021, USAID launched the HICD Activity in Georgia, seeking sustainable results in human and institutional capacity development of key strategic partner institutions in Georgia. We, subcontracted by Kaizen (prime contractor), have been contributing to the Activity's success and throughout 2021 we supported organizations playing a vital role in the country's development.

Georgia:

FACILITATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU-GEORGIA ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT – II (EUROPEAN COMMISSION; 2019-2022).

Since 2019, under the EU project "Facility for the Implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement II," led by IBF International Consulting, we have been working to advance the implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA) and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). In 2021, the project team assisted in the development of legal gap assessment (LGA) on employment, social policy, and equality, while we continued to support the Government of Georgia in communication strategy development and Tbilisi City Hall in its compliance with the International Building Code.

Pakistan:

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA DISTRICT GOVERNANCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINAL EVALUATION (EUROPEAN COMMISSION; 2021-2022)

Under EU Framework Contract Lot 5, in a consortium led by ADE, we work on a final evaluation of the EU-funded program entitled the "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa District Governance and Community Development Programme" (KP-CDLD) to build the responsiveness and effectiveness of the administration of 13 districts of this province of Pakistan. Here, the project team assesses the achievements of this EU program with an emphasis on results-oriented approaches and making a contribution to the UN's SDGs.



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