International Justice Mission

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

IJM and its partners are working to close the justice gap for people living in poverty who are disproportionately vulnerable to violence.

EXPERTISE IN ADVANCING DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE PRIORITIES
Our approaches to strengthen public justice systems have resulted in measurably improved access to justice and reduced crime in key sectors:

- Modern slavery and forced labor, including all forms of trafficking.
- Gender-based violence, including the online sexual exploitation of children and securing land tenure for widows.
- Anti-corruption and police abuse of power, including illegal detention and violent crimes.

PROGRAM MODELS FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
For more than 25 years, IJM has implemented proven multidisciplinary models that are scalable and transferable to local partners. Our country teams advance justice systems reforms through strategic institution building and capacity strengthening. Techniques center on survivors to ensure their priorities and experiences with the justice process inform each stage of our program cycle.

In partnership with host country governments, local civil society and survivors we:

- Co-design local systems reforms to improve citizen security, enhance justice and social services delivery, increase public confidence, and shift social norms.
- Assess justice systems to determine strengths and ineffective or corrupt justice practices through comprehensive diagnostics based on improved case management.
- Cultivate the capacity of host country duty bearers at all levels — police, prosecutorial, judicial and social services — to respond and provide relief to victims through technical assistance, mentorship and collaborative skills transfer on active cases.
- Equip and support survivors in accessing justice, holistic care and restoration while empowering them to promote local systems reforms and access to justice for others.

PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACH TO RULE OF LAW
IJM’s teams deliver standardized best practice models, tools and guidance, while also facilitating local feedback and adoption. We balance the needs of all stakeholders to ensure programs advance with the speed and clarity appropriate for the communities being served. IJM’s approach includes:

- Assistance on criminal cases employing a “dual accompaniment” approach focused on protecting rights and preventing crimes.
- Community mobilization to advance sustained policy and systems reforms.
- Innovations in locally led services for citizen security — such as mediation, probation, plea bargaining and more.
We collaborate with local authorities, survivors, and civil society to strengthen public justice systems for the most vulnerable.

IJM is working to increase access to justice, hold criminals accountable, and reduce the prevalence of violence and exploitation. This foundational approach boosts public trust and creates sustainable reforms that work for all members of a community regardless of social status – breaking cycles of violence, oppression and poverty. When systems are strengthened, people are protected. And when people are protected, violence is less likely to happen in the first place.

Our teams partner with local authorities in 31 program offices across 16 countries with plans to expand. Nearly 95% of the almost 1,400 IJM employees serve in their home countries as lawyers, investigators, social workers and program management professionals.

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING

IJM measures four key domains of protection in all programmatic contexts. These measurements are adaptable, and we are able to include preferred donor and partner country metrics. Our program results demonstrate:

- Increased reliance on the justice system for protection.
- Improved performance of the justice system related to targeted crime.
- Increased confidence in duty bearers to provide protection.
- Decreased prevalence of the crime in the targeted area.

CHILD EXPLOITATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

FUNDER: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons under the U.S. - Philippines Child Protection Compact Partnership

BACKGROUND: In 2014, IJM Philippines was one of the first organizations to identify a new form of child abuse and trafficking — online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC). Following research to evaluate the scale of OSEC and inform interventions, IJM established the Center to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2020. The Center researches the scope and nature of OSEC, supports police in rescuing victims and assesses survivor restoration needs.

RESULTS: Despite pandemic lockdowns, IJM Philippines and the Center:

- Pioneered the establishment of the Philippines Internet Crimes Against Children Center (PICACC), a global model for international law enforcement collaboration to combat OSEC.
- Helped police rescue 1,000+ children and strengthened local law enforcement capacity for future operations.
- Assisted Filipino prosecutors in convicting 100+ traffickers, championing methods effective in achieving justice for survivors while protecting them from retraumatization.
- Strengthened the justice system, with over half of Philippine OSEC convictions coming from IJM-trained and assisted prosecutors.

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE CAPACITY

Created in 2017, the Global Fusion Center (GFC) uses geospatial mapping, satellite-based technology, advanced analytical techniques, and open-source information to monitor patterns of potential abuse and track a predator’s footprint.

Based out of IJM’s global office, the GFC delivers strategic and operational criminal intelligence analysis to increase law enforcement capacity, set standards and develop improved justice solutions. The GFC team supports IJM and partners in identifying victims, locating suspects, and tracking emerging trends, historical patterns, and hotspots of criminal activity.

On April 12, 2019, Philippine authorities arrested a Filipino man notorious for producing and distributing images and videos of children being sexually abused. Once Europol’s most-wanted criminal, IJM’s GFC played a significant role in his capture, helping authorities identify and pinpoint his location.
AMPLIFYING SURVIVOR VOICES

IJM launched the Global Survivor Network in 2019 by establishing a Leadership Council of survivors who are shaping the movement to end violence. Today, there are over 4,000 members from 10 countries, including survivors of slavery, police abuse of power, and violence against women and children. Survivors have uniquely powerful experience and expertise regarding the nature of exploitation, the factors that enable it to thrive, the criminals who profit from it, and the solutions to stop it. IJM is committed to consulting with survivors on programming, equipping survivors with leadership and advocacy training, and mobilizing survivors to shape inclusive and sustainable policies and programs around the world.

POLICE ABUSE OF POWER IN KENYA

BACKGROUND: Corrupt police are known to frame, falsely accuse or even kill innocent people they are sworn to protect. IJM works with authorities responsible for oversight to hold police accountable.

- 1 in 3 people in Kenya experienced police harassment or abuse in the last year.
- 1,500+ people have been killed by police or reported missing since 2007.
- Of those cases, only 28 prosecution procedures have started.

RESULTS:

- 5,766 police, judges, communities, and others trained on police abuse and child protection.
- 80+ victims of police violence restored to safety.
- 275+ women and men freed from illegal detention with IJM’s help.

MILESTONES:
- 2018 — First conviction of a senior police officer, guilty of murder after beating a man in custody.

FORCED LABOR SLAVERY IN INDIA

BACKGROUND: IJM collaborates with a network of partners across India to root out slavery. Our team supports local authorities to rescue vulnerable children, women and men and hold powerful criminals accountable under the law, while advancing significant systems reforms and survivor leadership.

- Globally, 49.6M people live in modern slavery — including 27.6M in forced labor.
- 12% of all suffering forced labor are children.
- South Asia has an estimated 15.5 million people in bonded labor slavery.

RESULTS:

- 33,350+ people rescued from slavery.
- 5,190+ survivors restored since 2014.
- 140,490+ police, government officials, NGOs and others trained by IJM.

MILESTONES:
- 2015 — Our Mumbai team trains 10,000+ justice system officials in a single year, at the invitation of the state government.
- 2019 — Survivor leaders supported by IJM rise up to free hundreds of people from bonded labor.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN GUATEMALA

BACKGROUND: When IJM began exploring opening an office in 2005, human rights experts said the system was too broken and could not protect the most vulnerable. Since then, IJM has helped establish a stronger law and a new Sex Crimes Unit, resulting in genuine systems reform and willingness to tackle this crime.

RESULTS:

- 290+ people rescued from sexual violence.
- 220+ survivors restored through aftercare services.
- 270+ convicted for sexual violence related crimes.
- 10,000+ police, government officials, NGOs and others trained by IJM.

MILESTONES:
- 2013-2014 — IJM guides nationwide standards for cases addressing sexual violence against children and is authorized to train police.
- 2018 — Five local organizations adopt IJM’s legal and aftercare services model for child survivors of sexual violence.
THE GLOBAL JUSTICE GAP

Nearly two-thirds of people around the world live in a “global justice gap” without benefits of the law. When justice systems fail to deliver essential protections, people in poverty are uniquely vulnerable to exploitation — crimes including human trafficking, gender-based violence and forced labor.

Endemic violence and impunity contribute to fragile societies while severely undermining progress in global health, food security, economic growth and other humanitarian priorities.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

• Ghana, Strengthening the Criminal Justice System’s Response to Human Trafficking in Ghana, JTIP/DOS ($300,000), 2019–2021.
• Malaysia, Creating a Victim-Centered Response to Human Trafficking in Malaysia, JTIP/DOS ($2,000,000), 2020–2023.
• Romania, Strengthening Proactive Criminal Justice Response to TIP, JTIP/DOS ($1,500,000), 2020–2024.
• Thailand, Transforming the Criminal Justice Response to Protect Workers in the Thai Fishing Industry, Walmart Foundation ($3,000,000), 2019–2021.