

Doing Pro Bono the International Development Way – Part II

Case study – to be read in advance of the workshop

This note outlines a case study which we will refer to and work on during the workshop. Please read this case study in advance and think about ways in which you could monitor this activity in order to learn about how well it is achieving its objectives. What would you seek to monitor and how might you do this?

Case study

Background:

- The UK Judgecraft Academy (UKJA) is a group of sitting and retired judges from the UK who deliver training on judicial skills to judges in countries trying to strengthen their legal systems, with the ultimate purpose of upholding and improving the rule of law and making a contribution to more just societies.
- The Kakora Judicial Institute (KJI) is a newly formed, independent, judge-led institution that provides training to judges in Kakora.
- UKJA have delivered trainings to judges in various parts of the world, on a range of judicial skills. These trainings are delivered by sitting and retired experts providing their time and skills on a pro bono basis. Increasingly, and with support from A4ID's ROLE UK Programme, the UKJA are seeking to develop a more strategic approach to their work, through forming longer-term partnerships with relevant bodies in selected countries. They believe that this partnership approach will enable them to forge stronger relationships, deliver a wider and deeper model of support, and monitor the outcomes of their work more easily.
- UKJA and the Kakora Judicial Institute formed a partnership in 2019. The objective of the partnership is to strengthen the capacity of the Kakora Judicial Institute to provide an ongoing programme of capacity-building to judges in the country, including those who have been newly appointed. This will be done through partnering with the KJI to deliver training programmes to judges, with the intention that the KJI will become able to deliver these trainings independently over time without the direct support of the UKJA. The UKJA will also provide some specific capacity-building support for the KJI itself.
- The Programme is keen to support this partnership, as a contribution to the rule of law in Kakora, where the weak capacity of the judicial sector has been identified by the UK Government as a priority area to support in order to improve human rights and build a more stable and prosperous country.
- So far, members of UKJA have travelled to Kakora to undertake a collaborative needs assessment with the Kakora Judicial Institute, to identify the capacity needs of the Institute itself and the priority capacity and training needs of the judiciary in Kakora. One priority that has been identified is the need for better judgement writing. Currently, poorly prepared and written judgements are undermining rule of law in the country because judges are not providing clear and concise reasoning for their decisions and this is leading to a lack of understanding of and respect for judgements and a lack of public confidence in the judicial system. It also undermines the development of precedent through case law, which is a problem in the country's common law system. To date, there has been no formal training for judges in Kakora on judgment writing.
- UKJA are therefore developing a training course on judgement writing, to be delivered to 10 judges in Kakora, under the auspices of the Kakora Judicial Institute. UKJA are keen to deliver an effective training and to be able to monitor the success of the course so as to be able to demonstrate impact and to identify learning that can be used to adapt and strengthen:



- future trainings on judgement writing (including future trainings by the UKJA on this issue in other countries, and future trainings on this issue in Kakora to be delivered directly by the KJI);
- other future work with the KJI.

Theory of Change for the activity:

If we provide high quality training to 10 judges in Kakora on judgement writing, as part of our wider partnership with the Kakora Judicial Institute, **then we will see** these judges writing clear, concise and well-reasoned judgements, leading to the public's better understanding of and respect for the judgments.

This is because:

- the ability of the selected judges to prepare and write effective and transparent judgements will increase; and
- the Kakora Judicial Institute will be able to identify additional measures that they need to take to promote and support good judgement writing.