The Year in Review

The past is a foreign country” never felt truer than now, weeks into the COVID-lockdown, at home behind a screen. How far away 2019 feels—the busyness, the travel, the conferences and workshops, all (temporarily, we hope) a thing of the past. Now looking back at the so-called regular times of 2019 what stands out from an anti-corruption perspective?

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Country Engagements

With the unique leveraging power bestowed through the World Bank and UNODC, StAR is well placed to intermediate between countries by facilitating multi-jurisdictional dialogue, and to provide practical advice on the strategy and management of asset recovery efforts and a platform for dialogue and collaboration on specific asset recovery cases. In addition, the StAR team’s in-depth knowledge of UNCAC and its implementation and StAR’s extensive country experience strengthen our role in providing legislative advice and general case support related to asset recovery and anti-corruption measures.

19 countries received StAR assistance in 2019

11 countries received technical assistance on legislative reform

5 countries received StAR support to improve domestic coordination processes

2 countries adopted new laws or amendments related to asset recovery with StAR support

2 countries receiving StAR assistance opened a new AR case involving proceeds of corruption

1 country adopted new domestic coordination mechanisms with StAR support

5 scoping missions conducted in response to new requests

ECUADOR
Creation and inauguration of inter-agency group of focal points for asset recovery (GEIRA) following StAR support

UKRAINE
StAR advised on asset declaration, illicit enrichment and civil confiscation legislation; enacted in October and November 2019

ARMENIA
StAR provided comments on the legislation drafted on civil forfeiture of illegal assets currently under review by Parliament

KYRGYZSTAN
StAR assisted with international cooperation with the U.S. that, inter alia, resulted in the return of USD 4.5 million from the U.S. to Kyrgyzstan

ETHIOPIA
StAR supported an International Expert Meeting on the Return of Stolen Assets ("Addis II") to further develop good practices on asset returns

AUSTRIA
Joint publication by StAR and International Bar Association, Going for Broke, presented at the UN Commission on International Trade and Law Colloquium

MONGOLIA
StAR trained 150+ people in asset recovery principles including financial investigations, beneficial ownership and verification of asset declarations

ABU DHABI
At CoS8, StAR hosted StAR Day, a full-day event of discussions on asset recovery and organized 23 bilateral meetings between 21 countries involved in asset recovery cases

NIGERIA
StAR participated in the High-Level Conference on Fast Tracking the Implementation of UNCAC in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

STAR is an excellent organization that bridges the gap in information between countries where assets are kept and where they are taken from."

—Executive Director, Economic Advocacy NGO
To be able to be effective in its quest to recover stolen assets, a robust legal framework is a pre-condition. That is why we will often start our engagement with a review of the legal framework, and offer assistance in putting in place the necessary legal building blocks to facilitate domestic and international information exchange, proper criminalization of different corrupt behaviors, and laundering of the proceeds thereof, ensure sufficient transparency of the corporate sector or, where feasible, non-conviction based confiscation.

In 2019, we provided technical assistance to 11 countries on proposed amendments, and new drafts of bills:

- Armenia: provided comments on the legislation drafted on Civil Forfeiture of Illegal Assets and Reversal of Burden of Proof in Demonstrating the Lawful Origin of Property in Case of Grave and Particularly Grave Crimes which is currently under review.
- Costa Rica: provided recommendations for draft bill on non-conviction based asset forfeiture.
- Ecuador: legislative assistance with draft bills on asset recovery, and non-conviction based asset forfeiture. The former is under review by the National Assembly, and the latter was presented to the President of the National Assembly.
- Sri Lanka: advised on Asset Recovery Strategy, Proceeds of Crime Act and Asset Declaration Reform, and provided recommendations on the legal framework for asset declarations for public officials, and transitioning to electronic filing of declarations.
- Tunisia: supported work on a law related to anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) which was adopted last year titled, loi organique N°28/2018 modifiant et complétant la loi organique.

In October, Ukraine also passed the NACP Law (Law 140-IX) On Amendment of some Legislative Acts to Ensure Effective Institutional Mechanism of Corruption Prevention. The law overhauled the governance of the institution that manages the asset declaration system and refined the declaration requirements for officials. Our team also provided advice on a draft amendment to the Ukrainian Criminal Code regarding the criminalization of money laundering, which was adopted in December 2019. STAR also provided comments on proposed amendments to the Law on the National Agency for asset recovery, and non-conviction based asset forfeiture. The former is under review by the National Assembly, and the latter was presented to the President of the National Assembly.

All through 2019, STAR engaged with Ukraine to provide feedback on the legal framework on asset declarations and asset recovery. Our experts provided advice and analysis on the draft legislation on illicit enrichment for which a draft was submitted to Parliament in late May, but not adopted. A modified draft, which also included provisions on civil forfeiture, was submitted in September, and approved by Parliament in October as the illicit enrichment/Civil confiscation (Law 263-IX) On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Confiscation of Illegal Assets of Persons Authorized to Perform Functions of the State or Local Self-Government and Penalty for the Acquisition of Such Assets. The law was enacted by the President in November.

In 2019, we provided technical assistance to 11 countries on asset recovery, and non-conviction based asset forfeiture. The former is under review by the National Assembly, and the latter was presented to the President of the National Assembly.
Building National Capacity

Existing gaps in institutional capacity when dealing with corruption cases in general, and asset recovery in particular, are coming to the fore as countries find it necessary to engage in more depth on anti-corruption measures. Building national capacity is a core pillar of STAR’s work and aims to build basic skills for those that investigate money laundering and corruption, oversee the declaration of assets and interests, or are involved in international cooperation. To this end we have developed a number of courses, that have both a theoretical element, on the international standards and required legislation, and a practical element, often based on real cases that help participants work with exhibits and pieces of evidence to build a case, and try to confront them with the types of decisions that will have to be made in real cases.

Specifically, we have a course on financial investigations which assists in increasing officials’ understanding of money laundering, the use of financial information, and mutual legal assistance for the purpose of identifying, tracing, seizing, freezing, and confiscating proceeds of corruption. Courses focused on beneficial ownership highlight exercises on how to identify the beneficial owner in order to tackle misuse of legal structures to conceal proceeds of corruption. Case studies and best practices on effective implementation of income and asset disclosure systems provides advice on advancing e-verification of declarations and other key reform areas needed to strengthen a country’s asset declaration and conflict of interest system, and open source investigations courses introducing participants to data mining tools and techniques supporting extraction of information from, and protective measures for using open source data such as social media, search engines and photo metadata. Our team endeavors to tailor courses to the country context and legislative framework in order to make the courses most useful for the participating authorities.

In 2019, STAR conducted 21 national capacity building exercises and contributed to 2 regional workshops. We engaged with the following countries:

- **Armenia**: on financial investigations and international cooperation
- **Costa Rica**: on non-conviction based asset forfeiture and case studies highlighting the effectiveness of such measures in other countries
- **Ecuador**: on open source investigations, circumstantial evidence, authorship and participation in financial crimes
- **Ethiopia**: on financial investigations
- **North Macedonia**: on financial investigations
- **Romania**: on identifying assets abroad, financial investigations and open source investigations
- **Thailand**: on a multi-agency workshop on asset recovery, legal avenues for asset recovery including available tools and resources
- **Tunisia**: on financial investigations
- **Ukraine**: on open source investigations, informal and formal cooperation, financial investigations, and adjudication of complex corruption cases
- **Uzbekistan**: on main pillars of asset recovery and challenges of pursuing stolen assets

In Mongolia, over the course of the year, STAR trained over 150 participants from the Prosecutor General’s Office, FIU, Independent Authority Against Corruption (IAAC), customs and police on financial investigations, e-verification systems and advice on key reform needed to strengthen asset declaration and conflict of interest. Practical examples applying these concepts to concrete cases were shared with the training attendees.
Facilitating Domestic Cooperation

Almost invariably, the one issue that many countries requesting StAR assistance struggle with, is the lack of a clear system for domestic cooperation, ensuring there is a lead agency, and that all those with relevant information can share that with each other. Since asset recovery tends to be a relatively new issue on the agenda of the country in question, likely accompanied by huge political pressure, one of our first tasks is often to help the country identify who should be in the lead, how to share information and under what conditions and put in place the institutional framework to support that. To that end, StAR engaged with the following countries to improve domestic coordination around asset recovery:

- **Ethiopia**: working with the Attorney General’s Office and local counterparts to establish an asset recovery unit which would handle all large scale asset recovery cases.
- **Sri Lanka**: supported development of an Asset Recovery Strategy Roadmap and assisted in finalizing a consultation document analyzing strengths and weaknesses of the asset recovery system and outlining strategies, time frames and targets to address these.
- **Thailand**: facilitated a multi-agency brainstorming workshop hosted by the Office of the Attorney General (AGO) to identify challenges and solutions for asset recovery and improvement in coordination. It was agreed that the AGO would prepare and present an internal report to the Attorney General for the activation of an Interagency Working Group on Asset Recovery and StAR would continue engagement with other relevant authorities regarding the roles and responsibilities of the working group.
- **Colombia**: facilitated authorities in creating an action plan for the development and implementation of the national asset recovery strategy which was submitted for approval from the relevant authorities.
- **Kazakhstan**: facilitated bilateral requests for relevant authorities regarding the return of funds. Streamlining legal assistance between jurisdictions has therefore been a key element of our country support efforts. In addition to the 23 bilateral meetings organized by StAR on the margins of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC (CoSP) in December, ranging from introductory meetings to follow-ups on Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) requests, StAR experts’ facilitation of international cooperation and engagement throughout the past year.

In February 2019, the U.S. Department of Justice returned USD4.5 million in stolen assets to Kyrgyzstan arising from the theft of government funds.

In 2019, StAR teams further reached out to Moldovan prosecutors from two financial centers to facilitate follow-up to an MLA sent by Moldovan authorities. This facilitation resulted in provision of feedback to Moldovan prosecutors from two financial centers to which Moldova had never sent MLAs before, and

**Case support**

- **Costa Rica**: assisted Costa Rica in making contact with a relevant jurisdiction for bilateral engagement.
- **Ethiopia**: facilitated several formal mutual legal assistance (MLA) requests.
- **Kazakhstan**: facilitated bilateral discussions and initial contacts between authorities in Kazakhstan and the representatives of multiple countries with regard to asset recovery cases.
- **Kyrgyzstan**: the U.S. Department of Justice returned stolen assets to Kyrgyzstan arising from the theft of government funds by the previous regime of Kurmanbek Bakiyev and his son. StAR experts’ facilitation of international cooperation between the two countries positively contributed to this return. Thus far, USD4.5 million of the USD6 million forfeited funds have been approved for repatriation.
- **Malaysia**: assisted with contacts in several countries which later led to cooperation on getting relevant intelligence on asset recovery cases.
- **Moldova**: followed up with Moldovan authorities regarding a pending request for information from a financial center to ensure that there were no delays in the communication and the team reached out to the central authorities in two financial centers to inquire about their availability for reviewing draft MLAs from Moldova. The StAR team further reached out to another financial center to facilitate a follow-up to an MLA sent by Moldovan authorities. This facilitation was instrumental in the return of USD4.5 million.

**Ecuador**

In 2019 in Ecuador, following up from a workshop discussion regarding an inter-institutional asset recovery group in 2018, representatives from all institutions involved gathered to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. This formalization of the Interinstitutional Links Group for the Recovery of Assets (GIERA), and held initial coordination meetings. StAR experts played an instrumental role in the initial idea in 2018 and participated at the signing of the MoU as an international partner signatory.

The specific expertise sets and skills of StAR are very important to banks who are concerned about anti-corruption work.”

—Governance Specialist, International Financial Institution

1. The level of detail that can be provided regarding these country engagements is limited due to confidentiality requirements from clients.
Knowledge & Innovation

The development of knowledge products is a core pillar of STAR’s work and one that sets it apart from other groups in the field of asset recovery. As highlighted by the external review, our publications, guides and databases are intended to serve practitioners around the world, no longer just to raise awareness of asset recovery, but more crucially, to bring practical solutions to those on the front lines of the global anti-corruption policy agenda. STAR publications are also geared toward policymakers, international experts, and civil society organizations who rely on credible materials to advance asset recovery in their respective fora. One of the most popular publications of 2019 was one published in the same year titled International Partnerships on Asset Recovery, providing recovery practitioners with a consolidated repository of global and regional networks and how to access them.

New publications in 2019

By helping countries to establish systems to obtain information on the source, destination and ultimate beneficiary of proceeds of crime and corruption, asset recovery networks aim to help asset recovery specialists around the world to fight against corruption and money laundering. In January 2019, STAR published a directory titled International Partnerships on Asset Recovery as a resource to help asset recovery experts identify and access the appropriate global or regional networks and facilitate international cooperation in the forfeiture of criminal proceeds. The publication briefly examines different strategies for international cooperation and the distinction between formal mutual legal assistance (MLA) requests and informal assistance. It includes a global directory that lists asset recovery networks, along with information about their membership, organizational structure and contact information.

International Partnerships on Asset Recovery

By Laura Pop and Dmytro Kotlyar

In 2019, STAR continued its engagements with countries that participated in GFAR in 2017, including Nigeria. With the agreement of Nigeria, STAR, along with UNCAC Secretariat staff and peer reviewers, supported Nigeria’s second cycle review of UNCAC implementation that includes asset recovery. Our team participated in the high-level conference on fast-tracking UNCAC implementation and moderated a session on new frontiers in asset recovery. Bilateral meetings were also held with government authorities and civil society organizations working on asset recovery, focusing on Nigeria’s contribution to STAR’s data collection on assets frozen or seized, confiscated, and returned.

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E-filing Asset Declarations: Benefits and Challenges, was published in July for policymakers and practitioners face in this pursuit.

Going for Broke

By Molly Silver and Jean-Pierre Brun

As a resource to help asset recovery specialists identify and access the appropriate global or regional networks and facilitate international cooperation in the forfeiture of criminal proceeds. The publication briefly examines different strategies for international cooperation and the distinction between formal mutual legal assistance (MLA) requests and informal assistance. It includes a global directory that lists asset recovery networks, along with information about their membership, organizational structure and contact information.

The book makes particular use of case studies to demonstrate the benefits of cross border insolvency proceedings in international corruption cases, and further elaborate the challenges that practitioners face in this pursuit. The book was jointly presented in December at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Colloquium on Civil Tools for Asset Tracing and Recovery. Our publication was featured in a piece on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) blog.
Data Collection on International Asset Recovery Efforts in Corruption Cases 2010–2019

In 2019, STAR launched a large-scale effort to collect information on the actual quantities of proceeds of corruption that are frozen, confiscated, and returned globally directly from country authorities. The most recent study on this subject, the STAR/OECD report Few and Far—The Hard Facts on Stolen Asset Recovery, found that between 2006 and June 2012, a total of around US$2.6 billion of assets were frozen and only around US$423.5 million were returned by OECD countries. No comparable analysis of international returns of proceeds of corruption since 2012 or for non-OECD countries is available. But there is plenty of anecdotal evidence that since 2012, a lot of progress in international asset recovery has been made, including as a result of the 1MDB investigation into Malaysia’s sovereign wealth fund and several other returns to non-OECD countries. In 2019, we conducted open source research on corruption-related asset recovery cases for the STAR Asset Recovery Watch database which showed that between 2012–2019 (at least) $1.4 billion USD in proceeds of corruption were repatriated internationally.

The importance of sharing information and best practices on international asset recovery cases has frequently been highlighted, including in GFAR Principle 4 on transparency and accountability. On the margins of the Working Group on Asset Recovery in May 2019, STAR organized a side event to discuss plans for the study and we developed a new questionnaire for authorities in consultations with country representatives and other experts. In December 2019, the CoSP adopted Resolution 8/9 “Strengthening asset recovery to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which includes a mandate for STAR to collect information on volumes of assets frozen, seized, confiscated and returned, and encourages all UNCAC States parties to participate in this effort. The questionnaire was translated into French, Spanish, Arabic, and Russian (available on the STAR website) and was circulated by the UNODC Secretariat to the Permanent Missions of UNCAC States parties. Collection of responses from countries is ongoing and results will be used for a forthcoming report and for updating the STAR Asset Recovery Watch database.

Forthcoming publications

In 2020 and beyond, we will be focusing on issuing an updated version of our flagship 2011 Asset Recovery Handbook publication which is often cited as one of the best references for asset recovery practitioners. In addition, there is ongoing research for reports on benefits and challenges of automation of asset declaration verification, and a report together with the IBA on the role and standing of corruption victims in proceedings and how to determine damages amongst others. Our team is also working on a guide for investigators on investigating wealth to be developed in collaboration with the Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN), and contributing to a policy paper about related party transactions. STAR is working on a paper on issues related to legal professional privilege and how it affects investigators’ ability to ascertain beneficial ownership and discusses measures to prevent the abuse of legal privilege. Finally, STAR will also be publishing a study on the direct enforcement of foreign confiscation orders, covering nearly 30 domestic legal systems.

Partnerships & Policy Contributions

STAR engages in a variety of global and regional efforts in order to bolster political will for asset recovery at the global level and support networks of practitioners. In particular, STAR has an important role in the implementation and development of the asset recovery principles laid out in UNCAC and is heavily involved in the corresponding UNCAC-related events and policy forums.

UNCAC-related

As a lead up to the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC (CoSP), STAR participated at the 13th session of the UNCAC Asset Recovery Working Group (ARWG) and the 10th session of UNCAC Implementation Review Group (IRG).

The biennial meetings of Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC (CoSP) is one of the largest intergovernmental practitioner events on anti-corruption. The 8th CoSP held in Abu Dhabi last year, featured a full STAR Day, which has become a traditional component of the event. This five-day conference set several records; more than 1500 participants registered and over a dozen resolutions were adopted. Asset recovery was a major theme throughout the proceedings including special events and bilateral meetings.

The StAR team, in coordination with authorities from client countries, organized 23 bilateral case-related meetings between representatives of 21 States parties to UNCAC on the margins of CoSP.
The StAR Day has become a key element of CoSP, with the High-level Conversation on Asset Recovery: Achievements, Challenges and the Road Ahead for Effective Cooperation, in which officials from various countries parsed out the contemporary asset recovery landscape, practical challenges in investigations and the inadequacy of classic tools for international cooperation.

This was followed by a panel on Perspectives on Asset Return: Mechanisms and Monitoring, which reflected on the specific mechanisms that have been used for returns and highlighted experiences of Kenya and Switzerland. Building on “Addis I,” the meeting aimed to develop good practices on asset return and experts developed a series of good practices on different UNCAC provisions for further consideration.

The team supported the planning and organization of the Addis II meeting and led discussions on current trends in asset recovery and returns, STAR’s approach, and the Lausanne Guidelines for Efficient Recovery of Stolen Assets. We also moderated sessions and supported the development of the meeting’s outcome recommendations.

StAR Day

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The StAR team also presented the publication “Going for Broke” on how to use Asset Recovery proceedings to recover stolen assets in cross border corruption cases. The publication was welcomed with interest, and the possibility of translations into other languages was discussed with counterparts.

The last session, Getting Serious About Beneficial Ownership Transparency, highlighted the use of shell companies as a cross-border getaway vehicle for corruption, and presented perspectives from Slovakia, Indonesia and Uruguay on implementing beneficial ownership reforms. The panelists noted the importance of independent verification of beneficial ownership information in the design of transparency reforms and the setup of registries.

The StAR team, in coordination with authorities from client countries, organized 23 bilateral case-related meetings between representatives of 21 States parties to UNCAC on the margins of CoSP. The goal was to establish contacts between authorities from “requesting” and “requested” countries, to help them better understand the requirements for assistance, and to empower them to address specific pending requests.

Cooperation under UN auspices

At the second UNODC Expert Group Meeting on the topic of Corruption Involving Vast Quantities of Assets in Norway, STAR moderated a session on sanctions, victim compensation and social damages, and contributed to discussions and drafting of recommendations related to beneficial ownership, legal professional privilege, related party transactions, and non-trial resolution of corruption cases. Based on discussions, a set of 64 recommendations were presented and adopted on the final day of the meeting. STAR supported the first meeting in this series, which was held in Peru in 2018, through presenting research on grand corruption case studies (meeting documents here).

STAR participated in the International Cooperation to Combat Illicit Financial Flows and Strengthen Good Practices on Asset Return organized by President of the UN General Assembly. In addition, STAR presented on stolen asset recovery at an international conference hosted in Armenia by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and participated in an Expert Round-table on Human Rights Principles and Guidelines for the Repatriation and Use of Stolen Assets organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
Inter-agency networks

StAR is also actively engaged with different Asset Recovery Interagency Networks and multiple practitioners’ networks with the objective to assist in overcoming operational barriers associated with international cooperation in asset recovery. Our team was part of the Steering Committee and Annual General Meeting of Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network Pacific (ARIN-AP) in Mongolia, and conducted a workshop on regional asset recovery. At the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) annual meeting in the Hague, StAR contributed to discussions around tracing and recovering criminal assets from corporate entities, and tracing and recovering virtual currencies. Last summer in the Netherlands, StAR took part in the plenary meetings and working group of the Egmont Group, the worldwide organization of Financial Intelligence Units (FIU). The discussion highlighted the importance of collaboration between law enforcement/FIU’s and tax authorities. The StAR Best Case Award was presented to the FIU of Peru for a multi-national corruption case in which assets were recovered from abroad, which also won it the Egmont’s Best Case Award.

Civil society and other partners

In its engagement with civil society organizations, StAR delivered a presentation at a meeting organized by Transparency International in Belgium, and the Civil Forum for Asset Recovery (CIFAR) on what the European Union (EU) can do to improve the fight against grand corruption. StAR also took part in a conference co-organized by Transparency International France and the French Senate. A new draft French law seeks to establish a framework for asset returns in situations where return of proceeds of crime is not requested by the country of origin of the assets. At the American Bar Association Section of International Law Annual Conference in D.C., StAR experts presented on a panel focused on the benefits of increased cooperation between private and-public practitioners to recover assets. StAR presented at the Global Illicit Trade Summit in Addis Ababa organized by the Economist magazine, and as part of the International Law Institute Anti-Corruption Seminar, held at the World Bank in Washington D.C., StAR led a session on international cooperation in recovering stolen assets.

Global and regional multilateral organizations

StAR has also continued its engagement with global and regional multilateral organizations to foster greater international cooperation on cases, policy, and general approaches to asset recovery, and participated in a range of additional events and networks to encourage connection between practitioners—governmental and non-governmental, private and civil society sectors—sharing similar goals. In the past year, StAR substantively contributed to events organized by the following partners:

- Presentation at the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG). A Chair’s summary of a side event on approaches to transparency and accountability organized by the US, with UNODC and StAR support, can be found here.
- Session on the review process and public consultations of the 2009 Anti-Bribery Recommendation at the OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum
- Panel at the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) 20th anniversary on Prevention of Corruption and Promotion of Integrity of Top Executive Functions.
- Presented at the 29th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG)
- Symposium for the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN)
- Regional workshop as part of the 15th Principals Meeting of the South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC)
- Expert group on money laundering control at the Organization of American States (OAS)
- Panel discussion on asset recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean at the OAS Policy Dialogue
- Presentation at the African Union dialogue on how Africa can recover proceeds of corruption from offshore jurisdictions and create the necessary frameworks for successful asset recovery

StAR’s research is substantial and they’re always adding new information. It makes it easy to learn about asset recovery from other countries.”

—Cooperation Specialist, Anti-Corruption Government Agency
Management, Staffing & Funding

The StAR secretariat is based in the Finance Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice at the World Bank.

The StAR program relies on the expertise of an international team of professional and support staff based in its Secretariat in Washington DC, at UNODC’s Corruption and Economic Crime Branch in Vienna, and the UNODC field office in Bogota, as well as consultants worldwide. StAR team members work on a full or part time basis on StAR activities, as well as on the World Bank’s AML/CFT activities, on illicit financial flows, and on UNODC’s work on the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism and technical assistance activities. The StAR Management Committee provides overall guidance to the StAR team and its work. It is chaired by the Global Director of the Practice Group that hosts StAR and includes members from the World Bank and UNODC. StAR also works closely with its Donor Consultative Group and reaches a wide audience through its StAR Quarterly Newsletter, available on its website.

Funding

StAR’s funding derives from the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) and from the World Bank global engagement budget. The MDTF covers a portion of fixed costs and the range of variable costs which includes: activities, travel, staff time and consultants, and production of StAR material. There is also a separate project budget for UNODC’s contribution to the work of StAR which covers the costs of seconded UNODC staff, other UNODC staff time and selected activities. A transfer agreement enables ad hoc transfers from the MDTF to the UNODC StAR budget. In 2019, the MDTF received contributions from Australia, Switzerland and the UK (DFID and FCO), while Luxembourg, Norway (NORAD) and the US contributed the UNODC budget for StAR activities.

Disbursement Breakdown per Work Pillar

Policy and partnerships: 13%
Knowledge: 20%
Country engagements: 56%
Secretariat: 11%

Total expenditures from the MDTF: $1,144,545

Our sincere gratitude goes out to our donors