Few and Far: The Hard Facts On Stolen Asset Recovery

Some Progress, but Only a Fraction Stolen Returned

New and innovative avenues were most successful in freezing & returning stolen assets (e.g. non-conviction based asset confiscation, administrative freezing).

$1.39bn (2010-2012)

OECD countries are returning more assets to developing countries. The first StAR-OECD report found that most returns were to other developed countries.

Money returned can be used for development inc. infrastructure projects (e.g. roads, bridges), as well as improvements in health and education.

Returned assets can be used to fund programmes to improve the expertise & resources of the judiciary, law enforcement, & others.

Asset recovery helps deter corruption from happening in the first place by showing corrupt officials that they can’t profit from their illicit gains.

THE STORY FROM ANGOLA & SWITZERLAND

After investigations by Switzerland into alleged corruption & money laundering by Angolan officials, assets worth $64m returned & used to fund a number of projects including: land mine clearance, agricultural development, hospital infrastructure & water supply. Help also went to Angola to strengthen international legal cooperation & law enforcement.

ASSETS RETURNED

By conservative estimates US$20 – $40bn is stolen from developing countries each year.

DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES’ ROLE IN ASSET RECOVERY

Incorporate asset recovery into development policies. Ensure it is a strategic planning priority in developed and developing countries.

Support domestic law enforcement efforts, in particular units dedicated to investigate and prosecute foreign corruption cases.

Advise on the return of stolen assets when requested & how they can be utilized.

Fund programs & activities in developing countries.

Communicate the importance of asset recovery, advocating for the necessary changes to national policies, regulations, laws & institutions.

Improve knowledge on the development impact of corruption & asset recovery. Work with other agencies to coordinate data collection and measure progress.