

## HOW DOES ASF OPERATE?

### Our goal

The goal of ASF is to guarantee access to justice which is

- Impartial.
- Independent.
- Able to ensure protection and exercising of fundamental rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural), including the right to a fair trial, especially for vulnerable groups.

### Intervention strategies

On the basis of our theory of change, we intervene on three levels in order to guarantee access to justice:

1. **The most marginalised people in society:** ASF develops the legal empowerment of the most marginalised people. To do so, ASF implements of awareness raising and public legal education to make the law accessible to all. A sound command of the law is a starting point which can help communities be proactive in having their rights recognised and using the law to resolve their problems.
2. **Lawyers and providers of services supporting access to justice:** ASF builds the capacities of lawyers and Bars as well as organisations or people working in the sector related to the access to justice. ASF supports these stakeholders because they are the ones called upon to defend the people who find themselves in vulnerable situations and so they need to be technically proficient with regard to the issues, situations and causes which they are defending. Furthermore, these stakeholders can then generate a progressive case law and drive legal reforms.
3. **The judicial system:** ASF is improving legislative frameworks and policies in terms of access to justice which, very often, fail to take into account or to fully comply with human rights. ASF's work in this area can take a number of forms: strategic litigation, advocacy and/or capacity-building in this field with our national partners.

### Principles of intervention

1. **A high-quality and equal partnership:** ASF places significant importance in the high standard and equality of its relationships with its partners<sup>1</sup>. With this in mind, ASF adopts a cooperative building approach which involves actively listening to the needs of each one and implementing shared processes, especially when it comes to decision-

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<sup>1</sup> ASF works together with 28 national partners in ten countries. Burundi: Bar associations at the Court of Appeal at Bujumbura and Gitega, Association pour la Paix et les Droits de l'Homme. Central African Republic: Canal France International, Expertise France. Chad: Tchadian League for Human Rights. Morocco: ADALA. Myanmar: IDLO. Tunisia: FTDES, ONAT, LTDH, I-Watch, Novact and Action associative. Zambia: YWCA. Democratic Republic of Congo: Bar associations of Bukavu, Kisangani, Goma, Gombe, Matete, Mbandaka, Matandi, Carter Centre, Commission Diocésaine Justice et Paix. Uganda: ANARDE, International Crimes Division.

making. In this approach, ASF is supported by COTA, an organisation which specialises in organisational and social change.

2. **Complementing and coordinating with initiatives of national and international stakeholders** operating in the fields of justice and good governance as well as other sectors.
3. **Sustainability:** ASF aims to help its partners become autonomous so that it can eventually leave the regions where it is operating.
4. **Capitalising** on the concepts and methodologies developed, but especially on the lessons learned and the impact analysis carried out.

**Building capacities**  
Lawyers and journalists in Egypt,  
Morocco and Tunisia take part  
in a training session on regional and  
international instruments  
for protecting freedom of expression,  
Rabat, Morocco, 2015

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