



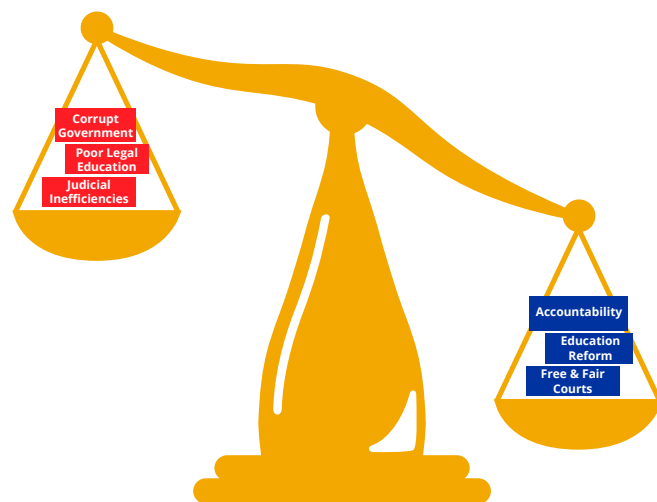
Integrity Systems & the Rule of Law in Armenia

Public demand for an accountable government drove the 2018 Velvet Revolution. This movement highlighted weaknesses in Armenia's justice system and public mistrust of the judiciary. A year after the Revolution, heightened public expectations have led to a government focus on anti-corruption efforts.

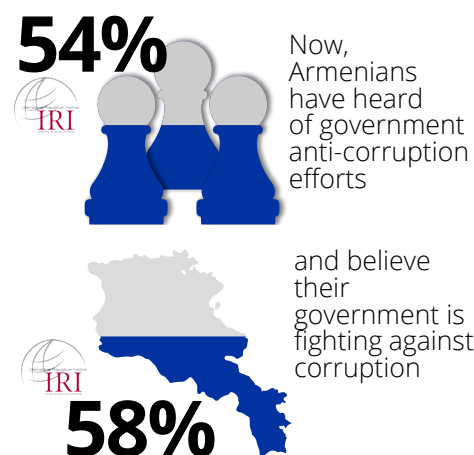
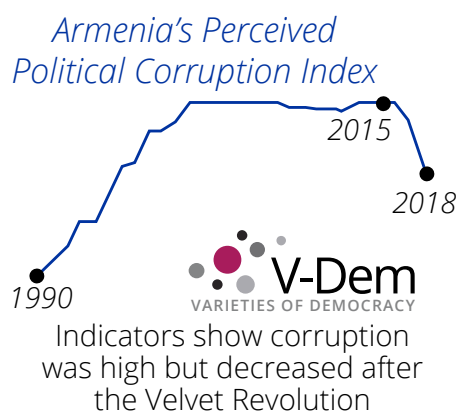
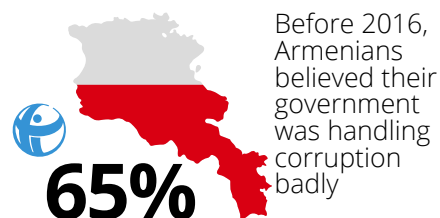
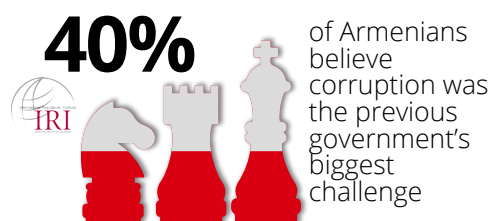
Anti-corruption and justice sector reforms are intertwined:

- Establishing strong integrity systems to prevent or mitigate corruption via state-level institutions ensures the rules and arrangements are followed.
- Strengthening the justice sector allows it to function as a body to increase government accountability.

These are key findings and recommendations based on an integrity systems and rule of law field assessment to understand and enhance these sectors and help Armenia develop sustainable, accountable democratic systems.



Building a Culture of Anti-Corruption



- Many senior **government officials lack experience** governing.
- The government's **support rests on promises to reduce corruption** and restore social justice.
- Whistleblower protection is important** to achieving these promises.

- Build capacity for and support development of anti-corruption systems in the institutions**, such as the Corruption Prevention Commission and line ministries as outlined in the Anti-Corruption Strategy.
- Provide civic education** and raise awareness using social behavior change communications and ethics trainings.
- Strengthen civil society to raise awareness** about anti-corruption and civic education, instilling an anti-corruption culture.
- Strengthen capacity of media and investigative journalism** to promote awareness of reforms and anti-corruption issues.
- Support implementation of the Whistleblower Law** by conducting a public awareness campaign.



Resources: Learning, Evaluation and Research Activity II (LER II) Research—*Integrity Systems and the Rule of Law in Armenia: Evidence Review* <https://bit.ly/2qY5LVZ>
Integrity Systems and the Rule of Law in Armenia: Field Assessment <https://bit.ly/32M6wic>
 IRI <https://bit.ly/2MfldUE> • V-Dem <https://bit.ly/2wgcz0B>

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Legal Education Reform

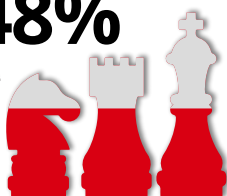


- Armenia's **legal education system has progressed in recent years**, but is still mostly lecture-based with limited instructor-student interaction and an emphasis on rote memorization and theory.
- There is a **significant gap in the curriculum on anti-corruption issues** and professional ethics.
- Continuing legal education reforms will benefit** from increasingly internationalized attitudes of faculty and students, creating long-term impact on Armenia's rule of law.

- Establish **mandatory courses on ethics & anti-corruption** to promote ethical culture in law students.
- Develop curriculum to **build practical lawyering skills** with clinical legal education and moot court opportunities.
- Support curriculum reform to provide better access** to legal research, international legal texts, and experts in strategic areas.
- Form specialized research centers** attached to law schools to provide internship opportunities in strategic areas, such as anti-corruption.

Rule of Law

48%



believe inappropriate staff appointments are the current government's biggest challenge



Armenia's Fewer Judicial Constraints Sub-measure



Indicators show the judiciary has not had meaningful reform to remove constraints.



- Public demand for accountability** is driving a reactive & punitive approach to reform rather than a comprehensive & balanced strategy.
- Political interference** can influence the outcomes of civil & criminal cases.
- Lack of checks & balances** between judicial and executive branches jeopardizes judicial independence.
- Judges are perceived as most susceptible to corruption**, and the judicial system is subject to bribery, extortion, and nepotism.
- Financing for the judiciary is insufficient.**
- There is an overload of cases** due to lack of judges and support staff, poor case management systems, and outdated IT equipment.

- Strengthen the Supreme Judicial Council** to protect judicial independence, revise selection and disciplinary procedures, and establish a judicial and court evaluation system.
- Increase judicial efficiencies and alleviate excessive caseloads** by hiring more judges, implementing e-justice, establishing a comprehensive court evaluation system, and promoting alternative dispute resolution.



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 IRI <https://bit.ly/2MfldUE> • V-Dem <https://bit.ly/2wgc20B>

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