

The background of the entire page is an abstract geometric pattern composed of numerous triangles in various shades of blue and teal. The triangles are of different sizes and orientations, creating a complex, faceted appearance that resembles a low-poly mesh or a crystalline structure. The colors range from deep navy blue to a lighter, almost white-blue, with many intermediate tones in between.

DATA INSIGHTS

**FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS
PEACE, JUSTICE AND INCLUSION**



CONCEPT NOTE

FEBRUARY 2023



The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the value of data for policy making, as governments around the world had to implement far-reaching policies based on rapidly evolving evidence. Data availability to measure progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and inclusive institutions continues to lag far behind data availability on other Goals. Better data on Goal 16 are needed to inform policies that uphold human rights and ensure just and inclusive governance. Better data on Goal 16 are also needed to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda overall, as Goal 16 is a key enabler and a pre-condition of progress on all other development goals. To address the data gaps on Goal 16 and to support countries in making progress towards the 2030 Agenda, the UN system has come together to develop innovative tools and resources for countries to improve their measurement on Goal 16. The SDG 16 Survey and the Regional Trainings on SDG 16 are a testament to the appetite and interest among countries to work on issues covered under SDG 16. UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR are working together with national partners to meet this urgent need to strengthen the link between data, analysis and policy making on SDG 16.

WHY MEASURE PROGRESS ON PEACE, JUSTICE AND INCLUSION?

As countries begin to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts, they face new waves of shock and crises. The war in Ukraine has contributed to a surge in food and energy prices worldwide. High levels of inflation and the significant debt burden facing many countries are further compounding uncertainty and making it difficult, especially for those already living at the margins, to make ends meet. Climate change and biodiversity loss have led to unpredictable weather patterns with extreme heat, droughts, and floods in different parts of the world claiming lives and livelihoods.¹

As these multiple and intersecting crises unfold, the relationship between the state and its population is being called into question with renewed urgency. Popular protest movements have spread demanding better governance, more equitable distribution and access to resources and services, accountability for widespread corruption and protection of human rights and justice for all.² In this context, the call of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aimed at creating more “peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” could not be more significant.³



“INVESTING IN DATA CAPACITIES AND DATA PARTNERSHIPS TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND, BUILD TRUST AND FILL DATA GAPS TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IF COUNTRIES ARE TO RELY UPON EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY RESPONSES TO EMERGE STRONGER FROM THE CRISIS AND FACE THE UNKNOWN CHALLENGES AHEAD.”

- THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2022

1 Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022

2 Global Protest Tracker, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2022

3 A/RES/70/1 - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

However, as the 2022 Sustainable Development Goal Report highlights, progress towards peace, justice, and inclusion is unsteady, and reversing in some regions. One quarter of the global population is currently living in conflict-affected countries, the number of forcibly displaced populations has exceeded 100 million, and exercising the right to express an opinion is deadly in many countries, with human rights defenders and journalists under attack.⁴ The trends over the last years in some regions suggest an erosion of the independence of crucial institutions such as parliaments and the judiciary, increased incidents of silencing of opposition and dissent, deepening of inequalities with women bearing a greater burden, and increased polarization along political and ethnic divides.⁵

The inclusion of Goal 16 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 was a recognition that peace, security, and development are deeply interlinked. However, with less than eight years until 2030, there is an urgency to accelerate progress on Goal 16 indicators. Currently, Goal 16 remains one of the goals with the least amount of data. On average across all Goal 16 targets, only 37% of countries reported data for at least one year since 2015 (see Figure 1).⁶

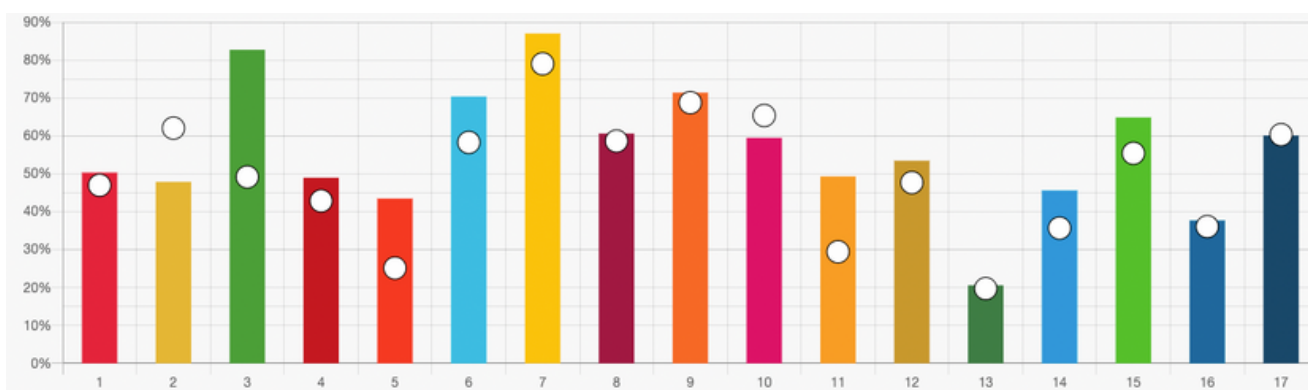


Figure 1: Proportion of countries or areas with available data since 2015, by Goal (percentage)

Better data on Goal 16 are needed to inform policies that uphold human rights and ensure just and inclusive governance. Timely and accurate data can support the design of targeted and effective policies, for example, by helping to identify and remove barriers to the population's effective use of public services; targeting specific institutions that are most at risk of corruption, designing sector-specific strategies to fight against trafficking in persons, or addressing intersecting discrimination exacerbated by the pandemic.

1 The Sustainable Development Goals Report (2022). <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/>

2 UNDP. COVID-19 and the Crisis of Governance: The impact of the Pandemic on Peace, Justice, and Inclusion (SDG 16), 2022

3 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/analytics/DataAvailability>



In an effort to respond to the urgency of collecting and using statistics to inform policy making, to provide a coherent and integrated approach to measuring Goal 16, and to address the methodological and capacity challenges facing countries, UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR, are proposing a joint initiative on Measuring Progress towards Peace, Justice, and Inclusion.⁷ To make progress towards Goal 16, there is an urgent need to invest in better national data and statistics, in particular in the areas of:



Violence



Trafficking
in Persons



Access to
Justice



Illicit financial
and arms flows



Corruption



Effective,
accountable and
transparent
institutions



Responsive and
inclusive
decision-making



Access to
Information and
fundamental freedoms



Terrorism and
crime



Non- Discrimination

⁷ This initiative builds on the collaboration between UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR on SDG 16 including the: The SDG 16 Survey Initiative, which was welcomed by the United Nations Statistical Commission and piloted in 8 countries; joint technical support to countries and joint workshops and launch events; Joint regional trainings on SDG 16 in Asia, Africa, Arab States and Latin America; Joint global advocacy at events at the High-Level Political Forum, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, World Data Forum and the UN Statistical Commission; The Global Alliance on SDG 16, including the National Monitoring Initiative and the 2019 and 2021 Global Alliance Report on SDG 16.

OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

The overall objective of the joint initiative is to increase the availability of high-quality data and research on Goal 16 to enable policy makers to make informed decisions to address global challenges on peace, justice and inclusive institutions.

THIS INCLUDES



Promoting the use of data to inform evidence-based policy on peace, justice and inclusive institutions.



Producing reports, policy briefs and analytical products on measuring progress towards SDG 16, linking thematic areas with other goals and emerging issues (e.g. climate change, food insecurity, etc.) where relevant.



Delivering technical assistance to Member States and building capacity and ownership of national data for measuring and reporting SDG 16 indicators.⁸



Consulting and coordinating with on-going international and national survey programmes to ensure that national statistical systems mainstream the measurement of SDG 16 statistics.

⁸ In line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the Human Rights Based Approach to Data, as well as other international standards on conceptual/ methodological/ technical frameworks. The technical assistance should also aim to build national ownership.

WORKSTREAMS

The joint initiative aims to support national data producers and policy makers, in particular the National Statistics Offices and institutions in the National Statistics System, to collect, and report integrated data related to peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Specific areas of collaboration include:

METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Development of additional conceptual/methodological/technical guidance on measuring indicators related to peace, justice and inclusion, including development of tools and guidance to support the implementation of the SDG 16 Survey.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING ON MEASURING SDG 16

Implementation of Global/Regional/National training and workshops on the measurement of SDG 16 indicators and online training to strengthen the capacities of national experts and data producers (see Annex for details on past and ongoing training).

SDG 16 SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the SDG 16 Survey⁹ by national statistics systems, including stakeholder consultations, questionnaire and sample design, pre-testing the questionnaire, field staff training, setting up internal data collection infrastructure (including data capture software, servers to be used for the data collection during Survey Implementation), field work/ data collection, data quality assurance, analysis and drafting of a survey report, and dissemination of findings and policy recommendations (See Annex). Provision of technical support to strengthen national capacities and ownership for continuous implementation, and facilitation of stakeholder engagement in data analysis and creating linkages to policy making, Voluntary National Reviews,¹⁰ and national development plans.

JOINT ANALYSIS AND REPORTS ON SDG 16

Production of a joint Global Report on Goal 16,¹¹ other analytical reports/policy briefs/statistical reports that make linkages to other Goals, and a dissemination platform on SDG 16 to inform policy design, programmes and accelerate progress towards achieving Goal 16 by 2030.

GLOBAL ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

Implementation of awareness raising activities (e.g. joint stakeholder events, communication campaigns, etc.) to inform and elevate the SDG 16 monitoring and implementation agenda to encourage and facilitate the integration of crime, governance and human rights statistics into national data production processes.

⁹ See annex for the phases of implementation of the SDG 16 Survey Initiative. For further information see here.

¹⁰ <https://hlpf.un.org/vnrs>

¹¹ This may involve other UN custodian agencies that are not part of this initiative.

MAIN RESULTS 2020 – 2022

SDG 16 SURVEY INITIATIVE



SDG 16 SURVEY INITIATIVE WELCOMED BY
THE 53rd UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION

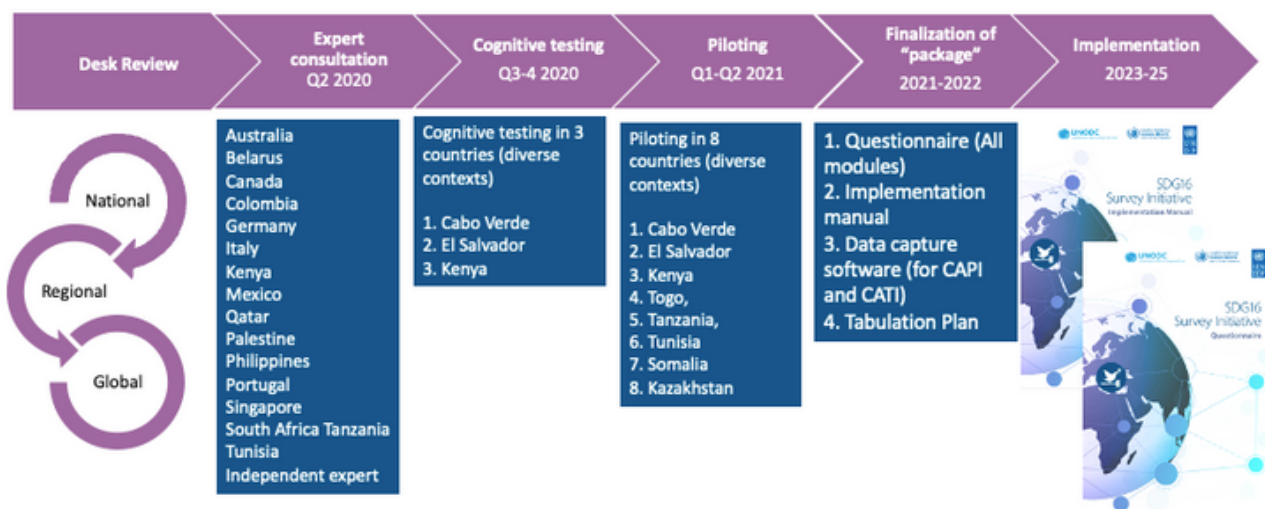


FIGURE 3 - METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

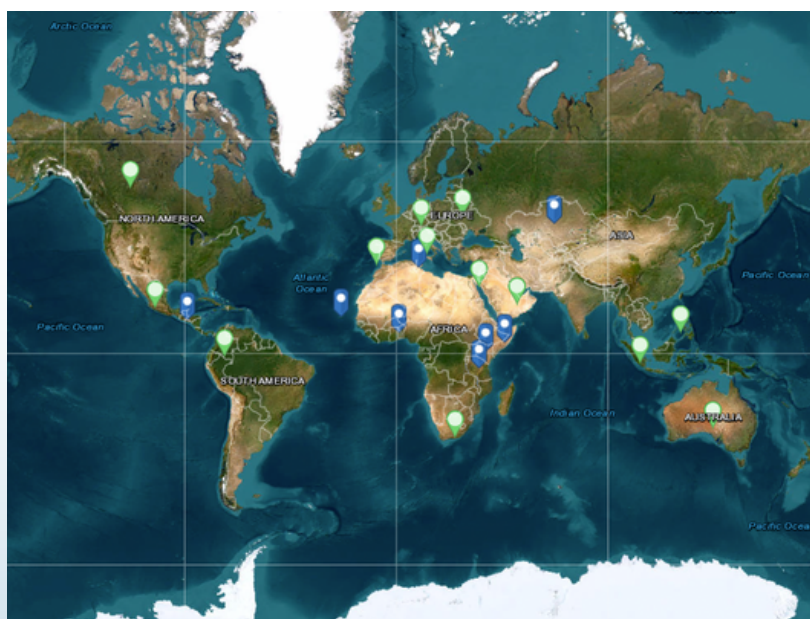


FIGURE 2. COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE EXPERT CONSULTATION (GREEN) AND IN THE PILOTING (BLUE)



REGIONAL TRAININGS ON MEASURING SDG 16 - COMPLETED

REGION	NUMBER OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER SESSION	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
AFRICA I (2020)	137	NOT AVAILABLE	57
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	1672	491	74
ASIA	1643	609	43
AFRICA II (2022)	425	148	79

FIGURE 4 - STATISTICS ON THE REGIONAL TRAININGS

PARTICIPANTS REGISTERED FROM 143 COUNTRIES





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