Community Update of the SDG 16 Hub, October 2023

We are pleased to share the Community Update of the SDG16 Hub! This month’s edition features new and exciting resources, tools, initiatives, and events.

**UPDATES** featured include:

- UNDP Report Launch: *Global Progress Report on Goal 16 Indicators: SDG 16 A wake-up call for action on peace, justice and inclusion*
- UNDP Policy Document: *SDG 16.6.2: Understanding satisfaction with public service for more effective, accountable, and inclusive public institutions*.
- 2023 Membership Meeting of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics
- SDG Summit Event Summaries:
  - Global SDG 16+ Coalition ‘Delivering the SDGs through Peace, Justice, Inclusion and Strong Institutions’ (SDG16+)
  - UN Legal Identity Agenda, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Data for Health Initiative, UNICEF, UNDESA, WHO, UNFPA, UNDP ‘Unlocking SDG 16.9: Harnessing the UN Legal Identity Agenda for Leaving No One Behind’
  - IDPS, ‘Accelerating Progress on SDG 16 in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts Statement’
- Latest Blogs featured on the SDG 16 Hub
  - UNDP Blog/Op-Ed: Five things to know about the New Agenda for Peace
  - CIVICUS: Intergenerational Movement for Change: CIVICUS Uniting for a Just and Sustainable Future
  - UNDP Blog/Op: Where are we now? The SDGs, justice and human rights

We are enthusiastic to continue providing SDG 16 updates including events, resources, and initiatives. For any inputs and feedback, please write to [contact@sdg16hub.org](mailto:contact@sdg16hub.org).
UN Report Launch: Global Progress Report on Goal 16 Indicators: SDG 16 A wake-up call for action on peace, justice and inclusion

A new, first-of-its-kind UN global progress report on indicators under SDG 16 demonstrates that progress towards achievement of peace, justice and inclusion is worryingly slow, with limited information availability to drive evidence-informed policies. The report calls for urgent action and substantial investment on Goal 16 to expand data coverage that can help accelerate progress across all SDGs. Launched at the helm of the 2023 SDG Summit and the 78th UN General Assembly, the report reflects that human rights commitments are not being met, violence is increasing, inequality is hindering inclusive decision-making and corruption is eroding the social contract. This report provides analysis of the progress towards the targets under SDG 16 as well as highlights trends and policy implications. It demonstrates the crucial need to increase the number of countries with the data on governance, justice and human rights related indicators and emphasizes the need to prioritize high quality, disaggregated and timely data on Goal 16, increase evidence-informed policymaking and demonstrate greater commitment to accelerate progress on Goal 16. The launch video message can be found here.

The report is jointly produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations Human Rights Office. For more information please contact: mariana.neves@undp.org


Globally, most people do not resort to formal justice systems to address their justice problems. Rather, they rely on diverse pathways to justice often referred to collectively as “customary and informal justice” (CIJ). Delivering people-centred justice for all in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (peaceful, just, and inclusive societies) and
related targets requires governments, development partners, and civil society to engage with the empirical reality of CIJ and factor this into justice delivery and programming. Indeed, CIJ should be embraced as an indispensable source of solutions and learning about what works for people in resolving justice problems. Published by the Working Group on CIJ and SDG16+, an international multi-stakeholder initiative formed in 2019, the report *Diverse pathways to people-centred justice* identifies five key approaches to engaging with CIJ systems: (i) Build and share knowledge, data, and evidence on CIJ, (ii) Empower CIJ users, (iii) Support and protect rights-based organizations working alongside CIJ (iv) Foster coherence and collaboration in the justice ecosystem and (v) Strengthen CIJ practice.

The report issues a groundbreaking call to action in the form of recommendations representing a new consensus on engagement with CIJ amongst key stakeholders in the global justice community. That engagement is critical to achieving the goal (SDG16.3) of access to justice for all by 2030 and enabling progress on other SDGs. Recommendations for all those involved in justice delivery, be they donors, policymakers or practitioners include:

1. Adopt a justice ecosystems approach to understand the diversity of justice providers and shape reform plans
2. Deliver a step-change in justice support through expanded CIJ engagement to achieve justice for all by 2030
3. Empower justice seekers, especially marginalised groups, to participate in and benefit from CIJ systems
4. Advance women and girls’ participation and leadership and ensure the protection of their rights in CIJ systems
5. Support development partners to engage with CIJ to deliver people-centred justice
6. Increase investment in people-centred justice, including CIJ systems

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**UNDP Policy Brief: SDG 16.6.2: Understanding satisfaction with public service for more effective, accountable, and inclusive public institutions**

The delivery of basic public services is a core responsibility of governance systems. This lies at the heart of the social contract: public systems must meet the expectations of their population especially in terms of access to health, education and basic public services in order to remain legitimate. Measuring people’s satisfaction with public services is important and provides an important reflection of the health of governance systems themselves and the strength of the social contract between people and the state. This brief is intended to help policy makers in making evidence-informed decisions. Focusing on SDG indicator 16.6.2, which measures people’s satisfaction with three categories of public services: health care, education and government (administrative) services, the brief illustrates why the indicator is important to measure, its methodology, examples of how such data is already being collected around the world and how data on this indicator can help government shape public sector policies.
2023 Membership Meeting of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics

2023 is a watershed moment for governance statistics. In March 2023, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed an updated Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA 2.0) which includes Governance as a new domain of official statistics. In the wake of such a momentous advance for the field of governance statistics, the role to be played by the Praia Group in the coming years needs to be carefully considered. On the 3rd of October, the Praia Group held its 2023 Members’ Meeting to update members on the progress made since 2021 in implementing the Praia Group’s Plan of Work, and to seek feedback from members on this work and suggestions on priority areas for the Praia Group in the remaining two years before the end of its second term (2021-25).

To kick off the meeting, national statistical offices (NSOs) from Ghana, Mexico and a Regional Statistical Centre (GCC-Stat) for Arab Countries of the Gulf reflected on what it means, in practical terms, NSOs to now be able to draw on a revised Classification where governance statistics sit on par with economic, demographic and social statistics. This was followed by a progress update on path-breaking methodological work being carried out to help develop internationally recognized methodologies and standards on two dimensions of governance that lack such standards, namely Participation in Political and Public Affairs (Task Team chaired by Statistics Norway) and Non-Discrimination & Equality (Task Team co-chaired INEI Peru and Statistics Finland).

The Global SDG 16+ Coalition at the SDG Summit - Delivering the SDGs through Peace, Justice and Inclusion and Strong Institutions (SDG 16+)

On September 20, 2023, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, International IDEA, the TAP Network, along with Global SDG16+ Coalition partners hosted a high-level SDG16+ event in the margins of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly & the 2023 SDG Summit, entitled “Delivering the SDGs through Peace, Justice, Inclusion and Strong Institutions (SDG16+).”

The event amplified commitments made by member states, drew out solutions and interesting data linkages across the SDGs and emphasized strengthening whole-of-society approaches. This included high-ambition campaigns and
coalitions such as the #SDG16Now Campaign, which supports mobilization, advocacy and storytelling around SDG16+ for stronger commitments, smarter financing for SDG16+, and greater support for civil society, and the Justice Action Coalition, a high ambition, cross-regional and cross-sectoral coalition committed to closing the justice gap and achieving equal access to justice for all. Other initiatives provide in-depth analysis and data, including on interlinkages, such as UNDP’s SDG Push Diagnostic that provides a dynamic visualization of - among others- how action on SDG16 can influence other SDGs. To get in touch with the Global SDG 16 Coalition reach out to info@sdg16hub.org.

IDPS High-Level Session: Accelerating Progress on SDG 16 in Fragile and Conflict-affected Settings

Building on the legacy of IDPS as one of the key advocates for the inclusion of SDG 16 on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies in the 2030 Agenda, IDPS convened high-level representatives to discuss how to accelerate progress towards SDG16 in the current state of polycrisis and a fragmented world that has undermined multilateralism. Speaker’s remarks reflected on the current challenges that have inhibited progress on SDG 16 and peacebuilding more generally. Representatives highlighted fresh thinking on how to enhance our current peacebuilding and development cooperation models to reflect the need to scale up conflict prevention, including with an eye to realize the potential for preventive diplomacy as a key but underserved priority within networked multilateralism. Speakers also discussed how IDPS as a political dialogue platform can support linking SDG Summit commitments to the Summit of the Future in 2024, building on Member States’ commitments and promoting joint action through open political dialogue. The meeting also provided the opportunity to present a joint IDPS statement ahead of the SDG Summit, calling for enhanced commitment and concerted action on SDG16 and renewed multilateral and multistakeholder engagement, and underlining the role of IDPS as a unique dialogue platform to contribute to this direction.
The General Assembly side event on legal identity "Unlocking SDG 16.9: Harnessing the UN Legal Identity Agenda for Leaving No One Behind" took place on 15 September. Organised by the UNLIA TF in partnership with the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative (Vital Strategies, CDC Foundation, Global Health Advocacy Incubator), the event brought together high-level government representatives from six countries (Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Pakistan), which together account for half of the global burden of unregistered children.

The discussion highlighted three critical themes: i) innovative approaches and digitisation, ii) multisectoral collaboration, and iii) challenges and solutions. The impact of digitisation was presented by clarifying how digitisation and interoperability of the CRVS system has resulted in reducing the number of visits, cost, and time for citizens to register births and obtain the birth certificates. Reviewing business processes to reduce the number of visits to government offices dramatically reduced the financial burden and saved time for both governments and citizens. The 2nd session featured a critical issue - the importance of collaboration between civil registration authorities and the health sector. Bringing civil registration functions into health facilities has dramatically improved birth registration in many countries. During the 3rd segment the challenges of universal death registration were discussed. Possible solutions included requiring cemeteries to register deaths and requiring the mayor's office to send condolence letters with death registration forms. The following critical policy guidelines were launched by UNICEF and UNDP:

- Reaching Children with a Holistic Approach: Strengthening synergies between social protection and civil registration systems for an inclusive and equitable society (Report)
- CRVSID case study report
- Evidence Briefs from Known from Birth Project
- Model governance framework of digital legal identity

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#SDG16 Now Campaign

The #SDG16Now Campaign is a global mobilization campaign that aims to support accelerated action towards SDG16+ — peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The campaign seeks to scale up political commitments, leverage financing for SDG16+ implementation and foster greater recognition of the indispensable leadership role of civil society to achieve SDG16+. Ahead of the SDG Summit, the #SDG16Now Campaign also launched an SDG16+ “Communique” outlining key priorities for the campaign for the SDG Summit and beyond.

During the 2023 SDG Summit week, the #SDG16Now Campaign led several engagements to mobilize support for SDG16+. Through a comprehensive Engagement and Mobilization Toolkit and Trello board, the campaign provided SDG16+ communications messages and assets and created opportunities for key partners to support SDG16+
advocacy both in New York and around the world, culminating in a “Global Day of Action for SDG16+” on International Peace Day.

Going forward, the campaign seeks to build further momentum at the global level leading up to the thematic review of SDG16 at the 2024 HLPF, and the Summit of the Future. This includes deepening work with local and national-level civil society partners and other key champions of SDG16+ to provide a bridge between these key global engagements and the realities of local actors advancing SDG16+ action on the ground.

Find out more about the #SDG16Now Campaign at [www.sdg16now.org](http://www.sdg16now.org).

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- [UNDP Blog/Op: Where are we now? The SDGs, justice and human rights](http://www.sdg16now.org)
- [Action for Sustainable Development. Alarm bells are Ringing at the Halfway Point at the 2030 Agenda](http://www.sdg16now.org)