

ENABLING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA THROUGH SDG 16+

Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion



GLOBAL ALLIANCE
JULY 2019



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Acronyms and abbreviations

ABAAD	Resource Centre for Gender Equality
AGESIC	Agency for Electronic Government and Information Society
AGEV	Area of Management and Evaluation
AMAN	Coalition for Accountability and Integrity
CAR	Central African Republic
CD	Community of Democracies
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CLPI	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DHS	Demographic Health Surveys
DV	Domestic Violence
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	The United Nations Economic and Social Council
EFSD	European Fund for Sustainable Development
EGRIS	Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics
EIP	Effective Institutions Platform
EMS	Electronic Management System
EU	European Union
EU-MIDIS II	Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FB	Facebook
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FLA	Free Legal Aid
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

FSC	Financial Sector Commission
FSU	Family Support Unit
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
GARPPJIS	Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFI	Global Financial Integrity
GoG	Government of Georgia
GREAT	Gang, Resistance, Education and Training
GSoD	Global State of Democracy
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
HR	Human Rights
IAGE	Inter-agency and Expert Group
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICCS	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
ICHR	Independent Commission for Human Rights
ICNL	International Centre for Not-for-profit Law
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDEA	Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IDFI	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEP	Institute for Economics and Peace
IFF	Illicit Financial Flows
IHRM	International Human Rights Mechanisms
IIDH	Inter-American Human Rights Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTERPOL	The International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
iSDG	Integrated model for Sustainable Development Goals strategies
ISF	Internal Security Forces
IT	Information Technology
JOYS	Judge Over Your Shoulder

LAP	Legal Aid Provider
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender and Intersex
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender and Queer
LGPI	Local Government Performance Index
LRG	Local and Regional Governments
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MJSAC	Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Civic Action
MP	Member of Parliament
MPCE	Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NSDS	National Strategies for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistics Offices
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OGP	Open Government Partnership
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPP	Office of Planning and Budget
OSC	Citizen Security Observatory
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
PMO	Prime Minister Office
PPI	Positive Peace Index
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PQD	Country Development Plan
PSAG	Private Sector Advisory Group
PWD	Person with Disability
ROL 2030	Rule of Law 2030
RTI	Right to Information
SAS	Small Arms Survey
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SDG 16 WG	Sustainable Development Goal 16 Working Group
SDGF	Sustainable Development Goals Fund
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SICAJ	Information Systems of the Centers for Access to Justice
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TAG	Training on Attitudinal Transformation in Gender
TAP Network	Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network
UCDP	Uppsala Conflict Data Program
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UN Global Compact	United Nations Global Compact
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDROIT	International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
UNSRID	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UTECI	Inter-Institutional Technical Coordination Unit
V-Dem	Varieties of Democracy
VACS	Violence Against Children Survey
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VICLAC	Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative

VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WFUNA	World Federation of United Nations Associations
WHO	World Health Organization
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

Foreword

The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful Just and Inclusive societies is pleased to introduce this global report on SDG 16+. The Global Alliance is a multi-stakeholder platform mobilizing evidence-based action to accelerate progress on SDG 16+ through to 2030 and beyond.

The report seeks to provide an overview of global SDG 16+ action, illustrating SDG 16+ progress and country experiences and the perspectives of multiple stakeholders active on 16+. The report uses the term 'SDG 16+', that has been coined to reflect the linkages between goals and targets beyond SDG 16 that embody commitments to peace, justice, and inclusion across all the SDGs. By focusing on SDG 16+ in this report, we fully recognize the interdependent nature of SDG 16, its 12 targets and the 24 other targets of other SDGs that directly measure an aspect of peace, justice and inclusion.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are key to delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is no less true for SDG 16+, which serves as an enabler and accelerator for all SDGs. The issue of reporting on peace, justice and inclusion is fundamental to the sustainable development goals. Whatever countries are trying to achieve across the SDGs has to involve key elements of SDG 16+, including effective institutions, participatory decision-making, access to justice for all, a reduction in violence, tackling corruption and access to information. All of the key parts of SDG 16+ are at the fore in the implementation of Agenda 2030.

The report complements this year's UN mandated reports — the Secretary General's annual progress report on the SDGs and the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report. This report is grounded in the key messages coming out of six regional consultations that have taken place over the last 12 months on experiences, challenges and opportunities for action on SDG 16+ in support of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The report is further enriched by case studies from 25 countries across different regions and development contexts.

It is our hope that this report will contribute to the deliberations of the forthcoming High-Level Political Forum and related processes. In particular, we look forward to learning how the illustrative examples and policy and programming recommendations outlined in this report may motivate practitioners in government, civil society, academia, the private sector and the UN system to produce more peaceful, inclusive and just societies.

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Going forward, the Global Alliance and its members will unite further to align actions and goals in support of a broad range of stakeholders working to accelerate progress on SDG 16+. We look forward to both strengthening existing partnerships, and to building new ones to realize this goal.

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Introduction

In 2015, United Nations Member States adopted the 'The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through **Sustainable Development Goal 16**, Member States have committed to “Promot[ing] peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provid[ing] access to justice for all and build[ing] effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

When the international community looked back on the MDGs, governance emerged as a critical element in explaining the uneven progress across these goals in many countries. One of the lessons from the MDGs was therefore that “democratic governance, peace and security and the rule of law, including protection of human rights, are critical to sustainable development.”¹ Indeed, a human rights approach helps identify who is vulnerable, or “being left behind,” and the ways in which those who are marginalized can be empowered to overcome their vulnerability. As a result, many State and non-governmental actors — including youth and women’s organizations across the world — advocated for a global governance goal during the national, intergovernmental and global consultations and negotiations that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.²

The 2030 Agenda presents a paradigm shift and radical new approach to transforming our world, focusing on the integrated pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. **It is universal, including issues such as inequality, access to justice and peace and security, and aims at leaving “no one behind.”** Moreover, the SDG agenda has an **additional complexity in terms of its implementation**, and requires a mix of national ownership, flexibility, innovation, political acumen, high quality technical support and a collective, multi-stakeholder effort at all levels in order to become progressively a reality.

SDG 16 is key to achieving the transformative 2030 Agenda. Its focus on seven tenets of strong institutions (effective, inclusive, responsive, participative, representative, accountable and transparent), as well as peaceful societies, are necessary for achieving all SDGs. This is true whether the goal is related to education, health, economic growth, climate change or beyond. **Without sustained peace, which goes beyond the mere absence of violence and includes respect for human rights and the rule of law, development gains are reversed. And without inclusion and access to justice for all, inequalities in poverty reduction and socio-economic development will increase and countries’ commitments to leaving no one behind will not be met.**

SDG 16 and societal transformation

Ambitious and visionary, Goal 16 has the potential to catalyse profound social transformation. Transformation requires addressing the root causes and drivers that generate and reproduce economic, social, political and environmental problems and inequities, not merely their symptoms. As noted in the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNSRID) Flagship Report on *Policy Innovations for Transformative Change* (2016)³, transformation involves changes in social structures, institutions and relations, including patterns of inequalities related to income, gender, ethnicity, religion or geography that may lock people (current and future generations) into positions of disadvantage or limit their choices. It is also necessary to identify pathways to transformative change that are *desirable*, in the sense that they are (i) promoting social justice on the basis of universal human rights, (ii) systemic (addressing various factors simultaneously and in an interrelated way), and (iii) long term (cannot be easily reversed in the short term). Goal 16 means changing norms and institutions, both formal and informal, that shape the behaviour of people and organizations in the social, economic, environmental and political spheres. Policy debates that highlight the goal of transformation often ignore the deep-seated changes that are required in economic, social and power relations. Without specific attention to how SDG 16 applies in all dimensions of human life — and not only in relation to targets related to political and legal inclusion — it will be impossible to realize the transformative potential of the SDGs.

SDG 16 has strong intrinsic value as it encapsulates commitments and standards to which all countries have agreed. In particular, it provides a blueprint for simultaneously promoting inclusion, addressing inequality and empowering people, thus embracing the theme of the July, 2019 High Level Political Forum. But SDG 16 also has tremendous **value as an enabler and accelerator for all SDGs**. The term **SDG 16 'plus'** acknowledges the other SDG targets that contribute to peace, justice and responsive institutions (see below).

Governments and stakeholders are translating the commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals into reality. SDG 16+ offers a framework for institutions at all levels (both formal and informal/State and non-governmental) to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that place human rights protection and inclusive and accountable governance at the heart of tackling inequality. In this way, the goal is to ensure that **the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in societies are engaged as actors and beneficiaries of the Agenda 2030 principle to “leave no one behind.”**

The SDG 16+ framework provides countries with a rights-based approach to tackling the drivers of suffering that affords dignity and agency to those left behind. It addresses patterns of exclusion, structural and institutional constraints and unequal power relations that produce and reproduce patterns of exclusion, marginalization, inequality and suffering over generations. SDG 16+ requires countries to support legal, policy, institutional and other measures to dismantle harmful gender and other stereotypes and to promote equality and non-discrimination. **It also requires free, active and meaningful participation, particularly of women and girls,** as stakeholders in subsequent review processes to ensure accountability and gender responsive remedies for rights violations.

Countries demonstrate commitment to **following up and reviewing** their progress on the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, at global, regional and national levels. At the global level, the annual UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) provides a platform for countries to present Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on their progress. This year, 47 countries are presenting their VNRs at the HLPF, seven for the second time. In addition, thematic reviews on four to five goals is conducted every year. This year, under the theme of “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality,” global progress on SDG 16 is due for review.⁴

This report has been developed by the **Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (“Global Alliance”)**. It seeks to help governments conduct participatory planning, monitoring and reporting by drawing together stakeholders and data from all parts of government, civil society, youth, and the private sector. The idea is to gather the evidence and determine the joint action needed for transformative change. The Alliance is operated by seven member States, three CSOs, and three businesses. Its work is supported by a Secretariat co-facilitated by UNDP, UNODC, UNESCO, UNHCR, OHCHR, UN Women, UN Global Compact and a UN Advisory Group composed of 10 UN Agencies.

The present report is the **Global Alliance’s contribution to the 2019 Thematic Review** of SDG 16. While it is not part of the formal SDG reporting process, it complements the UN’s mandated reports on the 2030 Agenda (the Secretary General’s annual progress report on the SDGs and the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report) in at least four ways:

- It focuses specifically on SDG 16 and also on what is termed SDG 16 “plus,” which refers to targets in other SDGs that also contribute to building peaceful, just and inclusive societies (a further explanation is provided below in “About this report”).
- It spotlights the efforts and perspectives of multiple stakeholders active in accelerating progress on achieving SDG 16, including government, civil society and the private sector.
- It reflects country-level experiences.
- It draws on recommendations and key messages emerging out of six regional Technical Consultations organized by UNDP on behalf of the Global Alliance and dedicated to SDG 16+ held between late 2018 and 2019. It also draws on other events and consultations organized by the co-facilitators of the Global Alliance, in the run up to the HLPF in July 2019.

This report seeks to reach a range of actors in the UN system, as well as national policymakers, non-governmental actors, academia, and the private sector. The report unfolds as follows. The brief section, **About this report**, explains the approach taken to draw together existing knowledge, country experience and stakeholder analyzes on SDG 16+.

Part A sets out the **Key findings** and a **Summary of key trends** captured in the report around progress on implementing, monitoring and reporting on SDG 16+. It also offers a **Taking stock** section that assesses opportunities and challenges for countries when adapting/nationalizing, implementing, monitoring and reporting on SDG 16 within a given national context. Case studies illustrate these points. **Moving forward: Policy and programming recommendations**, sets out a list of suggested actions that different actors can take to accelerate progress on achieving SDG 16.

Part B provides case studies on SDG 16+ prepared by countries with the support of UN country teams as well as drawn from the Technical Consultations.

Annex 1 explores in greater detail **global and regional trends and countries’ policy efforts** to achieve key elements of SDG 16+ covering the pillars of peace, justice and responsive institutions. It summarizes existing analyzes and provides **signposts to key current sources**. It also **illustrates** how progress on **SDG 16 enables progress on other SDGs**, both in terms of outcome and process. Finally, this section seeks to clarify the roles peace, justice and inclusion play in achieving seemingly unrelated goals such as education (SDG 4), economic growth (SDG 8) and climate change (SDG 13).

About this report

To guide understanding of how this report presents progress on the implementation of SDG 16+, the following questions and answers set out the overall framework and methodologies used.

What is SDG 16+?

In essence, the ‘plus’ in SDG 16+ gives us a fuller understanding of the targets across other SDGs that contribute to peace, justice and inclusion. The Pathfinders, a global, member-State led initiative that also works on SDG 16, identifies **peace, justice and inclusion** as the three main dimensions comprising the twelve targets of SDG 16 and stresses that targets in other SDGs also contribute to peace, justice and inclusion. Hence, the term **SDG 16 “plus”** was born.⁵ The Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies has adopted this conception of SDG 16+ along with an increasing number of other global, regional and national SDG 16-focused initiatives.

The Pathfinders graphic depiction below sets out the SDG 16+ framework (see Figure 1).

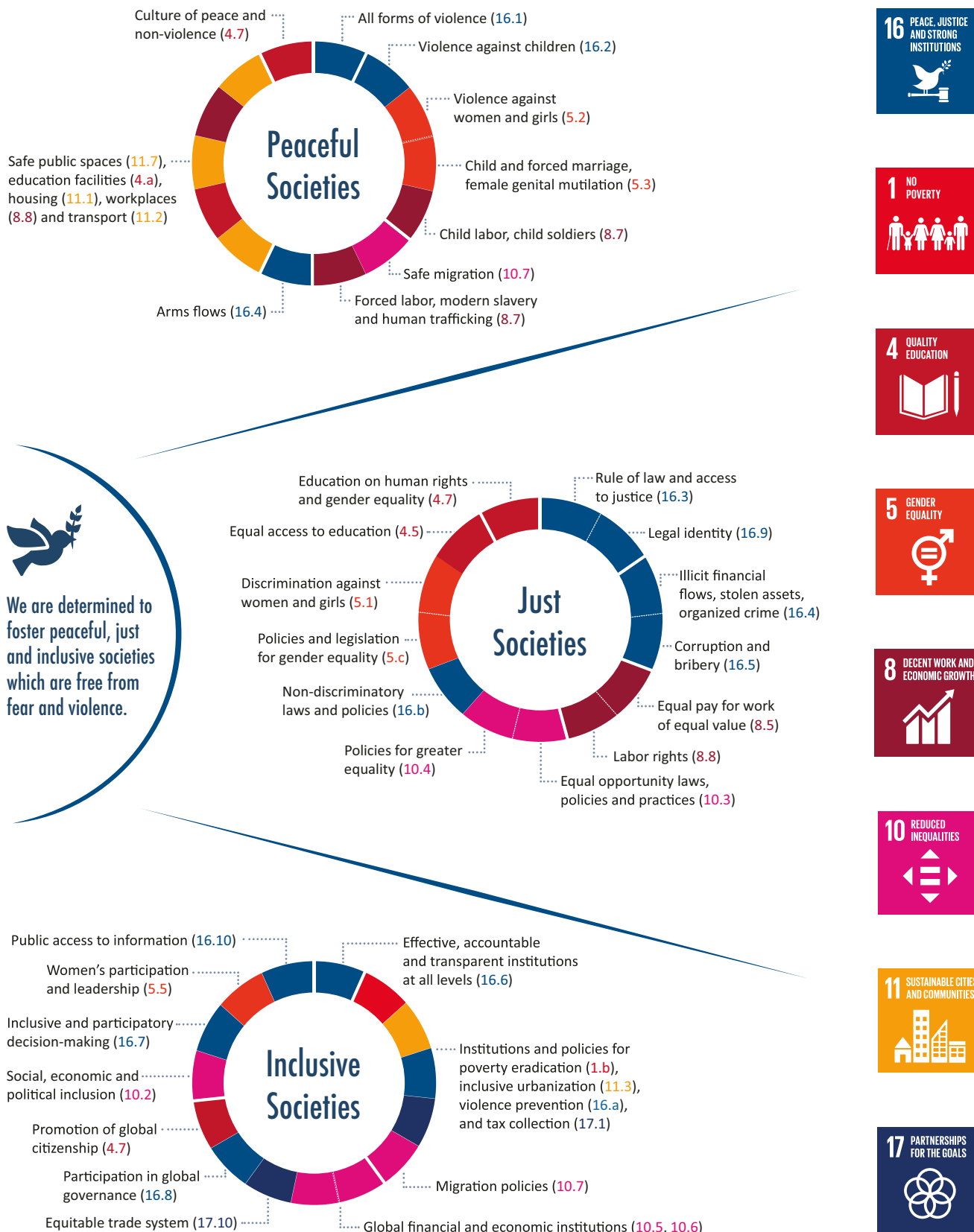
This report builds on the Pathfinders’ concept of SDG 16+ by organizing all the SDG 16+ targets into clusters that contribute to the three dimensions of peace, justice and inclusion. The report defines a total of nine clusters of targets or “elements” of peace, justice and inclusion. These elements are used to organize trends and policy efforts described in Annex 1: “Detailed trends and efforts on peace, justice and inclusion.”

The graphic below sets out the three elements within each of the three dimensions of peace, justice and inclusion and identifies the targets that contribute to each element and dimension (see Figure 2).

What information was used for the report?

The information in this report has been gathered and analyzed using **inclusive, participative and consultative processes**. The author worked with governments, international agencies, civil society actors, academics and students to gather, document and peer review information on progress on SDG 16+ implementation.

FIGURE 1. Pathfinders' graphic depiction of the SDG 16+ framework



Source: Pathfinders, www.sdg16.plus

FIGURE 2. Elements of the SDG 16+ dimensions on peace, justice and inclusion



Case studies: Following an open call, the report team supported interested UN Country Teams of 25 countries to work with their national partners on SDG 16+ case studies. (For a list of the 25 case studies see Annex 3. The Acknowledgements sets out a list of partners involved in the drafting of each country case study). These case studies seek to show either countries' specific policy and programming efforts on SDG 16+ or their overall approach in adapting, implementing, monitoring and reporting on SDG 16+. The development of the case studies has involved the input of multiple partners in countries, from government agencies to civil society organizations to the UN Country Teams. These case studies serve as **illustrative examples of countries' work on SDG 16+.** **Extracts from the 25 country case studies are included in blue boxes throughout the report.** The full country case studies are published on the SDG 16 website: www.SDG16hub.org.

In addition, case studies documenting country and regional progress on SDG 16+ — based on information gathered at regional SDG 16+ Technical Consultations and other relevant events, as well as a review of existing literature — are also included in the report. They are referenced **in green boxes.**

SDG 16+ Technical Consultations and other relevant events: The report draws from six regional Technical Consultations that UNDP, with support from The Netherlands and DFID, and in partnership with the Global Alliance, organized with governments, civil society organizations, private sector actors and other experts. These meetings were set up to allow for learning from country and regional experiences. They also provided a forum to exchange opportunities and challenges in adapting, implementing, monitoring and reporting on Goal 16+ in the countries themselves.

The Technical Consultations (<https://www.SDG16hub.org/hlpf2019/consultations>) were organized around the three elements of SDG 16+, with two consultations each addressing peace, justice and inclusion. They took place across regions, in Sierra Leone (October 2018); Cabo Verde (November 2018); Mongolia (February 2019); Tunisia (March 2019); Panama (April 2019) and Bosnia y Herzegovina (May 2019).

In addition, information was gathered from other relevant events (co-) organized and supported by Global Alliance UN co-facilitators, e.g. an international meeting in Tashkent organized by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (and the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan), which explored how Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan and Georgia might be supported in monitoring and implementing SDG 16, especially in close relation with SDG 3; a technical discussion on "Pushing forward on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16," led by UNODC and UNDP at the Third International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems in Tbilisi, where member States shared successful practices as well as challenges towards achieving SDG 16, with special emphasis on access to legal aid as central to achieving SDG 16.3 on access to justice for all; and an SDG 16 event in San Salvador on exploring a joint vision to fight organized transnational crime in the wider Caribbean Region.

Review of existing literature: The report also draws from existing literature and analyzes on SDG 16+ that have been produced since 2015. The full bibliography is found in Annex 2.

What are SDG 16+ interlinkages?

In its preamble, the 2030 Agenda states that “[t]he interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized.” **Put simply, none of the SDGs can be fully realized on its own, the goals depend on each other.** ‘Interactions’ is also a term used to explain this relationship between the SDGs. For its part, SDG 16+ is frequently referred to as an enabling goal for the achievement of all other SDGs and for Agenda 2030 broadly.

For SDG 16+ and for the purpose of this report, the concept of ‘interlinkages’ has two meanings:

1. Progress on peace, justice and inclusion targets affects outcomes in other SDGs. Sometimes this may be obvious, e.g., how peace or its absence affects economic growth (SDG 8). In other cases, the interlinkage or interaction may be less evident, e.g., how peace, justice and inclusion affect ocean management (SDG 14).

Interlinkages often go both ways: For example, peace, justice and inclusion (SDG 16+) will influence education outcomes (SDG 4) by ensuring safe environments and effective, accountable and transparent institutions to deliver education services. In turn, education is critical to ensure and sustain a culture of peace, justice and inclusion in any society. Interlinkages further support the Agenda 2030 claim that “there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development.”

It goes beyond the scope of this report to provide a comprehensive picture of how SDG 16 interlinks with all the other goals. The report therefore focuses on interlinkages with the goals that are under thematic review at the 2019 High-Level Political Forum. These include SDG 4 on education, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on inequality (we also include SDG 5 on gender equality because it is related to SDG 10 although not under Thematic Review) and SDG 13 on climate action. SDG 17 on the means of implementation is also reviewed every year. **These interlinkages are illustrated throughout Annex 1.**

2. Progress on peace, justice and inclusion targets also affects overall processes to achieve the 2030 Agenda, for example by enabling stakeholder engagement and country-level coordination mechanisms, etc. **These interlinkages are also illustrated in Annex 1** and show how SDG 16+ targets can guide overall processes to implement the 2030 Agenda. SDG 16+ targets can, in fact, be used like a checklist when developing these processes and Annex 4 provides a list of general guiding questions that can be used to ensure that SDG 16 targets are met during implementation.

It is worth reinforcing that the universality of the SDGs means that all countries in all contexts are expected to be guided by a human rights-based approach to development that focuses on the principles of inclusion, participation, rule of law, accountability and respect for human rights. This approach is also necessary to fully uphold the objectives of “leaving no one behind” and “reaching the furthest behind first” as enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To illustrate the difference between the concept of SDG 16+ and the concept of SDG 16+ interlinkages as understood in this report, see graphics below (Figures 3 and 4).

FIGURE 3. SDG 16+: How is peace, justice and inclusion reflected in the SDGs and their targets?

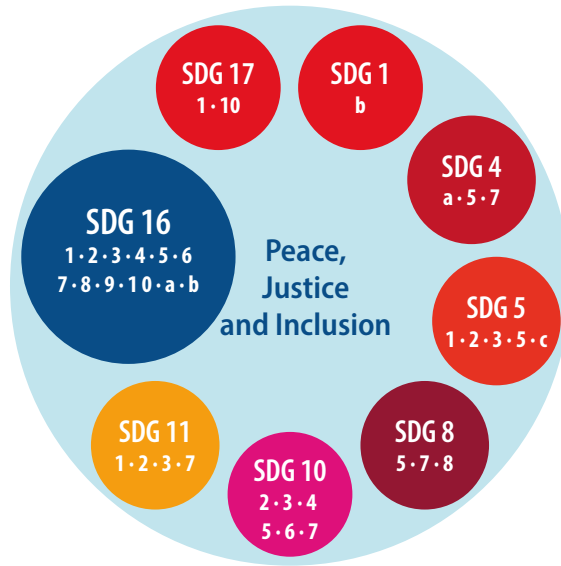
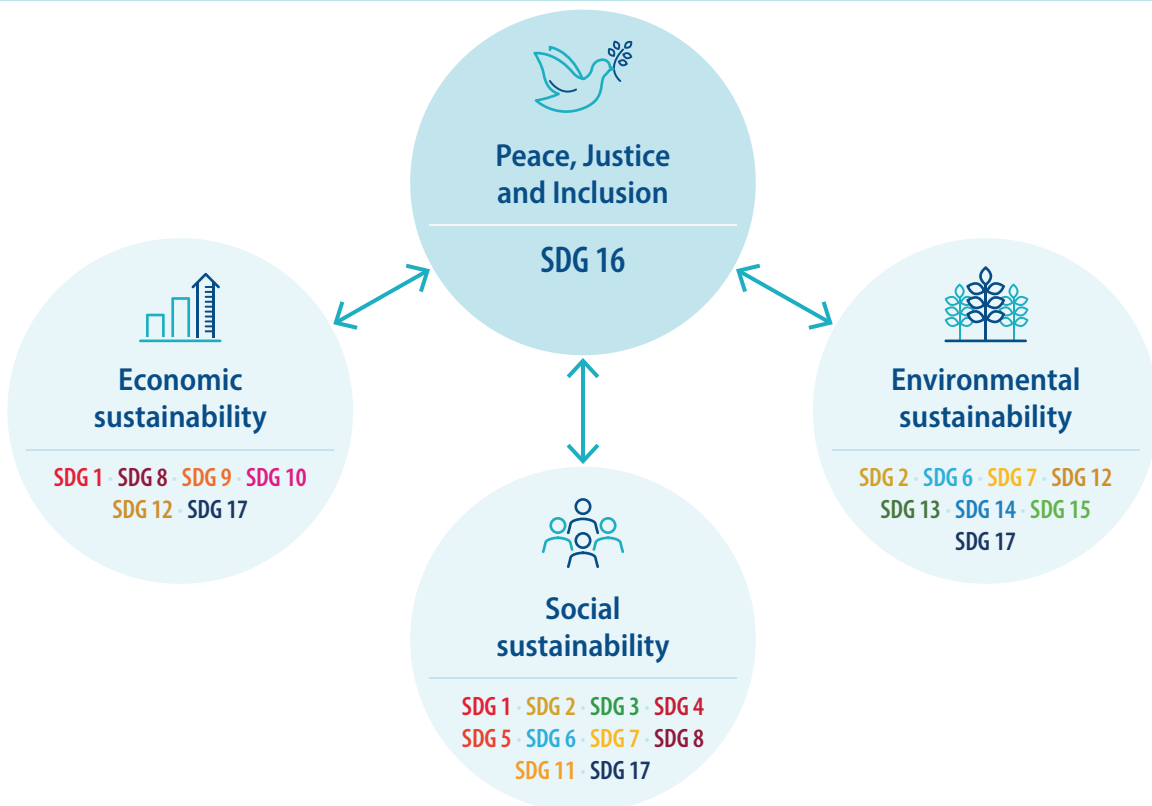


FIGURE 4. SDG 16 Interlinkages: How do peace, justice and inclusion help or hinder other Goals and vice versa?



PART

A

- Key findings
- Summary of key trends on peace, justice and inclusion
- Taking stock
- Moving forward: Policy and programming recommendations

Key findings

1 Political and financial investment is needed to accelerate progress on SDG 16+



- SDG 16+ will be challenging to meet by 2030. **Visionary and committed national leadership is essential** to accelerate progress on SDG 16+ and transform societies to prevent conflict, address inequalities, reduce injustices and be more inclusive.
- **SDG 16+ can enable other SDGs** if governments embrace full ownership of the process and invest in the enabling and accelerating role of SDG 16+. Failure to invest in SDG 16+ will risk worsening violence, injustice and exclusion, reversing development gains across all SDGs, including education, health and climate action.
- **Measuring progress in achieving SDG 16 is politically, technically and financially possible** and will enhance implementation. However in many countries, **institutional mechanisms at the national and local levels to gather data and monitor policy efforts and impact are weak**. Partnerships between national statistical systems and regional and local governments, civil society organizations, youth organizations and academia as well as the private sector and international organizations can enhance a country's ability to gather, analyze and use data on SDG 16+ targets and indicators.

BOX 1. Honduras: The Infosegura project

The Infosegura project, supported by UNDP and USAID, is helping six Central American countries to strengthen institutional mechanisms at the national and local levels to gather data to plan and develop policy efforts. Infosegura supports national entities in the collection and management of security-related information for eventual use in the development and monitoring of evidence-based policies on citizen security.

Prior to 2014, data on citizen security in Honduras was fragmented and inconsistent. There was no agreed official data on homicides or other types of crimes. The InfoSegura project changed this. Beginning in 2014, it supported the establishment of citizen security data-validation working groups, coordinated by the Inter-Institutional Technical Coordination Unit (UTECI), Secretariat of Security. These working groups include representatives of public

entities responsible for data collection on citizen security (Police, Prosecutor’s Office, Forensic Medicine, Municipal Observatories of Violence and others) as well as from academia (namely, the National Observatory of Violence of the Institute of Democracy, Peace and Security.)

The Inter-institutional validation working groups standardize and agree on official national data pertaining to 11 indicators measuring citizen security at the national and municipal levels. The validation process has broken silos, bringing together public entities and enhancing the role of citizen oversight through the participation of academia and civil society. There are currently specialized groups on homicides, violent deaths and domestic violence.

Policymakers can access reliable, consensus-based and transparent data to make timely, evidence-based decisions to tackle crime. There is a special emphasis on producing data on persons in situations of vulnerability such as women and young people.

This process has contributed to the reform of the National Police Law at the national level and motivated the creation of 30 municipal Observatories for Coexistence and Citizen Security across the country, as well as the creation of the Center for Research and Analysis of Coexistence and Citizen Security (CEACSI).

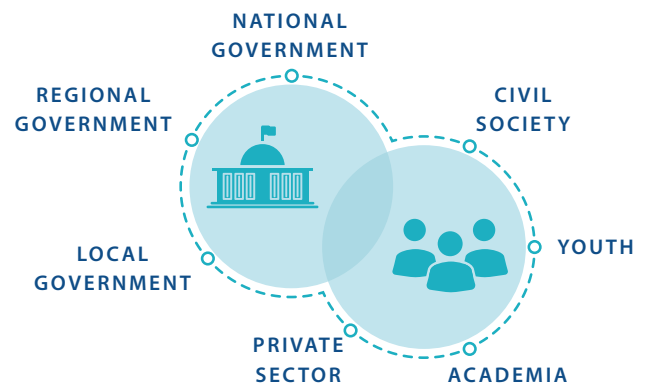
15 successful actions against violence taken by local authorities, based on information provided by the working groups, are highlighted in the publication “From Data to action – all the stories count.” For example, in San Manuel Cortés, data revealed specific places where homicides were occurring. The municipality transformed those areas into safer urban environments, reducing homicides rates.

Guatemala has requested technical assistance from the government of Honduras to start a similar data validation process.

Source: UNCT Honduras

2 SDG 16+ implementation requires a ‘whole of government’ and ‘whole of society’ approach

- National governments stress that they cannot tackle the entire 2030 Agenda alone. **A ‘whole of government’ approach to localizing and achieving the SDGs is required.** This would involve not just national government agencies and State institutions but also the adoption of the SDGs across local and regional governments and institutions to make them a reality for communities. Indeed **local approaches to achieve the SDGs** should inform national priority-setting.
- **A ‘whole of society’ approach with broad and meaningful engagement and consultation with stakeholders across all sectors of society** is key to ensuring that no one is left behind. This approach is most effective when institutionalized within formal structures and at different levels of government. **Multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms involving actors from government, civil society, youth, academia and the private sector are a critical mechanism for the achievement of SDG 16+.** Targetted efforts are needed to build capacities and an enabling environment for such collaboration.



- **For conflict-affected States**, particularly where parts of a territory are outside State administrative authority, **engaging with actors from the whole of society to design and implement development policies is vital.** SDG 16+ not only guides countries on how to shape their institutions to achieve the SDGs, it also **shapes their approach to humanitarian, development and peace actions, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected situations.**

BOX 2. Mauritania: Local governance participatory mechanisms

The region of Hodh el Chargui in Mauritania borders on Mali, a country that is facing several crises (inter-ethnic conflicts, terrorism, transnational organized crime and climate change). Local communities have been impacted by the humanitarian crisis in Mali. Since 2012, they have hosted more than 50,000 Malian refugees. Hodh el Chargui is also one of the most vulnerable regions in Mauritania, with a lack of basic services and infrastructure.

This situation is fueling tension between host communities and refugees, as well as within local communities. Conflicts arise mainly over access to basic social services and natural resources.

Despite these challenges, local communities are participating in inclusive local decision-making mechanisms in Hodh el Chargui. 49 village committees have been elected by a general assembly of villagers for a period of one year. These committees include a range of marginalized groups such as women, religious leaders, young people, migrants, disabled persons, and refugees. Local populations recognize these committees as their representatives.

Members of the village committees contact local authorities directly to address ongoing security, peace and rights-related issues. Local governments, as well as humanitarian and development actors, recognize the committees as an important partner and involve them in relevant interventions in the villages. The village committees, for example, are increasingly involved in preventing conflicts between refugees and the local population.

The region has the worst child rights indicators in Mauritania: 57% of girls between 0-14 years have been subjected to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), 40.3% women aged 20-49 years were married before 18 years old, only 43.7% children aged 0-5 years are registered at birth and 83,1% of children aged 1-14 years are subjected to violent discipline. The committees prioritize the protection of civilians, including children and women, and the reduction of all forms of violence and exploitation.

The village committees have also played an instrumental role in the registration of refugees living in the Mbera camp, ensuring messages on refugee registration and protection are communicated as widely as possible. The registration exercise will ultimately ensure that all refugee children born in Mauritania receive birth certificates issued by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Women, in particular, utilize the committees to solve daily problems and to organise income-generation activities. Given social constraints, it is still difficult for women to travel alone, so solutions that allow women to attend events outside the village are still being sought.

The village committees receive training in conflict prevention, gender-based violence and sustainable management of natural resources. This support needs to be reinforced to enable village committees to contribute extensively to achieving Goal 16.

Source: UNCT Mauritania

BOX 3. Mongolia: National implementation mechanism

In Mongolia, a parliamentary sub-committee on the Sustainable Development Goals and a Prime Minister-led SDG national committee guide and oversee the process for implementing all SDGs. SDG 16-related efforts are coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MOJHA). THE MOJHA has created a monitoring and evaluation system that supports efforts to gather data, especially regarding the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups in Mongolia. A 2017 assessment mapped how data and information

is created, analyzed, used and shared in this country. It also demonstrated key data gaps.

During the MDG era, Mongolia adopted a 'ninth' MDG on enhancing human rights and democratic governance, which prompted the inclusion of a "governance module" in the regular Household Socio-Economic Survey'. The survey module was discontinued on completion of the MDG era, although the quarterly data that was gathered provides insight into the sort of data that might prove relevant for measuring Goal 16 today.

Source: UNCT Mongolia

3 SDG 16+ is instrumental in protecting fundamental freedoms and ensuring that no one is left behind

- **With shrinking civic space across the globe, many civil society actors are faced with barriers to inclusion and participation both on- and off-line. This includes threats to the personal safety of human rights activists and defenders**, who are often prevented from participating meaningfully in development planning and policymaking processes. This trend risks excluding from policymaking the needs and voices of the most vulnerable in society, including women, children, youth, refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless people.
- **Governance institutions and decision-making processes rooted in a human rights-based approach to development are critical to the achievement of SDG 16+ and to ensuring that no one is left behind.** Bold reforms in making governance institutions more people-centered, responsive, effective and accountable in line with SDG 16+ principles will increase the resilience of societies to conflict by better integrating minority and marginalized voices. Institutions must not only be accountable and transparent, but also more participative, inclusive, responsive and representative. They must operate in accordance with the rule of law and human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality.



- **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) can play multiple roles in ensuring no one is left behind.** They are catalysts for sustainable development, helping to address inequality and discrimination in all its forms. They contribute to data collection and analysis processes that are more inclusive. They facilitate access to justice, redress and can remedy complaints. They promote human rights standards and the SDGs in business conduct, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. They provide a platform for dialogue in societies that are transitioning towards peace and justice. They help build trust between government institutions and people to promote transparent, participatory and inclusive national processes of SDG implementation and monitoring. They can also play an oversight role over the implementation of the SDGs to ensure that SDG planning, implementation and reporting is aligned with human rights standards and with a focus on “leaving no one behind.”



- **Significant investment is required in reliable disaggregated data to ensure that policy and programmes reach marginalized and vulnerable groups and others who are “left behind.”** Data collection systems are weak when it comes to systematic coverage and data disaggregation, especially at the local and regional levels. Many SDG 16+ methodologies and national practices are State and citizen-centred, and therefore leave out people without citizen status, including the estimated 3.1 million asylum seekers, 25.4 million refugees, and 3.8 million plus stateless people worldwide. It is essential to expand the use of different data sources, including people-generated data, in addition to exploring new partnerships between data actors to further develop the national capacities for data collection, analysis and dissemination. The data revolution, and the potential of big data and artificial intelligence brings promising opportunities, but must be used responsibly.

BOX 4. Denmark: Including civil society to ensure no one is left behind

Denmark has created a multi-stakeholder approach to the 2030 agenda, seeking to improve the inclusion of civil society in the implementation of the SDGs.

At the national level, the Danish Government launched an Action Plan for implementation of the SDGs in 2017. The goal was to ensure the integration of sustainable development principles into domestic policy and into the daily workings of the national government. 37 measurable targets were established, with one or two indicators each, so as to enable continuous monitoring of progress on implementation. The first yearly progress report on the 37 targets was sent to parliament in June 2018. Nine of the indicators addressed SDG 16. As it drafted the Action Plan, the Government included perspectives from civil society and a range of stakeholders during preliminary meetings.

The Ministry of Finance was appointed as key coordinator of the overall national implementation of the SDGs. Individual ministries are responsible for implementing the SDGs into their portfolios and each of the 169 global targets has been assigned to a lead line ministry. Furthermore, the Danish Parliament has established a cross-party network for Agenda 2030 with representation from all political parties. The Parliament’s Standing Finance Committee has also formed a task-force to align the national budget with the 2030 Agenda.

In order for the SDGs to be achieved on a national level, cooperation is required across municipalities, regions, and the national government. Denmark’s multilevel and decentralized approach ensures that people with local knowledge and expertise will be

driving implementation. The Municipality of Copenhagen, for example, has created its own Action Plan within the framework of the national Action Plan. This plan sets out 14 goals for the city targeting SDG 16.6, 16.7 and 16.10.

The Government supports an independent and knowledgeable civil society, both to review its work on sustainable development and to strengthen its governance institutions. This entails producing annual reports on the implementation of the SDGs by Statistics Denmark and by making educational material about the SDGs available to the public.

The Danish Government has also pursued a very inclusive strategy, engaging civil society in achieving the SDGs by promoting public assessment and debate of Denmark’s implementation of the SDGs. An example of these civil society initiatives is The World’s Best News (WBN). WBN is a multi-stakeholder initiative initiated by Danish CSOs in 2015. WBN’s core objective has been to communicate the SDGs, and the measures taken to meet these, to the wider population. This awareness raising has occurred through nation-wide campaigns in partnership with the private sector, Danish youth associations, the Danish Government, and the United Nations.

The principal lesson learned throughout Denmark’s effort is that inclusion of multiple stakeholders at multiple levels builds a solid foundation for achieving the SDGs. Peer review of the implementation of SDGs has strengthened the Danish institutions of governance and strengthened the country’s commitment to the peace, justice and inclusion dimensions of Goal 16.

Source: Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN



A young girl from Myanmar attends school at a refugee camp in eastern Bangladesh.

Photo: Jared Katz/UNDP.

Summary of key trends on peace, justice and inclusion

A detailed presentation of key trends on peace, justice and inclusion, with sources for all data referred to, is set out in Annex 1 of this report.



Peace

Violence has become the biggest obstacle to reaching the SDGs. More than 80% of the extreme poor are expected to live in countries affected by violence and conflict by 2030. UNHCR's Global Trends Report 2018 details that an unprecedented **70.8 million people (and increasing) are forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict and violence.** Seminal studies like the joint United Nations and World Bank Group 'Pathways for Peace' report are also showing that violent conflicts today are more complex than in the past and increasingly protracted, involving more non-state groups as well as regional and international actors. **All countries, including those in the Global North, face risks of violence and societal unrest as governments and institutions contend with perceptions of exclusion related to inequalities across societal groups.** This calls for increasing efforts from multiple actors to focus on preventing both the occurrence and escalation of violence.

70.8 million

people are **forcibly displaced** as a result of persecution, conflict and violence.

80%

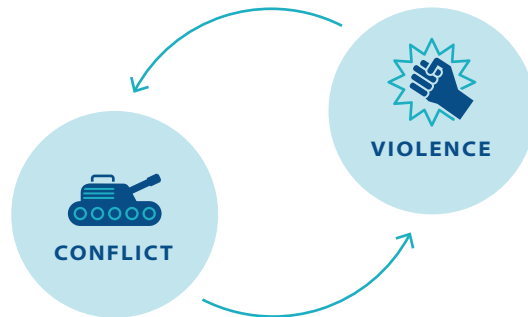
of the **extreme poor** are expected to live in countries affected by **violence and conflict** by 2030.

Protracted conflicts and wars have resulted in chronic fragility, psycho-social and economic trauma, and the destruction of cultural heritage. Societies enduring active conflict require **dialogue, trust, consensus-building, inclusive political settlements and reconciliation to build bridges for peace.** Without ensuring sustained positive peace in these countries, progress across the SDGs will be lacking or unsustainable. In order to live up to the commitment of leaving "no one behind," promoting peace in conflict-affected countries must be prioritized.

There have been positive trends in some indicators on violence. Global homicide rates have slowly declined between 2000 and 2017. However, **high levels of interpersonal violence, especially**

violence against women, can be a warning sign that violence in societies may degenerate into conflict. Once violent conflict breaks out, violence against women and girls may be exacerbated. SDG 16 is stimulating more and better data and statistics on violence against women which is enabling countries to better understand the extent of the problem and respond more effectively.

High levels of **violence against women** can signal that a society might tip into **conflict**. Once conflict breaks out such violence may be exacerbated.



87,000

women were intentionally **killed** in 2017 — and more than half by a partner or family member.

1 billion

children experience some form of **violence** every year.

The aspirations of sustaining peace (as adopted in the 2016 UN Security Council and UN General Assembly Resolutions) and sustainable development are intrinsically linked. Countries are looking beyond post-conflict peacebuilding to embrace the concept of “sustaining peace.” This concept is focused on addressing the root causes and drivers of conflict, highlighting issues of inclusivity, national ownership and the need for a “whole of society” approach. SDG 16+ provides a framework that spans the development, governance, and peacebuilding nexus. The framework can be used to underpin the sustaining-peace approach and align it with the more comprehensive SDG agenda.

Goal 16+ is central to sustaining peace and preventing and responding to conflict by strengthening institutions (including multilateral institutions). It also addresses the root causes of poverty, forced displacement, statelessness and the marginalization of people, as well as educating for a culture of peace and non-violence. UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) on youth, peace and security recognize the positive role young people play in sustaining peace. The developing world is now witnessing its largest youth generation in history. Indeed, youth are often the majority of the population in countries, and this younger generation needs a seat at the table in decision-making. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security also reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. The resolution stresses the importance of women’s equal participation and full involvement in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. The 2030 Agenda, particularly SDGs 4 on education, 5 on gender equality, 10 on equality, and 16 on peace, justice and inclusion, encompass the spirit of these important Resolutions. It recognizes sustaining peace as an inherent component of sustainable development.

BOX 5. Somalia: Peacebuilding and the Rule of Law

Somalia is undergoing a transition that represents the best chance it has had for decades for peace and Statebuilding. The Somalia National Development Plan (NDP) for the period 2017 – 2019 is closely aligned with the SDGs. The plan commits the government to poverty reduction and to progress towards meeting the SDGs. The Federal Member States have also developed their own development strategies which are aligned with the National Development Plan.

In 2018, the SDG 16 Monitoring & Evaluation Project for Somalia was initiated to measure the impact of the UN and the international community's investment in areas of rule of law. Prior to that date, there was limited coordination around data collection in Somalia, and particularly around issues concerning the Rule of Law. The project assesses and measures factors that give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice. It focuses on three areas: 1) coordination surrounding data collection, assimilation and analysis, 2) capacity development of government counterparts within the Federal Government and Federal Member States and 3) methodologies for measuring SDG 16 with a specific focus on target 16.3.

The SDG 16 M&E Project coordinates actors who collect data on peace and security, identifies gaps in data collection coverage in priority locations and provides recommendations to actors who are best placed to engage in targeted data collection. The approach aims to avoid duplicating data collection efforts, which create survey fatigue among Somali communities.

Methodologies for SDG 16 measurement as well as outcome-level analysis of Rule of Law programmes in Somalia are developed through “dipstick audits” in targeted locations. These are then supplemented through data collection and analysis done with key partners. These analyses provide results on the outcomes and impact of the Joint Rule of Law Programs and are published in quarterly bulletins.

The National Federal Parliament and Regional Assemblies are working with UNDP to strengthen parliamentary engagement in the implementation and oversight of the entire SDG approach.

Source: UNCT Somalia

BOX 6. Ukraine: Eliminating discrimination in the security sector through women's participation and leadership

In Ukraine, the Institute of Gender Programmes has given voice to women in the security sector through the Invisible Battalion advocacy campaign. This organization has also contributed to repealing discriminatory legal provisions and practices. It is a vivid example of how cooperation between State officials, MPs, UN Women and a women veterans' collective (NGO) in support of women's participation can contribute to progress on SDG 16, as well as SDG 5 and SDG 10.

Evidence-based advocacy by women in the military and female veterans contributed to Ukraine's efforts to make progress on target 10.2 to “prevent manifestations of discrimination in society,” target 5.1 to “create an environment for ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls” and target 5.4 to “ensure equal opportunities for representation at all levels of decision-making in political and public life.”

The advocacy led to legislative changes in 2016 that opened an additional 63 combat positions which women were previously prohibited from holding. In addition, discriminatory provisions against women in the armed forces were repealed by enforcing an equal retirement age for men and women: 60 years in times of conflict and 45-60 years in peacetime (depending on rank).

Restrictions that previously applied to servicewomen on duty travel and during military training were further repealed. Men and women were also provided with equal opportunities/ responsibilities in fulfilling their military service contracts.

These landmark achievements will benefit approximately 25,000 women currently in the military by guaranteeing them the opportunity to advance their military careers and obtain higher ranks.

Source: UN Women Ukraine Country Office and the NGO Institute of Gender Programmes, Ukraine

BOX 7. United States of America: The GREAT program on strengthening the rule of law through education

The GREAT Programme (Gang, Resistance, Education and Training) in the United States of America is an evidence-based gang and violence intervention that seeks to prevent violence and develop positive relationships between young people, their families and law enforcement.

It is a school-based curriculum led by a law enforcement officer, which focuses on teaching life-skills competencies such as conflict

resolution and problem-solving skills to young people. The programme targets youth and their families and is delivered jointly with community outreach programmes. Evaluations of GREAT have shown increases in the rate of positive attitudes towards the police. An improved sense of collective efficacy has also been associated with lower crime rates, reduced anger, lower gang membership rates and higher rates of altruism.

Sources: UNESCO/UNODC publication on Strengthening the rule of law through education: A guide for policymakers and GREAT programme



Justice

Hundreds of millions of people, including 650 million children, lack proof of legal identity. People **excluded from society through the lack of a legal identity** cannot seek protection from the law or claim their rights and entitlements. They are often invisible to the State and at high risk of being left behind. **Lack of legal identity poses significant barriers to accessing public services (health or education, for example), exercising the right to participate in civic processes (vote, participate in politics), or seek out justice for grievances.** Similarly, access to rights is denied when laws do not live up to key international standards and exclude population groups — such as the right of refugees to access education.

650 million

children lack proof of legal identity.

Lack of legal identity limits people's access to:



justice



education



work



health services



civic processes



property rights

Seeking justice is often **prohibitively expensive and legal proceedings are lengthy.** Moreover, for many marginalized groups, confidence in the justice system's ability to protect their rights is often very low. The Taskforce on Justice, an initiative of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, has estimated that there is a 'justice gap' affecting more than 5 billion people worldwide who cannot access legal services to resolve their problems. The High-Level Group on Justice for Women posits that **women's justice needs are shaped by overlapping disadvantages, legal discrimination and discriminatory practices.**

Countries around the world are grappling with ineffective justice systems that often reflect and perpetuate the structural inequalities, low levels of integrity and power disparities in broader society. However, there is an increasing recognition that a **human rights-based and people-centered**

approach to access to justice is necessary to ensure that legal frameworks do not exclude certain population groups, that justice institutions are more responsive to people seeking redress for grievances or to resolve disputes and that people themselves are more empowered to seek out and claim their rights.

With shrinking democratic space in many countries, **the robustness and independence of institutions can be critical to safeguarding the rights of marginalized populations and upholding the rule of law.** The judiciary can play a critical role in such situations — whether in fragile or conflict-affected contexts or high/middle income countries. However, **the independence of the judiciary is under threat** in a number of countries where politicians attempt to exert control over the judiciary. Governments have made use of parliamentary majorities to **change the statutory rules on judicial appointments and the composition of appointment panels.** Furthermore, population surveys show that experiences with and perceptions of corruption in the courts are widespread.

+5 billion

people worldwide cannot access **legal services.**

People are often **unable to seek justice** due to:



elevated
costs



lengthy
proceedings



lack of legal
identity

80%

of people turn to **informal justice systems** to solve their problems.

0.5 - 3% GDP

is the estimated **cost** of leaving civil needs unmet.

People are increasingly turning to **informal, traditional and customary justice systems** to seek quick, accessible, inexpensive resolution of disputes. This tends to happen more frequently in areas outside the reach of State authority, although these systems may not be aligned with the human rights protections afforded under international law. Countries are searching for **efficient and effective ways to deliver justice**, including alternative dispute resolution fora, mobile courts and legal aid provision. They are also looking into community-based legal services and paralegals who can advise and assist people through the justice system, focusing on those most at risk of being left behind.

People seek resolution for a range of civil, administrative and criminal needs. In criminal matters, access to legal aid is the foundation for the enjoyment of the right to a fair trial and a safeguard that prevents corruption and ensures fairness and public trust in the criminal justice process. The UNDP/UNODC Global Study on Legal Aid identified improving the coverage (including for vulnerable groups) and the quality of legal aid services as priority needs in most countries. **To deliver justice for all countries must also recognize the civil justice needs of people.** Legal aid to access justice in a range of civil and administrative matters from property and housing issues to employment and education needs is lacking for many people around the world. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD) notes that a conservative estimate of the cost of leaving civil legal needs unmet ranges from 0.5 to 3% of GDP in most OECD countries.

Building just societies contributes to preventing violence and conflict: group-based grievances around exclusion and feelings of injustice as well as abusive actions by State actors accelerate violence and the risks of conflict. Sustainable peace and development are more attainable **when justice is pursued for those grievances, including through transitional justice measures.** These

will include establishing victim-centric processes to deal with legacies of mass violations of human rights, incorporating victims' voices in peace processes, returning property to people in the aftermath of conflict and investing in more broad-based, institutional reforms.

BOX 8. Netherlands: Access to justice

In 2016, the Dutch Council for the Judiciary started an initiative to make the administration of justice more effective for court users and for society as a whole. The initiative was called "Effective Judging for Society."

One pilot scheme was implemented in District Court Noord Nederland from 2016 to 2018. The court experimented with enabling informal access to a judge. No formal petitions were necessary and the judge attempted to resolve the dispute through a "serious conversation" with the parties. Over the next one and a half years, a total of 160 disputes were submitted to the Court. In 64 of the 160 cases, both parties agreed to the alternative procedure.

A large amount of these cases concerned disputes between neighbors. Court users expressed satisfaction that their cases were handled speedily. They also paid less for this form of dispute resolution and valued the judge's personal approach. Some court users stated that the duration of the court sessions was long and some court users said they felt pressured by the judge to reach a settlement. The District court of Noord Nederland, where the pilot took

place, stated that there was a higher cost involved for the court in handling the cases because they were more labour-intensive and time-consuming than regular cases.

Two similar pilot projects are currently running at the District Court of The Hague and the District Court of Rotterdam. The Hague pilot project focuses specifically on disputes between neighbours, such as conflicts between housing corporations and tenants or between members of homeowners' associations. The Rotterdam pilot project focuses on non-complex cases involving disputes related to tenancy, employment law, consumer law and disputes between neighbors.

In all three pilot projects (in Noord-Nederland, The Hague and Rotterdam), the procedures have been simplified (an application form with a short description of the dispute is sufficient); sped up (cases are handled within a few weeks after filing); inexpensive for the court users (both parties in a private dispute pay a court fee of 40.50 Euros, around US \$45) and solution-oriented (a judge can consider non-legal issues and use mediation).

Source: Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN

BOX 9. Albania: Free Legal Aid Programme

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in Albania, in close cooperation with courts, specialized civil society organizations, and the support of UNDP Albania, championed the passage of the Free Legal Aid Law (FLA). This law grants equitable and inclusive access to justice to the most marginalized and vulnerable people in society. In Albania, those people include individuals in urban and rural areas that cannot afford to pay for legal services, as well as marginalized communities including Gender-based-violence and Domestic Violence victims, Roma and Egyptian communities, Persons with Disabilities, members of the LGBTI community and elderly persons.

A 2017 Access to Justice Survey by UNDP Albania revealed that almost half of the respondents had experienced legal problems in the

previous five years. Moreover, nearly three quarters of Albanians did not believe the national justice system adequately protected their rights. According to this survey, three key factors contributed to a fragile framework for access to justice in Albania: low levels of legal literacy, dubious attitudes towards what was just and a lack of trust in the justice system.

Six FLA centers have been established at district courts and four more FLA centres are in the pipeline for 2019. There is potential for further scaling up of the good practices already established in the six operational FLA centres.

Source: UNDP Albania



Inclusion

Civic space is shrinking in many countries across the world. Civil society organizations report an increasing number of cases in which legal and political barriers are suppressing and weakening civil society. **Shrinking civic space is highly likely to halt or reverse progress towards reducing inequality, ensuring inclusion and improving sustainability.** It is often precisely those at greatest risk whom civil society seeks to empower and protect, including women, youth, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Intersex community and other marginalized groups. From a human rights perspective, this trend also impinges upon the fundamental freedoms of the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

181 restrictions

have been imposed on CSOs in 82 countries since 2013, targeting:

the 'lifecycle' of CSOs (formation, registration or operation)

58%

peaceful assembly

20%

access to international funding

22%

There has been **good progress in recognizing the right of individuals to access information held by public authorities.** However, **certain groups — such as women — are disproportionately disadvantaged in the exercise of this right.** Moreover, the protection of freedom of expression is being threatened by **violations of the safety** of those who gather and report information to the public, principally **journalists, media workers and human rights defenders.** Media freedom, journalist safety, freedom of assembly — not to mention an independent and effective National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles — are all prerequisites for establishing effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

1,456

journalists and human rights defenders have been killed in 61 countries since 2015.



125

countries have adopted laws and policies to guarantee people's right to information.



Countries are recognizing that responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making can strengthen the legitimacy of public institutions and also facilitate the adoption of policies that address the needs and rights of all people. This is as true for education (SDG 4) as it is for decent work (SDG 8). The picture of **women's representation in public institutions (the judiciary, parliament and the public service), however, is mixed.** Some regions are steadily improving the proportion of women occupying decision-making positions in public institutions,

whereas other regions remain stagnant. Representation of other demographic groups in public institutions — e.g., youth, ethnic groups, the disabled — is more challenging to assess, as only a handful of countries are systematically producing and monitoring this data. **Young people’s participation and representation in deliberative bodies and in policy making processes is impossible** in some contexts. This is due to formal rules restricting the age of participation, a lack of space for expanding membership and financial constraints on facilitating meaningful participation to ensure a real influence on decision-making.

Women’s representation in national parliaments varies widely per region but the average stands at

24%

Young people make up the majority of the world’s population, yet **MPs under 30** make up less than

2%

Inclusion, or its lack, starts early and is often determined by legal status and identity. It begins at the time of birth — underscoring the importance of birth registration for proof of official identity and nationality — and continues as children enter the education system. **The gap between male and female out-of-school rates has narrowed over the years, but among children of primary age, girls are still more likely to be out of school than boys.** Depending on the country, **asylum seekers and refugees might be legally excluded from accessing certain rights and associated services.** Legal identity secures important legal protection mechanisms, safeguards equal access to key social services such as health and education and foster income-generating opportunities. It also helps to ensure that these individuals are counted in official statistics.

BOX 10. Timor Leste: Inclusion of youth in governance

The second youngest nation in Asia, with 62% of the population under the age of 25, Timor-Leste is committed to transforming its large numbers of youth into a “demographic dividend” by 2030.

The Timor Leste government, supported by the UN, has established a Youth Centre for Entrepreneurship (KJFL). This is a one-stop youth innovation and entrepreneurship hub, where young people can access information about employment opportunities and receive training. The Centre reached more than 5,000 young people in 2018 and supported many in starting their own businesses. The government has also provided support to rural youth on civic education and entrepreneurship development through Municipal Youth Centres and the National Youth Council.

Young people in Timor Leste are politically engaged. The voting age in Timor Leste is 17 and in the two recent elections, slightly over 50% of registered voters were between the age of 17 and 30.

In 2009, the country established a Youth Parliament, composed of Timorese between 12 and 17 years of age. The idea was that these young people would represent their municipalities in national debates on key issues and make recommendations to the parliament and government. Some municipalities have also established working groups where youth are represented. In addition, each political party has a youth wing. Dominance of the older generation means that young people’s voices are not always heard in practice. The two youth representatives on each village council reportedly have limited influence over actual decision-making.

In the past few years, young people have established dynamic civil society groups like HATUTAN (Connect), The Feminist Group in Timor-Leste and The Movement of Women Youth. In 2017, The Feminist Group played an important role in maintaining the existing availability of family planning resources when a draft law surfaced that would have limited these to married couples only. HATUTAN also ...

successfully led the organization of the first Pride Marches in Timor-Leste in 2017 and 2018. Its awareness-raising around LGBTI rights was supported in 2017 by then Prime Minister, Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo, who called for families and society to accept people of different sexual orientations.

Research conducted by the NGO Belun and the UN indicates that several youth categories face challenges to participating in society due to stigma and discrimination. These include young people with

disabilities and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and intersex community youth. The SDG Roadmap identifies young people as both a development opportunity and a potential source of instability. Data shows that young people are overrepresented among the unemployed. According to the 2015 Census, 20% of youth between the ages of 15-24 are not employed and not in education or training (NEET). There are concerns that NEET youth in particular are drawn into martial arts groups, some of which have been involved in violence in their communities.

Source: UNCT Timor Leste

BOX 11. Paraguay: Freedom of expression and access to information laws

In 2014, Paraguay became the 100th country in the world to pass a freedom of information law, asserting the public's right to access government documents.

In 2013, the Supreme Court of Justice ruled in a pioneering case on access to public information. Drawing on standards from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, that landmark case established the right of citizens to access data from a municipality. The ruling was considered historical and constituted a substantial advancement in freedom of information and transparency in Paraguay. It championed transparency in Paraguayan public institutions and laid the groundwork for the passage of the freedom of information law in 2014.

The Access to Public Information and Transparency Law requires government bodies and functionaries to publish their budgets and disclose information requested by citizens. The relevant information runs the gamut from policy documents and official travel and contracts, to salaries and expenditures, as well as any information not protected from disclosure for security reasons. A dedicated website was launched where individuals can file requests for specific information.

When the law was passed, there was no national body of case law or legal expertise to guide the process of accessing information. A national working group composed of representatives of all branches of government, relevant ministries as well as representatives of civil society was formed to chart the national process.

In response to the new law, the Supreme Court created a Directorship of Transparency and Access to Information, which is charged with implementing policy and capacity-building strategies related to SDG 16, including open justice, access to information, freedom of expression and the safety of journalists.

"The law provides great opportunities for citizen participation in and a greater capacity for control of public management. That means democracy can grow substantively, and not just in name," says José María Costa, Advisor and Director of Transparency and Access to Public Information of the Supreme Court of Justice (Paraguay).

2014 was also marked by the assassination of three Paraguayan journalists investigating corruption and organized crime. "The safety of journalists and freedom of the press are essential," Costa says. "Freedom of expression is a collective right which empowers citizens to participate in democracy and makes sustainable development possible. Without access to quality information, a free and secure press, an informed, active and engaged citizenry is not possible."

In 2016, the three branches of government signed an agreement to support a safety mechanism to investigate threats made against journalists and media workers. The system is designed to cultivate a shared responsibility among government entities and civil society. It also provides for the permanent monitoring of cases via a WhatsApp group in which all participating institutions can report potential threats and aggressions against journalists. In addition, a rapid-response procedure was created for the safeguarding of journalists under imminent threat to determine the most effective course of action, including formal protection and legal action.

Source: UNCT Paraguay



Global Goals Nobel Peace Prize nominee Victor Ochen raised a flag in Northern Uganda. Photo: UNDP.

Taking stock

The above summary of key findings and trends on progress being made on SDG 16+ reveals a set of challenges to, and opportunities for, building peaceful, just and inclusive societies. But from securing political will and sufficient financial resources, to marshalling the whole of government and the whole of society behind Agenda 2030, to ensuring that no one is left behind in development outcomes, **governments require support and guidance.**

This section **identifies the key factors and conditions that actors at country level consider necessary to make progress on SDG 16+ — highlighting both opportunities and challenges.** It is based on the key messages of the SDG 16+ Technical Consultations, the experiences recounted in the case studies, UNDESA and Global Alliance e-consultations on SDG 16, analyzes of VNRs and other relevant literature.

To motivate this discussion, two questions for stakeholders are posed here. The response is summarized both here and further elaborated in the following sub-sections:

Question 1: What do countries require to make progress on peace, justice and inclusion (SDG 16+)?

- Political leadership and financing to implement SDG 16+
- Effective links between justice, peace and inclusion policies and programmes
- Implementation and monitoring mechanisms for SDG 16+
- Political and financial investments in SDG 16+ data and statistics

Question 2: How can SDG 16+ advance the 2030 Agenda as a whole?

- Policy coherence in SDG implementation
- Utilizing human rights mechanisms
- Involving sub-national stakeholders
- Civic space and enabling conditions for a broad range of stakeholders to engage in consultations and partnerships
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Involving a broad range of data producers to address data gaps
- Inclusive data and data disaggregation to ensure no one is left behind



Political leadership and financing to implement SDG 16+

Stakeholders that have contributed to this report stress that **strong political commitment and leadership for building peaceful, just and inclusive societies is often lacking**. This may be because advancing peace, justice and inclusion involves inherently political processes. Governments and other actors must deal with the foundations of power in societies, especially those that are emerging from crisis and face major questions of legitimacy and accountability. As a result, many believe that **consensus on a national development vision within society is a key building block for accelerated progress on SDG 16+**.

Political support often needs to be combined with both technical expertise and financing. With the advent of the 2030 Agenda, the use of technical assistance (policy support, capacity development and country accompaniment) is being prioritized by the UN and other donors, including for SDG 16+ implementation. Especially challenging areas where technical assistance is sought include conflict-sensitive policies and programmes, human rights-based approaches, participatory planning and accountability mechanisms and the measurement and monitoring of peace, justice and inclusion. Much of this assistance is being provided from multilateral (international and regional) and bilateral institutions and from global and regional civil society. UN agencies, in particular, and especially in Africa and Asia, are the leading organizations in this regard. UN agency country programmes are particularly geared toward 2030 Agenda outcomes, with many of them focused on SDG 16+ targets.

“Meeting the “capacity challenge” will be instrumental to meet the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda and for the effective implementation of SDG 16+; and capacities should not only be built on policy coherence and integration, but also on inclusive and participatory SDG implementation and effective stakeholder engagement.”

(SDG 16+ Consultation/Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum, March 2019)

Increasing awareness and ensuring dialogue with people on progress on SDG 16+ is also critical to localizing the SDGs so that these improve people’s lives. The **media and civil society have a key role** to play in simplifying the language around SDG 16+ issues and ensuring that information on implementation and progress is accessible to all.

The UN is also helping countries to integrate the SDGs into national development processes through its “MAPS” (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) engagements. An especially important partnership relevant to SDG 16+ is the “New Deal” between the g7+ countries together with OECD-DAC donors that was endorsed, including by civil society, in 2011. The New Deal recognizes the nexus between peace and development and guides the effective engagement of actors in conflict-affected countries. Its principles include peacebuilding and Statebuilding goals (e.g., Inclusive and Legitimate Politics, Security and Justice, Economic Foundation and Revenue and Services).

There is a multitude of cross-country initiatives and programmes providing technical support to countries (both governments and civil society) across peace, justice and inclusion. These include the Global Alliance, the Tap Network, Pathfinders, 16 Plus Forum, SDG 16 Data Initiative and the Open Government Partnership, among others.

Although external financial resources may be required for some countries to implement SDG 16+, countries also need to take active responsibility for its development. Measures must be vigorously taken to enhance domestic resource mobilization and to curb illicit financial flows (16.4). Countries must also attract foreign direct investment and create effective financing structures, including through natural resources management and climate governance (SDG 13).

BOX 12. Sierra Leone: Strengthening access to justice

The government of Sierra Leone is committed to strengthening access to justice in collaboration with justice sector institutions, civil society and the private sector. Along with the governments of Argentina and the Netherlands, Sierra Leone is co-chair of the Task Force on Justice. This is an initiative of the “Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies” which aims to accelerate the provision of justice to people and communities outside the protection of the law, in line with SDG 16.3 and related targets on justice.

Correctional reforms

During the Ebola crisis of 2014-2015, courts closed and prosecutions dwindled. As a result, prisons became severely overcrowded. In February 2015, the unsentenced prison population was at 57%. A host of legal and civil society organizations come together to review the legislative framework and improve sentencing regulations. Their goal was to ensure the protection of those most vulnerable in the criminal justice process. They also sought to understand the challenges in the prison system, including the dire conditions endured by detainees. At the same time, and in partnership with the Correctional Service, these groups participated in pilot prison courts to handle a backlog of criminal cases. More than 1,200 criminal cases were reviewed and legal assistance was provided to 650 defendants in these specialized courts. 25 urgent cases, where pre-trial detention had lasted three years or more, were expedited to the Court of Appeals, resulting in the immediate acquittal and release of 24 defendants. In August 2018, these concerted

efforts brought the unsentenced population to 44%, although in December 2018 the percentage rose again to 47%.

Case management and data collection in the justice sector

Justice and oversight institutions have piloted innovative case management systems to enhance case progress and tracking. In 2016, the judiciary commenced the quest to identify a suitable digital criminal case management system. This followed three attempts to clean up existing paper systems, none of which had been successful. Among others, the judiciary chose Justice App5. Justice App5 was selected due to its user-friendly interface, low-cost and its ability to work off-line in remote areas suffering power shortages. This App can be charged with solar panels. Although this is the country's first-ever, electronic case-management system, the Chief Justice and Senior Justices recognize its potential for improving oversight, tracking and accountability. In 2018, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Correctional Service was formally linked to the Justice App. At the time of writing, process flows were being developed and tested. Crime sync is a pilot system being tested by the Police in Freetown to register all arrests and detainees electronically within the Criminal Investigations Department.

The Family Support Unit (FSU) in the police force has enhanced its crime data system to ensure it gathers disaggregated data to record SGBV against women and children. Such data can be used to strengthen evidence for effective prosecution and when referring victims to other services.

Source: UNCT Sierra Leone



Making effective links between justice, peace and inclusion policies and programmes

The various inputs to this report show that peace, justice, and inclusion are not only desirable in and of themselves, they also **depend on each other**. This is particularly true in fragile contexts, where justice is not only critical for sustaining peace, but also for furthering the 2030 Agenda.

Robust justice institutions can prevent conflict. The Freetown and Sarajevo SDG 16+ Technical Consultations recognized that the lack of access to justice, including transitional justice processes, can fuel violence and conflict, reversing gains made through development processes. Resolving legal disputes before they escalate into open conflict and — in the aftermath of conflict and human rights violations, promoting prosecution, facilitating truth, and providing compensation through transitional justice mechanisms — can enhance guarantees of no-recurrence.

Goal 16+ encourages governments to strengthen institutions, including multilateral institutions, **to tackle root causes and drivers** of phenomena such as poverty, gender inequality, forced displacement and the marginalization of people. Root causes include persecution, conflicts, violence, human rights violations, statelessness, gender bias, corruption, climate and environmental degradation and natural disasters. By looking at underlying issues, SDG 16+ supports a **preventative approach** that understands that **protecting and promoting human rights contributes to reducing the risk factors that drive conflict**. Indeed, the international legal framework of human rights protection provides a framework for a politically acceptable and legally protected space in which to address many of the issues that require attention in order for countries to be effective in conflict and violence prevention. In this context, transitional justice and advancing the State's ability to secure human rights are important parts of sustaining peace.

Efforts to increase access to justice noted in the Freetown SDG 16+ Technical Consultation included reducing court fees, decentralising courts and establishing small claims courts. Other measures include providing human rights training for police and prison personnel, instituting community service to decongest prisons, providing braille/sign language services and simplifying court processes. Ensuring access to legal aid services for sexual and gender-based violence survivors, particularly in conflict/post conflict situations, was also identified as a priority, as well increasing opportunities for female judges and legal professionals.

As with justice, inclusion can also contribute to positive and sustained peace. Efforts to reduce violence and promote peace must necessarily address inequality and exclusion. There are countries that are going through active and protracted conflicts and wars which have resulted in chronic fragility and social and economic trauma. In these contexts, dialogue, trust- and consensus-building, political settlements and reconciliation are sorely needed to strengthen social cohesion. In view of their eventual return, those who have left countries in conflict as refugees should participate in processes to strengthen social cohesion. Without ensuring peace in these countries, progress across SDGs will be lacking or unsustainable. In order to live up to the commitment of leaving “no one behind,” promoting peace in conflict-affected countries needs to be recognized as a priority. A

good example of this is the G7+ Council of Eminent Persons which was established to institutionalize different tracks of diplomacy so as to promote dialogue and reconciliation.

BOX 13. Argentina: Innovative responses to gender-based violence and expanding access to justice

Argentina has developed judicial teams who specialize in intra-family, sexual and institutional violence across judicial sector agencies. The aim is to ensure access to justice for a host of marginalized groups, including women, girls, boys, adolescents, LGBTI+ people and older adults. The law also targets people with disabilities, indigenous people and Afro-descendants.

In Argentina, 90 CAJs (Centres for Access to Justice) have been established to provide pro bono legal advice on civil and criminal justice matters. Over a two-year period between 2016 and 2018, there was a 149% increase in the number of queries received by the CAJ. 65% of all consultations were held with women, and the main issues addressed concerned access to personal documentation and certification (28%), social security (22%), and family matters (13.5%).

The Federal Network for Pro Bono Counsel has handled some 1600 cases. In addition, the Body of Lawyers for Victims of Gender Violence has registered 1672 lawyers to provide legal counsel specialising in the eradication of violence against women. Lawyers should undergo a Training on Attitudinal Transformation in Gender (TAG).

The first 'Hospital of Rights' was strategically located in Buenos Aires near a transport hub that is highly utilized by workers. There, people can access information, guidance, mediation and legal counsel on the diverse range of legal issues they may face.

Victims of crime have also been given legal standing in criminal proceedings and two new institutional structures for victims have been created. National Centre for the Assistance of Victims of crimes (CENAVID) operates in coordination with the CAJs and provides a toll-free number where victims can access specialized counsel 24/7.

The Observatory on Victims of Crimes analyzes the enforcement of victims' rights and maintains an inventory of good practices.

Argentina is also experimenting with novel techniques to prevent violence against women. The country has operated a successful pilot scheme which provides victims and aggressors of gender-based violence with electronic armbands. A monitoring centre checks the location of the armband wearers and alerts both the victim and the aggressor if they are in proximity of one another. The centre can arrange for police or other support to be sent to the scene if required.

Argentina is also improving the information it collects on justice matters. In 2016, the Ministry of Security and the National Statistics and Censuses Institute (INDEC) launched the first National Victimization Survey to collect information on citizen perceptions of violence. A Survey of Unmet Legal Needs was also carried out to understand the prevalence of legal problems as well as people's experiences in handling legal matters. An online case management software was designed for the CAJs — the Information Systems of the Centres for Access to Justice (SICAJ). This data base produces socio-demographic data on people requesting services, including information on the nature of the cases, the types of interventions that result and relevant outcomes. The Ministry for Justice and Human Rights also operates an online platform — Justice 2020 — where people can analyze proposals for legal and institutional reforms and make recommendations for how to improve the justice sector. As of the writing of this report, 56,764 people were registered on the platform and 7,000 online contributions had been made. In addition, 220 face-to-face meetings were held with 6,000 attendees.

Source: UNCT Argentina

BOX 14. Burkina Faso: Extending citizenship through inclusive policymaking

In October 2018, the country ratified the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and adopted a National Action Plan against Statelessness focusing on identification, prevention, reduction, and protection. As part of the implementation of the action

plan, the government organized hearings in several regions in collaboration with religious institutions. It allocated citizenship to almost 40,000 people.

Source: UNCT Burkina Faso

BOX 15. Benin: Preventing conflict

Through the establishment of the National Coalition for Peace and the Civil Society Organization Platform for Transparent and Peaceful Elections, community mediators are trained and available

throughout the country for the prevention and management of conflicts of all kinds.

Source: UNCT Benin

BOX 16. UNESCO: Creative Cities

Over the past few decades, the city of Bogotá experienced a noticeable rise in urban violence. With the aim of restoring social well-being and enhancing public safety, restrictions were placed on night-time entertainment, leading to a decline in live music. In order to **revitalize this once thriving music sector**, the municipality of Bogotá, through the Bogotá Arts Institute, created the DC Live Initiative. Since 2013, this programme has **fostered strategic**

alliances between public, private and CSO stakeholders so as to increase access to musical training, promote the mobility of artists and distribute local music. In addition to restoring and promoting live music venues, DC Live uses other cultural facilities, such as libraries and cultural centres, to **expand audiences** throughout the city, including in deprived neighbourhoods.

Source: https://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/sites/creative-cities/files/16_pages_villes_creatives_uk_bd.pdf



Implementation and monitoring mechanisms for SDG 16+

Goal 16 requires countries to strengthen context-specific institutional mechanisms to gather data, plan and monitor policy efforts and deliver outcomes. Some countries have established such mechanisms within existing institutions; others have created new ones. A review of the 46 VNRs produced in 2018 shows that 31 VNRs mention new or existing councils or committees to govern SDG implementation.⁶

“The implementation and achievement of SDG 16+ will greatly depend on local action and leadership, in coordination with all other levels of governance. While the 2030 Agenda offers the “what” — i.e., the goals to be achieved — open and transparent government has been highlighted as the “how,” as it supports the transformation of the objectives into local reality.”

(SDG 16+ Tunis Technical Consultation, March 2019)

Ensuring that there is coordination across different ministries in developing sectoral strategies, collecting data and reporting on progress is essential for fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. However, monitoring progress on SDG 16+ at the national level also poses some challenges, as noted during the SDG 16+ Technical Consultations.

The “inter-operability” within national systems of data collection was raised as one such challenge. Even if a bureau is mandated to produce national statistics, the absence of institutional alignment within a country can lead to overlapping and contradictory data. Another common obstacle is a

lack of both staff and technological capacity for accurate data collection. In cases where data is available, it is often unreliable due to haphazard reporting processes and the inability to triangulate across different types of data. At the same time, the data is often not disaggregated with a sufficient level of granularity as to be useful in formulating policy or informing decision-making. There can also be a cost barrier associated with accessing data: some countries have limited quantities of public data, obliging the government to pay private sector companies to access their information. It can also be challenging for countries to match SDG indicators to national data targets.

“Reporting on government progress on the international stage is a powerful impetus for concrete change. But a ‘whole of government’ approach is needed to implement SDG 16 — this includes ensuring that there is coordination across different ministries in collecting data, developing sectoral strategies, and reporting on progress.”

(SDG 16+ Freetown Technical Consultation, October 2018)

Countries have approached these challenges in a variety of ways. The government of the Dominican Republic has undertaken a multi-year reorganization of its governance institutions to prepare a social and economic policy that focuses on social protection issues of Goal 16+. This involves designating a responsible official for each policy in the agenda and tracking updated information on social and economic development programmes across government institutions. The reorganization involves civil society monitoring of the programme and agreements with the private sector to provide technical training.

Costa Rica’s efforts to develop a national plan for the development of human security includes a coordination office that works across government institutions to collect data and decide on which topics to focus. In mapping its efforts to date, this body found around 170 programmes concerning violence prevention and protection. It then used that information to assess where resources should be focused.

Harmonizing the actions of a range of agencies across a national political system can be daunting. Reducing criminal violence offers a useful case in point. Governments need to address the needs of both the victim and the perpetrator across many agencies in the criminal justice system, as well as their needs within the health and social services systems. It is important to ensure that different agencies dealing with an individual are not just duplicating data or collecting new information without purpose.

To motivate institutions to collect and analyze relevant data, officials need to understand the benefits of collecting data and how it will improve the efficiency of their agency’s work. The Carisecure programme provides one potential solution. This organization works across ten countries in the Caribbean to design policies that can reduce youth involvement in crime and violence and strengthen youth as agents of change. The programme seeks to help institutions to capture and analyze data — as well as coordinate their data collection and analysis — to make targeted policies and interventions.

BOX 17. occupied Palestinian Territory: Approach to implementing the SDGs

The Palestinian government is committed to implementing the SDGs. Its National Policy Agenda, which emphasises putting “citizens first” and integrating human rights treaty obligations into the Agenda’s priorities, is a step towards SDG implementation.

The Council of Ministers formed a national team to identify sustainable development priorities and key, mainstream targets within the National Policy Agenda (2017-2022), as well as within related sectoral strategies. This team was placed under the auspices of the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), working closely with the National Statistics Team (led by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)) and the National Sustainable Development Forum. The PCBS developed baselines for indicators and adapted its data management structure to make more strategic use of institutionally produced data. To this end, a general directorate of “Records and Statistical Monitoring” was established to collect and format statistics extracted from administrative records of public institutions, and to combine these with survey-related data. Through this approach, the national team has been able to evaluate progress against key SDG targets, as evidenced by its 2018 VNR.

The Ministry of Justice leads the SDG 16 working group (SDG 16 WG), which is composed of a variety of governmental bodies (including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Women’s Affairs), international government partners including UN agencies and key civil society actors that work in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (e.g., the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC), the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), the Palestinian Centre for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA), and more). The working group has three sub-groups (“access to justice and rule of Law,” “anti-corruption and transparency;” and “public administration and institution building.”)

The working group has localized SDG 16 indicators. It supports CSOs to better contribute to SDG 16 in a timely manner by identifying and providing support for their organizational and technical needs. This body has also been instrumental in raising awareness amongst civil society and governmental institutions on the 2030 Agenda more broadly, and SDG 16 within it, including on the gender dimension of indicators. All of this activity informs the oPt’s VNR.

Source: UNCT in the occupied Palestinian Territory

BOX 18. El Salvador: Infosegura project to generate data

The Government of El Salvador is one of six countries participating in a pilot initiative to generate national statistics to help monitor SDG 16: the UNDP/USAID InfoSegura project. This initiative is coordinated by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the Community of Democracies (CD), with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Together with a range of civil society organizations and the private sector, Infosegura helps identify the combination of surveys and institutional administrative records that can be used to monitor SDG indicators. At the outset of the initiative, El Salvador had data on only three Goal 16 indicators: 16.3.2.; 16.6.1. and 16.9.1. Information for a further two indicators (16.1.4. and 16.3.1) was achieved through the design and implementation of national surveys conducted with technical and financial support from the UNDP/USAID InfoSegura project, the General Directorate of Statistics and Census (DIGESTYC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA).

Between 2017 and 2019, the Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) was implemented by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in order to collect information on indicators 16.1 and 16.2. This

survey was conducted by DIGESTYC, with support from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and financed by USAID. Information was gathered on the prevalence and impact of emotional, physical and sexual violence against girls, boys and young people from the ages 13 to 24 in El Salvador. The survey helps identify factors that contribute to risk of, and protection from, violence, as well as the health consequences of violence.

Further national surveys were implemented that serve as a proxy for global indicators, including two Culture of Peace Surveys for 2017 and 2018. The Culture of Peace Survey is based on the Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative.

The total number of Goal 16 global indicators on which El Salvador can now measure progress is 15. All data collected on the population of El Salvador is available through an interactive online platform: http://190.5.135.86/KPI_FORM_QUA/en/0/BSS.

State institutions involved in collecting data for the global indicators also examined how SDG 16 indicators aligned with the Five-Year Country Development Plan 2014-2019 (PQD, for its acronym in Spanish) and the El Salvador Security Plan (PESS, as it is known by its Spanish acronym).

...

The efforts to implement the 2030 agenda, and in particular SDG 16, have involved multiple State institutions in El Salvador, which has fostered cooperation and dialogue between them. It has also revealed where institutions require further support to produce

adequate and timely statistical information. This experience has also made clear that political will is essential to align SDG 16 with national and sectoral plans.

Source: UNCT El Salvador



Political and financial investments in SDG 16+ data and statistics

The review of country case studies included in this report and the recent SDG 16+ Progress Report produced by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)/Vision for Humanity demonstrates measuring Goal 16+ is politically, technically and financially possible. Moreover, progress is already taking place across a range of indicators.⁷ A review of the 46 VNRs submitted in 2018 showed that most countries provided statistics for at least some of the SDG 16+ indicators. Member States frequently reported that they had obtained data from a variety of different sources, hence strengthening the validity of that data.⁸ Of the 46 VNRs submitted, 42 reported collaboration or assistance from the private sector, as compared with only roughly 50% reporting such collaboration in 2017.⁹

In its report, the IEP reviewed the progress made by ten countries in measuring 44 out of the 56 Goal 16+ Indicators. To date, they found that only two of those countries had data for more than 75% of the 44 indicators. However, the IEP also states that:

'Most countries could collect the majority of extra data using extensions to existing surveys. In particular, Demographic Health Surveys (DHS) could be extended to cover a high percentage of outstanding SDG 16+ indicators.'

Political will is necessary to collect additional data. The IEP elaborates:

'Alterations to existing survey questionnaires, combined with better communication between departments who are monitoring and evaluating the SDGs and the continued implementation of [the NSDS framework], will enable a more complete measurement of the SDG 16+ indicators.'

Decades of conflicts leave behind chronically fragile institutions. The existing capacity of these institutions has been under strain due to the fragmentation due to lack of coordination and harmonization. Experience in gathering data against jointly-agreed priority indicators has provided challenging in many countries due to a lack of data. Lack of statistical capacity has further made it difficult to produce timely data that can support evidence-based policy. Going forward, nationally produced data is needed in order to identify gaps in statistical capacity.

The Praia City Group on Governance Statistics, which includes 85 members — member States, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society organizations and academia — is working to develop standards for measuring the often complex concepts and phenomenon at the heart of peace, justice and inclusion.

Official statistics are being produced within countries and across countries that can support the measurement and monitoring of SDG 16, including through survey programmes. The UN regional commissions have made significant efforts in supporting countries to generate statistics on global indicators. ECLAC, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, has helped countries in Latin American and the Caribbean to establish a prioritized set of regionally-specific indicators for monitoring the 2030 Agenda.¹⁰

Of the 23 global indicators in SDG 16, 10 are survey-based measures. This is not a surprise, since many issues related to governance, peace, security and human rights require asking people what they think or what they have experienced. African countries have demonstrated that adding additional questions to, for example, National Household Surveys, can be a cost-effective and efficient method for gathering data on a range of Goal 16+ indicators.¹¹

Surveys are also useful for highlighting disparities across population groups. However, it can be a challenge to sustain the generation of data from surveys over time. UN agencies, supported by UNODC,¹² use established survey programmes to collect additional data, such as crime victimization surveys, to monitor victims' experience of physical, psychological and sexual violence over time.¹³ Additionally, demographic and health surveys can reveal relevant longitudinal information.¹⁴

In collecting data from a range of sources to monitor their progress in achieving Goal 16+, some countries are making efforts to be respectful of the human rights of those who have shared their information with data-collection organizations. In many cases, this means considering an individual's right to privacy and the ethics and legality of sharing information between data-collection agencies for different purposes, including social media. Indeed, there is a growing understanding that governments are accountable for the ways in which they generate and use data in light of human rights concerns.

BOX 19. Central African Republic (CAR): Collecting data in a fragile context

How does the government of the Central African Republic track progress on its National Development and Peace Building Plan (RCPCA)? Gathering data on the progress of the RCPCA is vital to understanding what works, as well as what needs to be improved, on assorted governance reforms. However, in a context of fragility, uneven State authority, frequent power shortages and limited financial and human resources, it is a challenge for the Government and sectoral ministries to identify data related to peace, justice and security.

Goal 16+ has helped concentrate data-collection efforts. The need for data and measurement in order to prepare the CAR's 2019 VNR on progress made towards achieving the SDGs has created a sense of urgency and awareness. The government understands that it needs to establish sector-wide data and statistics mechanisms for

the justice and security sectors and to connect these efforts to the governments' planning branch.

The Ministry of Planning is leading this effort and is working with government, civil society and UN family stakeholders from the rule of law community in the CAR to collect data on SDG 16+ indicators. A rule of law stakeholders' consultation in February 2019 acknowledged the gaps in relevant data due to a lack of reliable data collection and analysis mechanisms. This consultation also acknowledged the lack of coordination across sectors and the existence of different figures to measure similar indicators.

Stakeholders recommended using third party data to assess and report on progress on SDG 16+, including the UNDP/United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) perception surveys of almost 27,000



Photo: UNCT, CAR.

Central Africans on peace, justice and security, led by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI). Four perception surveys have been undertaken since 2017 in the CAR, as well as one in a refugee camp in Cameroon.

The challenge now for national authorities and other partners is to keep the system of data collection simple. They also need to ensure that no one is left behind because they have been excluded from data collected on progress towards achieving Goal 16. Data collection systems must be extended to the parts of the country that, in light of the recent peace agreement, will again come under control of State authorities.

The CAR national authorities and partners will also need to seize opportunities to adapt Goal 16+ targets to the national context. For example, in reporting on access to justice, Goal 16.3 commits countries to reporting on the numbers of victims of violence as well as the number of detainees languishing in prison for lengthy periods of time before going to court. A major focus of the CAR government is to fight impunity by prosecuting those accused of grave crimes with the Special Criminal Court. National stakeholders could thus develop localized indicators to collect data that reflect this sort of national priority and set their own targets concerning achieving justice.

Source: UNCT Central African Republic

2 How can SDG 16+ progress advance the 2030 Agenda as a whole? (SDG 16+ Interlinkages)

Achieving progress on Agenda 2030 requires governments to coordinate, consult, partner, and work across policy areas in an unprecedented way. It requires strengthened coordination between institutions at all levels (“whole of government”) and broader consultation with and participation by stakeholders in society (“whole of society”). Governments together with stakeholders need to design and implement innovative, forward-looking policies and programmes to reach the SDG targets to which governments have committed. SDG 16+ provides an important framework to govern the 2030 Agenda as a whole. **SDG 16 is thus not only a goal in itself, but also an essential enabler for the achievement of all other goals.**

SDG 16+ targets therefore need to guide overall processes to implement the 2030 Agenda. In fact, SDG 16+ targets can be used as a checklist when developing these processes (see guiding questions checklist in Annex 4).

The SDG 16+ Interlinkages approach not only guides countries on how to shape their institutions to achieve the SDGs. This approach also **shapes countries’ approach to humanitarian, development and peace actions, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected situations.** Finally, this approach **contributes to and complements** the people-centered, gender-sensitive commitments of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.¹⁵



Ensuring policy coherence in SDG implementation

The 2030 Agenda’s call for transformation requires that goals are not implemented in isolation, but in synergy with each other. In other words, progress on one goal should reinforce (positive externality), not undermine (negative externality), other goals. The SDGs therefore require coordinated work across policy areas. This requirement is explicitly articulated in SDG 17, which focuses

on strengthening the means of implementation for sustainable development, with a target (17.14) devoted to enhancing policy and institutional coherence.

SDG 16+ encourages a rethink of the institutional frameworks needed at all levels of government to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030. The idea is to adopt a territorial approach to strategic planning, budgeting and monitoring. With its target on effective institutions (16.6), SDG 16 encourages and supports efforts towards policy coherence. More and more countries are implementing the SDGs with tools and approaches that contribute to bringing policy coherence to development planning. This is to ensure that the SDGs including SDG 16+ is not implemented in a silo, but is done with a good understanding of how SDG 16+ targets interact and impact on targets across the Goals. Nonetheless, several countries still emphasize that ensuring policy coherence presents a key challenge for them.

Examples of countries engaging policy coherence for sustainable development include Cabo Verde, featured below in Box 20. Cabo Verde has been implementing the SDG 16+ approach to rights-based inclusion and accountable institutions, which in turn impacts the achievement of SDGs 1 (ending poverty) and 5 (achieving gender equality) in the country. Cabo Verde's full case focusing on two areas of intervention: (1) the implementation of the national care system; and (2) the enhancement of transparency in public administration, can be accessed on the SDG 16 Hub).

In December 2018, the Mongolian government adopted a methodology for assessing policy coherence. Their case study is featured in Box 3 and the full case study may be found on the SDG 16 Hub. Their initiative requires each ministry to conduct reviews of all policies and programmes so as to align medium and long-term development plans to achieve SDG 16 interlinkages with the other SDGs by 2030.

Liechtenstein has also engaged in policy coherence efforts to achieve SDG 16 interlinkages. Through the Financial Sector Commission (FSC), the country contributes to the implementation of SDG 16+, with a particular focus on Target 16.2 and Target 16.4 (with interlinkages to Target 5.2.) Côte d'Ivoire has employed the Integrated model for Sustainable Development Goals Strategies (iSDG) to assess the potential achievement of the SDGs under different policy scenarios. In addition, some OECD member States have also put in place institutional mechanisms for policy coherence for sustainable development.

BOX 20. Cabo Verde: Improving oversight of public administration

A white paper for public administration reform was elaborated in 2018 drawing on the SDG 16 framework. Several measures were introduced to increase transparency and strengthen mechanisms of both internal external oversight of the public sector. The Court of Account, the General Inspection of Finance and the Regulatory Agency for Public Procurement are all being equipped with more

modern tools, legal instruments and training to yield better quality audits. However, the Court of Auditors' opinions have not yet been published and citizens still face obstacles in finding information on how to improve doing business and gain access to credit.

Efforts have also taken place to consolidate the national statistic system. Statistics are regularly published in the areas of demography, ...

health and poverty. However, the use of data in the formulation of public policy and the alignment of that data with the planning cycle and programme evaluation, particularly at sub-national level, is still weak.

At the national level, the budget is discussed in the National Dialogue Council and approved by the Parliament. At the municipal

level, budgets are approved by Municipal Assemblies. The Government consults civil society and the private sector in the preparation of the State budget and publishes the final budget on the Ministry of Finance website once it has been approved by Parliament. The Ministry of Finance also publishes its procurement processes.

Source UNCT Cabo Verde



Utilizing human rights mechanisms

It is important to translate the global aspirations of SDG 16+ into concrete steps for implementation at the national level. The principle of ‘Leaving No One Behind’ needs to ensure that human rights issues and inclusiveness are actively championed at the country level and that access to justice is delivered in all parts of the country. This also requires substantial investment in disaggregated data and generating a more active link to other human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review.

Many of the SDG targets are already aligned with human rights standards. Where there are gaps, national development plans and SDG implementation policies should be aligned with a country’s human rights commitments. The importance of strong NHRIs is explicitly recognized in SDG 16 (indicators 16.a.1), which requires countries to take steps towards full compliance with the standards for NHRIs as set out in the *Paris Principles*:

“Aligning national development plans with the SDGs and human rights is not enough to ensure action; governments need to develop action plans with clear identification of those responsible, proper budget allocations, as well as key benchmarks and timelines.”

(SDG 16+ Technical Consultation, Cabo Verde, November 2018)

NHRIs are also critical to monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDG 16. This means handling and monitoring complaints regarding exclusion, discrimination and violation of human rights, including in the implementation of the national development or SDG priorities. NHRIs can promote responsible business conduct in line with human rights and SDG standards. These bodies have a key role to play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding by monitoring and reporting on human rights abuses, embedding human rights within conflict prevention/resolution/reconstruction initiatives and providing a platform for dialogue in polarized societies that are transitioning towards peace and justice.¹⁶ NHRIs also can develop strong relationships with National Statistics Offices to operationalise their commitment to leaving no one behind in the collection of disaggregated data on SDG 16.

NHRIs can contribute and support SDG (16+) implementation in multiple ways:

- They can advise governments on human rights-based SDG implementation to ensure that the most vulnerable in society share in development outcomes.
- They can support civil society and marginalized groups to engage in the process of SDG planning, implementation and monitoring.
- They can hold governments accountable for their human rights obligations.
- They have a role in strengthening, sustaining and complementing national protection mechanisms and systems that exert disproportionate power over the most vulnerable groups.
- They can provide data and help with data disaggregation efforts on SDG 16+ targets, such as non-discriminatory laws and policies (16.b, 10.3 and 5.1) and on cases of lethal violence, attacks and arbitrary detention against journalists, trade unionists and other human rights advocates (16.10).¹⁷ They can additionally help in ensuring that development policies target the most marginalized populations, including through analysis of “who is being left behind” and why.
- They play a key role in protecting human rights defenders.¹⁸

Human rights monitoring and documentation methodologies, which include qualitative indicators as well as context-specific analysis, are critical resources and complementary tools to enable a fuller understanding of whether States are meeting their human rights obligations. In this regard, it is crucial that analysis of progress on SDG indicators, including under Goal 16, is considered together with wider human rights reporting. The recommendations of United Nations human rights mechanisms, such as United Nations treaty bodies or the Universal Periodic Review, provide a valuable set of country-specific information that can be used for SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting. **National coordination bodies for Universal Periodic Review (UPR)/Human Rights reporting and SDGs/VNR reporting should collaborate to reduce the reporting burden. They should also avoid duplication in collecting, adapting and monitoring data on overlapping SDG and international human rights commitments.** Attention is also required to ensure that indicators do not incentivize action that would undermine enjoyment of human rights or limit the holistic and comprehensive approaches that are required to address development issues.

BOX 21. Uruguay: Institutional responses to combatting crime

The Ministry of Interior has strengthened the National Observatory on Violence and Crime. For the first time, it conducted a National Survey of Victimization and Perception of Public Safety. A National Institute for the Social Inclusion of Adolescents (INISA) and a National Institute of Rehabilitation (INR) have also been established. There have been reforms to the police law, the criminal legal system has moved to an accusatory model, and a new Code of Criminal Procedure has been developed to speed up the criminal process, limit preventive detention and provide legal guarantees for victims.

In light of the increase in allegations of domestic violence and female homicides in recent years, the government has developed an Action Plan to Combat Gender Violence 2016-2019.

The National Human Rights Institution (INDDHH) began to operate in 2012 and in 2016 it achieved level A accreditation. This is the designated National Prevention Mechanism against Torture in accordance with article 83 of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture.

Source: UNCT Uruguay



Involving sub-national stakeholders

“To unlock the full potential of all local actors, strategies to strengthen their capacities need to be tailored to local contexts and priorities.”

(SDG 16+ Tunis Technical Consultation, March 2019)

National governments stress that they cannot tackle the whole 2030 Agenda alone and indeed a ‘whole of government’ approach to achieving the SDGs is required. Indeed as stressed by the UN Secretary General in his Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Agenda, *“many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals will take place at the sub-national level and be led by local authorities.”*¹⁹

Local and regional governments have been part of the dialogues and consultations for the SDGs and have advocated for the role of local and regional governments to be recognized in the goals. Not only are these actors reflected in SDG 11, but 65% of all SDG targets require local and regional government action.

Local and regional governments have the responsibility for delivering basic services and public goods, including peacebuilding initiatives and sustainable and inclusive economic development. Institutions at the local and regional level can gain increased importance in situations of insecurity, conflict or lack of trust in national governments (or where there is no functioning central government). In this way, SDG 16+ is seen as an important accelerator of the SDGs at the local level.

Local efforts towards open government are further seen as an opportunity to support inclusive SDG implementation through initiatives focused on increasing transparency in budget information. Access to public information is essential for the work carried out by local authorities. In implementing and monitoring SDG 16+ policy efforts, local authorities need to maintain their own statistical information. Mechanisms are required to harmonize and share data between the local and national levels. The Technical Consultation in Tunis provided examples of local authorities’ experiments with collecting data to inform and monitor policy efforts.

Increasing the role of local government in implementing SDG 16 also provides platforms for dialogue amongst local stakeholders. This includes civil society, the private sector, media, academia and ordinary people —especially youth, women and vulnerable groups — who can collaboratively engage in participatory consultations. These consultations can reflect these diverse voices and meet their needs so as to build trust at the local level, foster social cohesion and deliver necessary services.

There are challenges and opportunities for local authorities in adapting, implementing, monitoring and reporting on Goal 16+. Depending on the country and its constitutional structure, local authorities will have varying levels of legal authority. At the Technical Consultation in Tunisia, some countries raised the issue of local authorities requiring formal legal authority to work on some of the targets of SDG 16+. They may also require financial incentives to fund policy efforts on SDG 16+ targets within their communities.

BOX 22. Benin: Strengthening local governance

Benin is reorganizing its governance structures to make sure decisions are taken, and authorities accountable, at the local level. Eight Ministries (out of 22) have developed decentralization and deconcentration plans to transfer competences to the communities.

A Local Governance Index has been designed to assess annually the quality of governance in Benin's 77 municipalities. Local and regional authorities are obliged to organize 'accountability sessions' in every community.

Source: UNCT Benin

Without localized data, ensuring that no one is left behind will also become increasingly difficult. The report on VNRs by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in 2018 found that few countries have made real progress in involving local and regional governments (LRGs) in improving the availability of reliable, disaggregated and place-based data. In some areas, LRGs are launching initiatives to collect data on the ground that is aligned to the agenda. However, there is a need for stronger support to fully disaggregate and localize this data as well as to set up long-term monitoring systems. Co-production of data and collaboration with NGOs and CSOs should be supported and efforts made to advocate for the official recognition of different data sources that can contribute to the overall monitoring of the SDGs.

In 2018, the first Local and regional Government Forum at the HLPF brought mayors and governors concerns to the HLPF stage. They emphasised that accelerating and scaling-up the implementation of the SDGs meant providing access to data and financing. It also meant access to capacity-building to continue localizing sustainable strategies where these are most needed, particularly on climate action. The first VLR was also presented by New York City during the HLPF and increasing numbers of local and regional governments are putting together their own reports.

The Local Government Performance Index (LGPI) has been piloted in Tunisia. It maps the institutional strengths and weaknesses of several public services from the citizen's perspective, with a focus on issue areas such as Education, Health, Physical Security and Dispute Resolution, Social Assistance and Welfare, Citizen-State Linkages and Corruption, and Social Composition and Culture. Such information helps governments identify what needs to be fixed and how to design as well as implement policy change.²⁰

The Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Administration Performance Index (PAPI) also measures citizens views of public administration performance.²¹ From 2012 to 2017, the majority of provinces saw a positive change in public service delivery.

Local authorities are challenged to design and facilitate the kind of inclusive and participatory decision-making processes encouraged by Goal 16+. The participation of all local people, including those living in the locality without residence or citizenship status, requires systematic organization and resources. However, good examples exist of local, inclusive and participatory budgeting initiatives and decision-making processes.

BOX 23. Scotland: Community empowerment

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act was passed in 2015. It created new rights for community bodies and new duties for public authorities, with the aim of strengthening the voices of communities in the decisions that matter to them. This includes formal Participation Requests — a formal mechanism that enable community bodies to request dialogue with public service providers when they feel these can help, and gives the community bodies a right to be heard. Participation Requests also provide a mechanism to support the ownership and control of under-used public buildings and land by local communities, to furnish activities and services to meet local needs, and to boost community cohesion and identity.

To support engagement, a set of National Standards for Community Engagement have been developed with civil society. Additionally, as part of Scotland's Open Government Action Plan 2018-20, a Participation Framework enables public servants to find the right tools and techniques, and to build the confidence and competence, to work for all sectors of society effectively. A summary of the action plan is published here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-open-government-action-plan-2018-20/>. The full detail of all commitments is published here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-open-government-action-plan-2018-20-detailed-commitments/pages/6/>.

Understanding your Place

Following recent legislation on health and social care, community empowerment and land planning, the Scottish Government has encouraged the development of locality and community plans. To support that work, a Place Standard Tool has been designed so that people can assess the quality of a place in order to help to support health, well-being and a high quality of life. This tool was created through a collaboration between Scottish Government, National Health Scotland (NHS), and Architecture and Design Scotland. Its focus is on tackling inequalities, particularly health inequalities. The tool can be found at Place Standard, and it provides a framework for conversations about place which allows individuals and groups to start setting priorities for future action. The tool consists of 14 easy-to-understand questions that cover both the physical and social elements of a place. It has been used widely by communities across Scotland, as well as by local authorities, third sector organizations and business. Every Scottish local authority now has a nominated Place Standard Lead.

Data to support localized decision-making

Finally, for local decision-making to be meaningful, the Scottish Government recognizes the importance of sharing information and data. To better support localized decision-making, an open data portal, statistics.gov.scot, provides information on communities in geographic units (called data zones).

Source: www.gov.scot

Civil society groups from across the Asia-Pacific and beyond met at the Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum in early 2019. They issued 'The Ulaanbaatar Declaration on peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.'²² This document calls for mechanisms to strengthen civil society involvement in realizing the SDGs, which is often most active at the grassroots and at local level. The Declaration proposes that the participation of sub-national and local governments — and thereby civil society organizations — is strengthened by creating a mechanism for 'Voluntary Local Review' (VLR) alongside the current Voluntary National Review (VNR), which is designed mainly for national governments. The UCLG Report to the 2018 HLPF, 'Towards the Localization of the SDGs,'²³ notes that in many countries, mobilization of local and regional governments has been fostered through strategic alliances with civil society organizations, the private sector and academia. Cities are bringing together a multiplicity of stakeholders to address interlinked and cross-cutting issues, as well as to pilot innovative solutions that could later be scaled up both nationally and internationally.

BOX 24. United Cities and Local government (UCLG): Education, cultural policies and initiatives developed at the sub-national level for the promotion of peace

Association of Netherlands Municipalities International (VNGi) — Eastern Ukraine State Building and Accountability project (EUSTAB). Since 2016, VNG International has been working in East Ukraine with local authorities and civil society on social cohesion, strengthening a common national identity and increasing the trust of citizens in local and national governments. In the past few years, Eastern Ukraine has been struggling with an ongoing armed conflict, a large amount of internally displaced persons (IDPs), a weak economy and a deeply damaged social infrastructure. Local governments, civil society, IDPs and citizens in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions have worked closely with local and regional authorities to support the reintegration of IDPs and to rebuild the social infrastructure and connections between cities in the region. The programme supported selected local authorities and CSOs to implement local pilot initiatives which included supporting public libraries and public art, revitalising the dialogue between local residents and IDPs to help reduce tensions and capacity-building of CSOs and young leaders to support citizens to be socially engaged.

Barcelona has pioneered a fight against corruption in Spain by establishing an innovative mechanism to enable people to anonymously report corruption or illicit practices in local administration (*Bústia ètica i de Bon Govern* 26) (SDGs 16.5 & 16.6). The city

has also issued local identity cards to migrants and made it easier for migrants to register in order to access and enforce their economic, social and human rights. SDG 16.B stipulates the provision of legal and psycho-social support for victims of discrimination, as well as strategic litigation and supports rights awareness-raising initiatives. Barcelona has also a long-established, local human rights office which specializes in non-discrimination.

Seoul promotes access to justice (SDG 16.3) by partnering with the local bar association and the District Attorney's office to monitor human rights violations. The city has also put in place a "City Jury System" wherein citizens judge human rights violations outside of court (SDG 16.7.) It has also enacted a "Human Rights Protection Group at Demolition Sites" to protect residents and prevent violence in case of evictions on urban development processes (SDG 16.1).

Bogotá has a local ombudsperson (*Veeduría Distrital*) that is responsible for promoting open government, accountable government and transparency in the relations between citizens and the local administration (SDGs 16.3, 16.6, 16.7 & 16.10). The Veeduría Distrital works mainly on anti-corruption programmes (SDG 16.5), detecting risks of corruption that could prevent citizens from enjoying open and accountable local administration.

Source: UCLG



Civic space for consultations and partnerships

"One of the main principles of SDG 16 is inclusivity; working together — the peripheral reach and grassroot connections of civil society, the advanced technology and entrepreneurial spirit of business, and the political influence and technical expertise of governments — can be an unstoppable force for positive change."

(Freetown SDG 16+ Technical Consultation, October 2018)

Ultimately, the aim of stakeholder engagement in the 2030 Agenda is to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels of society. Ensuring participation and inclusiveness in decision-making is valuable from a human rights perspective. It also adds a procedural dimension to the principle of "leaving no one behind" by ensuring that those at risk of being overlooked have a voice in government decisions that affect them. Finally, people-centered service delivery is critical to all the SDGs: from accessing education and health, to reducing inequality, to ensuring security, justice and the rule of law. In all of these policy spheres, the role

of transparency and access to information are pre-conditions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a whole.²⁴

Stakeholder engagement revolves around governments engaging local authorities, parliaments, civil society and the private sector and ensuring that “no one is left behind.” Countries that have taken steps to foster ownership of the SDGs at the local level include Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, Uruguay, for example. Parliaments also have an important role to play in the 2030 Agenda implementation, given their legislative, budgetary, and oversight functions. Moreover, given parliament’s place as the legislative branch of government, it also has a major influence on SDG 16. In some countries, parliamentarians have been involved in consultations, surveys, and workshops. In others, parliaments have also created special committees or working groups on the 2030 Agenda.

Sometimes multi-stakeholder consultations may be “inclusive but not very participatory.” Indeed, experience suggests that formal consultative processes may not be meaningful. Although these may guarantee a few seats at the table to civil society representatives, often those participants are not very critical of the government. Moreover, such consultations often fail to incorporate civil society recommendations into policy efforts.²⁵ It remains a challenge to ensure the participation of marginalized groups, especially when these embody overlapping marginalized attributes, such as women in indigenous populations.

The SDG 16+ technical consultations have noted that stakeholder engagement can be most effective and sustainable when interactions are institutionalized within formal government structures and at different levels of government. Such engagement can take many shapes and forms, including consultations, hearings, forums, policy dialogues, including through online channels using ICT- and social media-based tools. Yet, there are often issues of trust between governments, civil society, the private sector and the public at large. There is a need to provide incentives for government to create and/or maintain participatory processes and open channels for dialogue on SDG 16+ implementation. Identifying SDG champions at national, sub-national and local levels was deemed a key strategy to build trust and promote CSO evidence and best practices that complement government actions.

Many governments are working with civil society, universities and the private sector to adapt and implement SDG 16+ in their country contexts.²⁶ For example, in Tunisia, the government has worked with civil society stakeholders to develop their own targets and indicators: the “Tunisian Governance Goal.”

Civil society organizations are often at the forefront of ensuring access to justice (e.g., by advising SGBV survivors and women in conflict with the law or by training traditional authorities, paralegals, etc.). These organizations thus have a critical role to play in monitoring implementation of SDG 16+. The UNDP/SAIIA report on how Africa is measuring up to its SDG 16 commitments looks at how African governments have engaged with civil society on SDG 16 implementation. In Cameroon, the government officially invited CSOs to produce an independent assessment of progress in achieving

the SDGs: *“The idea is to translate the global SDG indicators into a local and understandable language and reality.”²⁷*

However, many civil society actors are prevented from meaningfully participating in development planning and policy making processes. They are faced with barriers to inclusion and participation, including the **shrinking of the civic space**. The SDG 16+ technical consultation in Ulaanbaatar, which focused on inclusive participation in the SDGs, noted that civic space is not just a means for implementation, but an aim of the SDGs. The deterioration and shrinking of civic space has had a pervasive impact on the realization of SDG 16+. This is primarily manifested through restrictive legal and regulatory frameworks for CSOs. According to the International Centre for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL), 81% of the proposed and enacted laws since 2013 in 18 countries in South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific have been restrictive. Other associated challenges include decreasing and restricting the access for CSOs to financial and other resources and the criminalization of human rights defenders, democracy advocates, political opponents/opposition groups and the media. New trends identified by ICNL in Asia include digital restrictions on expression such as cyber-crime laws, extensive regulation of social media, and “fake news” laws which curtail freedom of expression.

BOX 25. UNDP Youth Global Programme: The ‘16 x 16’ Initiative

‘16 x 16’ is a recently launched global initiative, implemented by UNDP’s Youth Global Programme, and supported by the Government of Italy. In a context in which safe and inclusive spaces for young people need to be preserved and promoted, this initiative aims to recognize, value and support the positive role that 16 young women and men from a range of countries across the Global South and Central Europe play as leaders of youth organizations, movements and networks. The programme recognizes that young leaders can advance SDG 16 implementation, monitoring and accountability. They can also contribute meaningfully to building

peaceful, just and inclusive societies at all levels. But conducive environments which enable them to engage in global, regional, national and sub-national dialogues is vital. SDG 16, in particular, represents a critical opportunity to advance youth empowerment by guaranteeing fundamental freedoms, ensuring accountability and opening up decision-making processes to their participation. To read the Rome Youth Call-to-Action: <https://www.youth4peace.info/node/343> (presented on 29 May 2019 at the SDG 16 Rome Preparatory Conference).

Source: UNDP

BOX 26. Georgia Institute for Development of Freedom of Information: Inclusive policymaking

Georgia: inclusive policymaking

The SDGs have the potential to become a unifying framework for inclusive policymaking. In Georgia, there are limited legal guarantees for non-state actors to engage in policymaking processes. However, the process of nationalising the SDGs has involved cooperation between the local non-governmental organisation, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) and the Administration of the Government of Georgia (GoG).

Georgia was one of the first countries to endorse the SDGs. IDFI started to support GoG in the SDGs nationalization process in

December 2016 by implementing projects to support the integration, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The projects (project 1, project 2) were supported by the UNDP in Georgia and financed by SIDA and USAID.

Progress made so far includes:

Institutionalizing SDGs – the establishment of an SDG Council and multi-stakeholder working groups that enable dialogue between all relevant stakeholders in the process of SDGs nationalization and data collection. A Working group on Democratic Governance specializes on SDG 16;

...

Elaboration of a national planning ‘Matrix’ – National SDG planning document including nationalized goals and targets, as well as indicators and methods of data collection;

Electronic Management System (EMS) SDGs Tracker – the development of an online database that is designed to enable both internal management of the SDGs nationalization process as well as wider public monitoring of the process;

Raising awareness on SDGs – a local lecture circuit for communities, an essay and art contest for students, workshops for civil

servants, CSOs and the media, meetings with private sector representatives, and participation in the international SDG 16 Plus Forum. The nationalization and achievement of the SDGs cannot be ensured by the government alone. In addition, the soon-to-be launched SDGs tracker will be a positive step towards ensuring better CSO involvement in the SDG process. It will simplify the process for CSOs to collect non-state data to measure progress, as well as simplifying the process for government entities to collect and record official State data on the same.

Source: Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Georgia

NHRI’s are also critical stakeholders. They can serve as a bridge between the government and civil society to help improve collaboration in the identification of SDG 16+ policy priorities, establish baselines and measure progress on SDG 16+. NHRIs can also assist in better understanding and supporting the collection of disaggregated data. For example, as the national preventative mechanism for the Convention Against Torture, NHRIs have unlimited access to prisons and other places of detention and can help provide a more complete picture of the situation faced by detainees.

The private sector is another key stakeholder. The private sector has seen SDG 16 mainly as the government’s domain, with activities focusing on anti-corruption and eliminating bad corporate behaviours. But this is a narrow view that misses the role of the private sector in promoting areas such as diversity and gender equality, the free flow of information and assorted justice initiatives. A Sustainable Development Fund report “Business and SDG 16” (2017) illustrates how the private sector has a catalytic role to play in SDG 16 at local and global levels. By being responsible partners throughout the chain of production, businesses can help countries where they operate to meet the SDG 16 targets related to anti-corruption, labour rights, inclusive decision-making and community engagement.

Nigeria was the first country to launch a country-level Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) on SDGs, in 2017. The PSAG is structured into clusters of companies contributing to specific priority targets. The global auditing firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers recently developed an online toolkit for private sector SDG reporting called ‘SDGLive’.²⁸ Law firms lead and promote rule of law initiatives around the globe and provide technical training on issues related to SDG 16+. This includes offering pro bono assistance in criminal and civil matters to disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalized groups.

BOX 27. Hogan Lovells: Rule of Law 2030

Rule of Law 2030 (ROL2030) is an evidence-based initiative to align existing Rule of Law Projects with the SDGs. It seeks to maximize future impact by collaborating with clients and host governments to implement projects that strengthen the Rule of Law, particularly

in countries where it is weak. With over 2500 lawyers working with clients operating in some of the most challenging jurisdictions, the potential impact of this initiative is huge.

...

In 2015, Hogan Lovells, an international law firm, alongside a host of legal policy and research centres published *Risk and Return: Foreign Direct Investment and the Rule of Law*. Risk and Return was based on a survey of over 300 senior decision makers at Forbes 2000 companies, with global annual revenues of at least US\$1 billion. The report revealed that the strength of the rule of law ranks among the top three considerations when multinationals make decisions about where to locate foreign direct investment — above considerations such as the cost of doing business and/or access to national and regional markets. The report found that where investors experienced rule of law challenges (particularly political instability, arbitrary or discriminatory treatment and intellectual property violations), they were liable to reduce or even withdraw investment.

Later in 2015, the UN Global Compact published the Business for the Rule of Law Framework, which seeks to engage businesses to support the building and strengthening of legal frameworks and accountable institutions. The Framework quotes the Risk and Return report in support of its conclusion that: *“For businesses, an operating environment which is governed by the rule of law provides the basis for commercial certainty and creates the foundation for long term investment and growth, and sustainable development for all.”* The Framework also highlights the role of lawyers in helping businesses achieve an optimal operating environment through

strengthening the rule of law: *“Lawyers who advise businesses [...] are also key in realising the significance of the rule of law in helping businesses to become more responsible and sustainable.”*

ROL2030 builds on the empirical research presented in *Risk and Return* and takes on the challenge set out in Rule of Law Framework by forming strategic, sustainable partnerships with business and government to strengthen the Rule of Law.

By way of example, as part of their global shared value partnership with the Indian social enterprise Barefoot College, Hogan Lovells is helping increase human rights-related awareness of women from rural India. The project, ‘Drawing on Rights’, uses the power of visual images to encourage women to uphold the rule of law as human rights defenders in their local communities. Hogan Lovells works with Barefoot’s Enriche team and the social enterprise client PositiveNegatives to transform human rights legal research into comics and animations. The idea is that Barefoot’s semi-literate and illiterate beneficiaries can use these visual resources to learn about specific rights and about the steps they can take to prevent abuse in their communities. The Enriche programmes also include means to address underlying structural and social barriers to women empowerment. This is one such innovative way to uphold the rule of law and to promote access to justice for rural women and their communities.

Source: Hogan Lovells <https://www.hoganlovells.com/en/knowledge/topic-centers/rule-of-law-2030/rule-of-law-2030>

BOX 28. White & Case: Pro Bono work

In 2019, White & Case, an international law firm, collectively contributed nearly 120,000 pro bono hours in providing access to justice to the poor, advancing the rule of law and good governance globally and assisting NGOs with a social or environmental mission.

In the US, the firm has a robust, pro-bono criminal appeals practice. In the last six years, White & Case has worked on six death penalty cases in the United States (US): three as habeas corpus or post-conviction counsel and three as amicus counsel. The work has resulted in, or materially contributed to, three men being removed from death row.

The firm also provides extensive civil legal services to the indigent across the globe on matters that advance equal educational opportunity, women’s and children’s rights, LGBTQ rights, asylum applications, veterans’ legal rights and environmental matters. Standout cases include successfully challenging Romania’s law discriminating against same-sex marriage using freedom-of-movement principles under EU law; securing the the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” litigation which resulted in the elimination of the US Military’s discriminatory policy against gays; assisting asylum seekers in Japan; championing the litigation in Flint, Michigan to redress the harm done to that city’s poor via lead in the water; and challenging unconstitutional solitary-confinement practices in Virginia prisons.

Source: White & Case <https://www.whitecase.com>

BOX 29. Hogan Lovells: Pro bono work

Hogan Lovells have assisted witnesses in making submissions to the Irish Mother and Baby Home Commission of Investigation which looked into the forced adoption and death of babies born in these homes in the 19th and 20th century. See <https://www.hogan-lovell.com/en/news/hogan-lovell-publishes-findings-of-clann-project-on-adoption-and-irish-mother-and-baby-homes>. The firm are also representing Yazidi women in Iraq who were the victims of gross violations of human rights perpetrated by foreign fighters of ISIL. For more on this see: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/yazidis-claim-damages-for-isis-fighter-s-persecution-xtxl8fhj3>

They are representing families at the UK Coroner's inquest into the London Bridge terror attack on 3 June 2017, attack which killed eight innocent victims and injured a further 48 people. The team is pulling together years of knowledge of terrorism investigations to examine the complex intelligence picture surrounding the attack and challenging the police and MI5 about their known links to extremists and convicted terrorists. For more on this topic, see: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48511358>

Source: Hogan Lovells



Public-Private Partnerships

A number of institutions and entities are engaging in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in support of SDG 16+. Some key examples (details of which can be found on the website of each entity) include: (1) the 16+ Forum; (2) the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies; (3) the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (GARPPJIS); (4) the Effective Institutions Platform (EIP); (5) the Partnership Against Corruption Initiative (PACI); (6) the Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDGF); (7) the Open Government Partnership (OGP); and (8) the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD).

Not specific to SDG 16+, UN Global Compact also bills itself as the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. It aims to mobilize a global movement of sustainable companies, supporting them to: (1) Do business responsibly by aligning their strategies and operations with UN Global Compact's ten principles covering human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption; and (2) Take strategic actions to advance broader societal goals, such as the SDGs, with an emphasis on collaboration and innovation.

In many countries, there are also strategic and long-term plans being adopted by businesses seeking to use their skills in problem-solving and innovation to build long-lasting peace in the countries in which they operate. Stakeholders in countries stress that PPPs, especially at country level, need to be more transparent and effective. They also need to uphold the rule of law and fundamental freedoms and reduce, rather than reinforce or be facilitated by, corruption.

However, for PPPs to contribute to sustainable development effectively, they need to be governed by some fundamental governance principles that include: (1) Inclusivity so as to allow for the active engagement of communities and a zero tolerance for corruption; (2) Strong enabling institutions; (3) A legal framework, "fewer, better, simpler;" (4) Cooperative risk-sharing and mutual support; (5)

Transparency in partner and project selection; (6) A secure funding base; (7) Added value which complements rather than substitutes commitments made by governments; and (8) Leave no one behind so as to “reach the furthest behind first.”

BOX 30. Dentons: Strengthening rule of law around the world

The private sector has a catalytic role to play in SDG 16 at local and global levels. By being accountable and responsible partners in the process of innovation and production, businesses can and should help their countries to meet the SDG 16 targets related to anti-corruption, labour rights, inclusive decision-making and community participation. That said, the private sector is a very diverse group of organizations with widely differing behaviors and political and ethical viewpoints. This diversity can work for or against the rule of law. For example, some private sector organizations are willing to undermine social structures and legal systems for the sake of short-term profit. This, in turn, creates broad-based mistrust of the private sector that can undermine the democratic process.

The US Chamber of Commerce Coalition for the Rule of Law in Global Markets promotes and defends the rule of law in global markets, with the goal of fostering a global investment climate that supports equality, economic growth, and shared prosperity for everyone.

Starting in 2013, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce brought more attention to the rule of law environment as it relates to business by launching the Global Business Rule of Law Dashboard. The 2017 Dashboard included 72 countries and provided an easy-to-understand, yet statistically credible meta-measure of the rule of law environment. The Dashboard relies on and uses information and research contained in seven internationally accepted and established indices and surveys of the rule of law.

Along similar lines to the Global Business Rule of Law Dashboard, a Guatemalan private company and its business associates is funding an initiative to measure the rule of law and its compliance. Launched initially in Guatemala, this project gauges the effectiveness of the Guatemalan criminal justice system and its procedures all the way from filing a complaint to final adjudication. Rule of law best practices from the project will be shared with public and the private sector with the goal of improving the service to corporations and citizens in Guatemala and beyond.

In 2014, the law firm Dentons Muñoz kickstarted a project to spotlight judicial independence as a critical element in guaranteeing access to justice. In 2015, they were joined by three additional private sector companies and the British Embassy. These

organizations collaborated with the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, a UK research and policy organization, to produce the *Judicial Independence in Latin America* report. The publication includes cases from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras. It highlights the value of tenure of office and independence in appointment processes for judges in Latin America.

This project in turn spawned the creation of the Rule of Law Alliance in Costa Rica. The Rule of Law Alliance is a non-profit organization, with no political affiliations set up to promote a fuller understanding and adherence to the rule of law. Its purpose is to improve social and economic development in the region. Since 2016, the Alliance has led several projects.

In 2016, the Rule of Law Alliance partnered with Aliarse, the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, Lexis Nexis, the Inter-American Human Rights Institute (IIDH), and the World Justice Project. The goal was to organise a series of workshops for media and journalists to promote the importance of rule of law as a key driver for investment, ensuring social and economic development in the region. The second project in 2016 focused on creating a baseline from which to annually measure awareness and compliance with the rule of law. The first phase included a perception survey in Costa Rica and Nicaragua which mapped the rule of law needs of each of the countries and identified future, priority projects.

Another project leveraged the UK's Judge Over Your Shoulder (JOYS) guide to administrative law. Written in accessible language, this guide addresses practical matters such as how to run a public consultation exercise, how to provide reasons for a decision, and how to prepare a legal defense if a decision is challenged in the courts. In 2017, The Rule of Law Alliance and the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law began adapting the JOYS model to the reality of Central America, beginning in Costa Rica. This collaboration resulted in the development of a rule of law compliance tool for Government departments and municipalities in the country.

Dentons Global Rule of Law Affinity Group was launched in 2019 to compile, study and create a digest of actual cases in which rule of law principles have been or are currently being argued. Cases being discussed include jurisdictions like Guatemala, Mauritius, Slovakia and South Africa.

Source: Dentons Muñoz <https://www.dentonsmunoz.com>



Involving a broad range of data producers to address data gaps

A ‘whole of government’ approach is needed to implement SDG 16. This includes ensuring that there is coordination across different ministries in collecting data, developing sectoral strategies, and reporting on progress. Addressing key issues such as ‘inter-operability’ between national systems of data collection is also critical. Even if a bureau is mandated to produce national statistics, the absence of institutional alignment can lead to overlapping and contradictory data.

Involving civil society can help to generate both hard data to assess broad trends as well as qualitative data that can deepen understanding. This is particularly important in conflict and post-conflict States where data availability is poor (e.g., Iraq, the Central African Republic). Countries may also rely on third-party data-analysis, such as that coming from the UN, civil society or the private sector in order to better understand sensitive topics about which respondents may not be willing to talk or where quantification is difficult. Respondents may be reluctant to share personal experiences of abuse and violence with authorities, for example.

NHRIs can also collect data on SDG implementation. They can, for example, gather information regarding non-discriminatory laws and policies. They can also help with data disaggregation to understand the impact of laws and policies on the most marginalized in society. Above all, they can monitor government’s performance in upholding human rights.

The potential for partnerships with non-governmental actors on data collection and analysis does not reduce the need to allocate public funds for data collection and to National Statistics Offices (see next section). The private sector has extensive experience in collecting, protecting, and making data-informed decisions and can also work with governments to improve data collection, coordination and analysis.

The country case studies in this report show that some countries are starting to invite the private sector to join multi-stakeholder platforms and engage with corporations on what they can do to achieve Goal 16+ (Liechtenstein, Netherlands). This can include the use of new technology. The OECD has gathered examples of technology-driven innovations that shape how governments both devise and deliver public services.²⁹

BOX 31. Iraq: Using social media to gather SDG 16+ data

The SDGs have been put at the centre of Iraq’s National Development Plan (2018-2022). A ‘National Committee on Sustainable Development’ (NCSD), chaired by the Minister of Planning, monitors and reports on progress on the SDGs to a high-level follow-up group. However, Iraq lacks data on many SDG indicators.

Gathering data to help the government understand the problems it needs to tackle in order to achieve SDG targets is a challenge in the

Iraqi environment. The country’s various conflicts have left more than 4 million Iraqis internally displaced and there has been an influx of refugees from the Syrian conflict (over 241,000, according to the IMF in 2017). Millions of people live in poverty, and infrastructure and State assets have been destroyed. Government institutions are mired in corruption and productivity in the civil service is low. Religious and ethnic minority groups have been cleansed in several provinces, and many groups are excluded from politics.

...

Against this background, and with backing from the Iraqi Government and sponsorship from UN agencies, an NGO Network called the 'Sustainable Development Network 2030' was formed. Focusing in on goals 16 and 5, the group sought to better understand the Iraqi peoples' daily lives and to include different social groups' experiences and views in government policymaking in Iraq.

Inspired by experiences in Botswana, the NGO Network developed, together with academics, a questionnaire on some Goal 16 indicators to share on NGO, youth and academic pages on Facebook. Within the first three weeks of January 2019, more than 1000 people had responded to the questionnaire. The data collected was shared with the Iraqi Central Statistics Bureau and is now being used to help prepare Iraq's first VNR.

What did the teams in Iraq learn about adapting and implementing Goal 16?

The experience of developing and executing the questionnaire demonstrated to all concerned that working together in partnership

could enable data to be gathered quickly on people from all across Iraq. Moreover, this data collection did not require unlimited resources, despite the challenging environment in which it was carried out. What is more, the network learned that it could forge ahead with collecting information on Goal 16 Indicators even where there was no internationally-agreed methodology. The network concluded that the partnership between government, civil society and the UN should remain in place to further refine statistical data collection and shape the results into effective policy efforts.

Technology can help governments and civil society to gather information about people's experiences and perceptions. Because it offers flexibility in terms of how surveys are carried out, technology relieves us from grappling with the space, time and language challenges associated with face-to-face surveys. But those who use social media to gather data need guidelines on how to develop effective surveys that include accurate statistical sampling methods. Only then can results be meaningful, representative and used confidently by governments and others seeking to achieve the 2030 agenda.

Source: UNCT Iraq



Data disaggregation to ensure no one is left behind

Many Goal 16+ targets and indicators call for considering the outcomes of policy efforts in relation to their impact on marginalized social groups such as women, children, the disabled, the elderly, indigenous people and refugees and migrants.

The sweeping look that our report has taken of countries' global and regional trends on Goal 16+ targets reveals that there is a lack of disaggregated data produced by National Statistics Offices and other data-collectors for such groups. Many areas of disaggregation that should be a national priority are not. The needs of marginalized population groups are not captured in censuses and survey reports that furnish national data and statistics.

In addition, there is a lack of evaluation of the data that is collected. A review of the 46 VNRs submitted in 2018 revealed that of the 19 reports that mentioned sex-disaggregated data, none clarified if, and how, they were collecting or using this data. The reports also neglected to mention whether the countries were further disaggregating this data to track equity between women from different groups.³⁰

It is notable that, with few exceptions, the SDG 16+ methodologies and national practices reviewed and explained in this report are State and citizen-centred. They therefore leave out today's 25.9 million refugees, 3.5 million asylum seekers, 41.3 internally displaced people and millions of stateless people around the world.³¹ In particular, there is no systematic data collection and analysis across

SDG 16+ indicators to capture the circumstances of these groups, although SDG 16 openly addresses their needs.

While no SDG is specified for displaced populations, many indicators can be disaggregated by migratory status. This could, in turn, provide a wealth of policy-relevant information for these vulnerable groups. Some important voices are advocating for this approach, including the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS)³² and the Expert Group on Improving Migration Data in the Context of the 2030 Agenda.³³ As part of the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), these two groups have identified priority policy areas and associated SDG goals and targets for forcibly displaced persons and international migrants respectively. These goals include targets under SDG 16.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs), in particular, are citizens or habitual residents of the State. As such, they should be more easily included within official statistics through censuses, surveys, national registration and identity systems or other administrative data. However, in most countries at this time, these sources of information do not systematically identify whether populations have been displaced. This makes it difficult to estimate the magnitude of internal displacement and impossible to disaggregate data produced for IDPs.

There are many challenges — operational, technical and political — that contribute to this reality. But the potential policy impact that could result from the inclusion of IDPs in national statistics is huge.³⁴ This is why EGRIS is currently investing in the development of International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (following the success of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics endorsed in March 2018). These recommendations will include standards and guidance to improve the quality of official statistics on forcibly displaced populations. A key element of this work focuses on the coordination of statistics, to ensure coordination within Government bodies but also with civil society and other actors. Such coordination is critical for accessing more sensitive data linked to SDG 16.

Governments' engagement with international human rights mechanisms correlates positively with existing global indices measuring human development, governance, democracy, civil rights and press freedom. The ability of a government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations is also highly associated with its engagement with the international human rights system. Indicators measuring engagement with IHRM can complement SDG indicators to reinforce the normative underpinnings of the 2030 Agenda.

“The challenge to monitor and report on the effective implementation of SDG 16+ becomes even greater when the whole country falls into the marginalized group due to conflict and fragility.”

(Mrs Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Civil Bureau of Statistics)

Moving forward: Policy and programming recommendations

To meet SDG 16+ within the next 11 years of the 2030 agenda, this report draws together a set of key recommendations directed at a range of key stakeholders. These recommendations are clustered under four headings: effective implementation; ‘whole of government’ approach; ‘whole of society’ approach; and measurement and monitoring.

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION



1. Political leadership and investment to implement SDG 16+

- Governments need to increase people’s awareness of plans and policies to implement SDG 16+ to ensure public ownership and support.
- Governments need to enhance domestic resources including through broad partnerships with traditional and non-traditional actors.
- International organizations and other providers of technical assistance need to provide technical support that is grounded in local realities, carefully sequenced in terms of priorities, coordinated with other donor and domestic programmes, financed sustainably and does no harm. International and regional actors should support cross country learning and exchange, accompanying countries in piloting approaches and taking these to scale.



2. Making effective links between justice, peace and inclusion

- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to continuously assess how peace, justice and inclusion are inter-connected and identify the root causes and drivers of conflict, injustice and exclusion.
- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to strengthen institutions, including multilateral institutions, to tackle the root causes and drivers of poverty, forced displacement, statelessness and the marginalization of people.
- Multilateral and bilateral institutions need to acknowledge and provide countries with the time and space to assess how peace, justice and inclusion are inter-connected and which root causes and drivers of conflict, injustice and exclusion are relevant to a given context.
- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to fully recognize and strengthen informal justice institutions such as alternative dispute resolution and paralegal services and strengthen linkages through legislation and policy between informal legal mechanisms and the formal justice sector.

- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to strengthen transitional justice mechanisms to deal with grievances post-conflict.
- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to address official gender bias in justice delivery, expand the provision of legal aid, and increase the participation of women in justice delivery.



3. Implementation and monitoring mechanisms for SDG 16+

- Governments need to reform existing coordination mechanisms to be more fit for purpose in connecting a broader range of institutions (government and non-governmental) to work through SDG 16+ priorities, establish baselines and identify policies and programmes to accelerate and monitor progress. This coordination should happen at multiple levels.
- Governments and UN agencies need to support the participation of ordinary people in the implementation and monitoring of SDG 16+, especially women, youth and those population groups without citizenship status who are currently largely absent from SDG 16 action.



4. Utilizing human rights mechanisms

- Countries need to more actively link SDG implementation and follow up to human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- UN human rights mechanisms need to more systematically include the monitoring of the SDGs in their work to help reinforce equality and non-discrimination, as well as to direct attention to the most vulnerable. This would provide an added means of accountability through independent mechanisms.
- UN member states should more actively use the UPR to help monitor the SDGs. UN special procedures could incorporate monitoring of the SDGs into thematic and country visit reports. UN treaty bodies could incorporate the monitoring of the SDGs into their examination of state parties' reports, making recommendations that link Human Rights and the SDGs.
- UN agencies and governments need to strengthen collaboration between UPR/Human Rights reporting and SDGs/Voluntary National Review (VNR) reporting.
- Governments need to strengthen National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to play a central role in SDG implementation.

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH



1. Ensuring policy coherence in SDG implementation

- Governments need to reform institutional arrangements to work across sectors both vertically and horizontally.
- Political leadership is needed to promote and incentivize coordination and collaboration across institutions at all levels.
- Governments, UN agencies and donors need to prioritize investing in capacities of the government and other stakeholders to work collectively.



2. Involving sub-national stakeholders

- Governments should privilege local-level consultation mechanisms on SDG prioritization, planning and monitoring.
- Regional and local governments should use the opportunity of localizing the SDGs to pursue open government initiatives.
- Sub-national governments need to establish local SDG implementation plans linked to national SDG/development plans.
- Local government and statistics offices need to establish baselines and monitor locally, drawing on sources of data relevant to local priorities.

WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH



1. Enabling Consultation and Civic Space

- Governments and UN agencies need to improve multi-stakeholder consultations to be not only inclusive, but also meaningful, participatory and safe.
- Governments and UN agencies should intensify efforts to include and support the participation of the most marginalized groups, including those without citizenship status, and those who live outside their country, such as refugees.
- Governments and UN agencies need to include civil society in all its diversity in all phases of SDG implementation, including policy prioritization and implementation, monitoring progress and reporting.
- Governments should institutionalize stakeholder engagement within formal government structures and at different levels of government.
- Shrinking civic space is having a pervasive impact on the realization of the SDGs, particularly SDG 16+. Restrictive legal and regulatory frameworks for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), as well as barriers to association and access to financial and other resources, must be lifted by governments.



2. Public-Private Partnerships

- Governments should ensure that Public-Private Partnerships are underpinned by fundamental governance principles, such as inclusive engagement, accountability and transparency.

MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING



1. Political and financial investments in SDG 16+ data and statistics

- Countries need to promote and fortify the independence of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to fulfil their dual roles as primary generators of data and as coordinators of national monitoring systems. This needs to be carried out in an impartial way and in line with international standards, including respect for the human rights of people who have shared their information with these bodies.

- Countries need to ensure that NSOs are adequately resourced and capacitated to develop and implement monitoring and accountability frameworks, including national quality assurance frameworks for statistics across all entities of a national statistical system.
- Countries need to become more engaged in producing data that covers issues related to SDG 16 and to overcome resistance in the production and use of official statistics on sensitive topics and those that are perceived to be difficult to measure.
- The UN should develop international methodologies and standards to ensure the measurability and comparability of data that is reported.
- The UN needs to adopt an open innovation philosophy and support innovative methodologies and multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen national statistical systems and bring about a data revolution.



2. Involving a broad range of data producers to address data gaps

- NSOs and governments can benefit from a range of non-statistical sources, including non-official data to track SDG 16. CSOs, academia and the private sector are all producing important data, providing valuable context and complementary information.
- Engaging public-private partnerships is the way forward. At the same time, it is also important to ensure that the private sector uses and shares data ethically.
- Governments and UN agencies should promote partnerships between the government, civil society, youth and the private sector to increase the quality and availability of data.
- UN agencies should encourage member states and other stakeholders to support institutional cooperation between NHRIs and NSOs to improve the inclusion of groups that are at risk of being left behind in data collection efforts.
- Member states and other stakeholders should adopt complementary human rights indicators, such as those that are part of internationally recognized human rights mechanisms to reinforce linkages between human rights and SDGs.



3. Data disaggregation to ensure no one is left behind

- Countries need to invest in data sources (surveys, census, administrative data) to more effectively understand disparities across population groups, including vulnerable population groups.
- Countries need to audit the availability and quality of data that is disaggregated to ensure the visibility of vulnerable groups within SDG monitoring and implementation, including those who are forcibly displaced or stateless. Countries should also support international efforts to improve standards, guidance and capacity building in this regard such as the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS).
- Countries should consider if targeted data collection tools are needed to cover those furthest behind, including those forcibly displaced, refugees and stateless persons.
- Countries should strengthen or establish collaboration between NSOs and NHRIs. Countries should leverage the institutional independence and mutually reinforcing monitoring roles of these state institutions. This will help to ensure that key population groups are not further marginalized by SDG-related data collection/utilization efforts.

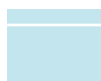


PART

— SDG 16+ case studies

B

SDG 16+ case studies



As noted in the 'About this report' section, **blue text boxes** highlight policy efforts by 25 countries prepared in collaboration with UN Country Teams, to adapt, implement, monitor and report on SDG 16+ issues.



Green text boxes highlight other relevant information on SDG 16+ issues that emerged during the Technical Consultations or was featured in the review of recent literature on SDG 16+.

The full versions of the country case studies captured in the blue boxes may be accessed on the SDG 16 hub (www.SDG16hub.org).

BOX 32. Argentina: Legal framework on corruption

Argentina has adopted several international standards on organized crime and corruption that are consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). These standards include the optional protocols against illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms. In line with the requirements of these Conventions, special investigative techniques are being implemented, such as electronic and other forms of surveillance as well as undercover operations. Witness protection

systems have also been established for those in organized crime who wish to cooperate with the government.

The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights is in charge of "National Coordination to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism." It is also the leading agency in conducting the "National Assessment of the Risk of Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction," a key tool for risk assessment and prevention in this field.

Source: UNCT Argentina

BOX 33. Burkina Faso: Strengthening the judiciary to prevent corruption

Burkina Faso has embarked on a number of reforms to strengthen the independence and efficiency of its judiciary.

A law has been adopted to separate the executive from the judicial branch by removing the President/Head of State's seat on the

Superior Council of the Judiciary. This law was accompanied by the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat to the judiciary that will assist with human resources and administrative matters. Salaries for judges have been increased in a bid to dissuade judges from acting corruptly.

Source: UNCT Burkina Faso

BOX 34. Burkina Faso: Participatory governance

The country has developed social accountability and citizen oversight initiatives to increase transparency in the allocation of local level resources. These initiatives also strengthen the capacity of local officials to monitor budgets. An expenditure tracking survey has revealed inequities in resource allocation across schools and communes.

The government has also created platforms for citizen engagement by holding annual, two-day dialogues with groups from civil

society to discuss openly a broad range of policy issues. Through citizen engagement platforms such as “Presimetre” and “Dialogue Citoyen,” where the public can interview the President and State ministers on live television and radio shows and question their performance. Presimetre and other initiatives have encouraged citizens’ interest in government accountability.

Source: UNCT Burkina Faso

BOX 35. Dominican Republic: Improving data collection and analysis on homicide rates

In the Dominican Republic, citizen perceptions of insecurity and obstacles to the rule of law undermine confidence in government institutions. The homicide rate is still considered high by most international standards, although it is gradually improving. Most homicides in the Dominican Republic are committed using firearms, although that has also diminished over time.

Reporting efforts on SDG target 16.1 are led by the Citizen Security Observatory (OSC), which consists of eleven institutions that contribute official data on crime and violence. The OSC has the authority to compile, cross-reference, validate and analyze such data in order to update the national security panorama, as well as to monitor and evaluate government action aimed at violence prevention. The OSC’s website complies with the national law on access to public

information. It both displays and makes available disaggregated data in a wide variety of formats.

The OSC has worked with the Dominican Republic’s National Statistics Office to ensure that data on indicator 16.1.1 on intentional homicide rates is compliant with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

Since its creation in 2012, the OSC has published 29 quarterly Statistical Reports on Citizen Security as well as a variety of thematic recommendations and reports and detailed data maps of provinces, municipalities and neighbourhoods. The reports and data maps have fed into public policy formation by the National Council on Citizen Security, presided over by the President of the Dominican Republic.

Source: UNCT Dominican Republic

BOX 36. Haiti: Working with youth to tackle gender based violence

Goal 16+ has helped organise policy responses in Haiti to physical, sexual and psychological violence against women. In the city of Jérémie, a project to create a culture favorable to peace amongst young people has been developed. This project was created by the national government, working together together with the Municipality of Jérémie, the Haitian National Police (PNH), the Office for the Protection of Civilians (OPC), and an assortment of ministries. Civil society (youth and women’s associations), the

private sector, educational institutions and international partners (UNDP, UN WOMEN, IOM) were also involved.

The project, “Support to conflict resolution and the promotion of social cohesion through youth organizations in the city of Jérémie,” consists of two main activities. The first supports youth participation in public affairs. Through the workshops and training that form part of this project, young people can engage in face-to-face discussions with community elders, political party representatives and municipal decision-makers to express their day-to-day challenges. ...



Photo: UNCT, Haiti.

As a result, young people are building their leadership skills while also playing a role in sustainable development. They are demonstrating their capacity to take part in public affairs of the city and to become ambassadors of peace.

The second prong of this project seeks to raise awareness about the need to decrease violence, especially Gender Based Violence, to promote a culture of peace. This training examines the causes of violence and its consequences for economic livelihoods and community development. Through this training, young men and women

have also explored the link between different types of masculinities and gender-based violence, including from a feminist perspective. As a result, young men have expressed a strong willingness to fight against gender discrimination.

Workshops and meetings take place on weekends in order to accommodate the participation of young people. Youth associations are consulted on the design of the project, as well as the selection and implementation of activities.

Source: UNCT Haiti

BOX 37. Jordan: Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Jordan is a country with two major conflicts on its borders. In addition to hosting large refugee populations, the country also struggles with high levels of youth unemployment, violence against women and children and weak citizen participation in governance and politics.

Jordan is making efforts to implement the 2000 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325), on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). The Jordanian “National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security” (JONAP) was developed in consultation with the government, security sector actors and a range of civil society groups, including refugee women. The plan commits to delivering gender-responsive humanitarian services to refugees including psychological, social, legal and medical services. The JONAP also sets out strategies to recruit and involve more women in security sector institutions and to prevent violent extremism.

The strong national commitment to the JONAP is evidenced by the implementation of institution-specific action plans. The Jordanian

Armed Forces (JAF), for example, has developed an internal plan for implementation of their JONAP commitments. This plan has strengthened institutional understanding of the concept of ‘gender’ across the security sector.

To address violence against children, the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) launched a multi-sectoral national strategy and set of action plans (2019-2021) to end violence against children. This plan was endorsed by various government ministries and the private sector. The plan aimed at improving response services to the survivors of violence, with a robust component for changing social norms and promoting positive behaviors to discourage violence as means of discipline for children. Amendments have also been made to the Domestic Violence Law and the Penal Code. Advocacy efforts are currently focused on achieving cabinet- and parliament-level endorsements of a set of laws that allow for a child’s best interest to be considered in all decisions and actions.

Source: UNCT Jordan

BOX 38. Jordan: Media literacy and access to information

The Jordanian government is promoting media and information literacy. It has supported public debates, focus group discussions and workshops with academics and policy makers, as well as country-wide celebrations of the Global Week on Media and Information Literacy. Extracurricular activities on this theme have been piloted in schools and workshops have been developed for university students.

A truth-telling e-platform to identify and alert the public about news deemed to be false has been launched recently by the government. To facilitate the citizenry’s right to access information, the national, online platform “Your Right to Know” aims at providing accurate news in an objective and transparent manner. Three to four posts are published on the platform per week to address rumours, lies, and misleading news. The platform currently ...



Photo: UNESCO, Jordan.

reaches about three million people and its social media accounts reach 39,400 followers on Facebook and 10,400 followers on Twitter.

The Akeed initiative, run by the Jordan Media Institute, seeks to support the right of citizens to receive accurate information and to help improve the performance of media in Jordan. According to a

recent report published by Akeed, rumours have dropped by 44% in the country since the beginning of 2019.

Both initiatives seek to engage citizens and all readers of online and print media in the process of ensuring the credibility of the news. These projects also represent an effort to actively engage the public in open government initiatives.

Source: UNCT Jordan

BOX 39. Lebanon: Reform of the Internal Security Forces

Modern Lebanese history has been marked by conflict as well as by political and institutional instability. In spite of these cultural, legal, and institutional challenges, the Internal Security Forces (ISF) have embarked on a major reform under the Strategic Plan 2018-2022. This plan aims to transform the ISF from a police force to a police service and to promote legal equality in Lebanon.

The ISF was able to develop the Strategic Plan with staff buy-in following broad internal consultations at all levels of the institution. This effort is noteworthy because legal equality has been hindered in the past by the absence of informed debate both inside this institution as well as with the public.

Historically, the ISF was driven by a military culture and organized through a top-down leadership model. The Strategic Plan represents a major shift in this ethos towards a more “protective” approach to policing. For example, women, men and children forced

to commit acts of prostitution are now increasingly seen as victims of trafficking, rather than perpetrators of a crime.

Key components of the Strategic Plan, like instituting community policing in ISF stations and strengthening internal oversight mechanisms, are currently being implemented just one year into its mandate. While the country's new legal framework for policing offers tools to ensure legal equality, there is also a need for the executive branch to implement measures to do so as well.

The Strategic Plan for the ISF indicates political will and openness to reform that enables Lebanon to report on progress on several Goal 16 indicators (notably: 16.1.1; 16.1.3; 16.3.2; 16.5.1; 16.5.2; 16.6.2 and 16.10.1). Implementing Goal 16 represents an opportunity for open debate amongst institutions and the public on the type of security and justice people want in Lebanon.

Source: UNCT Lebanon

BOX 40. Liechtenstein: ‘Liechtenstein Initiative’ to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking

Despite strong normative and legal frameworks, modern slavery and human trafficking are tragically common in today's world and affect virtually every country. An estimated 40 million people were living in modern slavery in 2016. Modern slavery and human trafficking are not only grave human rights violations. They also constitute lucrative illegal business models, which generate \$150 billion in revenue every year.

Liechtenstein's commitment to prevent and combat illicit financial flows and protect human rights has resulted in a public-private partnership, the “Liechtenstein Initiative” for a Financial Sector Commission (FSC) against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Its aim is to identify and interrupt illicit financial flows associated with modern slavery and human trafficking.

The FSC has been jointly developed by the Government of Liechtenstein and the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research. Other partners include the Governments of Australia and of the Netherlands, as well as a Liechtenstein bank, the Liechtenstein banking association and philanthropic foundations.

The FSC brings together a wide range of financial sector stakeholders, global regulators, UN mandate-holders and survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking to discuss the financial sector's role in tackling modern slavery and human trafficking. The ...

commission issues recommendations on practical, relevant and actionable steps for financial institutions worldwide. These will be presented at the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly in September 2019 in New York.

Areas of focus include guidance on understanding and identifying the proceeds of modern slavery and human trafficking in customer-bases and investment portfolios; best practice in public and private sector investment to address the drivers of modern slavery and human trafficking; best practice on remedy, including both law

enforcement and bank-led initiatives; lessons learned on effective regulatory policies and practices; innovations in responsible investment and lending practices; the use of financial institution leverage in other sectors; the protection of the financial sector from risks associated with money-laundering and terrorist financing related to human trafficking; due diligence in compliance and investment decision-making to mitigate associated risks and innovative financing mechanisms to address the drivers of modern slavery and human trafficking. The FSC thus contributes to the implementation of a set of SDG 16+ targets, including 16.2, 16.4, 8.7 and 5.2.

Source: Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN

BOX 41. occupied Palestinian Territory: Protection of juveniles

The Palestinian government adopted the Juvenile Protection Law in 2016. This law unifies domestic and international law, and updates the Palestinian juvenile justice system. Specifically, it recognizes minors, defined as those under the age of 18, as victims in need of protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society, rather than as criminals deserving punishment.

The SDG 16 working group that is led by the Ministry of Justice is mindful of the role it can play in furthering other SDGs. For example, the working group will use its position to push for expediting the adoption of the Family Protection Bill. This bill will contribute to ending all forms of violence (SDG 16) — particularly violence against women and girls (SDG 5) — and to educating the general public on human rights and gender equality (SDG 4).

Source: UNCT in the occupied Palestinian Territory

BOX 42. Panama: Developing meaningful participatory governance processes

There are seven indigenous peoples groups in Panama. Despite Panama's sustained economic growth, the country has one of the highest rates of inequality in the region. In indigenous territories, 80% of the population lives in poverty and 63% in extreme poverty. In non-indigenous areas, 20.7% of the population live in poverty and 9.8% in extreme poverty.

The average daily salary of an indigenous person is \$3 while non-indigenous people in rural areas receive an average daily wage of \$10 per day and in urban areas, \$17. Chronic malnutrition affects 19% of children under five years old in Panama, although this figure reaches almost 62% in indigenous territories. 61% of indigenous peoples have access to drinking water, in contrast with 95% of non-indigenous people. The infant mortality rate for indigenous children under five years old is double that of non-indigenous children of the same age: 38 per 1000 live births compared to 19 (UNFPA). Maternal

mortality among indigenous women is four times higher than that of non-indigenous women: 462 per 100,000 live births versus 92.

The indigenous territories are largely inaccessible. There is a lack of local government capacity to provide health and education services. Public investment in the territories has been low and only three out of 12 collect standardised, disaggregated data, hindering the planning of useful development policies for these regions.

A National Dialogue Table was formed in 2012 to bring together the national government, represented by the Ministry of Interior, and 12 indigenous congresses and councils representing the seven indigenous peoples groups. The aim was two-fold: first, to improve the relationship between the national government and the indigenous peoples, which is frequently marked by conflict and division. A second aim was to plan for sustainable development outcomes in the indigenous territories with respect for human rights.

...

The Dialogue emphasised participatory decision-making. It entailed more than 90 consultations coordinated by the 12 indigenous governance bodies, with more than 10,000 indigenous men and women consulted (SDG 16.7). Following on these meetings, stakeholders developed the Integral Development Plan for Indigenous People, which sought to ensure the inclusion of indigenous peoples in democratic governance and to recognize their cultural and collective rights. (SDG 16.6, 16.7).

The challenge is to maintain these participatory decision-making processes over time. The National Council for the Development of Indigenous People monitors the implementation of the Integral Development Plan. The Council also promotes intercultural dialogue between government institutions and representatives of the indigenous peoples. In a similar vein, the Advisory Committee of Indigenous Women has also been created to monitor

implementation of the plan. This body is composed of 12 women representing the 12 indigenous governance bodies (SDG 5.5 & 16.7).

To date, the plan has enabled indigenous peoples to participate in public policy decisions. Indigenous peoples have received technical assistance to strengthen their representation in indigenous and non-indigenous institutions and bodies. The National Council's periodic meetings reduce political conflict and recognize and respect indigenous justice systems according to their internal structures and mechanisms. All of this is in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Law N° 37 of 2016 in Panama, both of which require 'free, prior and informed consent' and guarantee that development policies and outcomes will not negatively affect the culture or means of governance and subsistence of the indigenous territories.

Source: UNCT Panama

BOX 43. Tanzania: Improving access to justice through legal aid

The Legal Aid Act (2017) and relevant regulations improve access to justice for all in Tanzania, including women, children, and other disadvantaged groups (rural and urban poor, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS and refugees). This is in accordance with the stated SDG principle of "Leaving No One Behind."

The law increases oversight and coordination of legal aid services by reinforcing collaboration between the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, assorted development partners and Legal Aid Providers.

LAPs have a code of conduct which guides them on ethical legal aid service provision, as well as a web-based registration and performance monitoring system. Assistant registrars have been appointed country-wide to register LAPs in every district and to coordinate between the formal and informal sectors on legal aid services.

Provision of legal aid services

In collaboration with legal aid providers, development partners and local government authorities, the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs instituted the celebration of 'Legal Aid Week' in December 2017 and November 2018. This celebration promotes the right to legal aid to indigent people through direct services and through the dissemination of self-help materials and public education. As a result of these events, approximately 50,000 people were informed of their rights through media campaigns, while

7,000 people, including some in detention, received direct legal aid services. These services included legal advice and legal documentation as well as dispute resolution and legal representation in bail proceedings.

Quality assurance

The Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs has introduced a training curriculum and manual for paralegals to ensure quality standards in legal aid. The training covers human rights, land rights and family law.

Legal aid in places of detention

The Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs has developed guidelines for the provision of legal aid services in places of detention. It has entered into a Memoranda of Understanding with the Tanzania Police Force and the Tanzania Prison Services for collaboration in legal aid services in their respective areas. A total of 166 Police and 114 Prison officers were trained on legal aid to enable them to work with LAPs in police stations and prison facilities. The Prison Services have also established legal aid desks.

Legal aid by order of court

The Chief Justice has issued Circulars for the provision of legal aid in civil and criminal cases in accordance with the requirement of the law. The Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs has entered into a MoU with the judiciary to collaborate on legal aid service matters.

Source: UNCT Tanzania

BOX 44. Tanzania: Equal Treatment of Refugees

The government has deployed nine social welfare officers to support the case management of children with acute protection concerns, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the three refugee camps in Kibondo. These individuals are embedded within the case management operations of the International Rescue Committee and Plan International. Based on previous experience from the influx of Burundi refugees, the social welfare officers are deployed long-term to ensure continuity of case management and

follow-up. They encourage refugees to utilize national protection systems.

Legal services for all survivors of SGBV, including refugees, are supported by the Tanzania Police Force. There are 430 gender and children desks located in select districts throughout the country, including in the three refugee camps. Judicial officers, State attorneys, advocates, public prosecutors and social welfare officers are being trained to respond to and fast track SGBV cases.

Source: UNCT Tanzania

BOX 45. Mexico City: Reducing possession of firearms

Mexico City has put in place a local programme for voluntary disarmament (SDG 16.1 & SDG 16.4) that aims at raising awareness among citizens of the risk of possessing firearms. The programme

exchanges firearms and explosives for economic or in-kind support. It also distributes educational material for children on how to build a culture of peace in exchange for “war toys.”

Source: UCLG: education, cultural policies and initiatives developed at the sub-national level for the promotion of peace

BOX 46. Climate Change, natural resource management and conflict

The shrinking of the Lake Chad Basin in Africa has led local groups to compete for diminishing livelihood resources. Climate impacts on the lake have not only led to competition between civilians, but have become a recruitment tool for armed militant groups. UN Resolution 2349 was adopted in 2017 to highlight the need to address climate-related risks in order to tackle the conflict in the Lake Chad basin. In July 2018, a debate was held on “understanding and addressing climate-related security risks.”

To provide solutions for the Lake Chad Basin, a financing agreement was signed between UNESCO and the Lake Chad Basin Commission in 2017 to fund the project “Applying the Model of Transboundary

Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites to Promote Peace in the Lake Chad Basin through the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources” (BIOPALT). This agreement is a component of the Programme to Rehabilitate and Strengthen the Resilience of Lake Chad Basin Systems, funded by the African Development Bank. BIOPALT aims to safeguard and sustainably manage the hydrological, biological and cultural resources of the Lake Chad Basin. This includes the establishment of an early warning system for droughts and floods, the restoration of degraded ecosystems and the development of income-generating activities. The project will also help member States to prepare the nomination of the Lake Chad Basin as a transboundary biosphere reserve on the World Heritage List.

Source: UN News (2019); UNESCO (2019).

BOX 47. Women, institutions, peacebuilding and natural resources management and conflict

The Joint Programme of UN Women, UNDP and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) on Women, Natural Resources and Peace leverages the growing body of evidence showing that the participation of women not only contributes to the conclusion of peace talks, but also to the implementation of peace agreements and the sustainability of peacebuilding processes. The programme promotes natural resource-based interventions as a tool for strengthening women's participation in peacebuilding efforts, governance and decision-making and economic revitalisation.

The programme was piloted in Al Rahad, North Kordofa, Sudan, a community beset by climate-related environmental degradation. The project seeks to strengthen women's roles in local

peacebuilding processes over natural resource-based conflicts. It builds women's capacity to participate more effectively in local planning and decision-making bodies that govern access to and use of natural resources.

In Colombia's province of Chocó, the local population continues to bear the brunt of that country's military conflict, even while coping with impacts of climate change. A pilot project there aims to support the government of Colombia to realize its vision on gender, rural development and the environment as presented in the Havana Accords. This project specifically seeks to enhance women's capacities for conflict prevention and resolution of natural resource disputes.

Source UN Environment, UN Women, UNDP and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office 2018

BOX 48. Finland: Developing anti-bullying behaviour through the KiVa programme

The KiVa programme seeks to reduce bullying at school and in the local community in Finland. It targets multiple forms of victimization, including verbal, relational, physical, and cyberbullying. This innovative approach, developed at the university of Turku, is intended for children aged 7 to 15. It focuses on the role of bystanders — i.e., fellow pupils who witness bullying events. Through classroom, the programme teaches children to recognize bullying and to respond when they see it.

KiVa is a behaviour-oriented intervention based on extensive research showing that victims report distress when others do nothing to help, and that bullies are encouraged by onlookers' apathy. The program has been shown to reduce both self- and peer-reported bullying and victimization significantly. In addition, studies report positive effects on pupils' 'liking school,' as well as academic motivation and achievement. KiVa also reduces anxiety and depression and has a positive impact on students' perception of their peer climate. 98% of victims involved in discussions with the schools' KiVa teams felt that their situation had improved.

Source: UNESCO/UNODC 'Strengthening the rule of law through education: A guide for policymakers'

BOX 49. Gender Inequality and Violence Nexus

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is both a cause and consequence of inequality, impacting the lives of women and girls beyond just survivors. Fear of violence can prevent women from pursuing education, work or exercising their political rights and voice. VAWG is also a consequence of gender inequality. In many places, gender-based violence is reinforced by discriminatory laws and

exclusionary social norms that undermine women and girls' opportunities for education, income and independence. Sometimes, VAWG accompanies shifting power relations within households and communities, especially when there is resentment against women and girls who move away from conventional roles.

Source: Jahan (2018).

BOX 50. The Kyrgyz Republic: Participatory referral mechanisms to help victims of gender-based violence

Since 2000, there has been an increase in the number of acts of sexual violence against women, girls and boys registered in the Kyrgyz Republic. In response, 48 women's NGOs as well as community leaders gathered evidence of GBV law enforcement in this country. Together with women from vulnerable groups and survivors of violence, they advocated for the 2017 Law on Protection from Family Violence.

The law establishes participatory referral mechanisms to ensure the fundamental rights of gender-based violence survivors. These take the form of "GBV committees." The committees are comprised of local municipal government representatives, social and medical workers, police and members of the NGO community, including local crime prevention and crisis centers. Collectively, these groups respond to cases of gender-based violence, including family violence (physical, psychological, economic) as well as sexual violence, early marriage, forced marriage, polygamy and trafficking in persons.

Local women's NGOs and crisis centre associations play the leading role in establishing and managing the GBV committees. In 2018,

GBV committees were established in 16 territorial administrations of Kyrgyzstan. 949 protection orders were issued by police to GBV survivors, who received various types of legal advice on topics such as property rights, child support, social benefits, divorce, professional education and employment.

Lessons learned:

- Comprehensive measures should be in place to address gender-based violence and ensure that victims of violence have access to immediate means of protection and that perpetrators are adequately punished;
- Capacity-building of relevant officials should be a part of National Action Plans to ensure the systematic application of gender-sensitive procedures to deal with victims of violence;
- Adequate assistance should be provided to victims of violence in cooperation with non-governmental organizations that provide shelter and rehabilitation to victims;
- Disaggregated statistical data should be collected on domestic and sexual violence.

Source: UNDP, UNODC

BOX 51. Tajikistan: Expanding identification for stateless persons

The Government of Tajikistan has approved the expansion of statelessness identification and reduction activities in eight new districts. With this decision, the Government has confirmed its commitment to address the issue of statelessness in the country. The initiative is implemented as part of the UNHCR-UNICEF Coalition on 'Every

Child's Right to a Nationality' and is combined with a birth registration component targetting some 2,500 children. UNHCR continues to advocate for the adoption of an amnesty law in Tajikistan to address statelessness issues among persons for whom solutions cannot be found under existing legal frameworks.

Source: UNHCR

BOX 52. Tunisia: Improving access to justice and service delivery

The International Legal Assistance Consortium is working to improve access to justice and service delivery in Tunisia. It seeks to improve case flow management, increase interactions between

justice seekers and the judicial system and upgrade human and IT resources to ensure a more coordinated, efficient and unified Administrative Tribunal.

Source: <http://www.ilacnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Tunisia-Tribunal.pdf>

BOX 53. The Republic of Moldova: Youth Score Card to tackle inequalities at the local level

The Youth Score Card project aims to collect accurate, evidence-based information about the varied needs of young people across the regions of the Republic of Moldova at the local level. It is also a tool to monitor the implementation of SDGs locally.

Young people (14-35 years old) from the Republic of Moldova represent more than one third of the total population. But the situation and needs of young people differ significantly across regions in the country. Data aggregated at the national level often obscures inequalities in accessing basic services among young people from different regions.

The Youth Score Card assesses youth experiences in 6 key areas: (i) education; (ii) participation in decision-making process; (iii) employment; (iv) risk situations; (v) health and (vi) social inclusion. For each area, separate indicators are selected based on criteria such as relevance, frequency and availability of data, and so on, with

priority given to SDG indicators where these exist (e.g., education and health). The Youth Score Card then ranks all administrative units in Moldova in terms of youth development and provides evidence for policymakers to address the specific needs of young people at the local level. This ranking will be updated every two years to monitor progress and adjust youth policies at the local level.

The Youth Score Card has led to the development of an interactive database of indicators related to the development of young people in Moldova. This tool enables a comparison of youth development between regions and identifies key areas requiring policy attention at both the national and local levels. In addition, its implementation has led to greater participation of young people in local and national policymaking processes.

The Youth Score Card is available on www.scorecard.md. The website includes an interactive map of Moldova and its administrative units.

Source UNDP Moldova

BOX 54. UNESCO: Tackling illicit flows in cultural property

UNESCO is working with countries to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural property. It does this by strengthening the capacity of national law enforcement and custom officials, the judiciary, and banking professionals, and by engaging the global art market. UNESCO is also working with member States to support the restitution of cultural property.

The Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) is the first international legal instrument for the protection of movable cultural property in times of peace. The international community has given new impetus to the Convention, due to the urgent need of people to reaffirm their identities through cultural heritage in a globalised world. Moreover, the public is becoming increasingly aware of the dangers of international cultural heritage despoliation.

The effectiveness of the 1970 Convention lies in the number of States that have ratified it and their diligence in implementing. UNESCO provides expertise in building capacity in this area. To do this, it collaborates closely with other organizations such as INTERPOL, UNIDROIT, the International Council of Museums, the World Customs Organization and the UNODC, as well as art market representatives and specialized police forces. The purpose of these interactions is to establish national and international networks involving all stakeholders related to the protection of the cultural heritage and the art market. UNESCO is also developing awareness-raising programmes for the general public regarding the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage and preventing illicit trafficking. Sensitizing local populations in this way constitutes the most effective tool against the pillage and illicit trafficking of cultural objects. The Convention has also provided for significant advocacy on the importance of cultural property restitution.

Source: UNESCO

BOX 55. Nestlé: Program to prevent bribery in the business value chain

Nestlé Ecuador has a pilot programme to implement SDG 16.5, which seeks to “substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.” The particular focus of this programme is on the private sector. The ambition is to transfer the values and best practices of large enterprises regarding integrity and the prevention of bribery to medium-sized enterprises located in the same value chains.

The program was led by Nestlé Ecuador, together with key local stakeholders including the country’s pan-industry platform,

‘Ecuador2030’. The program utilizes tools provided by the UN, Transparency International (TI) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

The program will provide a toolkit to guide large enterprises through concrete actions in implementing the initiative with medium-sized enterprises in their value chain. Each medium-sized enterprise will in turn create its own, tailor-made “model of bribery prevention,” guided by tools provided by the program.

Source: Nestlé Ecuador

BOX 56. Ukraine: Respect for the rule of law in public administration

Since 2014, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) has been supporting self-assessments throughout Ukraine in order to measure the respect for the rule of law in public administration. Over 350 agency staff and 8000 service users have been interviewed to assess their satisfaction with administrative services in line with six rule of law principles: legality, accessibility, transparency, the right to be heard, the right to appeal and accountability (SDG 16 indicators

16.5.1 and 16.6.2). 15 municipalities owned the assessment process and were supported through peer-to-peer exchange and assistance by FBA in developing action plans based on the assessment findings. An explanation of the assessment methodology can be found in: UNDP-FBA Users’ Guide for Assessing Rule of Law in Public Administration (2015).

Source: Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) Project Website: <http://ruleoflaw.in.ua/>

BOX 57. Nigeria: Youth initiatives on justice, the rule of law and strong institutions

The SDG 16 Innovation Challenge is an initiative designed by the Accountability Lab in partnership with OANDO plc, an African integrated energy solutions provider based in Nigeria, and supported by the Canadian High Commission in Nigeria. Its goal is to find creative solutions for SDG 16 around issues of justice, the rule of law and building strong institutions. The competition supports young men and women between the ages of fifteen and thirty-five to supercharge their innovative ideas about governance, bolster their skills and connect with others.

The ideas that emerged during the innovation challenges in the cities of Lagos and Abuja were inspiring and encouraging. One proposed project to improve relations between the police, the federal government and the judiciary by training 5,000 policemen nationally. Another advocated a digital platform to help indigent families find competent legal aid providers for relatives held in pre-trial detention centers. These individuals are often held for periods that

exceed the maximum sentence guideline for the alleged offence. Another idea called “Frame for Progress” further supported SDG 16 targets by using visual storytelling to help rural communities track local budgets and expenditure, as well as to identify gaps in social justice programmes.

One of the consistent learnings that candidates took away from the innovation challenge in targeted communities was the need to engage with civil society social structures in order to strengthen those structures and ensure the development of sustainable solutions.

The winning idea, Hope Behind Bars, tackles the wrongful incarceration of young people by providing them with pro bono legal services and support. In the two months following the Challenge, Hope Behind Bars represented 17 inmates, freeing 12 of them from prison — a commendable effort in ensuring timely access to justice. ...

As part of Accountability Lab's ongoing work to support SDG 16, it is providing financial and technical support to Hope Behind Bars through its Accountability Incubator. This support includes

capacity-building, peer-learning, communications advice, network building and assistance with logistical supply chains.

Source: Accountability Lab <http://www.accountabilitylab.org>

BOX 58. Thailand: From tolerance of diversity of gender and sexual orientation to inclusion

LGBTI people are part of families, communities and the wider society. But they continue to experience stigma and discrimination, violence, exclusion and denial of fundamental human rights just because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Structural barriers, and discriminatory norms and practices exist that exclude LGBT persons from fully participating in society and enjoying the benefits of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Being LGBT in the Asia and the Pacific is a regional initiative aimed at addressing inequality, violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status. It also promotes universal access to health and social services. The project is a collaboration between governments, civil society, regional institutions and other stakeholders to advance the social inclusion of LGBTI people.

A landmark survey involving 2,210 participants from across Thailand — both LGBT and non-LGBT people — revealed that there was a significant level of support for inclusive laws and policies

among the non-LGBT respondents. According to the results of the survey, more people support than object to things like same-sex unions, adoption rights for LGBT people, including more than two options for "sex" in official public documents and lifting the ban on blood donations for men who have sex with men. In addition, a significant portion of the respondents (between 20 and 23%) did not feel strongly either way on these issues.

In Thailand, UNDP is supporting the efforts of national stakeholders to enhance legal protections for non-discrimination based on gender, to provide access to legal identity documents with correct gender markers to transgender people, to sensitize the Royal Thai Police on issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and to address the specific health and safety needs of transgender inmates in the justice system.

Thailand has the opportunity, the resources and the public support to build on these efforts and transcend from being a land of relative tolerance for LGBT to being one of true inclusion.

Source: UNDP Blog Thailand and UNDP Thailand

ANNEXES

- Detailed trends and efforts on peace, justice and inclusion
- Bibliography
- List of 25 country case studies and their focus
- SDG 16+ guiding questions

Detailed trends and efforts on peace, justice and inclusion

This section selects and highlights some of the **global and regional trends** and **country policy efforts** across the peace, justice and inclusion dimensions identified in this report (see Figure 2 above that shows how SDG 16+ targets may be clustered into 9 elements in order to organize the wealth of data covered by the goal). It provides a snapshot of SDG 16+ implementation around the world in 2019 and helps identify where countries, the international community, civil society and the private sector can concentrate their future efforts.

The **selection of trends data** reflects the issues that the Secretary General focuses on in the 2019 “Special Edition” report on countries’ progress on the SDGs. It builds on that data with analysis from other UN sources, civil society and research organizations.

Finally, throughout this section, illustrations of how progress on SDG 16 impacts on other SDGs and vice versa are described. For illustrative purposes, the focus is on interlinkages with goals that have been selected for Thematic Review at the HLPF 2019: SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 10 (plus, for its proximity to SDG 16, SDG 5) and SDG 13. In many cases, these interlinkages are direct, while in others, quite indirect.



Peace

Evidence gathered by the joint UN and World Bank “Pathways for Peace” study confirms that a range of human rights and governance issues addressed by SDG 16+ can lead to violence that can cause societies to tip into conflict. These include inequality, exclusion, discrimination, corruption, gender and child abuse. The report also highlights that valuing women’s leadership and including the contributions of youth are both essential to consolidating peace, as is mobilizing local mediation and conflict resolution forums.³⁵

Countries are obliged by SDG 16+, and encouraged by the UN Secretary General’s “Sustaining Peace Resolutions”³⁶ to take the lead in preventing violence and building peace. To that end, SDG 16+ emphasizes the inclusion of all groups in fragile and conflict-affected societies at the national and local levels in policy development and peacebuilding processes. Despite these global commitments, however, peacebuilding processes continue to exclude the participation and perspectives of those most impacted by conflict and war. This includes women, youth and children, the LGBTI community, as well as asylum seekers, refugees, displaced persons, immigrants, stateless persons and other

marginalized individuals. The Global Sustainable Development Report 2019 also highlights the deleterious effect of the current militarized approach to peace and security, which is not, the report argues, adequately addressed in the SDGs:³⁷

“Ongoing armed conflicts in many parts of the world, which represent protracted crises that massively impede or even destroy development, are not adequately addressed in the SDGs. Nor is the importance of peace building. In particular, discussion of military spending and arms proliferation is absent, despite overwhelming evidence that the availability of weapons fuels violence and armed conflicts that hamper achievement of specific SDGs, particularly those related to peace and justice, reduced inequalities, and life on land”

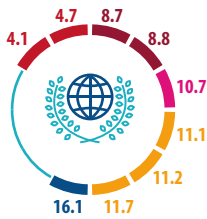
(Nakamitsu 2018)³⁸

The following sub-sections offer a snapshot of global and regional trends as well as country policy efforts on building peaceful societies in line with Goal 16+. The material is organized and presented according to the three elements of the ‘peace’ dimension of SDG 16+ identified in this report:

Element 1: Reducing all violence and promoting peace

Element 2: Reducing violence against and exploitation of women, girls and boys

Element 3: Reducing terrorism, crime and illicit arms flows



Element 1: Reducing all violence and promoting peace

The Secretary General’s 2019 “Special Edition” report on the sustainable development goals records that **at the global level, the trend of homicide rates per 100,000 of the population has been slowly declining between 2000 and 2017**. Despite this trend, the most recent available data from the SAS confirms that there has been **a significant rise in global violent deaths in 2017**: 7.80 violent deaths per 100,000 (589,000 people) as compared to 7.56 deaths per 100,000 (560,000 people) in 2016.³⁹ This increase is due primarily to homicides (non-conflict deaths.) The proportion of female to male victims remains stable at 16%, although the absolute number of women killed in 2017 is higher than those killed in 2016.

A 2018 Global Study on Homicide by UNODC shows that a concentration of lethal criminal violence in Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa led to the total number of homicides growing from 27 to 34% and from 25 to 33% in these regions respectively.⁴⁰ The SAS reports that, in 2017 alone, Central America and South America saw noticeable increases in homicide rates.

Data show that intentional homicide rates are higher in countries with high income inequality. This phenomenon cuts across countries and regions. Countries with higher income inequality had, on average, a homicide rate that was nine times greater than countries where income was more evenly distributed.

These data also reveal significant gender implications. When income inequality is combined with high rates of violence against women, there is an obvious impact on the development outcomes

shared by women and their wider dependants. This delays the achievement of gender equality and the empowering of all women and girls (SDG 5, SDG 10), as women are deprived of basic rights and opportunities.

FIGURE 5.



The Uppsala Conflict Data Program has collected statistics on **yearly battle-related deaths** from 1989 to 2017.⁴¹ In 2017, there were 49 State-based conflicts, four less than in 2016, with at least 1000 battle-related deaths. UCDP reported in 2017 that:

“The overall decrease in fatalities lends support to the claim that conflict deaths are in decline and that the world is increasingly peaceful. This trend holds even more strongly when controlling for increases in world population.”

Although the number of non-state conflicts increased in 2017, the total number of fatalities from political violence remained at 15%.⁴²

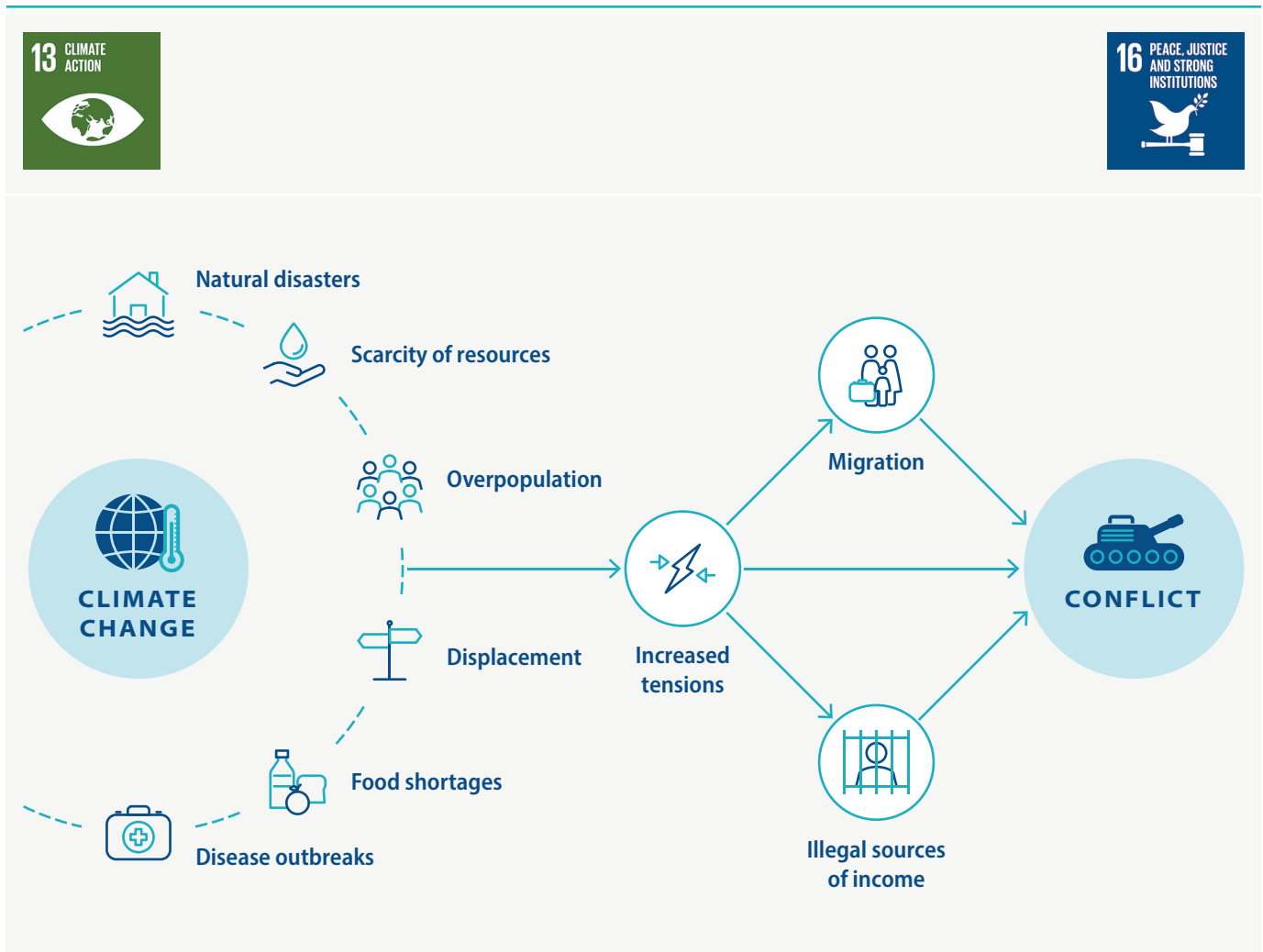
Trends analyzed by the One Earth Future Foundation show **that conflict zones are moving further from cities.**⁴³ Though recent armed conflicts do feature heavy fighting in major urban centres,

these conflicts tend to be the outliers. One explanation for this shift is the strengthening of national institutions, which have increased their capacity to respond to conflict in urban areas.

When institutions crumble altogether, the intensity of conflicts increases significantly. Weak or collapsed States allow groups to repurpose military hardware, increasing the risk of more conventional forms of warfare. This also allows for greater regional instability as weapons and resources flow to neighbouring countries.⁴⁴

Climate change also has profound implications for peace and security. In fact, it is regarded by the UN Security Council as one of the most pervasive global threats to peace and security in the 21st century. Climate change compounds other development problems such as water and natural resource scarcity, natural disasters, food shortages, overpopulation, displacement and disease outbreaks. It can also exacerbate local and regional tensions.

FIGURE 6.



For this reason, climate change is best understood as a “threat multiplier,” interacting with existing pressures and increasing the likelihood of instability or violent conflict. It increases the human insecurity of people dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. Rising human insecurity can, in turn, induce people to migrate or seek out alternative, illegal sources of income, which can also drive conflict.

Safety in the workplace is also one of the ‘SDG 16+’ factors that contributes to reducing violence and promoting peace. The Secretary General’s 2019 SDG report notes that workers around the world are exposed to undue risks in their workplaces.

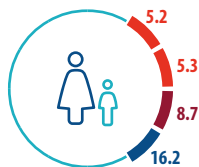
Peaceful and inclusive societies hinge on individuals and groups that respect the rule of law. Formal and informal **education environments can promote a culture of peace and non-violence** necessary for maintaining the rule of law in communities.⁴⁵ The World Bank and UN “Pathways to Peace” research demonstrates that providing opportunities for all to access a good standard of education is crucial to building societies where people are less inclined to engage in violence.⁴⁶ The challenge to providing inclusive and quality education is significant: 262 million children and youth between the ages of 6 and 17 were still out of school in 2017.⁴⁷

Achieving quality education includes consideration of the socio-emotional aspects of learning.⁴⁸ The provision of **safe and non-violent learning environments for all children and adolescents** also remains a challenge.⁴⁹

UNESCO reports that 246 million children and young people experience school violence every year.⁵⁰ Available evidence shows that responses which take a comprehensive approach can be effective in reducing school violence and bullying. Of the 71 countries and territories with trend data available on deploying such approaches, 35 have seen a decrease in the prevalence of bullying.

The number of people living in slums is also an important aspect of safety and security. Between 1990 and 2016, the proportion of the global **urban population living in slums** fell from 46% to 23%.⁵¹ However, the gains made by focusing on moving people out of slum conditions have been largely offset by internal population growth and rural-urban migration. Figures from 2016 show that just over 1 billion people live in slums or informal settlements, with over half (589 million) living in Eastern, South-Eastern, Central and Southern Asia.

People in slums live in unsafe structures that are often unconnected to main power and water supplies. They also face health risks on account of poor sanitation. Accessing education can be more difficult for young people in slums. Few slum-dwellers have security of tenure in the limited spaces they occupy. What is more, the public spaces within and around slums may not be adequately secured by policing, street lighting and good road surfaces.⁵²



Element 2: Violence against and exploitation of women, girls and boys

In a review of 53 national laws on gender equality, **over a quarter of countries have legal gaps in the area of violence against women.** Based on available comparable data from 106 countries between 2005 and 2017, 18% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 have experienced **physical and/or sexual partner violence** in the previous 12 months.⁵³ The UNODC further reports that a total of **87,000 women were intentionally killed in 2017.** More than half of them (58% or 50,000 women) were killed by intimate partners or family members, meaning that 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day. These figures suggest that the annual **number of female deaths worldwide resulting from intimate partner/family-related homicide seems to be on the increase.**⁵⁴ But in 2018, more than one billion women lacked legal protection from sexual violence by an intimate partner.

The ‘Pathways for Peace’ study by the UN and the World Bank finds that **high levels of interpersonal violence, especially gender-specific violence against women, can be a warning sign that violence in societies may degenerate into conflict.** Children who live with violence experience adverse effects on their cognitive and social development. They also run higher risks of becoming perpetrators and victims of violence later in life. The trauma of violence can lead to serious mental health and behavioural problems for all victims.⁵⁵ At the same time, once violent conflict breaks out, violence against women and girls may be exacerbated.⁵⁶

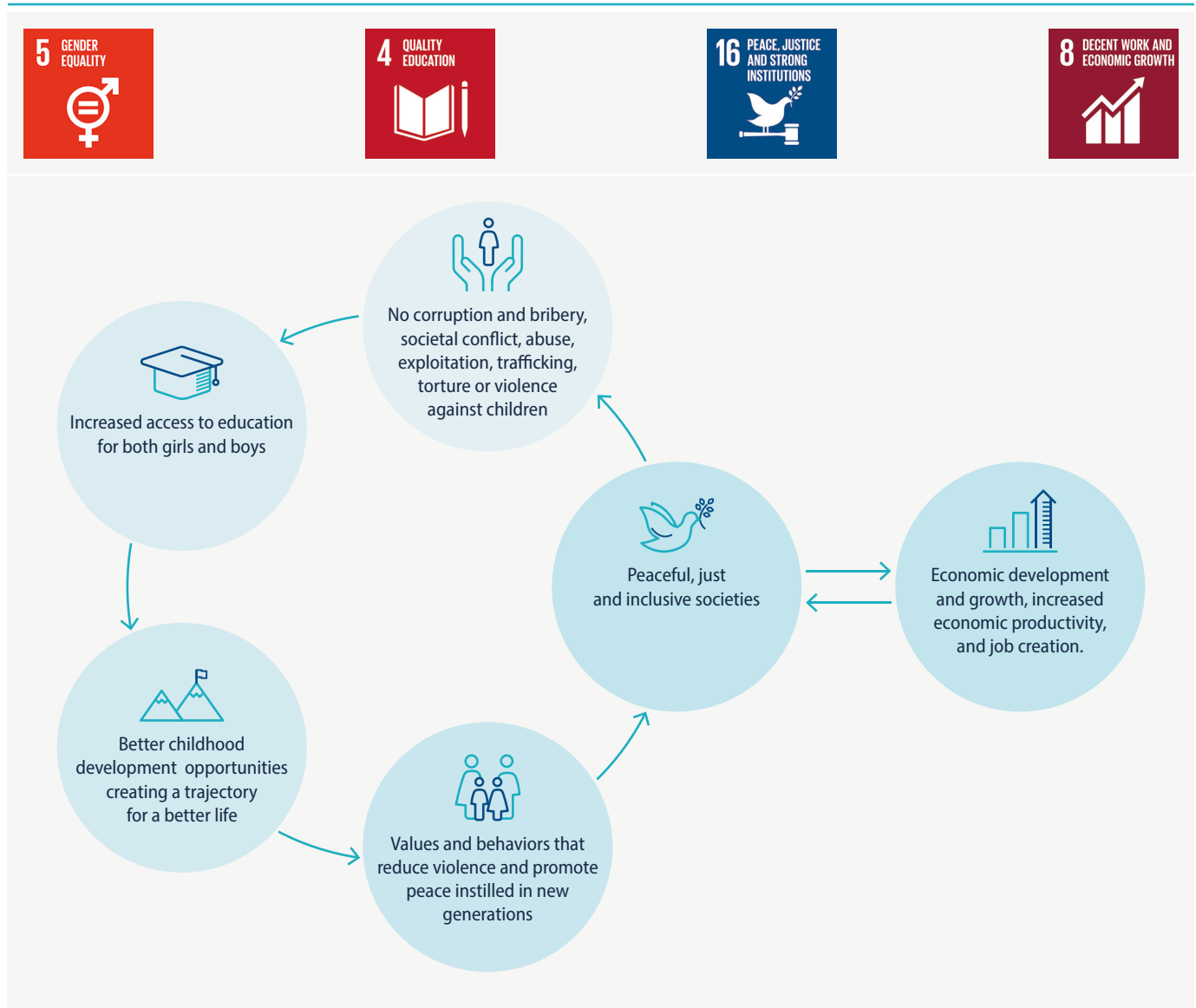
When peaceful and inclusive societies are promoted along with effective institutions, this creates an environment for public services to be delivered. For example, if there is little or no abuse, exploitation, trafficking or torture involving children, access to education increases significantly (SDG 4). Where people are better educated, especially women and girls (SDG 4 & SDG 5) and gender disparity in education is eliminated, this leads to better opportunities for early childhood development. That, in turn, creates a trajectory for a better life.

Promoting inclusive and equitable quality education, including early childhood development, has the potential to instill values and behaviours that reduce violence and promote peace. This is why education is incorporated into the Positive Peace Index (PPI). This is a composite measure of attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies, support an optimal environment for human potential to flourish and enhance resilience.

Peaceful, just and inclusive societies, along with effective institutions, also create conducive environments for economic development and growth, increased economic productivity, and job creation (SDG8). The interconnected impacts of violence, conflict, and crime divert trillions of dollars each year away from development efforts, denying billions of people of their full human rights. Peaceful societies allow for increases in national economic productivity, a reduction of the proportion of youth not in employment, and the promotion of sustainable tourism, for example. Since unemployment is one of the reasons why individuals select into anti-social behaviour, job growth becomes deterrent to such behaviour. In addition, where justice is faltering, growth and development

can also falter. A recent report by the Task Force on Justice shows that everyday justice problems cost OECD countries between 0.5 and 3% of their annual GDP. The report states that in most low-income countries, that figure is more than 2%.⁵⁷

FIGURE 7.



Recent data analysis shows an **increase in the detection of victims of trafficking**, (although this could also reflect more effective action by authorities in this area).⁵⁸ In 2016, 58% of victims were detected in their own countries, up from 43% in 2014. The majority of victims of trafficking detected globally are adult women (nearly 50%) but also increasingly girls (nearly 23%).

The majority of victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation (59%). UNODC research shows that sexual exploitation is most prevalent in the Americas, Europe, East Asia and the Pacific. In contrast, trafficking for forced labour is most prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.⁵⁹

The World Health Organization estimates that **one billion children globally experience some form of violence every year** and **one child dies as a result of violence every 5 minutes**.⁶⁰ Based on a review of 85 countries, the WHO reported that children from wealthier households are equally likely to experience violent discipline as those from poorer households.

In the 2019 review of the SDGs, the Secretary General notes that the most common form of **discipline of children relies on physical force and psychological aggression**. In a study of 83 countries (mostly from developing regions) between 2006 and 2018, nearly 8 in 10 children between one and 14 years of age were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home during the previous month. In all but seven of these countries, at least half of those children experienced violent disciplinary methods.

Chronic under-reporting and a lack of comparable data limit the ability to get an accurate picture on **sexual violence against children**.⁶¹ That said, in 14 of the 46 countries with comparable data, at least 5% of women between 18 and 29 years of age reported experiencing sexual intercourse or other forcible sexual acts for the first time before 18 years of age.

Global estimates from UNICEF suggest that **15 million adolescent girls aged 15-19 have experienced forced sex in their lifetime**. Nearly 50% of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16. Data for men is scarce and incomplete. For the few countries with data, a majority of adolescent boys who report having been forced into sex, claim that this occurred when they were still adolescents.⁶²

Across 28 countries in the **European Union, 2.5 million young women report experiences of contact and non-contact forms of sexual violence before age 15**. Moreover, one in five children in Europe are victims of some form of sexual violence.⁶³ Estimates show that between 10 and 20% of people will be sexually assaulted during their childhood, with children being most at risk from attacks by family, friends and neighbours.

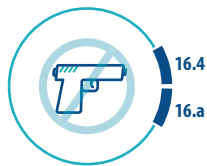
The **practice of child marriage** has continued to decline around the world, largely driven by progress in South Asia. In that region, a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has reduced by over 40% since around 2000. In Sub-Saharan Africa, however, child marriage remains of particular concern, as figures are declining at a more modest rate.⁶⁴

The Secretary General's 2019 SDG review also reports that at least 200 million girls and women have been subjected to **female genital mutilation**. This figure is based on data from 30 countries where the practice is concentrated and where nationally representative prevalence data is available. In these 30 countries, this harmful practice has declined by one quarter since 2000.

According to 2016 figures gathered by the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are 152 million children in child labour globally, 64 million of whom are girls and 88 million who are boys. This amounts to one in ten children around the world. The majority (71%) work in the agriculture sector, with 26 million in services and 18 million in industry. Nearly half of these children are engaged in hazardous work that “directly endangers their health, safety, and moral development.”⁶⁵

Africa has the highest absolute number of children engaged in child labour (72 million), followed by Asia and the Pacific (62 million). The Americas count 11 million children in child labour; Europe and Asia count six million and the Arab States, one million.⁶⁶

The Committee of the Rights of the Child has reported that the recruitment and use of **children as child soldiers has doubled or even quadrupled** in certain country contexts. Vulnerable children are recruited and used by non-state armed groups and by groups designated as terrorist.⁶⁷



Element 3: Strengthen national institutions to prevent violence, terrorism, crime and illicit arms flows

The final SDG 16+ sub-topic on building peaceful societies clusters together SDG 16+ targets aimed at developing and strengthening institutions to prevent violence, terrorism, crime and illicit arms flows.

The UN Secretary General urges countries to accelerate the pace of progress to put in place **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) compliant with the Paris Principles**.⁶⁸ The 1993 Paris Principles set out six benchmarks against which NHRIs can be accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).⁶⁹

As of 4 March 2019, there were 78 NHRIs accredited with A Status by the GANHRI, meaning they were fully compliant with the Paris Principles. In 2018, a total of 39% of all countries had an NHRI in place that was fully compliant with the Paris Principles. This represents an increase of only seven countries from 2015. If growth continues at the same rate, by 2030 only a little over one half (54%) of all countries worldwide will have NHRIs fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

Preliminary data from UNODC also suggests that significant progress still needs to be made in tracing illicit arms. In 2016-2017, the success rate was typically less than 13%.⁷⁰ However, there was also notable variation in tracing outcomes across countries.



Justice

People are **excluded** from society for many reasons. Some lack a legal identity. Some live under legislation that is not in line with international standards. And still others simply suffer from factors such as poverty, conflict, and corruption. In all cases, however, these individuals cannot seek protection from the law or assert their human and socio-economic rights.

For those who do enjoy legal identity, seeking **justice is often prohibitively expensive** and/or legal proceedings are excessively **lengthy**. Nor does legal aid provision necessarily meet legal needs. The Pathfinders Task Force on Justice has estimated that **more than 5 billion people** worldwide fall into a “justice gap” because they **cannot access legal services** to resolve their problems.⁷¹ The “justice gap” refers to the failure to provide justice to people and communities outside the protection of the law.

Countries around the world are also grappling with **legal systems that are structurally unprepared** to adequately fulfil the provision of justice for all. Ineffective justice systems often perpetuate and reflect the structural inequalities and disparities in power that characterise society at large. **Informal justice systems** provide legal resolution in areas outside the reach of State authority, settling at least 80% of disputes globally.⁷² These fora are therefore critical in the delivery of justice for all. In light of this reality, countries are seeking more efficient and effective ways to deliver justice, including **alternative dispute resolution mechanisms** and the use of **community legal services and paralegals**.⁷³

Human rights and justice education and awareness-raising, delivered in formal and informal ways, are important to help people access rights and fight corruption.⁷⁴ This is particularly true for young people.

People **seek resolution for a range of civil, administrative and criminal needs**.⁷⁵ As mentioned above, the **costs of leaving civil legal needs unmet** has been conservatively estimated from 0.5 to 3% of GDP in most countries.⁷⁶

Lack of access to justice impacts hardest on lower income and other disadvantaged groups. UN-supported high level working groups and procedures are uncovering **the extent of exclusion and discrimination faced by persons of African descent** in Europe, the Americas and around the world, as well as people with **disabilities, those from indigenous communities and LGBTI persons**.

The High Level Group on Justice for Women finds that **women are disproportionately affected by the justice gap**. This is because their problems are compounded by a series of other problems including feminized poverty, gender-discriminatory laws affecting their inheritance rights, the jobs they have access to and whether they receive equal pay for equal work. Women’s justice is also affected by how seriously their complaints of sexual discrimination, abuse and violence are taken by the authorities, not to mention the limited participation of women in decision-making bodies within the justice and security sector.⁷⁷

Building **just societies contributes to preventing violence and conflict**: group-based grievances around exclusion as well as abusive actions by justice-related actors who hold power accelerate violence and the risks of conflict.⁷⁸ If justice is pursued for those grievances, including by drawing

on **transitional justice approaches**, sustainable peace and development is more attainable.⁷⁹ This means embracing procedures such as mass claims mechanisms to return property to people in the aftermath of conflict or those that include victims' voices in peace processes and seek justice for human rights abuses. An example from Syria helps to underscore this point:

“reduce the ‘justice gap’ —that is, In Syria, for example, where more than 400,000 people have died as a result of the war, more than 12 million have been displaced, and tens of thousands are missing or disappeared, or in Colombia, where the toll of the armed conflict included more than 8.5 million victims, the scale and severity of human rights violations requires extraordinary responses to meet the immense justice needs of victims and society. Transitional justice can help ensure that ‘these communities and societies are not in fact “left behind” by the SDGs.”⁸⁰

The following sub-sections offer a snapshot of how SDG 16+ global and regional trends on building just societies and country policy efforts to strengthen justice systems are meeting the justice gap challenge. The trends and case studies are organized according to the three elements of ‘just societies’ identified by this report:

Element 4: Rule of law and access to justice

Element 5: Anti-discrimination and equality

Element 6: Illicit financial flows, corruption and bribery



Element 4: Rule of law and access to justice

Birth registration is key to ensuring that people can access justice and social services and to preventing statelessness. The Secretary General reports in 2019 that **birth registration globally is just 73%**, even if many regions have universal or near universal birth registration. Fewer than half (46%) of all children under five in sub-Saharan Africa have had their births registered for example.

Ensuring that all people have a legal identity secures protection mechanisms, accelerates equal access to key social services such as health, education and income-generating opportunities, **secures property claims and inheritance rights, prevents and reduces cases of statelessness, and ensures inclusion in official statistics based on civil registration and other administrative data sources.** The last point — about ensuring that no one is left behind in data collection — relates to all targets in which legal recognition plays a role. In a similar vein, ensuring that legislative frameworks accord rights and remedies to all population groups in line with international standards is also a prerequisite for accessing justice.

Pre-trial detention rates indicate a country's ability to guarantee that individuals are afforded due process and presumed as innocent until proven guilty. **Globally, the share of unsentenced detainees in the overall prison population has remained largely constant at 30% in recent years.**⁸¹ This is despite an increase in the total number of prisoners, as the prison population remains constant as a share of the total population. Furthermore, **the percentage of women in prison is**

growing globally and at a faster rate than is the male prison population. While the global prison population grew by approximately 20% from 2000 to 2015, imprisoned women and girls grew by 50% during the same period.⁸²

One way to assess confidence in the criminal justice system is to monitor whether **victims of violence report crimes** committed against them. This helps to ascertain the level of trust people have in the police, the judiciary and their oversight bodies.⁸³ UNODC research shows that reporting rates on different types of crimes vary considerably. In many countries, for example, while most homicides are reported to the police, burglaries are under-reported, even though the rates are high.⁸⁴

Countries with a higher prevalence of crime tend to have lower reporting rates. Victimization survey data show that police reporting rates (the percentage of victims who report the crime to the police) are higher on average in Northern America and Europe than they are in Latin America and the Caribbean. This pattern is not universal, however, and some Asian countries with a lower prevalence of robbery also have lower police reporting rates.⁸⁵ In Sub-Saharan Africa, reporting crime is uncommon due to lack of easy to reach police stations and the perception of unequal treatment of those victims who do report crimes.⁸⁶

Access to legal aid is an essential element of access to justice in criminal and civil matters. **In criminal matters, access to legal aid** is the foundation for the enjoyment of the right to a fair trial. It also ensures fairness and public trust in the criminal justice process. The UNODC/UNDP Global Study on Legal Aid identified improving the coverage and quality of legal aid services as priority needs in most countries, including for vulnerable groups.⁸⁷

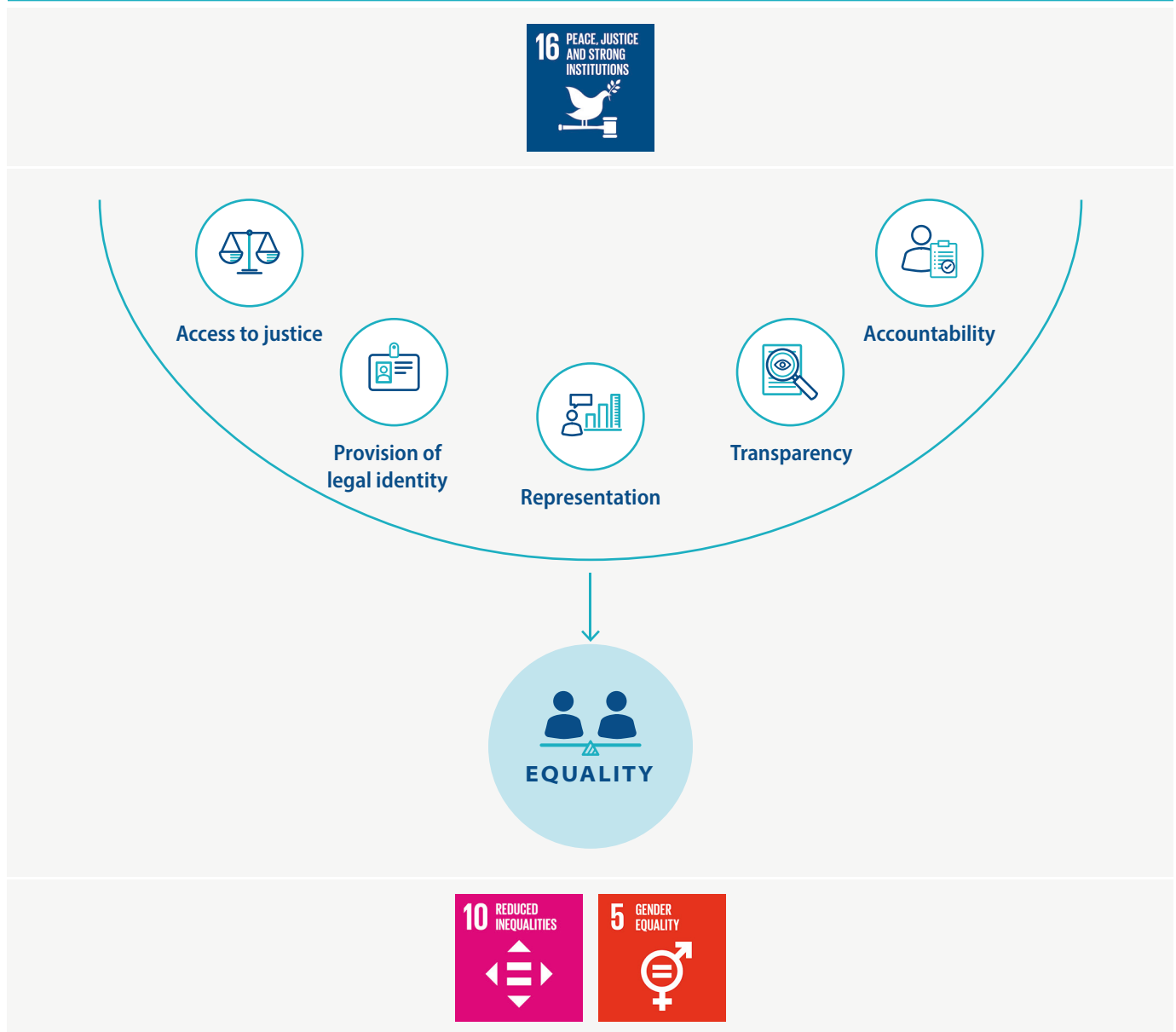
Legal aid to access justice in a range of civil and administrative matters from property and housing to employment and education is lacking for many people around the world. A 2018 survey by the World Justice Project provides some **global insights to legal needs in 45 countries.** This survey found that people across all the 45 countries from all socio-economic backgrounds experience legal problems. **The majority of the people's legal needs across these countries involve civil matters.** Moreover, most people in the 45 countries do not turn to lawyers when they have a problem, but rather to family, friends or directly with the party in conflict. 26% of people surveyed reported that because of their legal problems, they experienced stress-related illnesses. 21% stated that their legal problems led to them losing their job or having to move away.⁸⁸

Discrimination and inequalities, including those related to gender, have a large and wide-ranging impact on society, particularly with respect to the justice and inclusion aspects of SDG 16+. In that regard, effective access to justice (Target 16.3); provision of legal identity (Target 16.9) as well as representation, transparency and accountability (Targets 16.6 and 16.7) can help reduce inequalities for women and other marginalized groups.

SDG 16+ also aims at improving international rule of law and ensuring that developing countries are justly represented in international decision-making. The Secretary General reports that the

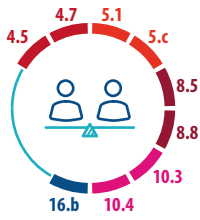
voting share of developing countries is proportionate to their membership in the United Nations General Assembly and the World Trade Organization, which utilize a one-member-one-vote system. However, in other international organizations, developing countries' voting share is short of their membership share. For example, even with recent governance changes in the World Bank, developing countries have just over 40% of voting rights, which is below the 75% they represent in World Bank membership.

FIGURE 8.





Women Adapt to Climate Change in Odisha.
Photo: Prashanth Vishwanathan/ UNDP India.



Element 5: Anti-discrimination and equality

There have been positive efforts over the past 25 years in reforming laws towards gender equality. Yet, discriminatory laws and gaps remain in many countries. **Over 2.5 billion women and girls around the world are affected by discriminatory laws and a lack of legal protections, often in multiple ways.**⁸⁹ Referring to a 2018 study of 53 countries, the 2019 SDG report notes that:

“almost a third of the countries have legal gaps in the area of overarching and public life (e.g., constitutions, anti-discrimination laws, quotas, legal aid); over a quarter have legal gaps in the area of violence against women; and 29% and 24% of the countries have legal gaps in the employment and economic benefits areas and in marriage and family areas, respectively.”

There is additional data from other sources on individual experiences and perceptions of discrimination in countries around the world. The 2017 Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS II) revealed that 38% of **people surveyed in European Union countries felt discriminated against because of their ethnic or immigrant background** in the five years leading up to survey.⁹⁰ North Africans (45%), Roma (41%)⁹¹ and Sub-Saharan Africans (39%) reported being particularly affected. Discrimination was reported to be highest by these groups when looking for work.

A survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2015 revealed that national equality bodies receive few complaints about discrimination from non-EU nationals. However, **discrimination on the basis of nationality or migrant, refugee or foreigner status is not prohibited under EU treaties.** There are only 12 Member States that explicitly prohibit such discrimination through national laws. These results suggest that rights awareness activities should be strengthened so that greater clarity is obtained in this area.⁹²

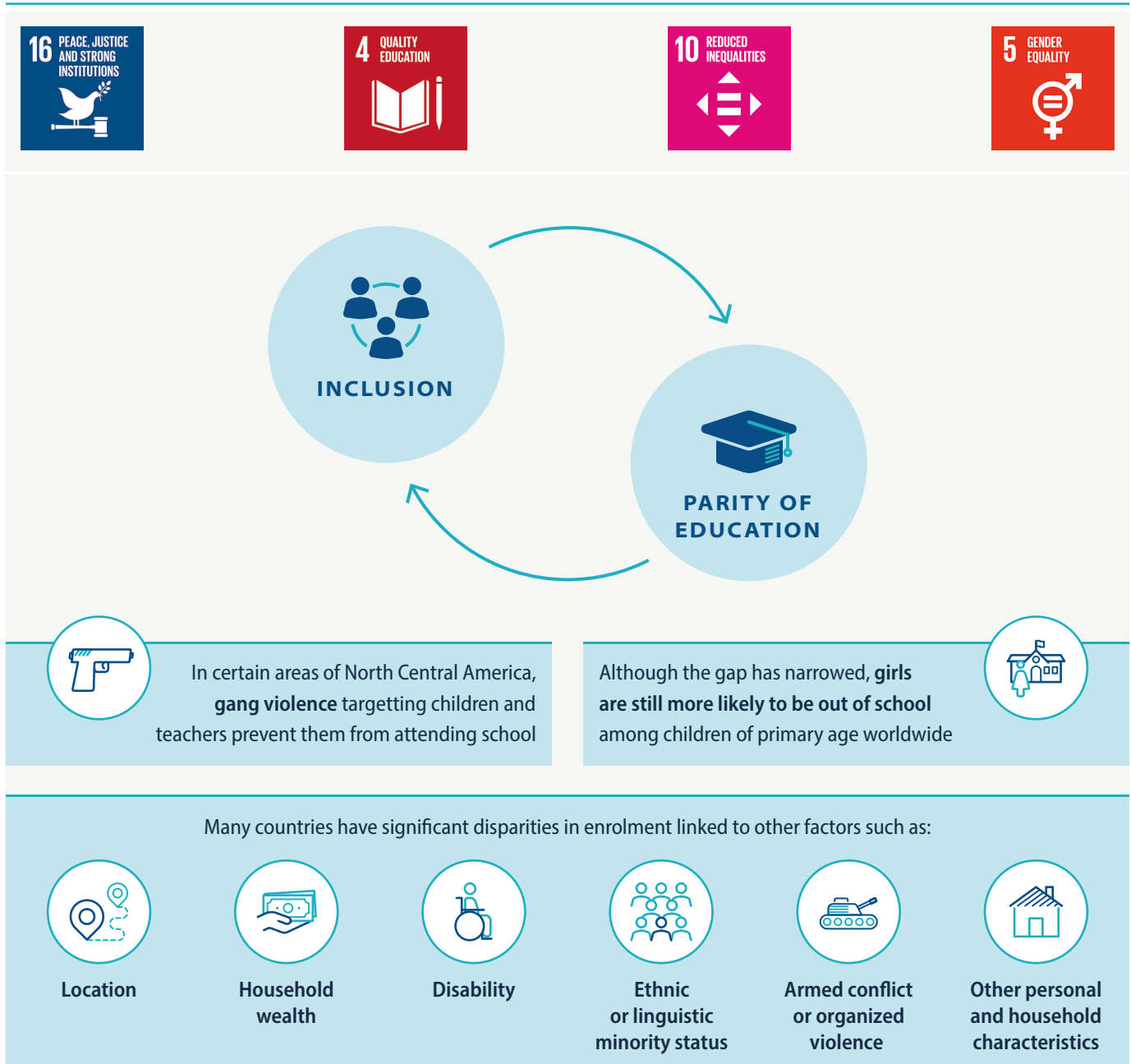
The Working Group on People of African Descent is mandated to study the problems of racial discrimination faced by people of African descent living in the diaspora. This includes impediments to full and effective access to justice.

Inclusion or lack thereof starts early on, and certainly from the time people enter the education system (SDG 4). Concerning **parity of education**, UNESCO has reported that the gap between male and female out-of-school rates has narrowed over the years. But among children of primary school age, girls are still more likely to be out of school than boys. Among adolescents and youth of secondary school age, there are no gender disparities at the global level. However, regional data show that girls are disadvantaged in sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania, and Northern Africa and Western Asia, while boys are disadvantaged in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁹³

At the national level, many countries have significant disparities in enrolment linked not only to sex, but also to location, household wealth, disability, ethnic or linguistic minority status and exposure to armed conflict or violence.⁹⁴ **The interlinkages between violence and exclusion from**

education are particularly apparent in North Central American countries, where violent gangs have, or seek to obtain, actual territorial control over specific urban neighbourhoods and rural communities. People at risk in these areas are in need of international protection. **Gang violence targets particular groups; school-age children and teachers are particularly at risk, thus limiting access to education.**⁹⁵

FIGURE 9.





Element 6: Illicit financial flows, corruption and bribery

Countries with higher incomes generally have lower rates of bribery, while countries with the lowest incomes have the highest rates of bribery. Based on information from the World Bank Enterprise Survey between 2011 and 2018, 19.5% of more than 130,000 **firms surveyed across 135 countries experienced at least one bribe payment request** in the preceding twelve months. Requests came from six different public sector agencies dealing with utilities access, permits, licenses and taxes.⁹⁶

In its Fiscal Monitor analysis of more than 180 countries, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) found an interesting relationship between corruption and taxation.⁹⁷ In countries at similar levels of economic development, countries with the lowest levels of corruption collected 4% more GDP in tax revenue than countries with higher levels of corruption. Countries with high levels of corruption also collected fewer taxes, as tax evasion is more likely when corruption is perceived as high. In such settings, taxes were avoided by paying bribes or by the exploitation of tax loopholes that were designed to facilitate kickbacks to the government.

Five years into Agenda 2030 and the Third Financing for Development Forum, it appears that **progress on combating illicit financial flows is slow**. The volume of illicit financial flows (IFFs) flowing from Africa is estimated at over USD 50 billion per year, out of which 20 billion are estimated to be proceeds from crime. However, in the absence of agreement on a definition of IFFs, it is difficult to affirm whether progress has been made towards reducing them.

To tackle these challenges, UNODC, along with UNCTAD, has developed a statistical framework for measuring IFFs related to illegal markets and other criminal activities. The framework is currently piloted in five Latin American countries. While UNODC leads the methodological work on IFFs related to illegal markets and other criminal activities, UNCTAD is leading the work related to tax and commercial practices.

Global Financial Integrity (GFI) collects data on outflows from developing countries to identify gaps in trade and balance of payments data. GFI's latest report focuses on **trade misinvoicing** as one aspect of illicit financial flows:

“Trade misinvoicing is accomplished by misstating the value or volume of an export or import on an invoice. Trade misinvoicing is a form of trade-based money laundering made possible by the fact that trading partners write their own trade documents, or arrange to have the documents prepared in a third country (typically a tax haven) — a method known as re-invoicing.”⁹⁸

GFI estimates that global trade misinvoicing by developing countries was equivalent to 18% of total trade with advanced economies over the 2006-2015 period.⁹⁹ Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated by GFI to have the highest propensity for trade misinvoicing: on average, 32.6% of its total trade with advanced economies was misinvoiced over the ten-year period from 2006 – 2015. This

amounts to an estimated \$84 billion in illicit flows due to misinvoicing in 2015. Countries in South Eastern Europe are estimated to have the second largest trade-related illicit flows, at 28% of total trade with advanced economies. Across nations in Asia, the average rate of trade misinvoicing is estimated to be 25.5%.

FIGURE 10.





Innovations of Steel.

Photo: Ruhani Kaur/UNDP India.

A just society, free of corruption and bribery and with high levels of trust in public institutions, can make significant contributions to accelerating SDG targets in the economic domain (SDG 8). Reliable systems of justice entice domestic and foreign investors to invest in businesses, infrastructure, tourism, technological innovation and research and development. The rule of law can also help accelerate job growth and the ability of key financial institutions like banks and insurance agencies to operate, thus creating a conducive environment for private sector growth).

More progress is also needed on addressing the illicit trafficking of cultural objects. Culture has come under attack in countries such as Syria, Iraq and Mali. **Stolen cultural artefacts have been used to fund terrorism, organized crime and money laundering.** Recent conflicts in the Middle East, including in Syria, Iraq and Libya, have led to an increase in the illicit trafficking of cultural property. **Black market trade is hard to trace and quantify, and preventive and tracking measures need to be strengthened. This data gap needs to be addressed to stem illicit financial flows.**

The **independence of the judiciary is under threat** in a number of countries where political and private interests seek to influence judicial decision-making. The 2019 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index has noted a growing trend towards authoritarianism, as institutions, including the judiciary, become less independent and less able to constrain government powers.¹⁰⁰



Inclusion

The rationale for making institutions more inclusive holds that **if more people's perspectives and experiences are taken into account in decision-making processes, development outcomes will be shared across all groups in society more broadly.** Broader inclusion and representation across groups in society can foster ownership and unleash agents of change that are needed to accelerate progress. To ensure no one is left behind, the perspectives and experiences of marginalized groups should be represented in decision-making processes to make sure that governance outcomes address these group's needs.

Within marginalized groups, those who experience an overlapping layer of 'intersecting inequalities'—such as the youth in the indigenous groups, the disabled in the low-income groups, the refugee woman and child, etc.—should be recognized as particularly vulnerable. Efforts should be made to include consideration of their needs in policy formation and outcome distribution. At the Rome SDG 16 Conference held in May in the lead up to the 2019 HLPF, youth groups participating in the UNDP 16x16 Initiative issued a **"Call to Action" to empower young people in decision-making processes.** They urged that all actors should systematically promote and invest in meaningful youth participation in SDG implementation, monitoring and accountability across all government and non-government levels.¹⁰¹

On the other side of the coin, **exclusion of group interests reinforces discrimination,** foments feelings of resentment and breeds a **lack of trust in institutions that can lead to injustice, violence and conflict.**

This section looks at global and regional trends on the aspects of Goal 16+ that aim to build inclusive societies. It covers:

Element 7: Access to public information and protection of the media

Element 8: Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative governance

Element 9: Inclusive and responsive decision-making



Element 7: Access to public information and protection of the media

At least 1,456 **human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists have been killed** in 61 countries across the world since 2015. This is equivalent to one person killed each day defending the rights of others.¹⁰²

While the number of killings of journalists and associated media personnel varies between regions, UNESCO recorded killings in all parts of the world. The highest number of killings in 2018 occurred in the Asia and the Pacific region (32 killings), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (26 killings). In keeping with the two previous years, Central and Eastern Europe recorded the lowest number of killings (three killings in 2018 and two killings in 2016 and 2017 respectively).

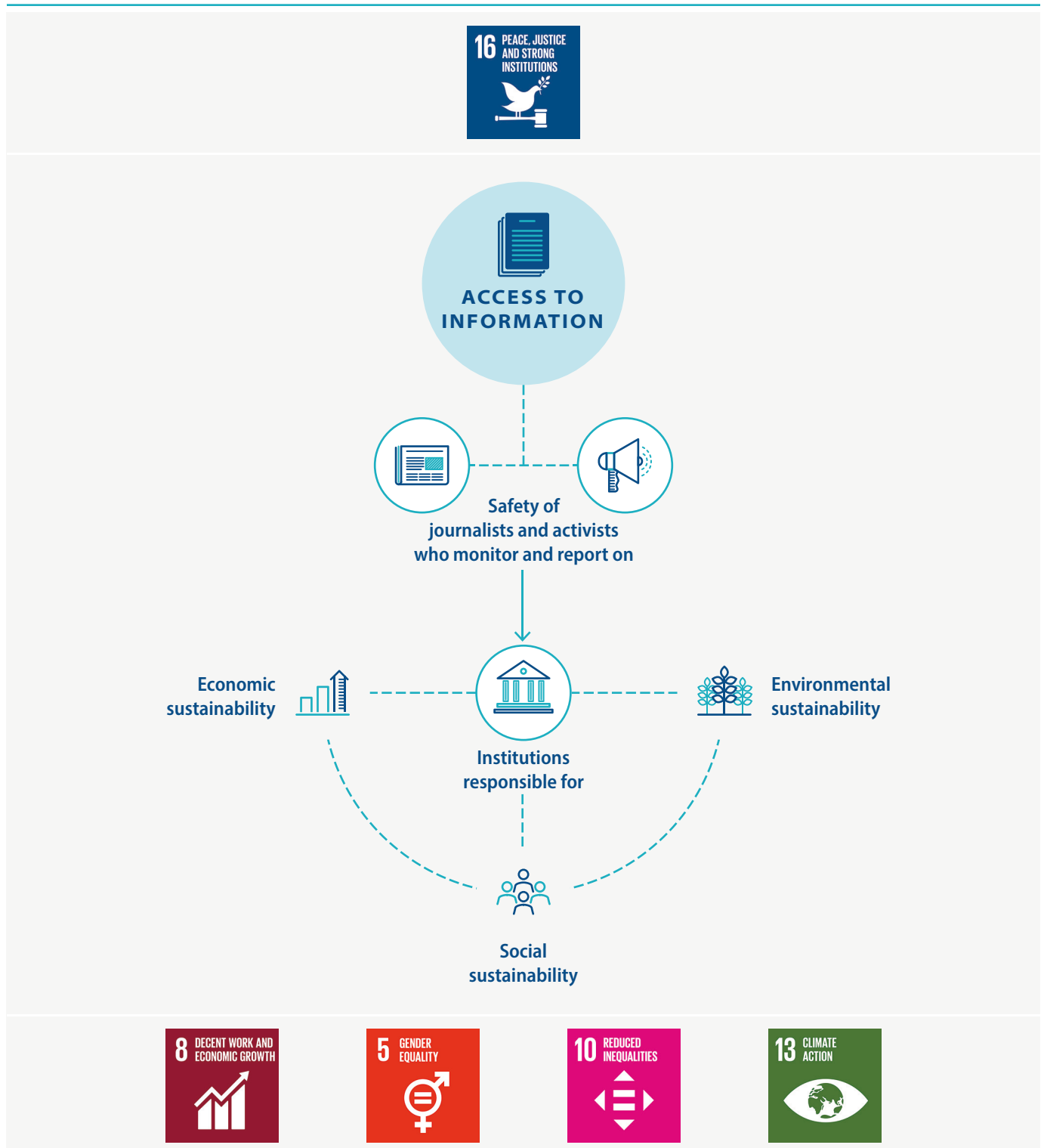
Among the journalists killed in 2018, seven were women, representing 7% of the overall number. This was a decrease from 2017, which saw the highest-ever number of women journalists killed (11 victims, representing 14% of the total killed, according to UNESCO). Data on judicial follow-up on killings that occurred in 2018 does not yet exist. But data from earlier years (2006-2017) shows that 89% of cases remain unresolved.¹⁰³ Continuing a tendency first witnessed in 2017, the majority of the killings (54) occurred outside of countries currently experiencing conflict.

In 2018, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported **61 missing journalists globally**. The regional breakdown shows that a significant number of them (24) come from the Northern Africa and Western Asia region. By early 2019, 251 journalists are reported as detained around the globe. Most of them (148) were imprisoned in the Northern Africa and Western Asia region.¹⁰⁴

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) has **assessed the relevance of global indicators in reflecting the threats to journalists and activists**. It states that the number of journalists or associated personnel killed or abducted is likely to be low in countries with high levels of media freedom. The number is also likely to be low in extremely repressive regimes, because journalistic activity in such countries is very limited. This last fact undermines the validity of the SDG 16 indicator.¹⁰⁵

Access to information held by institutions that influence economic, environmental and social sustainability is critical to monitoring and achieving all SDGs. The safety of journalists, human rights defenders and other members of civil society to report and gather information to inform the public is crucial.

FIGURE 11.



The Secretary General's 2019 SDG report notes that binding laws giving individuals a **right to access information (RTI) held by public authorities** have been adopted by 125 countries, with at least 31 adopting such laws since 2013. Expert assessments suggest, however, that in many cases, the legal framework for RTI could be improved. Among the 123 countries for which data on the legal framework is available, 40 do not have a proper right to appeal to an independent administrative body, a key criterion for proper implementation of this right.

The Carter Center has analyzed the **right to public access to information from the perspective of women**. Findings show that women are disproportionately disadvantaged from exercising their rights to access information. Case studies from Guatemala, Bangladesh and Liberia illustrate how women and their families suffer from being unable to access information on health, education and policing issues.¹⁰⁶

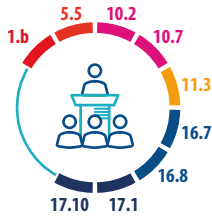
Civic space for civil society organizations, academics and cultural organizations **is shrinking in many countries across the world**. A range of research and civil society organizations have reported on the legal and political barriers that governments are erecting to suppress or weaken CSOs that are out of favour.¹⁰⁷ **Respect for public freedoms (expression, assembly, association) and the right to participate are essential for guaranteeing civic space and are prerequisites for responsive and accountable government**. Participation allows for more informed decision-making, which in turn enhances the legitimacy of government decisions and gives all members of society a stake in their successful outcome.

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) collects data on legal and regulatory frameworks that do not meet international human rights standards.¹⁰⁸ Such laws prevent civil society from being able to operate freely (for example, by imposing barriers on registration, accessing resources and/or engaging in advocacy and other politically sensitive activities). The Center's tracking of data across the world reveals that **82 countries have proposed or enacted more than 181 restrictions on civil society since 2013. At the global level, these restraints target the "lifecycle" of CSOs (58%), their freedom of assembly (22%), and access to international funding (20%)**.

The 2017 CSO Sustainability Index for Asia also shows that CSOs worked amid a tide of **closing civic space and increasingly restrictive environments during that year**.¹⁰⁹ The 2017 CSO Sustainability Index for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia reveals a similar shrinking of civic space in that region, extending even to countries that are member States of the European Union. Restrictions took the form of limiting CSOs' access to funding, increasing their reporting requirements, and ramping up State harassment of CSOs who criticised the government.¹¹⁰ In Sub-Saharan Africa, CSO efforts to expose corruption were hampered.¹¹¹

Not all empirical studies on civic space are negative, however. V-Dem's "Freedom of Discussion" indicator measures the extent to which citizens can talk openly about political issues in private. Their findings show **increasing freedom of discussion for men and women across the globe** from 1980 to 2012.¹¹² On '**Freedom of Academic and Cultural Expression**,' V-Dem also notes an improvement globally in recent years.¹¹³ The V-Dem Indicator on 'Government Censorship Effort

Media’ analyzes direct and indirect attempts by governments to censor the media. The **global average of censorship** has decreased in recent years.¹¹⁴ The V-Dem Indicator on “Print/Broadcast Media Perspectives” measures whether a broad range of political perspectives are represented in the media. All regions except Western Europe and Northern America have improved on this indicator over the last years.¹¹⁵



Element 8: Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative governance

As of 1 January 2019, women’s representation in national parliaments stands at 24.2%. Results of elections held in 2018 show that countries with legislated gender electoral quotas continue to elect significantly more women to parliament.¹¹⁶

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) reports that women’s share of positions in national parliaments in 2018 grew nearly a percentage point, rising to 24.3% from 23.4% in 2017.¹¹⁷ At the same time, however, of the 50 countries holding national elections in 2018, 25.8% elected women. This is less than the 27.1% elected by the 37 countries that held national elections in 2017.¹¹⁸ Indeed, the World Economic Forum Gender Gap report as well as V-Dem data show trends of **stagnation and decline in gender equality overall in the last five years.**¹¹⁹

The numbers of women in both single/ lower and upper chambers of legislatures across regions varies, according to the IPU. **The Americas elects more women than any other region:** in 2018 “it was the first region to achieve a ‘critical mass’ of 30% women, on average, in both single/ lower and upper chambers.”¹²⁰

The IPU reports that In Sub-Saharan Africa, women hold 23.6% of elected positions, while in Northern Africa and Western Asia the figure is 17.8%. In Central and Southern Asia, 19.5%¹²¹ of elected positions are held by women, while across Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, the figure is 19.5%. In Oceania, the figure is 17.9%. Women hold slightly less than one third of legislative positions in Europe and North America. For European OSCE member States, women hold 27.7% of positions in both houses combined. Nordic countries have a larger proportion of women in legislative positions, with 42.3% holding seats.

The UNDP’s Gender Equality in Public Administration project reports that the overall **share of women in the public service** is highest, on average, in OECD countries (55.1%), and lowest in the Arab States (35.9%). However, when looking at the share of women in decision-making positions, the highest average share is found in Latin America and the Caribbean (43.4%) and the lowest in Africa (25.1%). Just 20% of countries have reached parity (50%) in the share of women in decision-making positions of the public administration.¹²²

UNODC reports that with respect to representation of **women in the judiciary**, the female share of professional judges or magistrates is highest in Eastern Europe (57%), followed closely by the

Caribbean (57%) and Southern Europe (55%). Meanwhile, the proportion of female judges or magistrates is smallest in Oceania (30%), followed closely by Central Asia (32%) and Western Asia (33%).¹²³

In judiciaries across **the world there is a growing number of women holding positions as judges, but they are not serving in the highest positions of responsibility**, such as court presidents.¹²⁴ The latest report from the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) reports that “the global phenomenon of feminisation of judicial functions has a limit, the glass ceiling.” Also, **the higher the level of court, the fewer women hold judgeships**. 2016 figures from countries within the region covered by the Council of Europe illustrate this trend. 43% of professional judges at first instance are men, while 57% are women. At the Supreme Court level, 63% of judges are men and 37% are women, as compared with a 65-35 split in 2014.

While women represent 39% of the world’s employment, **only 27% of managerial positions in the world are occupied by women**, a pattern that is observed in all regions.¹²⁵ However, the proportion of women in management has increased since the beginning of the century. Women now occupy 21% of seats on boards of the Fortune1000 companies (mostly in the US), up from 14.6% in 2011.¹²⁶

IPU data from 2016 also shows that although young people make up the majority of the world’s population, fewer than 2% of all MPs are under the age of 30. About 30% of the world’s single and lower houses of parliament have no MPs aged under 30; more than 80% of the world’s upper houses of parliament have no MPs aged under 30; and not a single upper house of parliament anywhere in the world has more than 10% of its members aged under 30.¹²⁷

It is not enough for various population groups to be proportionally represented in public institutions in order to ensure representation in political decision-making. There also needs to be a measure of people’s own perceptions about the **inclusiveness of decision-making** (i.e., whether they feel they can ‘have a say’) and the **responsiveness of decision-making** (i.e., whether people feel they can influence political decision-making by voting).

International IDEA Global State of Democracy Indices (GSoD) have tracked trends from 1975 to 2017 on “representative government,” “checks on government” and “participatory engagement” across countries and regions. It is possible to compare the scores of each country, or region, against the world score, across each of these dimensions.¹²⁸ There has been a **positive trend in representative government across all regions**, for example. However, stark differences remain: “On average, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America have higher degrees of representative government than countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and, especially, the Middle East.”¹²⁹

The V-Dem Institute also tracks trends on themes related to inclusive and participatory governance. Globally V-Dem indicators show that over the last 60 years there has been **wider public deliberation and consultation in making major policy decisions**. It is possible to disaggregate V-Dem data to understand how men and women with different backgrounds, income levels, abilities, ages and so on experience participation and inclusion in political decision-making.¹³⁰

Meaningful participation requires institutional, constitutional and legal support. Jurisprudence developed by the South African Constitutional Court elaborates the **principles of reasonableness and meaningful engagement to enable the participation of the poor and dispossessed** in finding just solutions to difficult problems. One example is encouraging negotiation between landowners and people who live in poverty and are threatened with eviction from shacks they have illegally erected on private or public property. Additionally, the South African Constitutional Court has developed **legal protections to enable civil society organizations to bring cases to court on matters of public interest** without fear of incurring ruinous costs should they lose. As Albie Sachs, the former judge of the South African Constitutional Court who was instrumental in developing these principles and protections stated at the Rome SDG 16 conference in May 2019: *“The principles of SDG 16 draw on real life situations of using the law for social justice.”*

Meaningful participation also requires a safe environment.

“Participation is not enough, we need protection for people to feel safe in participating. Claimants can only claim their rights when they know they will be safe.”

(UNDP 16x16 Young Leader Ms. Ana Carolina QUEIROZ at SDG 16 Conference, Rome, 2019)

The **Human Rights Council 2018 “Guidelines on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs,”** expand on practical ways that States can facilitate meaningful participation. These include recommendations on different dimensions of the right to participate in electoral processes, non-electoral contexts and at the international level.¹³¹

Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making facilitates the adoption of policies that address the needs and rights of all people. In this way, inclusive decision-making has a number of interlinkages to other SDGs, such as education (SDG 4) and decent work (SDG 8), which in turn contribute to reducing inequality (SDG 10). Inclusiveness also promotes the participation of women not just in political, but in all layers of social and economic life, promoting gender equality (SDG 5).

Addressing climate change also points up these interlinkages. To respond to the needs of people at risk of climate challenges, climate action requires inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels of government. Access to information and freedom of expression (SDG 16.10) help people find out about and raise awareness on environmental damage (SDG 13). An inclusive approach also enables the involvement of people in planning and decision-making around topics such as urban planning, consumption and production, water and energy and public services (SDGs 6, 7, 11) and increases innovation (SDG 9).

FIGURE 12.





Element 9: Effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

The Secretary General’s 2019 report on the SDGs states that ‘institutions should design, execute and monitor public policies in a participatory and transparent manner.’ **To be effective, institutions require an assessment of whether they are meeting the needs of populations.** One way of assessing whether institutions are effective, transparent and accountable is to ask individuals about their satisfaction with public services.

The OECD “Governance at a Glance” series¹³² uses Gallop World Polling¹³³ to compare **citizen satisfaction levels with public services** across OECD countries. The latest 2017 round showed, for example, that on average, 70% of citizens in OECD countries were satisfied with the provision of health services in their cities or areas where they lived.

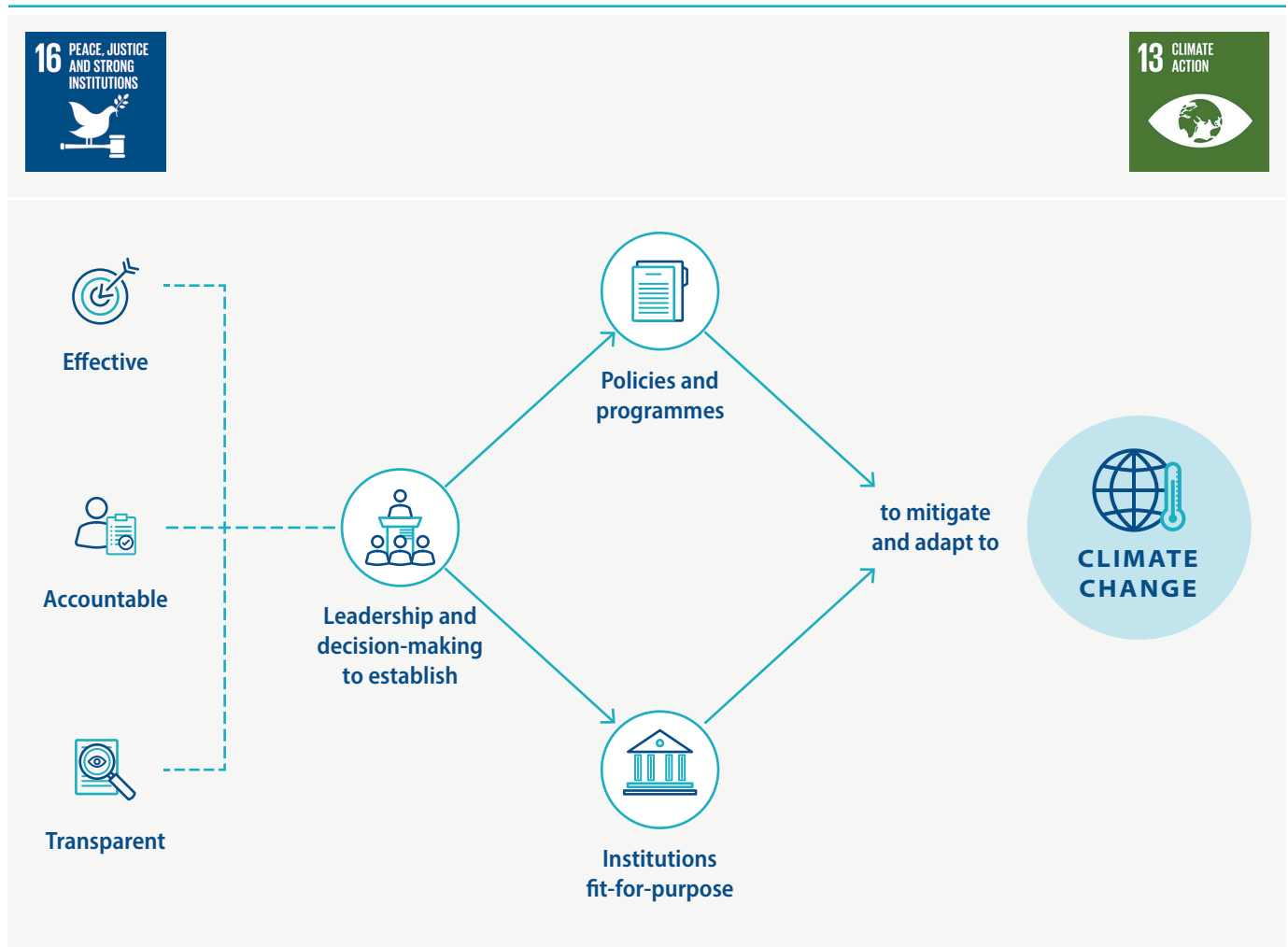
The GSoD indices also track trends on population satisfaction with public services.¹³⁴ One significant finding on a global level is that corruption in the public sector was as big a problem in 2015 as it was in 1975.¹³⁵

The Eurofound European Quality of Life Survey 2016 shows that Europeans rate health, education childcare and public transportation as the highest scoring public services in terms of population satisfaction with their performance.¹³⁶ The lowest scoring services were those providing long term health care, social housing and State pensions.

Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are critical for achieving gender equality and sustainable development. They **enable women to access justice and other essential public services.** According to the 2018 UN Report ‘Injustice and Impunity’, women in developed and developing countries are failed by law and justice institutions as tolerance and impunity for crimes against them are widespread.

Similarly, **effective, accountable and transparent decision-making and institutions can help the efforts against climate change** detailed in SDG 13. Indeed, climate action requires leadership and institutional capacity for effective and ambitious policymaking. The objectives of leaders may be substantive, i.e., to adopt and implement specific policies, programmes and projects. Or they may be institutional, i.e., to establish effective frameworks to facilitate the development and implementation of national responses to climate change that require long-term cross-sectoral planning. Effective institutions are also required to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

FIGURE 13.



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ANNEX 3

List of 25 country case studies and their focus

All country case studies are available on the SDG 16 hub website: www.SDG16hub.org.

	COUNTRY	KEY FEATURES/ FOCUS
1	Benin	— justice, inclusion, peace; local democracy
2	Burkina Faso	— inclusion; monitoring – citizen engagement; justice system reform; — corruption
3	Cabo Verde	— justice and inclusion; measuring SDG 16; National Care System and access to information
4	CAR	— peace, justice, inclusion; implementing and monitoring and reporting on SDG 16; data-collection
5	Mauritania	— justice, inclusion, peace; local governance, refugees; village committees; harmful traditional practices; refugees, inclusion, women
6	Sierra Leone	— justice; access to justice; women representation in parliament; prisons — Together with The Netherlands and Argentina, Sierra Leone chairs the “Task Force on Justice”
7	Somalia	— peace and justice; monitoring – measuring SDG 16
8	Tanzania	— justice and inclusion; legal aid
9	Iraq	— peace, justice and inclusion; implementing and monitoring; — data collection using Facebook
10	Jordan	— peace, justice and inclusion; violence against children; media strengthening
11	Lebanon	— justice and inclusion; legal equality and inclusion; — reform of police
12	occupied Palestinian Territory	— justice; measuring SDG 16; national implementation mechanisms; child justice
13	Mongolia	— justice and inclusion; SDG 16; policy coherence, national implementation mechanism; air pollution

14	Timor Leste	— peace and inclusion; youth participation in politics and civil society; youth unemployment
15	Argentina	— justice; peace; inclusion; adapting and implementing SDG 16 — human trafficking; violence against women and children; organized crime
-	Colombia	— peace; align peace accord with other national policies
16	Dominican Republic	— peace and inclusion; national mechanism for implementation
17	El Salvador	— peace; citizen security and measuring SDG 16
18	Haiti	— peace and justice; local governance, gender-based violence
19	Honduras	— peace and justice; implementing, monitoring and reporting; crime and violence
20	Panama	— peace, justice and inclusion; adapting, implementing, monitoring Goal 16; indigenous peoples
21	Paraguay	— justice; implementing, Supreme Court support
22	Uruguay	— implementing, monitoring and reporting; design of a monitoring system for SDG 16
23	Denmark	— peace; justice; inclusion; adapting SDG 16 at national, regional and local level; SDG 16 national implementation mechanisms; civil society inclusion in reviewing progress on SDGs
24	Liechtenstein	— justice; inclusion; adapting and implementing SDG 16 the “Liechtenstein Initiative” for a financial sector commission (FSC) against modern slavery and human trafficking
25	Netherlands	— adapting SDG 16 at national, regional and local level; — civil justice reform – pilot court procedures to speed up civil cases on neighbourly disputes and housing matters; — criminal justice reform

SDG 16+ guiding questions

for processes and institutions to adapt, implement and review the SDGs

SDG 16+ targets can guide overall processes to implement the 2030 Agenda. They can be used as a checklist when developing these processes. The following table provides a set of possible, general, guiding questions to ask alongside SDG 16+ targets.

TARGET	GUIDING QUESTION How do/can processes and institutions to adapt, implement and review the SDGs...
1.b	... create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions?
4.5	... eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable?
4.7	... ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development?
4.a	... facilitate education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all?
5.1	... help end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls?
5.2	... help eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres?
5.3	... help eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation?
5.5	... ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership?
5.c	... facilitate sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls?
8.5	... help ensure full and productive employment and decent work for all?
8.7	... support measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour?
8.8	... help protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers?
10.2	... help empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status?

10.3	... help eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action?
10.4	... support the adoption of policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality?
10.5	... help improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions?
10.6	... promote enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions?
10.7	... facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people?
11.1	... facilitate access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums?
11.2	... facilitate access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all?
11.3	... enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management?
11.7	... provide universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, green and public spaces?
16.1	... help reduce all forms of violence?
16.2	... help end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence against and the torture of children?
16.3	... uphold the rule of law and provide access to justice?
16.4	... help reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime?
16.5	... reduce (rather than reinforce or facilitate) corruption and bribery?
16.6	... be as effective, accountable and transparent as possible?
16.7	... ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making?
16.8	... broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance?
16.9	... help provide legal identity for all?
16.10	... uphold fundamental freedoms?
16.a	... strengthen relevant national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime?
16.b	... promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies?
17.1	... strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, so as to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection?
17.10	... promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system?

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