

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



PROMOTE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Info Digest – Edition 15

November 2020

Welcome to the fifteenth edition of the SDG 16 Info Digest!

This edition of the Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) Info Digest brings information on the latest developments involving COVID-19 and SDG 16. The updates include the SDG 16 work taking place against the backdrop of the pandemic, such as in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Here you will also find information on a number of new projects and initiatives, recent and upcoming events, as well as new tools and resources on SDG 16.



SDG 16
hub

*The Info digest provides updates on SDG 16 related events and activities, within the UN System and outside. It also brings information about resources such as publications, articles, blogs, tools and platforms. We invite you to share any SDG 16 related information or resource that you would like to see featured in future editions of this digest with **Aseem Andrews** at aseem.andrews@undp.org.*

INDEX

- Highlight: World Data Forum**
- In the Spotlight**
- Recent Activities and Events**
- Upcoming Events**
- Resources**

HIGHLIGHT

World Data Forum, 19 – 21 October 2020



2020 VIRTUAL
United Nations
**WORLD
DATA
FORUM**
19-21 OCTOBER

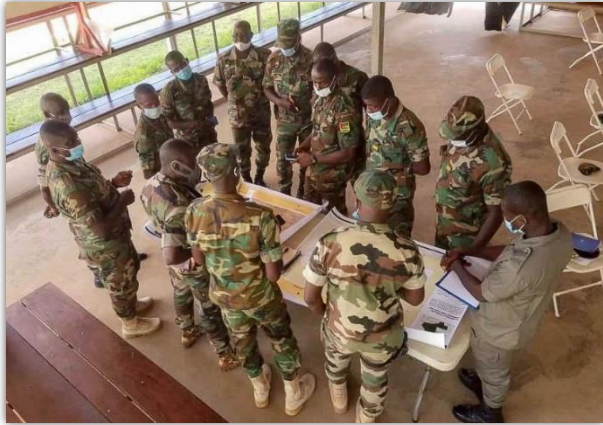
The **World Data Forum** is a flagship statistics event which focusses on all data producers around a range of issues – capacity development, innovative approaches, inclusiveness in data productions and dissemination, improved communication and statistical literacy, open data principles and practices, and a status update on activities on the Cape Town Global Action Plan.

COVID-19 was the main focus this year, as it has proved to be a considerable challenge to data production, especially due to the challenge of gathering survey data during the pandemic. Additionally, the pandemic has also brought an emergent need for social and economic statistics, increasing its visibility and dissemination. In this regard, five webinars directly addressed the COVID-19 emergency, covering from the use of Geo-Spatial data to trust, privacy and governance during pandemics and disasters.

The three-day discussions were also a forum for the SDG 16 statistics community with a dedicated event on “Mapping the Change We Want: Geo-coded statistics to track SDG 16 indicators”, along with several other events that although did not focus directly on SDG 16, covered challenges common to all data producers, like the re-focusing on administrative records for statistical production and in the integration of unofficial statistics in the SDG reporting. This crucial event is an enticing appetizer for the upcoming 2021 World Data Forum in Bern, Switzerland. For more information click [here](#).

UNITAR – Innovating Capacity Building for Peace in the Face of the Pandemic

The **United Nations Institute for Training and Research** (UNITAR) has experience in providing capacity-building solutions to countries and communities emerging from conflict and facing specific development needs. It is structured around four main pillars – Peace, Planet, People and Prosperity – to help push for the implementation of the Agenda 2030. The [Division for Peace](#) focusses on sustaining peace and supporting SDG 16 implementation and its targets. In 2018-19 it has



Pre-deployment training in Togo, October 2020

improved the knowledge and skills of over 37,000 beneficiaries, including almost [17,000 peacekeepers](#) and [17,000 online adult learners](#) working for peace and development globally. In 2020, with COVID-19, UNITAR has been piloting the utilization of digital learning tools, such as in [Colombia](#); a new [digital solution](#) for young African women mediators; and has launched a range of guidelines for pandemic response in [places of detention](#), ensuring [uninterrupted access to justice](#), a smooth [move towards online activities](#), and promoting understanding of [the impacts of COVID-19 on terrorism and violent extremism](#). You can find more information about UNITAR’s programming in the new [factsheet 2020](#), [course catalogue](#), [MOOCs and academic peace and security programmes](#), or by writing to ptp@unitar.org.

Astana Civil Service Hub (ACSH)

An initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan and UNDP, [Astana Civil Service Hub](#), which consists of 42 participating countries and 75 institutional partners, serves as a multilateral platform for promoting civil service effectiveness by supporting the efforts of governments in building institutional and human capacity. The initiative promotes peer-to-peer (P2P) learning and has launched three [P2P Learning Alliances](#), created to capture the tacit knowledge of practitioners, share solutions for country-specific problems, and implement “best-fit” reforms. The Alliances are devoted to public service delivery, e-government development, transformation & innovation in governance. As a result, numerous case studies have been issued and capacity building activities have been held. In response to COVID-19, the ACSH has launched the [Virtual Alliance of Practitioners](#) to assist governments in the fight against the pandemic by accumulating existing practices and innovative solutions. Visit the [ACSH website](#) to get more information about the Hub produced knowledge products.



RECENT INITIATIVES, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

SDG 16 Webinar Series

On 21 October, a first [webinar on Measuring SDG 16](#) was organized by the Oslo Governance Centre to discuss and showcase UNDP’s work on SDG 16 measurement, including on support to data and statistics for SDG 16. The webinar presented a discussion on UNDP’s custodianship role over five SDG 16 indicators and featured some of the ongoing initiatives that have been developed to collect, validate, and transmit data on peace, justice, and inclusive societies. This was the first in a three-part



webinar series on SDG 16 Measurement, Monitoring and Implementation co-organized by Oslo Governance Centre and the Governance Team at the UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support in New York. The webinar series responds to the growing demand within UNDP for exchange of resources and experiences on measurement, reporting and implementation of SDG 16. Recording of the 1st webinar is available [here](#).

Forus Virtual Forum

On 26 October, the Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies presented at the **Forus Virtual Forum**, on a session entitled "[Leveraging SDG 16 to Defend and Promote Civic Space](#)". The Alliance spoke about which global indicators can be used to monitor civic space – specifically SDG 16.10, a broad indicator which addresses the protection of fundamental freedoms. Country specific indicators on this category were highlighted as vital. In this line, the use of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process – design, delivery and follow-up – was encouraged to promote a whole of society approach in VNR design, delivery, and follow-up, which would emphasise monitoring of civic space in country.

Meaningful and diverse civil society participation in VNR processes not only reflects inclusive and effective governance and decision-making, but also helps to ensure that SDG 16-related provisions in a VNR are taken forward – in this case monitoring and widening civic space. These issues are particularly relevant during a pandemic, given that, in [2020, only 3% of the world's population lives in countries with open civic space](#). To date, around [100 countries](#) have called "states of emergency" in response to COVID-19, with many using this crisis to clamp down on fundamental freedoms around expression, assembly and civic space. The recent [Forus report](#) highlights how SDG 16 can provide important leverage for civil society globally in its efforts to create and defend civic space.

Global UNDP COVID-19 Webinar: COVID as the 'perfect storm' for core government functions: Technology and Innovation to Advance Accountability and Public Services Delivery

On 21 October 2020, the Global UNDP COVID-19 webinar highlighted several good practices from the Europe and Central Asia region, followed by presentations from Montenegro and Ukraine County Offices on the use of technology in the public services delivery and anti-corruption in the context of COVID-19. The recording of the webinar is available [here](#).



Partners for Review's Virtual Networking Days

From 12-16 October 2020, the **Partners for Review (P4R)** network held its second **Virtual Networking Days**. The five-day virtual meeting brought together government representatives and a broad range of non-governmental stakeholders involved in reviewing countries' efforts to achieve the SDGs. Interactive panel discussions addressed various aspects of the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda, including engaging stakeholders, localizing the SDGs, accountability, and overcoming the data challenge. The event was convened by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Ranging from the development of monitoring platforms at district level to innovative approaches of VNR follow-up activities or the direct involvement of universities in the VNR process, more than 180 participants shared their experiences in SDG monitoring and review. In the final outlook session, participants discussed whether SDG review mechanisms need to become even more robust and resilient in the future based on the lessons learned during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The report of the second Virtual Networking Days will be soon available on the Partners for Review [homepage](#).

Blue Resilience Project

In September, the **Government of Norway and UNDP** launched the **Blue Resilience Project on combatting organized crime in the fisheries sector**. A video of the high-level virtual launch, including interventions from ministers and ambassadors from Norway, Fiji and Indonesia and the UNDP Administrator can be found [here](#). The project is funded by Norway's [Blue Justice Initiative](#) which brings together so far almost 30 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Large Ocean Nations (LONs) that have signed the [Copenhagen Declaration](#) on fisheries crime.

The [Blue Resilience Project](#) focuses on understanding and addressing key governance bottlenecks to tackling fisheries crime, for example cooperation between institutions as far-ranging as ministries of fisheries, tax administrations and health authorities. The project will kick

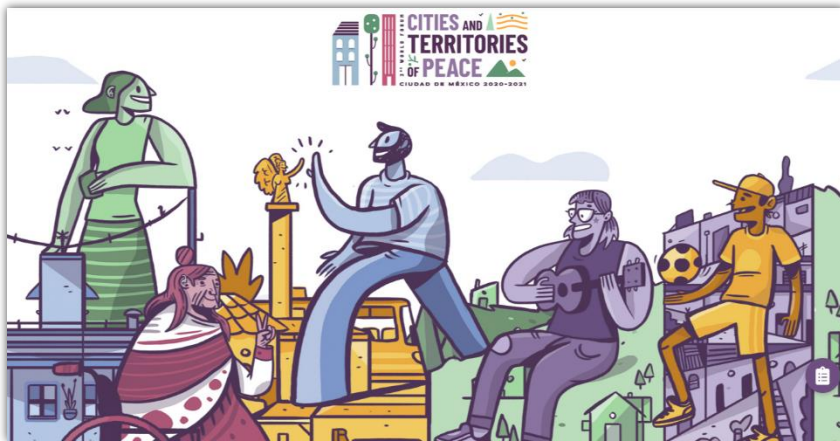
off with a research phase on these under-researched governance questions (led by UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre) and will then develop a learning package for and with countries. Anyone interested in the topic is welcome to tune in to the initiative's webinar series [Forum2020](#) which is leading up to the Blue Justice Conference in December. For further information, please contact [Julia Kercher](#).



Towards the World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace

A preparatory online event to generate inputs for the third edition of the World Forum ("Towards the World Forum") has been held virtually from 5-7 October. For 3 days, the virtual event held 5 plenary sessions and 10 side events counting with the participation of 102 panellists/moderators from 18 countries and live peace-building experiences from 4 continents and 11 regions of the world, reaching up to more than 28,000 attendees through social media channels. The sessions addressed a wide range of topics going from peacebuilding and the culture of non-violence to migration, racism, and the right to the city and peace. To facilitate future collaboration, a summary report of the first event produced by

the Forum's International Organising Committee, of which UNDP is part, will soon be available. It will build the basis for the Forum's upcoming dialogues being promoted from different cities and territories worldwide through various formats until the on-site meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico City in April 2021. The recordings of the sessions are available [here](#). To know more about the 3rd edition of the World Forum Cities and Territories of Peace and find out how to participate, click [here](#).



UNDP is part of the Organizing Committee of the [3rd World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace](#), jointly with other UN Agencies such as UN Women, cities and major associations of local and regional governments (UCLG, UCCI, Metropolis). The Forum is a stakeholder's dialogue process that aims at identifying solutions at political and programmatic levels for building coexistence and peace in territories. It started in 2017, with the 1st edition held in the city of Madrid, under the leadership of the mayors of Madrid, Paris and Barcelona.

Accountability Incubator

The **Accountability Lab**, in partnership with UNDP Guinea-Bissau and the Democracy and Governance Observatory, is developing a virtual incubator for accountability to support change-promoting youth in Guinea-Bissau to develop new ideas that promote accountability in COVID-19 response. This initiative is an opportunity for Guinean youth to

demonstrate their skills on innovation, learn and share experiences. The applications for the Guinea-Bissau incubator are now open, and the applicants will be selected by the end of 2020 for a one-year programme, starting in January 2021. The Accountability Lab has been promoting Accountability Incubators for more than 5 years in several contexts and countries, such as Nigeria, Mali, Liberia, Nepal and Pakistan. The initiative provides one year of learning and capacity development to a wide range of accountability protagonist – “accountapreneurs”. The process includes quarterly training and 3-day workshops, mentoring and continuous support, as well as a variety of networking events along with the initial funding. This incubator aims at being a platform for fostering innovation, collective action and creation of an ecosystem able to evolve and turn into the main support mechanism for the next generation of civil society leaders in the region. Click [here](#) to read more about the initiative in Portuguese, or visit the [Accountability Lab’s website](#).

The Global Week for Justice

The Global Week for Justice, 19-24 October, was hosted by Justice Canada, in partnership with the OECD, the Open Government Partnership, and Pathfinders, against the backdrop of the economic crisis that is creating soaring demand for justice as people lose their jobs, houses, have their debts spiralling, and businesses are unable to meet their contractual obligations. At the same time, bailouts and emergency public sector procurement programs create new risks of corruption and crime. That is why the justice community came together around people-centred justice. The week was launched with a global dialogue of justice leaders, where ministers of justice of countries from all regions, including a number of Pathfinder countries, came together to share how they have responded to the rise in justice problems and the increased demand for just societies.

Regional Update: Latin America and the Caribbean

The current defining challenge in Latin America and the Caribbean is a COVID-19 recovery that reverses the rise in inequality and the increase of poverty, while maintaining social cohesion and peace. COVID-19 is a challenge, but also presents an opportunity to forge or redefine social contracts that secure peaceful coexistence, build trust, promote more meaningful participation, and improve the capacity of institutions to respond to the new demands from society imposed by COVID-19. As such, SDG 16 can function as the enabler of sustainable development. For middle-income countries, struggling to expand its middle-class, as those in Latin America and the Caribbean, governance turns out to be the most relevant instrument to create opportunities for people to forge their own destinies and collaborate with each other.



INFOSEGURA: Human Mobility, development and citizen security

Working with national governmental partners from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, a new report launched by UNDP’s InfoSegura, looks at three central themes: [Human Mobility, development and citizen security](#). Among the main messages of this report is the fact that the decision to migrate is a confluence of vulnerabilities and threats, which can be aggravated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to ensure data usefulness and to contribute to improving people’s lives through evidence-based public policies for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies where no one is left behind. On the same topic, UNDP’s InfoSegura shared information with the Trilateral Project for Resilience and Social Cohesion in the North of Central America, made up of UNDP, UNHCR and IOM, through a webinar presentation. The document calls for action on support for public policies and proposes a programmatic approach based on the UNDP Regional Strategy on Human Mobility and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. This presentation brings a concise vision of the inter-links and main findings between human mobility, citizen security, and development in the countries of the northern triangle of Central America, and can be accessed [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

4th Edition of the Online Course “Anti-Corruption in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” | 9 November – 11 December 2020



In the five-week interactive and facilitated online course, more than 20 experts from the field will share their knowledge and experiences on anti-corruption through interactive video presentations and live webinars. The course includes concrete and practical examples from around the world providing practical guidance on integrating, measuring and monitoring anti-corruption in national, sectoral and local development plans and processes. The 4th edition also includes a dedicated lesson on ‘**Anti-Corruption in COVID-19 Response and**

Recovery’, in line with UNDP Offer 2.0 and UN Socio-Economic Framework for COVID-19 Response. Participants will deepen their knowledge on integrating anti-corruption in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the following modules:

- Week 1: Introduction to anti-corruption and sustainable development;
- Week 2: SDG 16 and anti-corruption: Human rights and gender perspectives;
- Week 3: Fighting corruption across sectors;
- Week 4: Integrating anti-corruption in national sustainable development strategies;
- Week 5: Measuring and monitoring anti-corruption for sustainable development.

For more information on the online course, visit the [United Nations System Staff College website](#).

Virtual Training Course “Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing DDR Context” | 2 November – 4 December 2020

To support comprehensive Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) efforts, UNITAR along with the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) are implementing a joint initiative on “Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Context”. This training course is based on a [practical UN Handbook for DDR Practitioners](#) and has been designed in a blended format, including an interactive online training based on the fictitious scenario and a face-to-face component. The course has been preceded by a training of the instructors to ensure that they are adequately prepared to deliver the course in an online format. This year, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the training course has been adapted to a virtual format including participatory methodologies, scenario-based activities, and virtual group work with simultaneous interpretation in English and French.

USPC Webinar | November (TBC)

A webinar will be organized by the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC), UNDP Uzbekistan Office, and the Uzbekistan Anti-Corruption Agency in November (TBC) to support the Uzbek Anti-Corruption Agency’s design and implementation of Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment (AIA)-like model. The webinar is part of USPC’s SDG Partnerships which facilitate knowledge exchange and benchmarking of the Republic of Korea’s tested-and-proven policy tools. The aim of the webinar is to share introductory information on the Korean model and jointly discuss the newly established Uzbek Agency’s plan for developing a mechanism inspired by AIA in Uzbekistan. For more information, please write to: gichung.lee@undp.org.

Paris Peace Forum | 11-13 November

The Paris Peace Forum was originally created to respond to the international crisis in multilateralism. In its third edition, it will focus on the worsening of this crisis connected to the lack of coordination and solidarity among nations generated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the Paris Peace Forum will be held in a digital format, allowing the participation of more than 10,000 people around the world. The forum is aimed at all actors of global governance: from civil society and international organizations, through business and governments. To read more about the forum, access their platform ParisPeaceForum.org. To register for the event, click [here](#).



Forum on Business and Human Rights | 16-18 November

The theme for this year's Forum on Business and Human Rights, in connection with the worldwide challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, will be "Preventing business-related human rights abuses: The key to a sustainable future for people and planet". The event will happen virtually, and more information can be accessed [here](#).

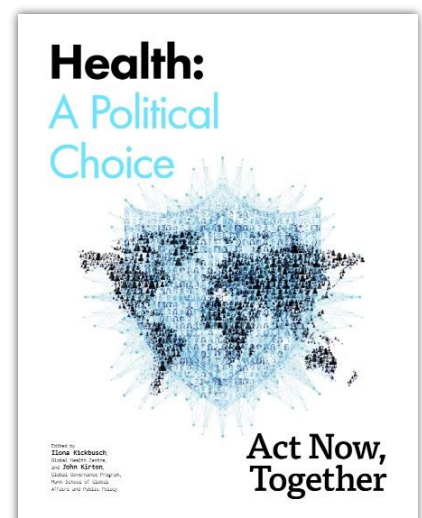
2020 16+ Forum Costa Rica Annual Showcase | 26-29 April 2021, San José.

The 16+ Forum and Costa Rica are exploring the possibility of holding virtual sessions in the lead up to the in-person Annual Showcase in April in order to provide a space for the SDG 16+ community to come together and take stock of the impact that the pandemic has had on implementation at all levels. For additional information on the 16+ Forum, please visit their [webpage](#). If you have any questions or are interested in engaging in this 4th Annual Showcase, please write to: 16plusforum@wfuna.org.

RESOURCES

Reports/Researches/Briefings

[Health: A Political Choice – Act Now, Together](#) calls on world leaders to unite in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other imminent and long-term threats to population health and the global economy. It is the latest in a series of titles produced in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the first of which – Health: A Political Choice – called for universal health coverage. This year's line-up of authors includes Amina J. Mohammed, deputy secretary-general of the UN; Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director general; the president of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa; and Achim Steiner, UNDP administrator. The publication focuses on five key areas: inclusive economics, defined by a new social contract and the pursuit of progress for all; the fundamental requirements for a healthy life; equitable investments and making UHC a reality; health in the digital age and how technology can help reshape the human rights agenda; and the long-term outlook on global health.



[Policy Brief: Rule of Law and Covid-19](#): IDLO's Policy Brief highlights three key elements – enabling legal frameworks, mitigating impact and continued investment in a culture of justice – essential for a rule of law-based response to the pandemic. It recommends eight priority actions that governments, policymakers and practitioners can take to support and effectively manage the crisis, protect the most vulnerable and promote a just, inclusive and sustainable recovery:

- Foster participation, involve and empower individuals in decision-making processes
- Ensure that emergency restrictions are anchored in the rule of law
- Promote fair laws and policies for recovery

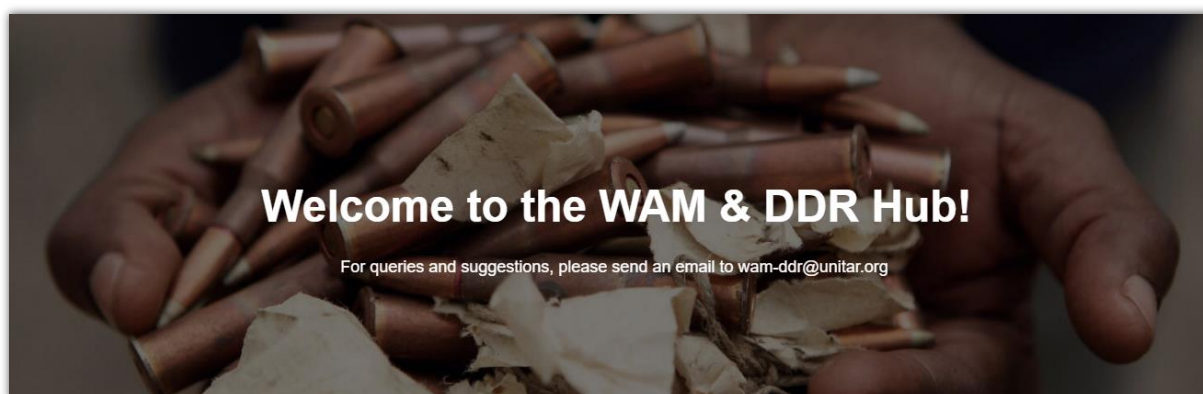
- Invest in justice services and expand legal aid
- Foster equitable justice innovation
- Engage with alternative dispute resolution and customary and informal justice in line with international standards
- Enhance justice for women and girls
- Promote a renewed spirit of multilateralism in alignment with the SDGs

The document can be found on [IDLO's website](#).

Platforms

[New WAM & DDR Hub](#)

DPO, ODA and UNITAR launched the [WAM & DDR Hub - Online Community of Practice](#). The Hub brings together Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) practitioners, including trainers and participants of the annual training course, to connect, network and share experiences, advice and guidance, including good practices related to DDR and WAM.



Since 2018, UNITAR has been supporting the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) in building the capacities of DDR practitioners to design and implement effective, tailored WAM activities in a range of DDR contexts in line with the latest international arms control standards and guidelines, namely the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). This effort directly contributes to the SDG 16 and particularly target 16.4, related to reducing illicit financial and arms flows, strengthening recovery and return of stolen assets, and combatting all forms of organised crime.

[Apolitical](#)

Apolitical is an online platform focussing on governance and public policy issues which has relevant courses, articles, events and facilitates peer to peer exchange among government officials. To visit the Apolitical website, click [here](#).



Blogs & Op-Eds

[🔪 COVID-19 is increasing multiple kinds of inequality. Here's what we can do about it](#), by [Ian Goldin](#). In this article, Ian Goldin looks at ways in which the pandemic is contributing to an increase in inequality – the infrastructure gap between high and low-paid workers, how low-paid workers are involved in services more exposed both to the virus and to the consequences of the suspension of activities – and actions to contain the increase in inequality, involving taxation, redistribution, and investments in essential sectors.



✎ [7 ways COVID-19 is now a governance crisis](#), by Jairo Acuña-Alfaro. Governance Team Leader in UNDP LAC Jairo Acuña-Alfaro points out to the uneven ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has affected societies throughout the globe, and that in spite of a possible cure in the individual level, consequences generated by political decisions, chronic underinvestment in public health and patronage rules that have divided rich and poor are much more long lasting.

✎ [Violence can be prevented using dialogue backed by evidence](#), by Matodzi Amisi and Chandré Gould. This article from the African Institute for Security Studies looks at the negative effects of the lack of cooperation between different

sectors of society, and show how the organization, together with UNICEF, developed a platform for intersectoral dialogue as a means to build bridges to deal with social problems.



✎ [Understanding Access to Justice in the COVID-19 era](#), by Peter Chapman. In this Pathfinders article, Peter Chapman highlights the different legal challenges faced by people during a pandemic, and the ensuing importance of having access to justice to overcome such challenges. Such access, he argues, also depends on good availability of data, indicators and methodologies to strengthen evidence of effective policies on this area.