

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



PROMOTE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Info Digest – Edition 17

June 2021

Welcome to the seventeenth 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 [upcoming Side Event on SDG16 at the High-Level Political Forum 2021](#) on 6th July and the [ongoing \(closing soon\) eDiscussion](#) which is part of the joint initiative UNDP has with Southern Voice. Read the digest for more information on initiatives and resources, etc – Global, Regional, National.



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. For any comments and / or feedback please write to: **Aseem Andrews** at aseem.andrews@undp.org.*

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HIGHLIGHT

[Global Policy Roundtable – Side Event: High Level Political Forum 2021](#)



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Co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Timor Leste, Costa Rica, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Norway to the United Nations in New York, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Southern Voice and German Development Institute (DIE), the Global Policy Roundtable will ask: **As governance crises worsen COVID-19 impact, is SDG 16 the key for recovery?**, on Tuesday, 6 July 2021, from 07:30 am to 9:00 am EDT. The event will provide

a timely platform to discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected progress on SDG 16 in different contexts, as well as how the interlinkages between SDG 16 and the other Goals can be used proactively as levers to inform recovery. The event will connect policy makers, civil society, researchers and other stakeholders to share collaborative research such as: Emerging trends on SDG 16 from regional roundtables and thematic e-discussions aimed at amplifying research and analysis from Latin America, Asia and Africa. For more information click [here](#).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CALL TO ACTION



Wednesday, 30th June will be last day to contribute to the discussion on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on [Transparent, Inclusive and Responsive Public Service Delivery](#). This is the 4th and last eDiscussion thread, which is part of the joint initiative between UNDP and Southern Voice with the goal to highlight [SDG 16 Trends and Emerging Issues in the Context of COVID-19](#)

So far, the participants have discussed about the need for investment in effective, accountable and responsive governance to facilitate more equitable access to health, education, social protection and other public services has been highlighted by the pandemic. With a particular focus on the role of local government investing in inclusive and accountable systems that benefit all, has been stressed.

The findings and experiences from this eDiscussion will be featured in a synthesis report acknowledging all the participants. The report will then feed into the **Global Roundtable** discussions at the **2021 United Nations High-level Political Forum**, where SDG 16 is under thematic review. As part of this joint initiative, the [SDG 16 Hub](#) has been hosting the following thematic discussions [Peace and Security](#) (3-17 May 2021); [Accountability, Rule of Law and Human Rights](#) (18-31 May 2021); [Civic Engagement and Civic Space \(1-14 June 2021\)](#); and [Transparent, Inclusive and Responsive Public Service Delivery](#) (15-30 June 2021). To join the discussion, please register at **SDG 16 Hub** by [clicking here](#), and join the [Southern Voice & UNDP - SDG 16 Trends and Emerging Issues group](#), where you can find more information about this and upcoming discussion themes. All four discussions can be found under the tab 'Discussions'. Contributions can be made *in any language*, and instructions are provided on the [discussion page](#) on how to translate information to and from English.

New UNDP–Southern Voice Partnership



The COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to having significant health and economic consequences worldwide, is also presenting itself as an unprecedented '**crisis of governance**'. In order to identify the global and regional trends, and the pathways towards achieving SDG 16 in the

Global South, as well as move forward the recovery in a way that 'leaves no one behind', UNDP Oslo Governance Centre (UNDP OGC) is partnering with Southern Voice, a network of think tanks from the Global South which contributes to the global dialogue on the SDGs. The current crisis has manifested in different ways across all countries and regions. As countries seek to emerge out of the crisis, the particular economic, social and political challenges faced by the global south and/or fragile contexts need to be better understood, and a path to recovery must be identified to better address some of the deep structural inequalities that have been laid bare by the pandemic. This partnership between OGC and Southern Voice is taking forward a set of virtual policy roundtables at regional and global levels to map and assess the emerging trends that facilitate or hinder the achievement of SDG 16 in the context of Covid-19. In addition, the online engagement plan aims at better understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic may have undermined achievement of SDG 16, and why it is critically important to ensure that the socio-economic recovery efforts also look at the political and governance dimensions, which are central to enabling better recovery processes from COVID-19.

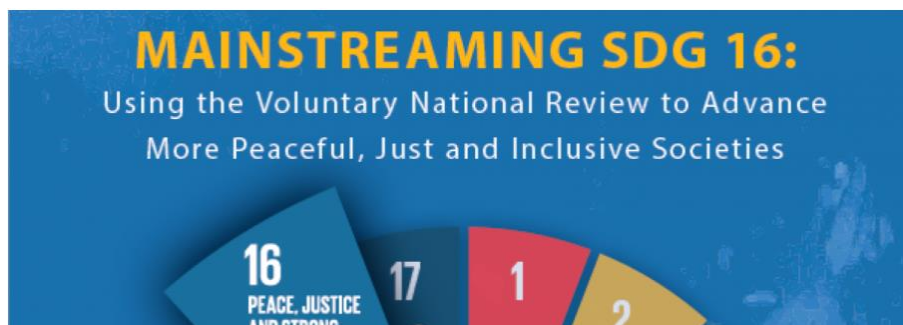
[Development Dialogues: Decade of Acceleration Unlocking the SDGs in Crisis Settings](#)



On 12 May, 2021, as part of the [Development Dialogues series](#), UNDP and the [Global Alliance](#) hosted an Interactive Discussion entitled "Decade of Acceleration Unlocking the SDGs in Crisis Settings". From fostering enduring civil society engagement in national development in Cote d'Ivoire to using digital solutions to overcome the data gap and strengthen women's engagement in Somalia, this panel showcased lessons learned in SDG implementation, demonstrating how to operationalize the New Deal and fragile states principles of

development effectiveness and inspire new pathways in a decade of acceleration. The Webinar also launched the new video [Achieving the SDGs in Crisis](#), which showcases national examples of SDG 16 implementation in crisis contexts. For more information, including participant presentations, visit the [event page on the SDG16 Hub](#). A recording of the session can be found [here](#).

Mainstreaming SDG 16 Virtual Learning Series



[The Global Alliance](#) and the [TAP Network](#) have concluded their [virtual learning series](#) on mainstreaming SDG 16 into Voluntary National Reviews and national priorities and plans. The focus of this learning series is to help governments and stakeholders alike in advancing SDG16 at the national level, particularly through this second cycle of VNRs to 2023. The series

provides a forum for a diverse group of stakeholders involved in the SDGs and VNR process to share practical tools, capacity-building guidance, opportunities for collaboration and dialogue. Three sessions were held in the first half of 2020 which built on key thematic issues of the [Mainstreaming SDG 16. Using the VNR to Advance Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies resource](#). All audio recordings and summaries can be found in the links: [Practical approaches to Mainstreaming SDG16](#); [Mainstreaming SDG16 to Realize the Principle of LNOB](#); and [Mainstreaming and Localizing SDG16 through Post-VNR Follow-up](#). Insights from this learning series will be synthesized into a policy brief detailing key challenges for mainstreaming SDG16, and recommendations for the Thematic Review of SDG16 at the 2021 HLPF in July 2021. They will also feed into additional outputs, including e-learning materials and other storytelling opportunities such as blogs and case studies.

[Virtual expert roundtable: Achieving SDG 16 in the era of Covid-19 Pandemic - Lessons from the Arab States Region](#)



UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States and UNDP Oslo Governance Centre co-hosted this virtual expert roundtable to discuss the emerging trends of SDG 16 in the context of Covid-19. Taking place in the margins of an ongoing consultation series in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, led by the [Southern Voice](#) network and OGC, the objective of the round table was to capture and assess the emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities for achieving SDG 16 in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic. The round table was well attended by expert representatives of SCOs, Academia and the Private Sector in the Arab region, from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, and Kuwait. The presentations and discussion

centered around the challenges the region faced as a result of the impact of covid-19 on peace, justice and inclusion. The key policy recommendations from all regional consultations will be captured and inputted to the global round table discussion taking place as a side event at the HLPF 2021.

UNODC-UNDP-OHCHR joint regional training on measuring SDG16 in Latin America and the Caribbean



The seven-part regional training series jointly organised by UNODC, UNDP and OHCHR on measuring SDG16 in Latin America and the Caribbean commenced on 22nd April and ended 3rd June. The training series was aimed at introducing participants to the methodology for measuring SDG16 indicators, including concepts, international standards and methodological tools, as well as highlighting experiences from the region related to measuring progress on violence prevention, strengthening criminal justice systems, prisons, access to justice, combating organized crime, illicit trafficking, corruption, preventing conflict-related deaths, protecting fundamental freedoms, strengthening national institutions, promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies. The training counted with 1670 registrations from 28 countries of the LAC regions and 16 countries from other regions. On average, 500 participants representing both data producers and data users joined the sessions and interacted with the 47 panellists and moderators. The impressive numbers are the testimony of an excellent collaboration of all towards reducing the data gap on SDG 16 with high quality, accurate and timely statistics. The next training will be dedicated to Asia and will be starting on 16 September for a 7-week period. For further information contact: sdg16indicators@undp.org

SDG 16 Conference: Transforming Governance for a more Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Future, 28 – 30 April, 2021

SDG 16 CONFERENCE

Transforming Governance for a more Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Future:

SDG16 as the roadmap to respond to COVID-19 and build back better

28-30 APRIL, 2021

Virtual conference



Building on the outcome of the [2019 Rome Conference on SDG 16](#), UNDESA and IDLO with the Government of Italy organized a follow up Conference, which focussed on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 as well as the transformative contribution SDG 16 can make in helping to safeguard and accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Conference helped to generate a preliminary assessment of how progress towards more peaceful, just and inclusive societies has been affected by COVID-19 along with wider implications for the realization of the 2030 Agenda. It highlighted the importance of policy orientations embodied in SDG16 to efforts to build



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resilience to shocks and provide a roadmap for transforming governance to build back better for the future. For more information click [here](#).

Regional Updates

Africa:

- As part of the [UNDP 16 x 16 initiative](#), the 16 x 16 Dialogue Series titled ‘Youth Leadership for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies’, convened between 3 and 16 March 2021. The dialogue series highlighted opportunities and challenges for youth-led actions and an increased youth engagement in decision-making processes, and showcased youth-led initiatives and UNDP projects. A regional dialogue series involving 4 young panelists from Africa took place on 10 March. The 16 x 16 Dialogue Series culminated in a [global event](#) with 160 participants, which provided a space for reflection upon the future of youth engagement in development processes and achievements of the 16 x 16 Initiative, including by showcasing the work of the young leaders and their organizations, movements and networks and lessons learned from the 16 x 16 Initiative as a model for enhancing youth meaningful participation in the review of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16).
- A “Youth and Peace” new project was approved in Mali (1.5 million USD), in the context of support to transition, and as an extension of UNDP support to youth inclusion and participation in early warning mechanisms and peace building efforts, in the Center and North of Mali.
- The ECOSOC Youth Forum was held online on 7 and 8 April 2021. On 8 April, a regional breakout session (Africa) was convened and co-organized by UNDP, with the Office of Special Advisor for Africa (OSAA) and a number of UN and youth organizations, on the theme Supporting the culture of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship of African youth, to build forward better for sustainable development. More details in the article here: [10th ECOSOC Youth Forum: Crafting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship for youth in Africa | UNDP in Africa](#)

Europe and Central Asia:

- On 13-14 April 2021, UNDP SEESAC organized the 13th Regional Meeting of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Commissions part of a regional process facilitated since 2014. The two-day meeting gathered over 50 officials from 20 institutions in South East and East Europe (SEE) and expert speakers from EU, UNODA, SEESAC and Flemish Peace Institute. The meeting enabled discussion on key developments and sharing of good practices in areas of arms control, including: the new [EU Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking](#), the [Seventh Biennial Meeting of State Parties to UN Programme of Action, mainstreaming of gender into arms control policy and legal framework](#) and preventing proliferation and diversion of firearms. Throughout the years and supported by the EU, the regular gatherings of SALW Commissions have developed into a unique and sound model of regional cooperation, confidence building and knowledge sharing, serving so as the bedrock for some ground-breaking initiatives from this region. Learn more: https://www.seesac.org/News_1/13th-Meeting-of-SALW-Commissions-in-South-East-and-East-Europe/
- UNDP SEESAC organized the 13th Regional Meeting of Gender Equality Mechanisms in the Ministries of Defence (MoDs) and Armed Forces (AFs) in the Western Balkans. Representatives of the MoDs and AFs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia shared information on their activities related to gender mainstreaming in the military. The Meeting was opened by Minister of Defence of Montenegro, Prof. Dr. Olivera Injac, and Daniela Gasparikova, UNDP RR. The meeting focused on finalization of the joint regional study on the position of women in the military in the Western Balkans, and producing the joint knowledge product – The regional Manual on combating gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse. Importantly, the work on mainstreaming gender in military education was kick-started, resulting with the plan of activities proposed by the participating MoDs. This work is of pivotal importance for sustainability of the overall project activities, as well as for the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. See more on <https://www.seesac.org/News-Gender-in-Security-Sector/13th-Regional-Meeting-of-Gender-Equality-Mechanisms-in-the-MoDs-and-AFs-in-the-Western-Balkans/>

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC):

[COVID-19 and the social contract in Latin America: Citizens views of national responses one year on](#): There is no doubt that COVID-19 is also a crisis of governance and that, as such, it is having a significant impact on views of the state and the social contract. In order to assess this impact, the [UNDP Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) partnered with CID Gallup to carry out a [perception survey in 10 countries across the region](#). The survey, which covered a representative sample of approximately 12,000 people, took place between September and October 2020. It captures citizens’ impressions after the initial phase of national responses.

[Effective governance in times of uncertainty: Innovations in local governance in Latin America and the Caribbean](#): This report presents different programs and projects in the region that seek to innovate in the territory, through local governance and under the active collaboration of UNDP. This analysis concludes that there is an opportunity to deepen reform processes in terms of effective governance at the local level. It proposes the promotion of new spaces to transform the form and substance of traditional institutionalism, through new collective and collaborative capacities. This crisis opens a historic opportunity to rethink power structures with a strong emphasis on local space and effective governance.

[OHCHR and UNDP CHILE present web platform Indigenous Peoples and Constitution](#): UNDP Chile, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR, created the website www.pueblosindigenasyconstitucion.cl with contents that contribute to the discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples and the new Constitution. <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-57170732>

Peru, Guatemala and Colombia included at the Global Report: [A Development Approach to Transitional Justice](#). Comprehensive transitional justice processes supports the achievement of Agenda 2030, by promoting justice, peace, quality education and gender equality as a vehicle towards for more inclusive justice systems- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm68kuYN1eY> Video experiencia [Guatemala](#)

Tackling Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment



Building on its foundational work with at risk communities and incarcerated youth in Trinidad and Tobago, UNDP's *Prevention of Violent Extremism - Youth Empowerment and Strengthening* project, uses psychosocial interventions and skills-building, to offer alternatives to a criminal lifestyle, disrupt life choices that lead to detention and reduce the risk of recidivism for those already incarcerated. The project uses a two-

pillar approach. Within Pillar One, a digital Peace Lab for at-risk youth, promotes critical thinking, civic-engagement, collaboration and implementation of projects across communities; while a parallel E Learning Platform provides a peacebuilding and skills-building curriculum, with interventions to help youth reach their fullest potential. An Employment Engine - available to both at-risk youth and those in detention, will provide a database bringing employers and rehabilitated youth together through job opportunities, vocational and academic courses, and workshops to support workplace preparation. Pillar Two works with incarcerated youth, delivering a three-tiered programme of interventions that includes training for prison leadership and Prison Officers, focusing on restorative justice, juvenile justice administration and legislative amendments – to strengthen accountability, transparency and justice mechanisms across the institution. Further, a scale up of the Youth Peace Ambassadors programme will include all incarcerated youth, providing psychosocial interventions for anger management and conflict resolution and dealing with life after detention. This will include a targeted focus on enhancing learning opportunities for girls.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Regional Training on Measuring SDG16 in Asia, September 2021](#)

The UNDP OGC is partnering with UNODC and OHCHR to launch the 3rd regional training series on measuring SDG16 in Asia. The virtual training will be delivered through a series of training webinars and also supported through the [SD16 Hub](#).

[High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\) 2021 SDG16 page:](#)



High-level Political Forum 2021

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The newly launched [HLPF 2021 page](#) of the [SDG16Hub](#) aims to serve as a "one-stop-shop" for all SDG16+ content around the upcoming High-Level Political Forum. The page provides a centralized platform for key resources and events from across partners and organizations, allowing for SDG16Hub members to stay up-to-date on developments relevant to their work. For the page to achieve this goal, all members are encouraged to disseminate to their networks, and share any relevant content with flavia.silva@undp.org and catarina.botto@undp.org

[Global Alliance Dispatches:](#)



In the new blog series [Global Alliance Dispatches](#), the [Global Alliance](#) and its partners shine the spotlight on some of today's most pressing challenges and untapped opportunities for the achievement of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. With the review of SDG16 at HLPF around the corner, the series revisits key findings of the 2019 seminal report [Enabling the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Through SDG 16+: Anchoring Peace, Justice and Inclusion](#) and explores what the development community has learned and how it has evolved over the last two years on reporting, monitoring and implementation of SDG16 on the ground. The first three blogs of the series were released in April and May 2021.

✎ In [Achieving SDG16: Youth is the missing piece](#), the [Global Alliance](#), [UNDP](#) and [UNODC](#) call on the international community to create space and listen to young leaders who are speaking out about peace, justice and inclusion.

✎ In [Civic Space: Why it Matters](#), the Global Alliance and OHCHR draw on the newly adopted UN Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space to emphasize that civic space action hinges on stepping up work around the "3 Ps": participation, protection, and promotion.

✎ In [Access to Information Must not Become a Casualty of the Pandemic](#), the Global Alliance and UNESCO shine the spotlight on how the pandemic has revealed and exacerbated a host of threats to the free access of information – and those who provide it.

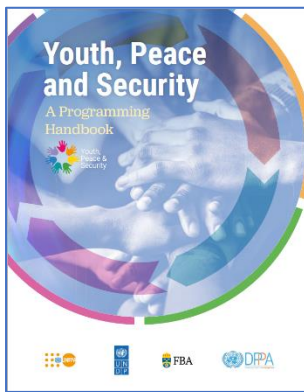
[New Video: “Achieving SDG 16 in Crises: Examples from the Field”](#)



Produced by UNDP Oslo Governance Centre (OGC), the video aims to showcase national examples of implementation and achievement of SDG 16 in crisis contexts.

The video captures stories and key messages from UNDP country offices in Côte d'Ivoire, Trinidad & Tobago, Lebanon, Central African Republic, Palestine, & Ukraine of the importance of implementing and achieving peace, justice, and inclusion for sustainable development in crisis and conflict settings. To watch the video click [here](#).

[Youth, Peace and Security: A programming handbook](#)



The [Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook](#), developed by the United Nations with the generous support of the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) – the Swedish Agency for Peace, Security and Development – seeks to contribute to the operational readiness and capacity of practitioners to implement the youth, peace and security (YPS) agenda. For the United Nations, the development of the handbook was led by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the Peacebuilding Support Office in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in consultation with a task force including various United Nations entities represented at global, regional and country levels, as well as FBA partners. The programming handbook builds on recent evidence and increasing momentum to prioritize youth-inclusive and youth-sensitive peace and security programming, as a core element of more sustainable and long-lasting peacebuilding efforts. The handbook is intended to be used by country, regional and global teams in the United Nations system, but it can also provide insights

and guidance to field practitioners beyond the United Nations, including other international or regional organizations, national counterparts, youth-led and youth-focused organizations, movements and networks, and peacebuilding organizations.

[✂ Bangladesh: Ensuring Access to Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors during COVID by Pragyna Mahpara, Nuha Annoor Pabony and Fariha Tasnin](#)

Read this article on [Southern Voice website](#) focussing on transparent, inclusive and responsive public service delivery being an integral part of sustainable development and for ensuring access to justice for all. In Bangladesh’s context, SDG 16 encourages the country to address the gaps in public services needed to respond to the needs of domestic violence survivors. The goals targets focus on access to justice (target 16.3), developing effective and transparent institutions (target 16.6), and ensuring inclusive and responsive delivery of services.

[✂ WHAT IS A ‘GOOD PRACTICE’? A framework to analyse the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda](#)

Check out the UNDESA and UNDP tool to analyse the quality of stakeholder engagement for the implementation & follow-up of the #2030Agenda and #SDGs – now also in **French** and **Spanish**!

[Vacancy: Household survey expert \(Deadline: 5th July, 2021\)](#)

This consultancy aims to support the development of the model governance survey questionnaire and related guidance on survey implementation, with a focus on the two dimensions of Participation and Non-Discrimination.