SDG 16 Hub Community Update | June 2022

We are pleased to share the sixth Community Update of the SDG16 Hub for 2022! This month’s edition features new and exciting resources, tools, initiatives, and events including information on the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022, the recently organised Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development and Paris Peace Forum Spring Meeting. Many of the new publications are also featured this time.

Key resources featured on SDG 16 Include:

- Beyond the Pandemic – The Justice Emergency.
- Reflections and Directions – Business and Human Rights in Asia: From the First Decade to the Next.
- Connections that Matter: How the Quality of Governance Institutions may be the Booster Shot we need to reduce Poverty and Inequality.
- The KOFF Peacebuilding Magazine - Shrinking spaces for civil society: A balancing act.
• UNDP Development Futures Series: Seizing the Peace Dividend: Private Sector Contributions to Forging Resilient Societies; Small Arms Control - The Case for Gender Mainstreaming: Experiences from South-East Europe; Contributing to Resilience Through the Integration of Gender Perspective in the Defense Sector Reform in Four Countries of The Western Balkans.
• The Second Online Course on Crime Statistics from a Gender Perspective.

Information on upcoming and past events include:

• High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022
• Global SDG16+ Coalition Side Event to the 2022 HLPF - SDG16+: An Interactive Dialogue on Reinvigorating Action towards an Agenda in Peril
• Power of Innovation Against Anti-Corruption: A Cross-Regional Dialogue
• Uniting Political Parties to Defend Democracy
• SDG16+: Understanding Interlinkages for Greater Impact: SDG16+ Coalition Global Workshops Series
• 2022 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development: From a Human Security Crisis Towards an Environment of Peace
• 2022 Paris Peace Forum Spring Meeting

We are enthusiastic to continue providing SDG 16 updates including on events, resources, and initiatives. For any feedback, please write to contact@sdg16hub.org.
The 2022 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be held from Tuesday, 5 July, to Thursday, 7 July, and from Monday, 11 July, to Friday, 15 July 2022, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. This includes the three-day ministerial segment of the forum from Wednesday, 13 July, to Friday, 15 July 2022. The high-level segment of the Council will conclude with a final day on Monday, 18 July 2022.

The theme for the 2022 HLPF is "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". As the world is struggling to recover from COVID-19 amidst continuing crises, the HLPF will reflect on how recovery policies can reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic on the SDGs and move countries on to a path to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

The HLPF will also review in-depth Sustainable Development Goals 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. It will take into account the different impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all Sustainable Development Goals and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals. Find out more on the High-Level Political Forum on its dedicated space on the SDG 16 Hub.

Global SDG16+ Coalition Side Event to the 2022 HLPF - SDG16+: An Interactive Dialogue on Reinvigorating Action towards an Agenda in Peril

12 July 2022

On Tuesday, 12 July 2022 from 7:30AM to 09AM EDT, the Global SDG16+ Coalition will host the side event to the 2022 HLPF “SDG16+: An Interactive Dialogue on Reinvigorating Action towards an Agenda in Peril”. With progress backsliding on SDG16+, this side-event will present
the interlinkages between SDG16+ and the SDGs under review at the 2022 HLPF, highlighting the multi-disciplinary impacts that inaction on SDG16+ has on progresses toward gender equality and protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems among others. This event will be hosted in a dynamic "Davos-style" format, featuring an in-depth dialogue with experts from around the SDG16+ community. The conversation will explore the current state of SDG16+, along with a discussion on concrete actions and commitments that must be made to improve progress towards SDG16+, as we approach the halfway point to 2030. Find out more on this side event to the HLPF 2022 here.

Aiming Higher: Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action
This UNPD guidance explores what meaningful youth engagement in climate action looks like, both conceptually and practically. It does this by identifying dimensions and pathways that support meaningful youth participation and by providing actionable recommendations for climate action in general and NDC implementation specifically. The guidance builds upon UNDP's knowledge and experience working with young people and was developed after extensive consultations with global youth climate actors. Find out more on this UNDP resource here.
Beyond the Pandemic – The Justice Emergency

This background paper reflects on some emerging trends, opportunities and challenges for responding to and overcoming today’s pandemic of injustice. Its primary aim is to stimulate and facilitate strategic conversations about UNDP’s current and future work to promote justice and the rule of law. As part of this work, the UNDP also just recently convened an Annual Meeting on Rule of Law and Human Rights aimed at promoting an exchange between Member States, practitioners, UNDP and UN experts, Ministerial-level national counterparts as well as representatives from think tanks, academia and civil society, on the current development context in relation to the rule of law, security and human rights and how it has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, 'Beyond the Pandemic-the Justice Emergency' paper raises issues and ideas that are highly pertinent for development practitioners working across the fields of democratic governance, conflict prevention, security and human rights and others. As such the paper seeks to raise questions and present ideas that can encourage reflection, spur debate and inform positive collective action towards a more just and peaceful future. Find out more, and read this background paper here.
The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (UNWG) launched the project, ‘A vision for the next decade of business and human rights’, also known as UNGPs10+ and Next Decade of BHR. UNGPs10+ aimed to “take stock of achievements to date, assess existing gaps and challenges, and, most importantly, develop an ambitious vision and roadmap for implementing the UNGPs more widely and more broadly between now and 2030.” This report serves to contribute to UNGPs10+ by surveying the status of business and human rights (BHR) across Asia, bringing together different visions, and identifying opportunities for the decade ahead. It presents an overview of the status of BHR in Asia and focuses particularly (but not exclusively) on 11 countries demonstrating some progress on BHR namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Find out more about the status of business and human rights across Asia [here](#).
**Power of Innovation Against Anti-Corruption: A Cross-Regional Dialogue**

23 June 2022

On 23 June, the **UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub** and **UNDP Seoul Policy Center** organized a cross-regional dialogue on sharing best practices of **innovating and fighting corruption in the public sector**. This regional dialogue was part of IRH's Future of Governance Series started in 2019 which aims to explore forward-looking trends and solutions on emerging governance and peacebuilding trends in the ECIS region and beyond. This particular session looked at anticorruption innovations, and in particular the UNDP Seoul Policy Center’s support to implementing Korean methodologies on Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment (AIA) and Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) including in our region. Find out more about this past event on the **SDG 16 Hub**.
Uniting Political Parties to Defend Democracy
22 June 2022
Against the backdrop of the crisis in Ukraine and global democratic backsliding, Foreign Policy, in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), convened government and civil society leaders to explore the dynamics that are fostering collaboration among major political parties and how closer ties can be nurtured around the world. This Virtual Dialogue highlighted the unprecedented bipartisan bridge that has been built in the U.S. in support of Ukraine. Political and democratic experts explored the aspects of the crisis that have fostered cooperation across party lines, and how they could inform collaborative decision making in future democratic crises across the globe. Find out more and watch the recording of this past Virtual Dialogue here.

SDG16+ - Understanding Interlinkages for Greater Impact: SDG16+ Coalition Global Workshops Series
08 June 2022
On June 8 2022 from 9AM to 11AM EDT, UNDP and the Global SDG16+ Coalition hosted the workshop “SDG16+: Understanding Interlinkages for Greater Impact”. Through a series of panel presentations and focus breakout groups, more than 60 participants from around the globe reflected on -- and identified -- innovative approaches, success stories, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities related to the identification and reporting of interlinkages between SDG16 and SDG5, SDG14, SDG15 and SDG17. The workshop also served as a key forum to discuss interlinkages between SDG16 and other SDGs in general.
2022 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development: From a Human Security Crisis Towards an Environment of Peace

23-25 May 2022

The 2022 Stockholm Forum took place from 23 to 25 May 2022. The Forum explored ways to enable an environment of peace in the face of converging crises. Against the backdrop of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the Forum discussed long-term global challenges in the midst of the immediate security crisis. The Forum sessions also paved the way for discussions at the Stockholm+50 Conference, hosted by Sweden on 1-3 June. Find out more and read about the Forum sessions including Stemming climate change and insecurity: The case of Somalia; the Environment of Peace report launch; Securing peace in a new era of environmental risk and much more here.
2022 Paris Peace Forum Spring Meeting
24 May 2022

The public part of the Paris Peace Forum Spring Meeting, titled "Preserving global cooperation in times of war", started with a spotlight interview with Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres, moderated by Trisha Shetty, President of the Paris Peace Forum Steering Committee.

The challenge to the international order is of such magnitude that the Forum dedicated its Spring Meeting to discussing how to preserve it and safeguard global public goods – with peace and economic stability as prerequisites, and how to prevent a global food crisis. The meeting also reflected on the increased importance of year-round activities for its community of members and partners and present some of the multi-actor programs and initiatives incubated by the Forum.

Continue reading about the Recap of the 2022 Spring Meeting on the SDG 16 Hub.

Connections that Matter: How the Quality of Governance Institutions may be the Booster Shot we need to reduce Poverty and Inequality

Current global crises are complex, and tackling issues separately or in sequence will be futile. Transformation can happen only when multiple issues are tackled at the same time. To help do so, a new study by UNDP’s Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) and the German Development Institute (DIE/GDI) investigates how aspects of SDG 16 that are considered critical features of governance institutions – transparency, accountability and inclusion – help or hinder progress on key dimensions of SDG 1 on poverty and SDG 10 on inequality. The study is the first attempt to consolidate evidence on this link and fills a gap in the existing literature on how different SDGs can reinforce each other.
Based on a scoping literature review of 400+ academic papers, the study finds empirical evidence from across the globe that investing in accountable, transparent and inclusive governance can boost the reduction of poverty and inequality. For example, in election years, social benefits are better targeted to those with low incomes; reducing corruption is positively correlated with access to education and improved literacy rates; and civil society engagement enables the provision of health care access. It offers initial policy insights on why, how and with whom national actors can use the employed methodology to identify, prioritize and sequence governance policies with ‘booster effects’ in their own country. Read more about this publication here.


The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant health and economic consequences worldwide and is presenting unprecedented challenges to governance systems. In many contexts, the social contract between the state and its population is being strained, with diminishing levels of trust in governance systems; democratic political processes are being disrupted as the pandemic is used as a means of centralizing and consolidating power; and accountability and the rule of law are being under-mined. Alongside the health and socio-economic effects of the pandemic, its impact on governance has been corrosive and is likely to require a longer time frame for recovery. In this context, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its ambition to achieve more peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG 16), has become even more relevant. With less
than a decade left to achieve the 2030 Agenda, there is a real urgency in working towards achieving the goals and targets – many of which have faced setbacks because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but which can be the basis upon which to "build forward better". This is especially relevant in terms of SDG 16 and the need to embed the principles of SDG 16 in COVID-19 recovery processes, whether this means inclusive and quality delivery of services, reducing violence or ensuring better access to justice for all. The publication has been developed also through the inputs provided by the online discussions hosted on the SDG 16 Hub that shaped the briefs and the regional roundtables.

Read more about this Report on the impact of COVID-19 on Governance here.

The KOFF Peacebuilding Magazine- Shrinking spaces for civil society: A balancing act

The shrinking space for civil society has been a concern for a decade, but more recently, KOFF organizations and their partners are reporting a further reduction in their space. This KOFF Peacebuilding Magazine issue discusses how COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting health restrictions to limit the spread of the virus, have been used as a pretext to further restrict civil liberties.

In increasingly autocratic states, development, humanitarian, human rights, and peacebuilding organizations face different risks and barriers depending on their core activities and the political environment in which they work. But the general pattern is quite unanimous: these organizations must balance overcoming restrictions and threats while – to the extent possible – continuing to carry out their activities and voice their demands. From creating new spaces for civil society to defending and protecting existing ones, this issue provides examples on how KOFF organizations and their partners are surviving in hostile
UNDP Development Futures Series

UNDP’s ‘Development Futures Series’ provide new information, analysis, and policy recommendations on the top development issues of today—and tomorrow. The briefs and working papers are penned by UNDP staff from around the world sharing evidence and insights that are grounded in deep study, data and practice. UNDP’s Development Futures Series papers are especially valuable for policymakers, practitioners, and specialized journalists. As part of this Series, the Small Arms Control - The Case for Gender Mainstreaming: Experiences from South-East Europe policy brief provides an overview of key evidence which has shaped arms control debates in the region and facilitated making a case for mainstreaming gender in small arms control. Relevant to SDG 16, the Seizing the Peace Dividend: Private Sector Contributions to Forging Resilient Societies paper explores the auspicious role the private sector can play in addressing fragility, responding to crises and building resilient communities to prevent conflict and sustain peace. Additionally, among the most recent publications, the Contributing to Resilience Through the Integration of Gender Perspective in the Defense Sector Reform in Four Countries of The Western Balkans policy brief attempts to offer possible responses to the challenges related to equal access and advancement opportunities in the military.
The Second Online Course on Crime Statistics from a Gender Perspective

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific (CoE), and United Nations Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) have launched the self-paced version of "The Second Online Course on Crime Statistics from a Gender Perspective" on 20 June 2022.

The demand for **timely and high-quality crime statistics** are on the rise to meet the challenges of monitoring the crime and criminal justice-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. Following the success of the facilitated version of this course, UNODC, the CoE, and SIAP are providing a continuous opportunity for participants to learn about the basic concepts, methods and frameworks required to compile crime statistics in relation to gender. Moreover, this training aims to provide knowledge on the challenges and opportunities of working with different types of data sources (administrative data, sample surveys).

Target participants are staff of relevant authorities responsible for the collection, production, analysis or dissemination of crime and/or gender-related statistics and SDG indicators. Moreover, anyone who is interested in learning more about crime and gender statistics is also encouraged to take the course.

To find out more and to register for this course, see the [SDG 16 Hub dedicated page](#).

**New in the SDG 16 Hub Community**

- Webinar: [Praia Group Task Team on Non-Discrimination & Equality: Review of consolidated questionnaire & plans for cognitive testing](#)
- Webinar: 5th Meeting of the Task Team: Review of the Second Question Set

To access your profile on the SDG 16 Hub, click here. The SDG 16 Hub is hosted by the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre. For more information, see here. If you no longer wish to receive communication e-mails from the SDG 16 Hub Team, please write to contact@sdg16hub.org