



IF YOU DON'T MEASURE IT, YOU CAN'T MANAGE IT

The need for justice data and evidence

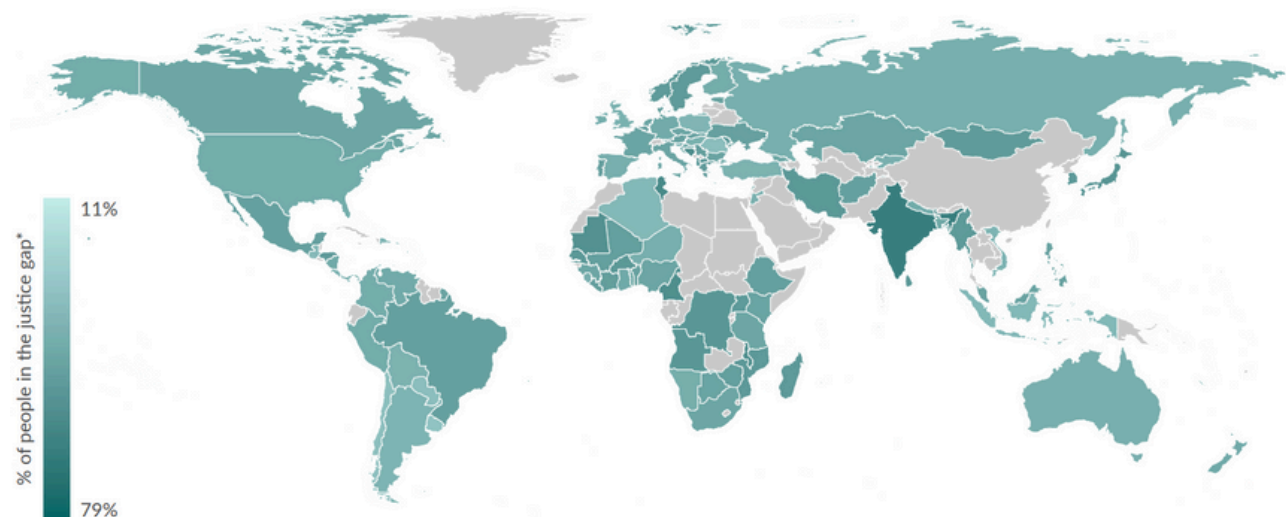
The Premise

Data and evidence are critical to achieving equal access to justice for all. We need high-quality data and evidence to understand the scope and nature of people's justice problems and justice journeys; to assess what works to reduce the justice gap; to support the case for investment, action, and commitment; and to evaluate the efficacy of strategies and interventions.

THE JUSTICE GAP: CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNMET JUSTICE NEEDS

CHART 7.1
Global View of the Justice Gap

In half of the observed countries, at least 50% of people are in the justice gap because of their unmet civil and administrative legal needs.



[World Justice Project Data Graphical Report \(Part I\)](#)

“Currently, Goal 16 is one of the SDGs with the least amount of data. On average, across all Goal 16 targets, only 40 percent of countries have reported data for at least one year since 2015, limiting the information that could drive evidence-informed policies to accelerate progress towards Goal 16.



[Global progress report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators: A wake-up call for action on peace, justice and inclusion](#)

The Challenges

Justice lags behind other sectors in data collection, quality, and utilization.

- **Data collection needs improvement:** Justice data is compromised by insufficient collection and uneven or weak data standards. Justice ecosystems are over relying on institutional or formal stakeholder data, failing to collect data from the informal and customary systems most likely to resolve the majority of people’s justice problems, and inadequately resourcing data collection.
- **Data quality and accuracy is uneven:** There is a disconnect between people’s lived justice experiences and the data collected to assess their justice journeys. The lack of cohesive data standards across countries, actors, and services makes it difficult to measure and evaluate justice outcomes. Oftentimes the nuances of people’s distinct justice needs are missed because of the lack of disaggregated data. Gaps in what is measured produce an incomplete, possibly inaccurate picture.
- **Data and evidence are underutilized in policymaking:** Oftentimes, justice data and evidence are not centered in evaluating justice services, their impact and their fairness. The insufficient connection between the data that does exist and programmatic evaluation compromises the quality of justice services and their ability to target people’s daily needs.

The Opportunity

Improving the **collection, quality, coherence** and **accuracy** of data is possible and will advance efforts to achieve justice for all. The justice sector has an opportunity to leverage and learn from other sectors, like health and education, to turn this ambition into reality.

Principles of High-Quality Data



INDEPENDENCE



ACCOUNTABILITY



TRANSPARENCY

Actions

COLLABORATE AND PROPERLY RESOURCE DATA COLLECTION

- Justice ecosystems must account for the **costs of data** production, analysis, and use—and stakeholders must be given the **necessary support** (including technical assistance and resourcing) to produce high-quality data.
- Data **partnerships** are a critical element of effective justice data ecosystems. We must use and empower a **diverse group** of stakeholders and sources to collect data, including informal and customary actors, actors outside the justice sector who have the ability to obtain justice data, and **supplement** with increased surveys and other social sector data. Data must reflect the lived experiences of those **most affected**.

IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION

- Justice data **quality and accuracy** will be improved if stakeholders adopt data **standards** that are known to work. There must be independent, autonomous, accountable, and transparent collection.
- By collecting data about people's lived experiences, we will make sure what's being measured matters. This should particularly focus on **evaluating everyday justice** needs and outcomes. Comprehensive data collection will ensure problems are not **misdiagnosed**.

IMPROVE USE OF DATA AND EVIDENCE

- We must link data and performance to optimize justice systems and interventions.
- Data must be **open, accessible, and shared**, while protecting privacy.
- Data is useful and important beyond the justice sector: relevant data should be **shared** with other development sectors to enhance their programming.

Additional Resources

- [Access to Justice in Situations of Forced Displacement](#)
- [Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators](#)
- [Grasping the Justice Gap](#)
- [Improving the Monitoring of SDG 16.3.3](#)
- [NSO Governance for Better Justice Data](#)
- [World Justice Project Data Graphical Report \(Part 1\)](#)
- [World Justice Project Data Graphical Report \(Part 2\)](#)

About Pathfinders Grand Challenge on Justice

5.1 billion people—two thirds of the world’s population—lack meaningful access to justice. To achieve SDG16+ and deliver equal access to justice for all by 2030, we need to put people at the center of justice systems and move from words and planning to action and implementation.

The Pathfinders’ Grand Challenge on Justice acts as an impact hub, convening countries, civil society, and multilateral and regional organizations to close the justice gap by accelerating action on people-centered justice. The Grand Challenge provides a platform to exchange innovative practices on data collection, evidence-based policy making, and effective use of resources to bridge silos and transform justice systems in preventing and resolving people’s common justice problems.

The Grand Challenge is an initiative of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, a cross-regional impact hub of 46 member states, as well as partners across international organizations, civil society, and the private sector committed to advancing the Sustainable Development Goal targets for peace, justice, inclusion, and equality (SDG16+). The Pathfinders is hosted at New York University's Center on International Cooperation.

www.sdg16.plus/justice

