

ROUNDTABLE

JUSTICE DATA PRIORITIES AND THE PANDEMIC

A discussion of lessons and priorities among policymakers and data producers to generate better and more timely justice data to help target the COVID-19 response.

Thursday October 22, 10am Ottawa / 4pm Paris

A Session of the [Global Week for Justice](#)

Background

The inclusion of justice in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has catalyzed efforts to improve the quality and availability of justice data, with the goal of informing and monitoring efforts to realize justice for all. [The Justice for All Report](#), the UN Statistical Commission's establishment of a global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) [16.3.3 indicator](#)¹ on access to civil justice, and the Praia City Group Handbook on Governance Statistics' [chapter on justice](#) each seek to strengthen civil justice data. Despite this global progress, knowledge, research and data gaps remain.

These gaps are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is increasing justice needs and complicating data collection. Over the last months, [multiple organizations have identified the need](#) to imbed access to justice approaches in COVID-19 response strategies. These recommendations highlight the need of expanding timely and responsive justice data as a key element of more effective COVID-19 strategies.

As part of the Global Week for Justice, the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, World Justice Project (WJP) and Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) will convene a Roundtable exploring justice data priorities and the pandemic. The Roundtable will reflect on lessons from existing efforts to strengthen the availability and use of justice data and discuss short term and medium-term priorities.

Format

This 90-minute round table will take place on Thursday October 22, 10am Ottawa. A facilitator will ask five initial speakers, each representing diverse justice data perspectives, to begin the discussion. Roundtable participants will then be invited to share their perspectives. The facilitator will manage the flow of the conversation with participants asked to reflect on four broad themes:

¹ "Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism."

SDG 16.3.3. and civil justice data

1. What opportunities does the new 16.3.3 civil justice indicator offer for tracking justice progress, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. How can countries most effectively collect and use this data?

Existing justice data strategies

1. What combination of civil justice data—e.g. administrative or survey data and data collected by government or non-government sources—are most impactful?
2. Are there lessons from data partnerships to strengthen effective data use between agencies and non-government organizations?
3. Has civil justice data led to more strategic investments in justice, either before or potentially during the pandemic?

COVID-19 and changing justice needs

1. How are justice data needs changing in response to COVID-19?
2. What are the data collection opportunities and challenges for driving and tracking access to civil justice in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Recommendations for the future

1. What analytical tools have been most effective in responding to policymakers and advocates needs?
2. What are the political, financial, or technical challenges to increase the use and uptake of current justice data?
3. Can a case be made that civil justice data leads to better investments and more effective implementation?

Participants

This will be an open event with a restriction on total participants. Registration is required and participation will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. The following speakers will offer initial perspectives to simulate discussion:

Speaker	Institution
Aparna Basnyat	United Nations Development Programme
Geoff Mulherin	Law and Justice Foundation, New South Wales
Janet McIntyre	Justice Canada
Solly Molayi	Statistics South Africa
Siti Rakhma Mary &	Legal Aid Foundation, Indonesia
Dio Ashar Wicaksana	Indonesia Judicial Research Society

Outcomes

Building on this discussion, WJP, Pathfinders and OSJI will document lessons and produce a challenge paper in early 2021 that identifies global justice data priorities and strategies.