

CREATING A CULTURE OF PEOPLE-CENTERED JUSTICE IN 2020 AND BEYOND

As the only international intergovernmental organization exclusively dedicated to advancing peace and sustainable development through the rule of law, IDLO is committed to the accelerated implementation of SDG 16. We recognize its value as both an outcome and an enabler of the 2030 Agenda and the transformational impact it can have on the achievement of all 17 SDGs.

We work in over 40 countries to support meaningful access to justice for many of the more than 5 billion people who live without it by empowering individuals and supporting governments to build fairer laws and institutions. As part of our contribution to creating a culture of people-centered justice for all, IDLO will pursue four key initiatives in 2020 and beyond to support the Secretary General's call for a Decade of Action.

1. Closing the Justice Gap for Women and Girls



IDLO joined with UN Women, the World Bank and the Pathfinders Taskforce on Justice to convene a **High-level Group on Justice for Women** in 2018. The Group's Report published last year, makes a strong business case for more investment in justice for women. It emphasizes both the heavy financial and human cost of gender discrimination and the immense financial as well as moral gains that would flow from eliminating it.

Capitalizing on the international momentum created by the initiative, IDLO is working with a coalition of partners to champion gender equality and justice for women and girls at all levels. We will implement programs on **legal and economic empowerment of women and girls, women's participation in the justice sector, combatting gender-based violence and the abolition of gender discriminatory laws.**

In 2020 IDLO will scale up its efforts to mobilize public opinion, influence policy makers and transform commitments into action, engaging with the **Beijing+25 anniversary, Commission on the Status of Women, the 20th anniversary of UNSC 1325** and the **16 days of activism.**

2. Accelerating Access to Justice for All through Customary and Informal Justice

Customary and Informal Justice Systems are used by the vast majority of people around the world to resolve disputes. Given their built-in legitimacy and emphasis on restorative justice, flexible rules and procedures, and consent-based, negotiated solutions, they are critical to achieving access to justice for all.

IDLO has worked extensively with alternative and customary and informal justice systems, including the Aksakals of **Kyrgyzstan**, the Khadis courts of **Kenya** and the Xeer system in **Somalia**, and is a recognized thought leader in the field. We will build on this foundation with programs that help people who rely on such systems resolve their disputes fairly and expeditiously. We will also strengthen their links with formal justice mechanisms while promoting greater protection for the rights of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in line with national laws and international standards.

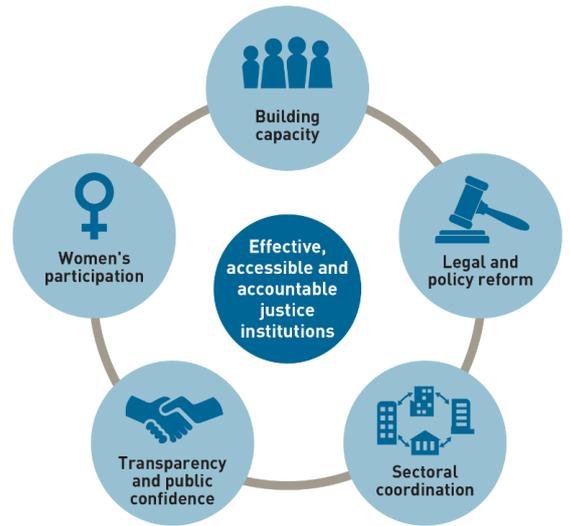


3. Enabling Essential Justice Services in Conflict-Affected and Fragile Environments

Conflict and fragility pose one of the greatest challenges to sustainable development. According to a World Bank projection, the share of global poor living in fragile and conflict-affected situations will increase dramatically from 17 percent today to 46 percent by 2030.

IDLO promotes peace and stability by helping our partners build laws and institutions that can disincentivize violence, address the underlying causes of conflict and create pathways out of fragility.

We will scale up this work through **innovative, context-specific programming** aligned with nationally owned and led reforms, that focus on the unmet justice needs of people at the grassroots level and engage actively with citizens and communities.



4. Supporting Global Partnerships for Goal 16

The case for greater investment in peace, justice and strong institutions is clear and compelling, yet progress towards SDG 16 remains slow and at the risk of regression. Reversals of gains in areas such as judicial independence, freedom of speech, and accountability mechanisms for state actors are a significant concern as is the 40 percent decline in the development assistance invested in the justice sector over the past four years.

Building on the success of the 2019 Rome Conference, IDLO is renewing its partnership with UNDESA and the Government of Italy to help convene a diverse and growing coalition of actors working on SDG 16 from across sectors and regions. The intent is to promote whole-of-society approaches for the implementation of SDG 16 at the national level, build partnerships to accelerate progress towards the Goal and enhance its impact on the achievement of SDG 5 and the entire 2030 Agenda. The next, in what is intended as a series of periodic multi-stakeholder conferences in support of the Decade of Action, will focus on *Accelerating SDG 16 Implementation through Transformative Governance* and will be held in Rome in June 2020.

