



The Justice Futures CoLab is a space for exploration, innovation and action to address the justice challenges of today and prevent injustices of tomorrow.

Justice challenges are intertwined with governance, security, human rights and other development challenges. The Justice Futures CoLab provides a space for practitioners from within UNDP, the wider UN family such as the UN Global Focal Point for Rule of Law, external partners and others to collectively question, discuss and construct new ideas and approaches to tackling justice related-issues at the local, regional and global levels. The Justice Futures CoLab offers a way of working, both virtually and in-person, that convenes a range of stakeholders, project implementers, researchers and policy influencers to explore, experiment and co-create solutions to today's complex justice issues.

The Justice Futures CoLab is anchored within UNDPs **Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development** that is implemented by the rule of law, security and human rights team. The Global Programme is situated within the UNDP Crisis Bureau and Global Policy Network (GPN) and is present in all five UNDP regions.*

Injustice is a direct assault on human dignity and human rights. Injustice causes harm to individuals, to communities and to society as a whole. Injustice erodes trust between people, and between people and the state. Perceptions and experiences of injustice, inequality and exclusion, when coupled with stressors such as economic crisis or increased competition for natural resources, can stoke conflict and may escalate to violence. Overcoming injustice requires addressing people's immediate justice needs and the drivers of social and systemic injustice. It requires building a culture of rule of law and human rights, ending impunity and ensuring access for all people to inclusive, quality, fair and effective justice systems, services and institutions.

* Classified as the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa. UNDP also intends to open a justice-oriented office in The Hague in late 2022.

Scanning

What?
Constantly scanning global, regional and local contexts for justice challenges and opportunities in policy and practice.

How?
Through direct technical and strategic support to UNDP country offices (COs) and engagement with Regional Hubs, through partnerships and networks, participation in policy conversations, and engagement with UNDP's data, risk and knowledge platforms.

Questioning



What?
A problem-driven process of engaging multiple perspectives in unpacking issues, challenging assumptions, and building an evidence-base to guide actions.

How?
Exploring issues with UNDPs COPs, COs, accelerator labs, current and potential partners, and expertise across the GPN and Crisis Bureau; applying analytical approaches and tools (conflict, political economy, gender analysis, strategic foresight and systems thinking); and producing research, data and analysis.

Testing



What?
Constructing and rigorously testing innovative, evidence-informed approaches, tools and projects to address justice challenges.

How?
Enabling quick impact initiatives through seed funding and small grants guided by a robust MEL framework; rolling out programme guidance tools and training; leveraging and building strategic partnerships; using strategic communications and presenting policy-oriented publications; and mobilizing networks and trusted relationships to influence policy.

Adapting



What?
An iterative process of capturing experience, critically reflecting, elucidating lessons, and acting based on learning.

How?
Creating opportunities for sharing experiences and collective learning and reflection exercises, including across country offices, across regions and within the Global Programme and GPN; harnessing the expertise of the Global Programme's MEL Unit; refining tools and projects; and scaling up interventions, growing partnerships, and refining policy engagement strategies.

What?
Constantly brokering knowledge to promote evidence-based decision-making for high-quality programming and policy making.

How?
Tailoring messages to diverse audiences; leveraging existing and new online platforms including the Global Programme website and CoLab webpage, UNDPs online COPs, internal and external information channels and networks; and producing multi-language publications.

Communicating

The Justice Futures CoLab exists as a voice for and an influencer of change.

The Justice Futures CoLab aims to be a catalyser for justice globally by:

- **Generating new knowledge and learning about persistent and emerging justice challenges and opportunities.**
- **Ensuring lessons and evidence from practice inform and influence policy-making.**
- **Exploring how innovative approaches, tools and technologies can support justice transformation.**
- **Championing justice as a core component of preventing, responding and mitigating conflict, crisis and fragility across the development spectrum.**



Guided by the five principles of the Global Programme—people-centred, human rights, gender equality, politically informed and conflict-sensitive, and transformative—the Justice Futures CoLab directly contributes to UNDP's **Strategic Plan (2022-2025)** and its Signature Solutions of Governance and Resilience. Justice is an inherent part of development and contributes instrumentally to the conditions that development requires. Justice and the protection and respect for human rights are fundamental for enabling a peaceful, fair, just and equal society. Justice is an integral part of enabling the social contract, understanding and addressing discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion, preventing and responding to crisis and conflict, promoting good governance and the rule of law, and realising the transformative ambition of Agenda 2030.

The Justice Futures CoLab responds to both long-standing justice challenges, such as barriers to access to civil and criminal justice, impunity, and discriminatory legal frameworks; and emerging challenges, such as those linked to rapidly developing technologies. It gives specific attention to contexts affected by conflict, crisis and fragility.

The Justice Futures CoLab accelerates and incubates new ways of thinking and acting. Applying a people-centred and problem-driven approach, it embraces tools and approaches such as systems thinking, behavioural insights and politically economy analysis to better understand problems, to test, learn and adapt innovative justice solutions, and to produce and diffuse knowledge to inform quality programming and policy making.

Current thematic focus areas include:

- **Access to justice**
(civil, criminal, and customary and informal justice)
- **Constitutional assistance**
- **Innovations in rule of law and justice sector transformation**
- **Digitalization and e-justice**
- **Environmental justice**
- **Transitional justice**
- **Gender justice**

The work of the Justice Futures CoLab is undertaken through:

- **Producing high-quality research and evidence-based, peer-reviewed reports, technical papers, and data sets;**
- **Demonstrating thought leadership through strategic communications and policy-oriented public think pieces;**
- **Developing cutting edge programming guidance, training and toolkits for justice practitioners;**
- **Facilitating collaborative learning opportunities;**
- **Forming and maintaining strategic partnerships to advance mutual justice goals; and**
- **Kickstarting and incubating local-level initiatives through Global Programme seed funding and small grants.**

About the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development

The Global Programme uniquely combines rule of law, justice, security, and human rights within an overarching umbrella framework, focused on preventing and responding to crisis, conflict and fragility through high-quality programming, knowledge brokerage and thought leadership, and policy support. The Global Programme's Phase IV commenced in 2022 and is guided by and aligned to the UNDP Strategic Plan for 2022-2025. The programme promotes people-centred and human rights-based approaches to addressing the drivers and symptoms of inequality, exclusion, injustice and insecurity, and accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To learn more please contact

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