

# EVALUATION OF THE UNDP SUPPORT TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE



## UNDP DEFINES ACCESS TO JUSTICE AS

“THE ABILITY OF PEOPLE TO SEEK AND OBTAIN A REMEDY THROUGH JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS”



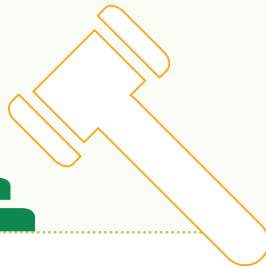
**5.1 billion people** live without meaningful access to justice

**3.7+ billion women and girls** affected by discriminatory laws, lack of legal protection and uneven safeguards

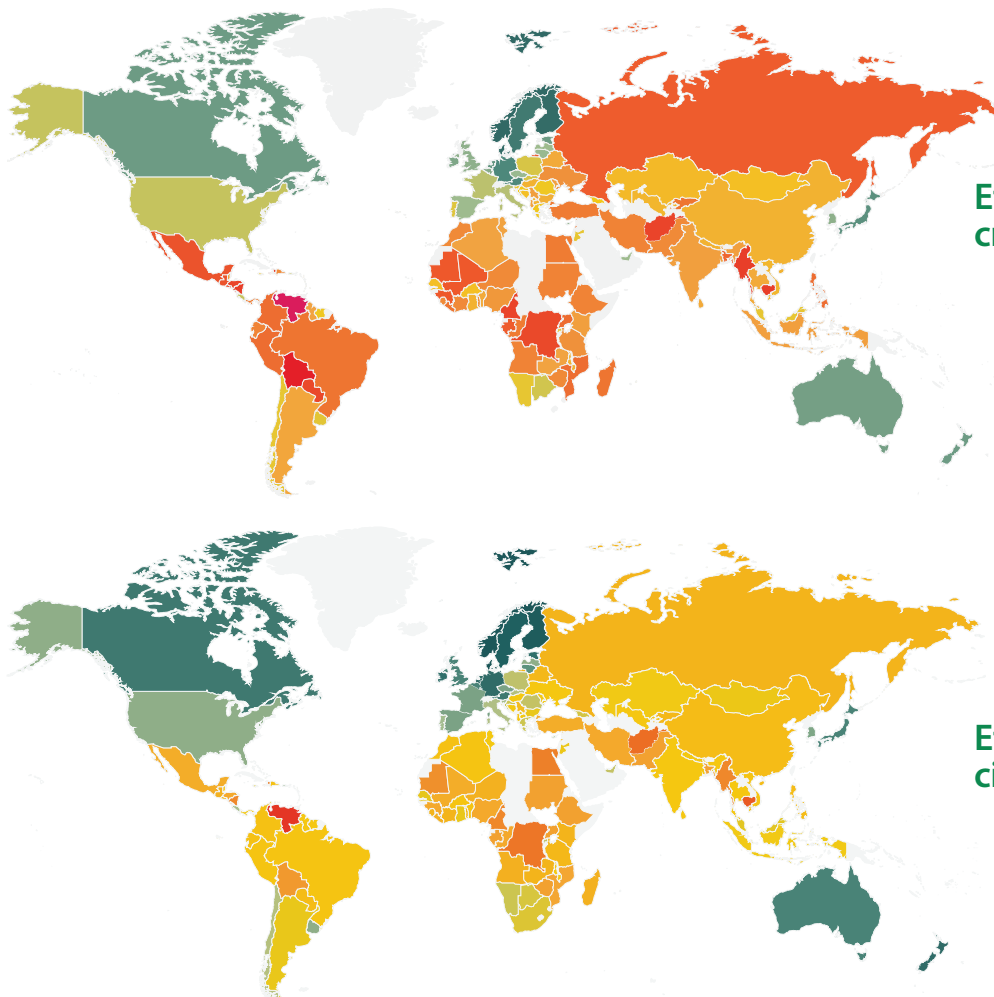
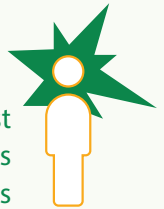


< **4%** of problems are resolved by a decision in courts

**4.5 billion people** unable to access legal services due to lack of legal tools



**320 fatal attacks** against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 35 countries



Effectiveness of world's criminal justice systems

Adherence to the rule of law

Weaker

0.0

0.25

0.50

0.75

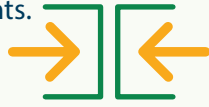
1.0

Stronger

Effectiveness of world's civil justice systems

## CONCLUSIONS:

Starting in 2018, almost **2/3** of countries **experienced a decrease in rule of law performance** resulting from a more limited respect of fundamental rights, a decline in the quality of civil justice systems, and more constraints imposed by governments.



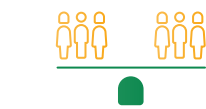
**Access to justice** is the ability of people to seek and obtain a remedy, through the formal or informal justice system, and in accordance with **human rights principles and standards**. (UNDP, 2004).



- UNDP is a key provider of international development assistance in the justice sector, particularly in fragile and post-conflict countries.
- While UNDP enhanced the ability of individuals to seek remedies and strengthened justice institutions, its overall impact remains unclear in the absence of strong M&E systems.
- The limited scale of UNDP programmes and fragmented interventions reduced its contribution to sustainable and people-centered justice outcomes.
- UNDP focused its assistance on formal/state justice sector institutions. Further synergies with other areas of UNDP work have yet to be leveraged.
- UNDP has consistently tried to put communities most at risk of being left behind at the centre of its access to justice support, but barriers remain high.
- E-justice is an important opportunity for UNDP to promote efficiency, but data protection and access issues are to be better accounted for.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

**1** UNDP should base its offer on **comprehensive analyses of the justice needs of people and institutions**



**2** **Pivot to people-centered justice:** focus on fairness, quality oversight of justice processes and people's ability to resolve and prevent justice problems



**3** **Deepen UNDP support to e-justice** to enhance efficiency and quality of justice processes, while considering existing digital gaps and data protection risks

**4** **Enhance breadth and depth of UNDP work** by supporting the integration of effective national and local justice mechanisms



**5** **Invest in more and better people-centered justice data** and strengthen M&E justice programmes



**6** Promote more diverse access to justice **support for individuals and groups most at risk of being left behind**



**7** **Improve integration and synergies** between justice programming and other areas of UNDP work



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