

The Economic Case for People-Centered Justice

Country Case Studies



The Challenge

While data about unmet legal needs and unresolved justice problems exists, there is little systematic evidence about their impacts and costs.

The Response

The Justice Action Coalition country case studies on the economic value of people-centered justice aim to develop and apply a methodology to estimate the costs of legal needs and justice problems for individuals, their families, the justice sector, and society at large. Ultimately, this work aims to increase the understanding of the costs of justice problems in different countries.

How Does It Work?

The Justice Action Coalition's data and evidence workstream is led by the OECD. The workstream is measuring how justice problems affect people and society, using a people-centered and data-driven approach. It aims to show how improving access to justice can reduce hardship and create social and economic benefits.

The country case studies:



Map the prevalence and impact of justice problems in people's lives, using survey data.



Trace the pathways individuals follow to resolve these problems and examine how well justice services support them.



Quantify the personal, social, and economic costs that arise at each stage.

Why This Matters

Unresolved justice problems are costly not only for the people that face them, but also for societies through increased public spending, lost productivity, and missed opportunities.

Quantitative data on the costs of justice problems can help make the case for more investment in targeted justice services that are effective at resolving these problems—which can help reduce the financial burden on people and society.

With evidence on the costs of justice problems, **governments can prioritize and target public investments in justice.**



How to Support the Economic Value of People-Centered Justice

Governments



Implement economic impact analysis into justice sector planning and budgeting.



Invest in accessible, integrated, and effective justice services.



Prioritize prevention and invest in early resolution of legal problems.

International Organizations and International Financial Institutions



Support countries to measure and model the economic impact of justice reforms.



Provide technical assistance and financing for people-centered justice reforms as drivers of sustainable development.

Philanthropies



Fund projects and data initiatives that analyze costs and benefits, and help demonstrate the value of people-centered justice.

Next Steps

The Justice Action Coalition is working to develop the evidence base for funding people-centered justice. Upcoming work will focus on refining methodologies, sharing results across countries, and advocating for inclusion in national budgeting and international financing.

Learn more about the [Justice Action Coalition \(JAC\)](#)—a multi-stakeholder alliance of countries and organizations that is working to achieve measurable progress in justice outcomes for people and communities by the third SDG summit in 2027 and beyond. More at: <https://www.sdg16.plus/justice-action-coalition/>.